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Oct 15, 2010

The fact that 33 miners who had been encased in a mountain for 69 days were all brought up to safety is a modern miracle. As one TV commentator put it, "we don't have time to list all the things that could have gone wrong." And many of the miners gave glory to God for their safety.



The day before the first miner was safely brought to the surface, CNN wrote "Their survival, many will say, was born of the strength, patience and resilience God instilled in them." That is exactly what many have said.

On Tuesday, 19 year old Jimmy Sanchez wrote in a letter while still in the studio-sized room that the miners have called home for the past three months "There are actually 34 of us because God never left us down here."

Another miner, Victor Zamora Bugueno, 33, became the group's poet. He wrote "Under the earth there is a ray of light, my path, and faith is the last thing that is lost ... I have been born again."

The miners -- who have been trapped since the August 5 collapse of a tunnel at the San Jose mine in Chile's Atacama Desert -- rationed what would have been two days' worth of food to stretch until they were discovered some 17 days later.

On August 31, Associated Press announced that preliminary drilling had begun to liberate the miners. While they waited, food, water, medical supplies - and miniature Bibles -- arrived through a supply shaft. A magnifying glass accompanied each of the mini Bibles to make reading easier. Each Bible was labelled with the words, "We are praying for your return." Psalm 40 was highlighted. The passage reads, in part, "I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit ... and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps."

Each of the miners emerged from the capsule named "Fenix" wearing a shirt that said, "Thank you Lord." On the back are the words, "To Him be the glory and honor," taken from Psalm 95:4. "Because in his hands are the depths of the earth, and the heights of the mountains are His."

The shirts were donated by the brother of miner Jose Henriquez, who is an evangelical Christian and has been a spiritual guide for the group. The idea for the shirts came to Henriquez's brother, also a Christian, after hearing a sermon from his pastor on Psalm 95.

Mario Sepúlveda, the second worker to be rescued and the one who gained the admiration of the world for his good attitude when he came out of the mine, was the first to speak to the press.

"God and the devil were fighting over me and God won", he said. "I always knew they would get me out. I always had faith in the professionals here in Chile and in the Great Creator."

The fourth miner to surface was the Bolivian Carlos Mamani. He knelt down, as soon as he came out of the capsule and pointed to heaven, giving thanks to God. So did 56 year old electrician Omar Reygadas. He came out of the capsule with a Bible in his hands and knelt down to give thanks to God. Written on his helmet was, "God lives."

The president of Chile, Sebastián Piñera, publicly acknowledged the faith of the 33 miners.

"Faith has moved mountains," he said. "Because it has been the faith of the miners, the strength, the courage, the will of these 33 miners, and of their family members, of the rescuers, of the Chilean government and of all Chileans that have made possible this miracle."

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Thanks be to God. HE alone is our rescuer and our deliverer. God gave the miners strength, hope and peace. God gave the rescuers the intelligence to know where and how to drill so that there was no cave-in. God is our salvation through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord.

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