



**The “Storm Captain”¹
(Children’s Story/Parable)**

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Have you ever been in a real storm? Maybe you have seen pictures of what happens when a river causes a flood. Maybe you have seen on TV when a tornado or a hurricane hits and destroys buildings and throws cars and animals around.

Not long ago there was a lady who got caught in a tornado. She grabbed her little girl, and they both flew through the air, landing a long way from where they started. The Lord protected them, even in this tornado, and they lived through it all.

Let me tell you about another man who came through a lot of storms.

In 1891 a man named Frank L. Hutchins finished the ministerial studies at Healdsburg College in California and Battle Creek College in Michigan.

He was offered a church to pastor in Oregon, but he had a different goal in mind. He wanted to be a medical missionary. So he enrolled in the medical course at the University of Michigan.

One week after beginning medical school, he accepted a mission assignment as a minister to the Bay Islands off the coast of Honduras in Central America. Most people have never even heard of these three islands but he had.

A lady from the Bay Islands had run across Adventist teachings in California and returned home with a trunk full of Adventist literature. The International Tract Society, as it was then known in Adventist circles, kept sending literature to the islands. When Frank Hutchins arrived, he found about 25 members, but some 60 people were attending Sabbath School.

As is normal on an island, Hutchins soon saw the need for a boat so he could get around his “district,” which covered most of the Western Caribbean to the coast of Central America. That’s a lot of ocean to sail around in!

The Sabbath School came to his rescue and financed a boat named the “Herald.” Frank Hutchins suddenly became “Captain” Hutchins, and because of his quickly learned navigational skills and seamanship abilities, he earned the title “Storm Captain.”

¹For a fuller story about Frank L. Hutchins, see Daniel A. Duffis, *A Blessed Heritage* (Medellin, Colombia: Lithografia ICOLVEN, 2000) and ‘Honduras,’ in *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, vol.10, pp. 708-710.

Those who have been through a hurricane or tropical storm in the Caribbean know well what a “Storm Captain” is.

At one point, the Seventh-day Adventist Foreign Mission Board, as it was known in those days, decided to transfer Elder Hutchins to the island of Puerto Rico as a pastor.

Not wanting to give up his ship and the outreach he had pioneered in the Western Caribbean, Hutchins collected letters from church members on the various islands and the Caribbean coast of Central America. The mission board changed its mind and the “Storm Captain” sailed on into Adventist missionary history.

His travels around his pastoral district led him to what we know today as the Colombian islands of San Andres and Providencia.

There he established an Adventist presence that has produced generations of Seventh-day Adventist pastors, teachers, administrators, and missionaries reaching from local churches to positions in the General Conference. One was actually elected General Conference president but chose not to serve in that position.

Boys and girls, Adventist missionary heroes have done great things for the Lord. You can too!