

The year I was born, a Category 3 hurricane packing winds of 125 mph made landfall in Cuba and meandered over the island and its coastal waters for 4 days. I was a baby, so all I know about Flora are the stories I've been told. Six years later, however, I experienced Camille, and recollect images of its impact when it hit the island as a Cat 3 storm. It later crashed ashore in Mississippi as a devastating Cat 5 and, because of the devastation, its name was retired from the Atlantic Ocean hurricane list after the 1969 season.

In the 1960's, forecasts were issued only two to three days into the future. Imagine the scrambling to secure some level of safety for you and your family on that short notice. Today, we have ample time to prepare and to ready emergency response teams. On this Thankful Thursday, for that, and for them, I am so grateful. But still, ready or not, there is nothing we can do to weaken the power of these storms. Ian, like Camille, like Andrew, will be stricken from the list of hurricane names, no doubt.

I hope you fared well through Ian. I pray for those devastated by it and those still in this storm's path.

What are you thankful for today?

Until next Thursday's post…si Dios quiere.

Tidbit: The first hurricane warning service was set up in the early 1870s from Cuba with the work of Father Benito Vines, who served as director of the Meteorological Observatory of the Royal College of Belén.

"There are some things you learn best in calm, and some in storm."
-W. Cather



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