

D E V O T I O N

**If this thing doesn't
come out right, don't
worry about me. I'm
just going on higher.**

I will lead blind Israel down a new path, guiding them along an unfamiliar way. I will brighten the darkness before them and smooth out the road ahead of them. Yes, I will indeed do these things; I will not forsake them.

ISAIAH 42:16, *New Living Translation*

A Confident Faith In God

From his early childhood, Michael Anderson had already begun to chart his career path. He knew he wanted a career in space travel. If a fixation on his first toy airplane, a gift from his Air Force dad, was not enough to make his desire apparent to those around him, there were other signs. Like, for instance, the fact that Anderson committed to memory the names of the American astronauts. Or that he fashioned moon homes for his sister to house her Barbie dolls.

"I was always fascinated by science-fiction shows, shows like *Star Trek* and *Lost in Space*," Lt. Col. Michael Anderson would confess years later during an interview. "Going out of your house and looking up and seeing jets fly by, that seemed like another very exciting thing to do. So I knew I wanted to fly airplanes...I always had a natural interest in science...I thought being an astronaut would be the perfect job."

The 43-year-old African American also knew being an astronaut, and facing the unknown, was risky. But as a strong Christian, Anderson always committed that part of his work to his faith in God. Anderson had alluded to those risks when talking with his father shortly before the space shuttle Columbia went into outer space in January 2003.

"I know I have everything right with my Savior," Anderson had said. The astronaut had also told his pastor: "If this thing doesn't come out right, don't worry about me. I'm just going on higher."

When the space shuttle Columbia broke apart over Texas on February 1, 2003, just minutes before it was scheduled to land in Florida, Anderson and his six companions were killed.

Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages us to "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart...In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

In realizing his dream, Anderson had also gained a keen sense that God was always watching over him. A strong, confident faith in God will cause you to go places others would never venture to go.

By Ronald C. Jordan