View

"Thankful for the Tears"

By Candee Dickey

I heard a song on the radio when I was pregnant with Blake and the lyrics to that song got me thinking about my life and the path that God had led me on so far. The lyric that struck me went like this, "I would relive all the years and be *thankful* for the tears." The lyric went on to say that if that's the road God made him (the writer) take, he would

"WHEN I PRAYED FOR GOD TO BLESS ME WITH CHILDREN, I HAD NO IDEA THAT HE WOULD WANT ONE OF THEM BACK SO SOON"

willingly go through it all again, good or bad, to be right where he was. And, he would be *thankful* for it all because it had led him to exactly where he was supposed to be.

I remember feeling exactly that way. I also remember thinking how easy it was to say that I wouldn't change anything when things are going great and that I better be willing to say that even when they weren't.

When I prayed for God to bless me with children, I had no idea that He would want one of them back so soon. I thought losing a parent was hard, but this was much harder. I don't remember ever feeling more confused or scared in my life. Then I remembered that God is in control and I knew that Blake was going where we all want to be.

I don't know if it works like this in Heaven, but I hope that my dad and Blake recognize each other. I hope that my dad is holding him and telling him that everything is okay where they are. I hope my dad is telling Blake that Matt and I will be there soon to hold him too. Blake died as a sweet, little, innocent boy and because of that I know with all my heart that my little boy is in Heaven with God. I could not be happier to be able to say that.

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Even as we endured the pain of losing our son, Matt and I were blessed with friends and family who made us laugh and helped to ease our pain. After we learned that Blake's condition was terminal, we cried, sure, but someone or something would cheer us up and we got in some good laughing too. I am lucky to be from a family that laughs a lot and to have married into a family that laughs a lot, even when they are sad. When Timmy had his boating accident and was well on his way to recovery, we joked about him losing his "lucky" shorts. When Matt's Papa passed, his grandsons remembered him by telling funny stories about him. When Blake passed, Matt's cousin said "Well, at least Papa has someone that will listen to all of his stories again." Like I said, I don't know if it works that way in Heaven, but it makes me smile to think of Papa finding Blake and telling him all the things that Papas tell their grandsons. I think sometimes that people are afraid to laugh or joke when things are grim and that is understandable, but sometimes laughter is just what we need. Ecclesiastes says that there is a time to cry and a time to laugh and we definitely did plenty of both.

I heard that song on the radio again the other day and I can still say that I would go through it all again. I looked back at the past few months and saw some really sad days, but also saw some really great memories. That song reminded me of the song we sing, "It Is Well With My Soul." I don't know that I will ever be able to hear "It Is Well With My Soul" again without tearing up a bit. It really is "well with my soul."

I wouldn't trade one ounce of the sorrow I have experienced because I trust that, having gone through those things, I am right where God wants me to be.

On the Lighter Side...

Sharma, my cousin, was telling me about an evening service at the church we've both attended for years. She and her husband usually sat in the back, but this time they moved up front to be sure to hear the Scripture reading. They sat beside a longtime church member who cheerfully said, "Good to have ya' with us! Where y'all from?"

Taken by surprise, Sharma mumbled, "The back."

FROM READER'S DIGEST, VIA HANK WILSON

Favorite Lines...

"Don't be so open-minded that your brains fall out."

"A rut is a grave with the ends kicked out."

"Take the time to be right. In the long run, it's a lot faster than being wrong."

"Consciousness is that annoying time between naps."

"Actually taking a bull by the horns gives two or three times the experience of one who reads about it in a book" (Mark Twain)

"Every evening I turn my troubles over to God. He's going to be up all night anyway."