

Forever Grateful

Last week, we wrote about a 10-year-old boy that was rescued from the dangerous surf off a Santa Cruz, California beach by a 16-year-old lifeguard by the name of Ryder Williams.

That 10-year-old boy, Nathaniel Rai, and his father, Sumit, have spoken out in gratitude to Ryder and his family. Nathaniel and his father have also shared details of the dire circumstances before his rescue.

Nathaniel told Fox News that he was in the shallow waters off the beach and had no intention of going deeper when a massive wave suddenly crashed over him.

"I started screaming for help," Nathaniel said. "I think I saw the lifeguard and then passed out."

"Two more seconds in the water," Sumit explained, "he would be thrown another 15, 20 feet out. And at that point, he'd be so far out, you can't see him, let alone rescue or retrieve him. And so, he was in a near-death scenario."

That's when Ryder swooped in, grabbed Nathaniel, and clung to him as he pulled him back to shore.

"He was limp and unconscious in the water at that time when Ryder was holding him, which is really difficult to do, because he's carrying about 100 pounds of essentially dead weight through that current and those water forces," Sumit added.

By the time Ryder got him back to shore with some assistance, Nathaniel had regained consciousness and was coughing up water and sand. But he was alive, and he and his family are forever grateful.

Since the rescue, the two families have formed a special bond. Sumit says they view Ryder and his family as an extension of their own. *

Wading in the surf of sin, we've been drawn in by our own lusts and desires and discover that we're in sin's deadly grasp (James 1:14-15). But God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to rescue us (Galatians 1:4). Jesus had to give His life for us to redeem us from sin. "By this we know love because He laid down His life for us" (1 John 3:16).

God will save and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed)

into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

When we accept His offer of salvation and cling to Him in trusting obedience, we become a part of God's family. "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!" (1 John 3:1). It's because we've been made a part of God's family that we can look forward to an eternal home in heaven (John 14:1-6).

And we will be forever grateful to the One who rescued us.

-- David A. Sargent

* Information gleaned from "10-year-old boy recounts near-drowning as family reveals friendship with California teen lifeguard hero" by Bonny Chu of Fox News, www.foxnews.com.