

Guided through the Fog



Before Elder M. Russell Ballard was an Apostle, he had an unusual experience on an airplane. He was flying to Salt Lake City on a very foggy day. The small plane held only four people. When they got close to the airport, the pilot radioed the control tower.

“We’re about to close the runway because the fog is so thick,” the air traffic controller told the pilot. “But I can talk you through the landing.”

The pilot asked Brother Ballard and the other passengers, “What do you want to do? The controller can guide us down. Or we can turn back and wait for the weather to clear in a day or two.” They decided to try to land in Salt Lake.

The controller could see the plane on his radar. He told the pilot when to lower the plane and when to turn. The pilot watched the plane’s controls carefully. He followed the controller’s directions exactly.

Finally the man in the front seat shouted, “I see the runway!”

They looked out the window. The runway was directly ahead. The nose of the plane was right on the centerline!

They were so grateful that the controller guided them safely to the ground.

Brother Ballard thought about how this flight was like our lives. We can’t see or understand everything, so Heavenly Father has given us ways to get help. The prophet is like an air traffic controller. He gives us directions to return safely to Heavenly Father. We also have the Holy Ghost, the scriptures, and leaders and parents to guide us safely home. ◆

Adapted from “Friend to Friend,” Friend, Aug 1977, 6.



5 FACTS ABOUT ELDER BALLARD

Born in Salt Lake City on October 8, 1928

The M in his name stands for Melvin

Met his wife, Barbara, at a dance

Served in the United States Army Reserve

Became an Apostle in October 1985