

20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Weather

**“Who would true valour see, let him come hither;  
One here will constant be, come wind, come weather.”**

*John Bunyan, To Be a Pilgrim*

In the 1970s and 80s, Scottish Television (STV) produced a wide range of religious programming – weekly church services, half-hour religious programmes with varying content, the ever-popular epilogue *Late Call*, and occasional documentaries – the output of Executive Producer Rev Dr Nelson Gray, a Minister of the Congregational Church, and Rev Eric Hudson, a Minister of the Church of Scotland. But as public service broadcasting requirements changed during the 1990s, STV's religious programming gradually dwindled.

I had the privilege of presenting *Late Call* regularly and also fronting programmes under the title *Come Wind, Come Weather*. These offered accounts of how some remarkable people had faced incredible storms in their lives. My responsibility was to interview them, to draw out the background for the viewers: a rabbi who'd survived a concentration camp; a recovering drug addict who'd dedicated his life to youth work; a sportsman who'd been paralysed by polio and become a minister; a couple who'd come through a harsh communist regime. “Come wind, come weather”, from Bunyan's wonderful hymn, *To Be a Pilgrim*, summed up the character these and others exhibited. In moving and inspiring ways, the people I interviewed had weathered the worst of life's storms.

A fisherman, whom I knew to be a devout Christian, once told me about a fishing incident. “We had to run from a North Atlantic storm,” he said, “and we were frightened for our lives.” “Did your faith help you?” I asked. “Faith?” he responded with a smile. “We had no time for that. We had work to do. So we just got on with what we knew – getting our boat safely home. And only then did we have time to pray ...”

Whatever gets you through the storm, whatever helps you survive, “come wind, come weather”, give yourself to that. Trust what you know. Give each part of your resources proper credit – God in your life, or your skill at the fishing. It matters not. As long as you get yourself safely home.

### **A prayer for today**

*Lord, give me the valour I need, to use what I can to face the storms of life. Amen.*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon* Also available at <https://swallowsnestnet.wordpress.com>