

Famous Quotes and Stories from
“Pray, Hope, and Proceed — Stories of God’s Providence”
Julie Liotta — 11 December 2025

HEIDI AND PETER — The 1952 version of the movie Heidi was filmed in Germany and Switzerland. In an early scene, Heidi says to her friend Peter, "I want to see where the river begins." He says, "Where? It's way up at the top." So, they start climbing up the mountain and they get to the part where they just really can't go any further. And but water is still coming down the mountain. And Heidi says, "But we're not at the top. We have to go to the top." And while Peter says, "We're not going up there," they keep climbing. The memory of a child watching this is a sense of awe and wonder and something infinite. And that is where the river begins!

ANNE MORROW LINDBERGH — North to the Orient, 1931 Flight by her and her husband, Charles Lindbergh, from the United States to Japan and China — "Rivers perhaps are the only physical features of the world that are at their best from the air. Mountain ranges, no longer seen in profile, dwarf to anthills; seas lose their horizons; lakes have no longer depth but look like bright pennies on the earth's surface; forests become a thin impermanent film, a moss on the top of a wet stone, easily rubbed off. But rivers, which from the ground one usually sees only in cross sections, like a small sample of ribbon -- rivers stretch out serenely ahead as far as the eye can reach. Rivers are seen in their true stature. They tumble down mountain sides; they meander through flat farm lands. Valleys trail them; cities ride them; farms cling to them; roads and railroad tracks run after them -- and they remain, permanent, possessive. Next to them, man's gleaming cement roads which he has built with such care look fragile as paper streamers thrown over the hills, easily blown away. Even the railroads seem only scratched in with pen-knife. But rivers have carved their way over the earth's face for centuries and they will stay."

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN — This movie is a very vivid recount of D-Day and a young captain that goes on a mission to bring another young private back home safely. In that movie, there's a violent scene where the young captain and troops are fighting in a city — a dangerous place to fight. As they are stacked up outside a door, getting ready to take a building, the young captain calls the signal and without thinking, without flinching, those under his command just run and execute the command. And sadly some of them got killed right in that moment. We may wonder, how could they have placed so much trust in their young captain and immediately go into danger. It is trust. The same type of trust the rafting crew would have in their guide and definitely, the same kind of trust we can have in God.

GK CHESTERTON - "When Christ at a symbolic moment was establishing his great society, he chose for its corner-stone neither the brilliant Paul nor the mystic John, but a shuffler, a snob, a coward - in a word - a man. And upon this rock he has built his Church, and the gates of hell have not prevailed against it. All the empires and the kingdoms have failed, because of this inherent and continual weakness, that they were founded by strong men and upon strong men. But this one thing, the historic Christian Church, was founded by a weak man, and for that reason it is indestructible."

MARTYRED GIRLS — During the Boxer Rebellion, anti-Christian violence broke out and a mob broke into a school of about a hundred students. They lined them all up and they said, "All you have to do is just renounce your faith, step on the cross, and we won't hurt you and we will let you go." The first three or four students just stepped on the cross and they lived. And then the fourth young girl stopped at the cross, knelt down into that place of communion, then quietly stood up, and walked around the cross. After she did this, so did the next 92 girls and they all died martyrs. This is a beautiful story that reminds us that we have to help other people get into the boat.

ST. JOHN PAUL II — "Life with Christ is a great adventure.." We have to invite people to get off the shore... to get in the boat, to pull hard with them... to love Jesus... to listen to Him, trust Him, be in communion with Him... we have to help pull people out of the water... and we have to trust that one day we will be welcomed into the mighty, beautiful, calm seas of the Kingdom of Heaven...