

## A BLESSING OF CONSOLATION

When it became apparent that my father's cancer was terminal, my mother said in discouragement, "I guess we're not going to get our miracle." In that moment, I felt that our family would receive miracles, even if the preservation of my father's life was not among them.

One miracle came one morning when my friend Beth asked me what my plans were for the day. I told her I had planned to spend the afternoon with my father at the hospital, but my arrangement for child care fell through. Beth generously offered to watch my children so I could spend time with my father. She also offered to take supper to my family. I was very grateful.

When I arrived at the hospital, my father did not have the energy to open his eyes or eat any food. But shortly afterward he experienced a dramatic increase in energy. For over three hours he was wide awake, and we talked and even walked around the

hospital ward a few times. No other visitors came during this time. I was blessed to have this time with him to myself.

We laughed and we cried together that day. My father shared with me his feelings about leaving this earth life and what mattered most to him:

his testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That afternoon is one of the most cherished memories of my life. Three days later he passed away.

It was not until a week after his funeral that I realized the last time I spoke with my father was the afternoon that Beth watched my children.

I was touched that God had prompted Beth to be the blessing she prayed I would receive.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALLEN GARRIS

With tears streaming down my face, I sent Beth an email thanking her for her service and explaining how much it meant to me.

Beth replied, “I have a testimony that God wants to extend us blessings of consolation and grace—especially when we are going through something difficult. I have been praying for consolation for you and your family during this time.”

I was touched that God prompted Beth to be the blessing she prayed I would receive. I know that God provides us with blessings of consolation during difficult times in our lives. ■

Sarah Bieber, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

## WHERE IS MY TREASURE?

After getting my children off to school, I began thinking about the rest of the day. I had many things to do, but I had to work the night shift at the hospital, so I had limited time. I could work in the yard, work on a quilt for my nephew’s birthday, or exercise. Then I remembered a quote from President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994):

“When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place or drop out of our lives” (“The Great Commandment—Love the Lord,” *Ensign*, May 1988, 4).



Next to my scriptures were four names that I had recently taken to the temple.

“Scriptures it is!” I thought. I sat at my desk and continued my scripture study from the day before:

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . .

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:19–21).

“Where is my treasure?” I thought. Next to my scriptures were four names from my husband’s family that I had recently taken to the temple. My husband’s parents were the first in their families to join the Church. I had spent the past two years working on my late father-in-law’s line. I decided to go to

FamilySearch to see if the ordinances were recorded as complete.

I looked at the temple icons along his line. To my surprise, several names I had prepared for sealing ordinances had not been recorded as complete. I must have misplaced the cards, and the sealings had not yet been done! As soon as I reprinted the names, a distinct thought came to my mind, “Now you can go about your day.”

I felt peace knowing I had put the Lord first. He helped me prioritize what was most important. Enjoying my family in the eternities is definitely what I treasure most. I know that if I put God first, all other things will work out for my spiritual benefit and for the benefit of others. ■

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