

## The Famous Pig Rescue!

Recently, Ruth and I attended a church meeting about the water crises our world is facing. Clean water is scarce, or nonexistent in many places in the world, forcing families to dramatically alter the lives they have known. Our meeting was to inform us about these problems and explain what is being done to resolve them. During our discussions, the leader asked each of us to describe some issue we had faced regarding water shortages, or in some cases where too much water might have been a problem.

When it was Ruth's turn, she told a story about living on the family farm when she was about twelve years old. On their farm, they raised cows, pigs and chickens and grain crops. A large river ran through the back portion of the farm, and on one particular occasion, after days of rain, the river started to flood and flow into a pasture where their animals grazed. Soon after the river overflowed into the pasture, an island formed near the river bank, and several large pigs (nearly 200 pounds) sought refuge. Ruth's father became concerned that the pigs might drown and called the Sheriff's office to see if their Water Rescue Unit might be of some assistance. The sheriff thought that this might be a good exercise for the team and sent them to Ruth's farm several hours later. The pigs were rescued after brief struggles with each pig (The pigs were not familiar with pleasure boating) and quickly returned to dry land. The story even made the local newspaper, complete with pictures. The folks in attendance at the church meeting all seemed to enjoy Ruth's story.

The following week, one of the meeting participants, Brenda Schneider, presented Ruth a water color she had done, depicting part of Ruth's story.



Ruth and I loved the picture and I said, "We should do a children's book." Brenda liked the idea and I started writing the text for "Ruth and Louise: The Famous Pig Rescue." Employing writer's license, I made it sound like Ruth helped the team and that the pig rescued was Ruth's pet, named Louise. Writing a draft didn't take much time but when Brenda explained how much time it would take to do 25-30 water colors...we started to reevaluate this project. Finding a publisher (or self publishing),

targeting the correct age of the proposed reader, determining the proper vocabulary level of the text....egads!!! Too much work for a retired person and an artist who have exercising, golfing and traveling to do!

Brenda is a talented artist and I own a computer...what a team, but not a team with the kind of drive needed to be rejected by a publisher. So, I hope you enjoy Ruth's true story, Brenda's clever and attractive water color and see that we have made the correct decision to settle for this short story. Ruth didn't want to be associated with a pig that much any how!

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