

Farewell to all whom I love and hold dear.

I want to start by thanking everyone for everything they have done and been for me in the little more than 50 years of my life. I think of my brothers and sister, my brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, the friends of my boyhood and pre-war period in which Zus (*my wife, added for clarity*) and I had to go through so much and we were able to experience so much support. The friends of the scary war years, in which ties were made that are difficult to break. The friends of the post-war years, and finally the many new friends whom we too have come to know and love here in this great America. Names and deeds do not matter now, it is not important what you have done for us and why, the main thing is that now at the end of my life I have felt so intensely what the prayer of a friend and family member can do. Since my illness and especially in the last days, Zus has read me letters which have been invaluable to me. Through the many prayers that have been sent up to God's throne, I have felt God's unspeakable grace by which He has also met me.

The Lord has made me feel very clearly that I, and no one with me, would have any chance of entering His heavenly Father's house if it were not for the one and only Mediator, Jesus Christ. Who on Good Friday bore the heavy burden of my and all our sins on the cross and obtained perfect atonement for us with God the Father when He said "It is finished."

We would all come empty-handed and that is why it is such a great grace to know Jesus. Who first loved us, so that one day we will be with Him in the Father's presence and there sing eternally of God's goodness.

All of you in prayer have certainly strengthened me and I trust that the Lord will also give me the help and assistance I need in the last days of my life, so that He will accept me when His time comes.

Since Monday, April 18, when a surgeon at the University of California performed a small operation on my neck, it was established that all the symptoms of illness of the past three months have been the result of an incurable type of cancer which probably originated in the pancreas, which has gradually shut down the various organs. At that time it had already spread throughout the body and affected my blood. According to the specialists, there was no chance of recovery, and since everything had happened rather rapidly, there was no way of telling how long it would take. That afternoon, Zus and I went through a difficult time, but the Lord made us both feel His Grace so that we could quietly surrender everything into His Almighty Father-hand.

In the following week I had a lot of pain, but with the medical means available these days, this also became bearable. On Monday, April 25 I was brought home and now I am surrounded by the children the Lord has given us. Zus is an excellent nurse and a great help to me during these days. She is also wonderfully strengthened by the Lord.

The children are a great comfort to me. Our oldest son Ted, now 20 years old, has taken on full responsibility of the business with 14 men and the Lord has made him into a man. We are all very grateful and satisfied and are now waiting for the Lord to speak the final word. When? We don't know, only He has decided that in His Council and that is what we are waiting for.

In the last few days the pains have diminished considerably, and if you could see me, you would not believe what has happened. About ten veins in my arms and legs are completely clogged with thick blood. My

stomach can't take solid food, sometimes only water, sometimes thin soup or something along those lines. The bowels also no longer work normally, yet all burdens are made light.

Dear all, this is how I wanted to let you hear from us. This was one of the good days the Lord gave. Pray a lot for us. The Lord is near us. Hope to meet you all once with the Lord Jesus, our Savior.

Many texts in the Bible have given help, but in the most scary times for me it was Psalm 138 ver.4, rhymed.

Eppie

Monique added the translation of this verse he mentions below:

If, surrounded by adversity,

I must faint,

Thou givest me life;

When my enemy's wrath is burning,

Thy right hand

Shall give salvation.

The LORD is as faithful as he is strong;

He will do his work

For my sake,

Leaving not what thy hand began,

O source of life,

Will send assistance.