September 2003

EAGLES' WINGS



"They shall mount up...

He Maketh No Mistake

My Father's way may twist and turn, My heart may throb and ache, But in my soul I'm glad I know, He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray, My hopes may fade away, But still I'll trust my Lord to lead For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem That day will never break; I'll pin my faith, my all in Him, He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see, My eyesight's far to dim; But come what may, I'll simply trust And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift And plain it all He'll make. Through all the way, tho' dark to me, He made not one mistake.

-A. M. Overton

Isaiah 40:31

Dear Family Member,

Since, "God blessed them (Adam and Eve), and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Gen.1:28), there have been families. Then as a result of sin entering the world, a new dimension was added to the generation of family members -- sorrow (or really pain). Unto the mother of all living, God said, "In sorrow (pain) thou shalt bring forth children" (Gen.3:16).

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Motherhood brought with it a deep love and devotion to her young offspring, so that the question could be asked, "can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yes, her love might have its limits, but the Lord could give this assurance, "yet I will not forget thee", and as a seal of this promise, "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands" (Isaiah 49:15&16). Surely, as we by faith examine the

nail prints in our Saviour's hands, can we not see the depth of His love for each one of us and in fact see our names written there?

A few hours before Katelyn Shaw (a full term baby) was due to be born by induced labor, the Lord gently called her spirit to Himself, where she is now in the loving arms of her Saviour, leaving her little tent to be held by the hungry arms of her expectant parents for a few short moments, and then to be committed to the earth from whence it came. For those whose expectations were denied, this is a time when questions and doubts can assail the heart by the enemy, and only the Lord's comfort and sustaining hand can give guidance through this attack.

As we sat through the funeral message, the desire came before me to pass on the thrust of our brother's words and the Scriptures used, for the benefit of others tested in a similar way such as these grieving parents and grandparents.

Times of sorrow, especially unexpected, can lead to questioning God's love or purpose. Yes, He does love us as John 3:16 attests to -- and Romans 8:28 assures that He can make "all things work together for good." So many, when going through adversity, blame God, feeling their circumstances are punishment or the result of something they didn't do or did wrong.

In unexplainable circumstances we must commit our way unto the Lord and trust in Him. Psalm 37:5. To His people in captivity we read, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end" (Jeremiah 29:11). How hard it is for us to realize that every event which comes into our lives passes through the hands of a loving Father and serve to develop the special purpose He has for me. Romans 8:28, among several other Scriptures, lead us to this thought with the words, "according to his purpose", which in due time will be made known to us.

Katelyn is with the One Who died for her and we, "Sorrow not, even as others which have no hope" (I Thes. 4:13). We can trust her to His care, even as the loving parent, king David did, who upon the death of his son by Bathsheba could say, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (II Samuel 12:23).

What love the Lord Jesus displayed for little children while here upon earth, and can't we imagine the tenderness in His voice when He uttered those memorable words, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not...and he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them" (Mark 10:14 & 16). Being enthroned in heaven, He is no less the tender Shepherd.

Though this dimension in God's plan and purpose brought sorrow for a time, it was not motivated by any form of retribution, for Lam. 3:32 & 33 assures of God's loving interest for, "Though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men."

In closing, let us compare the situation which has been before us to that found in Luke 19:29-34. To fulfill Scripture and carry out His purpose to go to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples to procure a colt with a message to the owner that, "The Lord hath need of him." Can we not let Katelyn go with the feeling that the Lord hath need of her?

Sincerely, A Family Member,

Leslie L. Winters

Some Day He'll Make It Plain

I do not know why oft 'round me My hopes all shattered seem to be; God's perfect plan I cannot see, But some day I'll understand.

I cannot tell the depth of love, Which moves the Father's heart above; My faith to test, my love to prove, But some day I'll understand

Tho' trials come thro' passing days, My life will still be filled with praise; For God will lead thro' darkened ways, But some day I'll understand.

Refrain:

Some day He'll make it plain to me, Some day when I His face shall see; Some day from tears I shall be free, For some day I shall understand.

-Lydia S. Leech

For address correction or free new name addition, write to: Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury