

Vision

In 1972, a plane travelling from Uruguay to Chile crashed in the Andes Mountains. Of the 45 passengers on board, 16 survived being stranded for 72 days in one of the world's more remote and inhospitable regions. Nando Parrado is one of those survivors.

When the plane crashed, the main fuselage came to rest deep in the middle of a snow-filled valley. A wall of mountains surrounded the plane at every angle, and the survivors quickly conclude that escaping over the mountains on foot was almost impossible and that waiting for rescue was their only option.

Nando Parrado, was travelling with his mother and sister, both of who died shortly after the crash. Nando desperately wanted to embrace his father and tell him he loved him – it was all he could think about. Embracing his father became his vision.

At around the 30-day mark, the remaining survivors finally came to terms with reality that nobody was coming to save them. No one was coming and the only hope they had was if they rescued themselves. They looked at the mountains around them to see how impossible to climb they really were.

It was decided that Nando and his friend, would be the two to make the trek out of the crash site to try and find help. Their task was daunting, the mountains that surrounded them were four times higher than the tallest peak in Ireland, and for the past 60 days they had been stranded in dire and dismal conditions.

They estimated that it would take one day to summit the mountain and that they could descend afterwards to the green fields of Chile. It took 3 days, with their depleted bodies, to reach the summit. When they reached the summit, what they saw was more mountains. Mountains as far as the eye could see. Unknown to them at the time – roughly 80 miles of snow-capped mountains stood between them and Chile.

Nando and Roberto decided to carry on - they said "Let's not die because we gave up, let's walk in the direction of Chile until there is no breath left in our bodies".

As Nando trekked through the snow, one major force kept him moving forward: the love for his father and the desire to embrace him once more. Whenever he felt he could not take one more step, he would picture himself hugging his dad – and this Vision would give him the strength somehow to carry on.

One step at a time, for the next seven days, these two exhausted men kept moving forward. On the tenth day of their trek, they came across a man on a horse – they had reached civilization. The following day the remaining 14 survivors were rescued.

Nando returned to Uruguay and was able to give his father that embrace and fulfil his vision he desperately fought for.

This story reminds of how so many of us find ourselves in painful and difficult situations, and we are waiting for someone to come and rescue us – someone who is not coming.

Whatever situation one finds one self, one has to take responsibility and ownership for getting out of one's own tough place.

In the end, the only person who can truly rescue you is you. And the thing that will really pull you forward is a clear and compelling vision of where you want to go.

Once you have a vision, your mind and the universal forces will naturally begin to bring forward the solutions and people needed to help you face and overcome whatever mountains stand between you and your vision. There is no mountain too high that cannot be overcome by the person who takes responsibility for climbing it. When one takes one step forward, the creation and the creator of that creation comes to help us.

So the challenge for this week is to ask yourself the question:

What is your vision?