The Faith Script

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Prayer Wall

There is a time for all seasons, a time to be born and a time to die.

CPFI Serving Christ and the World Through Pharmacy

"There are many rooms in My Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. And if it were not so, I would tell you plainly. When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am." John 14:2-3 (NLT)

A week ago I received a call from my nephew in Tennessee. He called to tell me that his mother, my older sister Joyce, decided to stop her kidney dialysis treatment that she had been receiving for the past two years. Her decision came after two years of agony with COPD, heart disease, and kidney failure. Her decision also came after consultation with three cardiologists, who all came to the same conclusion. Her severe heart disease was inoperable due to her multiple systems disease. Simply put, she would not survive surgery.

Her Hospice nurse arrived the next day on Wednesday, and after spending time with Joyce, the nurse asked if she had any final wishes that she could do for her. My sister said that her only wish was that she could see her three brothers one last time, but she said that she knew it wasn't possible because they all lived out of state, a long distance away. The nurse passed that on to my nephew, who relayed her situation on to me in Virginia, and my two brothers in Pennsylvania. The next day, Thursday, my wife, Glennie, and I left for the long drive to Tennessee. Friday, we continued our journey. Along the way, I shared with my wife what it was like growing up in rural Pennsylvania with my sister. We arrived at my sister's apartment in my nephew's home at about 3:00 PM and my two brothers from Pennsylvania arrived about 8:00 pm. My sister was surprised and very glad to see us. We had some laughs, talked about her situation, and had quality time reminiscing about the "good old days." After a while, she expressed how happy she was to see us, but that she was tired and wanted to rest. We all gathered around and each gave her a hug, a kiss, and told her how much we loved her. We all said, "We'll see you later," and we went to our hotel.

At around 8:00 AM on Saturday morning, while my wife, my brothers and I were eating breakfast at the hotel, my nephew called to say that Joyce had just peacefully passed away. After a few moments of silence to grasp what we had just been told, we left for my nephew's home. We each gave Joyce one last kiss and hug, and again said, "We'll see you later." My nephew said Joyce woke up at about 7:00 AM and told him that she had the best night's sleep that she had in a long time. She asked him to remove her oxygen, give her a pain pill and she wanted to go back to sleep. When he went to check on her an hour later, her spirit had left to be accepted into God's Kingdom. When we arrived, she looked like a peaceful calmness had settled over her. She was lying comfortably in bed with her little dog, "Dude," curled up at her side. Her life here on earth was over.

Outreach Opportunities

Upcoming Events

NSC Newsletter Winter 2017-2018 Joyce was the oldest of the siblings. My brothers and I had never known life without Joyce. We talked about how odd it felt: No more phone calls asking how she was feeling, or telling her "We're thinking of you and you are in our prayers," no more Christmas cards, birthday cards, telling jokes with her, reminiscing with her about "the good ole days," no more trying to cheer her up while she struggled with her disease-ridden body.

At dinner that evening, we all laughed and talked about how we imagined what a grand time that Joyce was having now that she was celebrating with her husband Nelson. How they were dancing and singing in God's Kingdom ... while we were laughing and saying "We can only imagine"!!!

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with me." Psalm 23:4 (NIV). This is a verse that is well known to us all. It says that death is only a shadow, that it passes over for a moment, but it cannot hurt the believer. Nineteenth Century Preacher D.L. Moody described it this way, "The valley of the shadow of death holds no darkness for the child of God. There must be light, else there could be no shadow. Jesus is the light, and He has overcome death." In Memory - RIP - Joyce Erb Muncil, 1940 – 2018

Gene Erb, BS, MAd, Pharm.D. CPFI Board of Directors Member Forest, VA

CPFI 2018 Annual Conference & National Student Retreat

2018 Annual Conference Video

Program * Speakers * Silent Auction * Register

Registration closes May 1, 2018

National Student Retreat: May 30 to June 3, 2018 Annual Conference: May 31 to June 3, 2018 Theme: Hope is in our God Isaiah 42:2-3

> Bonclarken Conference Center 500 Pine Drive Flat Rock, North Carolina 28731

Register on the CPFI website at http://www.cpfi.org/annual-meeting or call the CPFI office (888) 253-6885

Registrations must be made through CPFI.

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