

## From Peril to Peaceful Shore

Joanne Appelbee and her three children, Austin (age 13), Beau (12), and Grace (8), of Perth, Australia were enjoying some family time in the ocean waters off the coast of Quindalup. They rented kayaks and paddle boards to joyfully traverse through the water. But strong winds arose creating rough seas. The family was swept out to sea by the wind and the waves. They were in peril of their lives.

Joanne said she made one of the most difficult decisions she had ever made; she asked Austin to swim for help. "Try and get to shore and get some help," she instructed him.

With great courage and resolve, Austin set out for the shore. Initially, he tried to paddle on an inflatable kayak, but he abandoned it when it began to take on water. So he swam... and swam. He described the waves as "massive," but he kept swimming. He swam for almost four hours covering 2.5 miles in rough waters. When he finally reached the beach, he collapsed. But he arose to find help for his family members who were still drifting in the water several miles offshore.

A search helicopter was deployed to look for the other members of the Appelbee family. The rescue workers found them in their life jackets clinging to a paddleboard about 9 miles from shore. They had spent about 10 helpless hours in the water.

"The actions of the 13-year-old boy cannot be praised highly enough — his determination and courage ultimately saved the lives of his mother and siblings," said Police Inspector James Bradley. \*

When we were "sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore," God sent Jesus to rescue us (John 3:16). Jesus "traveled" a great distance from heaven to earth, became a man to experience life as we know it, and then went to the cross to pay the price for our sin (see Philippians 2:5-8).

Jesus "gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father" (Galatians 1:4 NASB).

God will save from sin 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).

*I was sinking deep in sin,  
Far from the peaceful shore,  
Very deeply stained within,  
Sinking to rise no more;  
But the Master of the sea  
Heard my despairing cry,  
From the waters lifted me –  
Now safe am I.*

*Refrain:  
Love lifted me,  
Love lifted me,  
When nothing else could help,  
Love lifted me.\*\**

Won't you allow the Savior to rescue you by entrusting your life to Him?

-- David A. Sargent

\* Information gleaned from "Australian teen swims 2.5 miles for hours to save family swept out to sea" by Stephen Sorace of Fox News, [www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com). \*\* From the song, *Love Lifted Me*, by James Rowe.