

A Child's Prayer for Katrina
Written for 2005 Joint Workers Conference
Kansas District LCMS
Rocky Mease, Executive Chaplain

Dear God,

I thought I better let you know where I am. A few nights ago Mommy and Daddy woke me up in the middle of the night. They told me not to be afraid. We were going to see Aunt Penny and Uncle Mike. They put me in the car and it was real full of stuff. All of Daddy's important papers were in boxes. There were also boxes full of pictures and my school stuff. I didn't see any of my toys and I am kind of worried about that. Mommy says we can get more toys.

We drove all night and most of the next day. There were lots of cars. We didn't go very fast. Mommy and Daddy thought I was sleeping in the back seat – but I was helping them watch the cars. They didn't know I was helping but I was. Mommy and Daddy sounded real scared. They talked about getting away from Katrina and that we got on the road just in time.

Katrina is a girl at my school. I don't think they were talking about her. She isn't any bigger than me and I don't think she would scare anyone. I don't know why Mommy and Daddy were afraid. I told them they should just talk to you. They said they had been.

I am kind of worried about my toys. Mommy and Daddy say we are going to have to live with Aunt Penny and Uncle Mike for a while. They are nice – but they don't have any toys. None of my friends live here. Mommy and Daddy say I will have to start going to school here. I don't know why we can't just go home. My toys are there and my friends are there. I'm not afraid of Katrina – I could go back if they would let me.

I just wanted you to know where I am. I am at Aunt Penny and Uncle Mike's house. They don't have kids or toys but they are OK. They said I could stay here as long as I want. But I want to go home.

Can you help my Mommy and Daddy not be so afraid of Katrina. Maybe they would let me go home then.

Daddy said that people were coming to clean our house so we could go back home. I didn't think my room was THAT big of a mess. But I hope they come soon.

Do you know Katrina? Maybe you could talk to her and tell her not to scare my parents so much. If she is that girl from school, I hope she is OK. I miss my friends. I like my old school. I don't want to go to school here. Everyone will already have friends here and I won't know anyone. Mommy says it will be OK – but I don't know. I think I would rather go home.

I just wanted you to know where I am. We came here in the night and I didn't know if you saw us leave. We were driving real slow, so you probably could have followed us. Aunt Penny and Uncle Mike live in Arkansas – I hope you can hear me from Arkansas. I never had to pray from here before.

I told Mommy we didn't have to be sad. Jesus came from heaven to live with us to forgive all our sins. Heaven must be as far away as Arkansas. So I know you can find us at Aunt Penny's and Uncle Mike's.

God bless Mommy and Daddy and Aunt Penny and Uncle Mike and that girl Katrina – and help me get home soon. Don't forget where I am. I may need to talk to you again. Arkansas is sure a long way from home.

Mommy cried last night. Daddy told her it would be OK. I don't think she believed him. I think she wants to go home too – but she didn't say.

I told Mommy about a story I remember from Sunday School. It was when you took your people on a trip and they had to take with them just what they could carry. So I supposed they brought their Daddies important papers and Mommies brought pictures. I wonder if THEY brought their children's toys. Teacher said that you took good care of your children. You gave them

what they needed. They were away from home for a long time too. I don't know if they had to go all the way to Arkansas – but probably almost as long.

Teacher asked us if we would have been scared if we had to go away from home. I said no when she asked. I might say yes now. It is scary to be away from home and not know where you are going. But the good part I remember is that you go with us. We can't get lost from you.

So now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to keep.

Amen