

## *Lancaster Bomber: to the Rescue*

My father-in-law was a prisoner of war in Poland for five years during World War II and then a survivor of a long enforced march in one of the coldest winters on record. The Germans moved the prisoners westward out of the prison camps as the Russians advanced from the east, in order to delay or prevent the liberation of thousands of allied prisoners. When the war ended, the RAF started an amazing process called Operation Exodus, using Lancaster bombers from Bomber Command to collect the surviving prisoners from airfields in Europe. There is little or no space in these giant bombers except in the bomb holds and this is where the men had to fly home

Recently we bought a jigsaw puzzle from a jumble sale. It had 1000 pieces, more than we would normally be interested in, but it featured a painting of a Lancaster Bomber flying low over the dome of St Paul's Cathedral in a memorial flight in 2013. Every time I looked at the picture, I felt a stirring in me. When I studied the completed jigsaw, I saw a parable of God's salvation. The same bomber that had power to destroy the enemy was the means to bring thousands of prisoners of war back home to safety. Words dropped into my spirit: "Bring my people home". The God who destroyed the power of Satan through Jesus on the cross, sets out from heaven to rescue people from sin and the devil to bring people into his saving grace.

There is a wonderful scripture about this:

Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
Trust in God; trust also in me.  
In my Father's house are many rooms;  
If it were not so, I would have told you.  
I am going there to prepare a place for you.  
And if I go to prepare a place for you,  
I will come back to take you to be with me  
That you also may be where I am.                      John 14:1-3 (NIV)