

March 2009

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death; I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

It has taken me (Sarah) awhile to write this letter because I have been walking through the valley of the shadow of death.

Many of you know that my father died in February from a massive heart attack. It was sudden and very unexpected. I loved my father and we had a very close relationship. He was my hero. His death has been the most shocking and painful thing that I have ever had to walk through.

These past weeks have been full of pain and grief, yet God has never left me. He has been carrying me and comforting me every second of every day.

"We grieve - but not as those who have no hope." 1 Thessalonians 4:13

My father is with Jesus, face to face. He is in a place where there are no more tears and there is no more suffering. How happy I am for him and how excited to join him one day!

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:9 **"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"**. Heaven is so unspeakably amazing that our finite minds cannot even begin to understand it. Wow.

In the midst of the pain, I feel joy. I feel joy because, as a friend pointed out to me, my grief is one-sided. Even though I miss him terribly, I know that my Dad is with Jesus and that someday in the future I will see him again. And when I see him again, we will have eternity to spend together.

Thank you for your prayers and support and please continue to pray for healing and comfort for our entire family.

Carl, Sarah, Anna and C.J.

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