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*Andrews University*

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# My God Is Real

BY GENAIDA BENSON

I know God has saved my life for a purpose more than once.

When I was young, I contracted Typhoid fever and almost died. In grade school, I was in two major accidents. In academy, I was separated from my group while hiking on a mountain. Being alone in the woods gave me a chance to reflect on the past week of spiritual emphasis and on God. Several hours later, I heard my name called by one of the staff members who came looking for me on the trail. God was there for me in several ways: He sent His angels to protect me, He reminded me of songs, and He was there as a friend. In the times ahead in my life when I needed Him most—in the moments when I felt I couldn't go on any longer, when my heart was breaking—He was and has been there for me. Each day, I wake up and ask Him for strength to go on.

As a first time homebuyer, God provided my home to strengthen my faith in Him. In the months that followed, I discovered that both my realtor and inspection company hid a fire-damaged roof from me. The roof was collapsing in on itself and needed immediate replacement from the structural level. When rebuilding my roof, a contractor stole my insurance money, all my cash was stolen out of my home, and roof tar was tracked all across my carpet. A fraudulent lien was placed against my house and several other smaller liens were forced as a result. I picked up extra jobs to generate money, only to find out again that the money was being stolen. To make matters worse, a rainstorm came. God woke me up two hours before my upstairs ceiling collapsed. I ran out of one room as the ceiling crumbled and stood in the doorway of my room watching as a huge piece of sheetrock landed right where my head would have been if I had still been sleeping. I've seen God directly intervene in my life more than once. He



is a very present help in the time of trouble.

Amidst all this crisis, God sent a call to become a volunteer missionary and teach music as a full-time faculty at the college level in the Philippines. I made a list of all that needed to happen in order for me to go as a missionary. One by one, I have watched as things were checked off in ways I had not expected. Finally, the last detail is the financial aspect. I know if God wants me to go, He'll provide the means. He has proven again and again that He is with me, and that He will be there for me. I have placed my life in His hands. Not only is He my Friend, He is my Protector, Defender, Provider and Salvation. In short, He is Everything to me.

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Genaida Benson lives in Niles, Michigan. In 2008, she graduated from Andrews University with a Masters in Piano Performance. She has accompanied musical groups, academy and college choirs, and played at Youth for Jesus and ASI. Performance tours took Genaida throughout North America, Bolivia, Chile, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Hawaii and Bermuda. She teaches piano lessons and helps on the Pioneer Memorial Church video team as a camera operator.