

A Season of Hope

Christmas is a Season of hope. It is a time of joyful expectation and celebration, a time of love and joy as we gather together with our families, friends and in Community.

For those of us missing loved ones that have passed away or are experiencing the difficulty of caring for loved ones that are ill during this Season I want to share a few words and Scriptures with you.

Eleven years ago my daughter passed away on Christmas Eve. Her death was sudden, unexpected and very tragic. Three years after she passed away my husband became ill and after suffering many complications from his illness he passed away.

The Christmas before he died I was so overwhelmed with sadness at the loss of my daughter, his declining health and all the Christmas things to be done. I cried out to the Lord telling Him I did not know how I was going to get through it all. I was in so much pain it hurt to breath. In this moment of despair God spoke these words to my heart:

"Rejoice, rejoice in the Savior's birth, for God has made the way for you to be with Him and with one another for all eternity. For though you have been separated for a time, you will be together forever."

When I heard these words, in a moment, my soul was infused with hope and I was immediately strengthened. And that strength remains to this day. Though at times I feel sadness the 'rejoicing' still remains and strengthens me. For the 'joy of the Lord is our strength'.

"and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Romans 5:5

I believe that in that moment God poured His love into my heart through His Holy Spirit and that these words filled my heart with hope which strengthened me and enabled me to do what needed to be done at that time and prepared me for my husband's passing.

I pray that in this Season of Hope you too are infused with His Hope. A Hope that does not disappoint and a Hope that you abound in.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Romans 15:13