

Dear Family,

It is hard to believe that Cheryll's battle with cancer is coming to a close. She is lying comfortably right now ready to go to heaven. It is hard to believe that 4 weeks ago we walked 4.4 miles to church. She has declined rapidly. Last Sunday we called hospice. They came and asked if she wanted a walker and oxygen. Cheryll couldn't figure out why she could need it. We got it anyway.

Monday she was using the walker and Tuesday she started oxygen. Thursday she didn't have the strength to use the walker and had been confined to bed ever since. She wanted to go fast and she is doing this.

Friday we had to take an ambulance to the hospital for a procedure. She was strapped in back giving the driver instructions on how to get there. I said he probably knows how to get there. As it turns out he was new and didn't know the easy route. She has had specific instructions for all of the family and where to find boxes of "goodies" garage-sale items. Cheryll to the end.

Her faith has never wavered. She is very much at peace. She has orchestrated her funeral with our pastor. She has selected Psams 116 to reflect her life. She is facing death with the courage that she lived her life.

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and support. Please pray for a peaceful departure and for all who will miss her dearly.

With love to all of our family,

Don

Psalm 116

I love the LORD because he hears my voice
and my prayer for mercy.

Because he bends down to listen,
I will pray as long as I have breath!
Death wrapped its ropes around me;
the terrors of the grave* overtook me.

I saw only trouble and sorrow.
Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"Please, LORD, save me!"

How kind the LORD is! How good he is!
So merciful, this God of ours!
The LORD protects those of childlike faith;

I was facing death, and he saved me.
Let my soul be at rest again,
for the LORD has been good to me.

He has saved me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.

And so I walk in the LORD's presence
as I live here on earth!
I believed in you, so I said,
"I am deeply troubled, LORD."
In my anxiety I cried out to you,
"These people are all liars!"
What can I offer the LORD
for all he has done for me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and praise the LORD's name for saving me.
I will keep my promises to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
The LORD cares deeply
when his loved ones die.
O LORD, I am your servant;
yes, I am your servant, born into your household;
you have freed me from my chains.
I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people—
in the house of the LORD
in the heart of Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

Thanks everyone for your prayers for Cheryll and Don and family.

As you might notice, Cheryll's name has two lls. A few months ago I asked dad why he spelled Cheryll's name with two lls. He told me he just wanted three lls side by side in her name. (Cheryll's middle name is Lou.) Not sure why he wanted three lls, but I think it was a prophetic act, the three lls symbolizing three loves. If there is anybody that embodies God's love, that is Cheryll, even when she was a very young child serving her six younger brothers and sisters. I like to believe that the three lls reflect her being triply blessed with God's love. She is a servant to the nth degree, always wanting to serve others. She is a Martha, but as you can see from the choice of her Psalm, she also is Martha's sister Mary, wanting so much to walk in our Lord's presence.

Many may wonder why I am not at Cheryll's side at this time. About five months ago while Raquel and I were in India, we heard that Cheryll had been in the hospital for a week not able to eat or drink due to a blockage in her digestive system. At that time we were pretty sure that it probably was Cheryll's last days. I so wanted to go home, but there were too many Indian translators and translation teams dependent upon us overseeing their training. Cheryll did miraculously recover and the Lord graciously allowed us to come home around Christmas time to spend time with Cheryll. I told her that when she was in the hospital I so wanted to come home and be with her, but thought she may not want me to do

so knowing my situation at that time. Her response was: "There is no way I would have wanted you to come for me."

Cheryll, thanks so much for the love you have given out to a multitude of people and being so unselfish. I just talked to Raquel, and the two of us would like to dedicate this year of our service to you, specifically our involvement in revising the Tagalog and Cebuano translations. And may another multitude of people be blessed by our (inclusive) service. We also know of your desire to teach young kids. So Raquel and I will try to conduct a DVBS (Daily Vacation Bible School) for at least a week every year, wherever we might happen to be, and may those kids we teach learn to walk in your ways, embodying the same kind of love you have for others and for our God.

Your brother and sister with love that cannot be expressed in human language,

Kermit and Raquel

p.s. On 4-22-2013 this note was received:
Cheryll went to be with God just before 7 am Chicago time.