

C O M M O N

G R O U N D

by Joseph Tkach

In 1951, comedian Red Skelton and a group of friends flew to Europe, where Skelton was scheduled to perform. As they were flying over the Swiss Alps, three of the plane's engines failed. The situation looked grave, and the passengers began to pray.

As the plane lost altitude and moved closer and closer to the ominous peaks, Skelton went into one of his classic comic routines to distract the nervous passengers.

At the last moment, the pilot spotted a field among the precipitous slopes and made a perfect landing. Skelton broke the relieved silence by saying, "Now, ladies and gentlemen, you may return to all the evil habits you gave up twenty minutes ago."

Skelton knew—as we all do—that many people turn to prayer only when some dire emergency comes along that they see no way out of except through divine intervention.

When life's going along relatively well, they don't seem to have much time for God. Praying and "getting right with God" are the last things on their minds.

But it's our loss if we regard prayer merely as a spiritual fire extinguisher labeled "For Emergency Use Only." Prayer is also for the good times. It's a time and way to grow your relationship with God.

So talk to God. Confide your deepest needs. Tell him what's on your mind.

Take every chance you get to know your loving heavenly Father. □

