

Monday - March 1

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,
Ephesians 1:18 (NIV)*

It was nearly a year ago when a good friend's son-in-law slipped on the stairs inside his home and experienced severe head trauma and fell into a coma. When I finally made contact with my friend, he indicated his son-in-law was on life support for over a week and the doctors were not very hopeful that he would survive. My friend is a devout believer in Jesus Christ and very active in his faith, but was torn emotionally and spiritually by these events and praying for a miracle while also trying to console his daughter and three grandchildren.

As the days passed, his condition continued to worsen, hope began to wane and the family finally made the difficult decision to remove life support ties. After a few days Robbie gave up his struggle and passed away on Good Friday of last year. My friend texted me to let me know God had called his son-in-law to his eternal home.

At the time the text came in to my phone I was on-line watching the Good Friday services at PUMC. Ironically, at that very moment the song "In the Cross" was being sung and the lyrics, "In the cross, in the cross be my glory, 'til my raptured soul shall rest beyond the river. Thank you for the cross Lord." were running through my mind. I'm not sure why my cell phone was sitting next to my laptop as I watched the Good Friday service, but I'm so grateful God gave me the opportunity to share these lyrics with my good friend to ease his grieving and pain. My friend was very thankful for the words God allowed us to exchange that day and that his son-in-law knew Jesus as his Lord and Savior. What a powerful presence God has in our lives each and every day. God was there to console and lift up my friend in his time of greatest need. He knows what we need, when we need it most and we simply must always watch and listen for him in our lives. We believe and therefore we have reason for hopefulness.

Alex

Prayer: Loving and merciful God, we pray for your comfort, strength and renewal each and every day. It is through your love that we best learn to gift others with the joy of your mercy and hopefulness. Thank you for accepting us in our brokenness and welcoming us into your kingdom without condition. Amen.