

THE PROMISE GAVE ME HOPE

Soon after my husband and I were married, we were blessed with a son. When I saw his smile and looked into his eyes, I felt indebted to Heavenly Father. Our son seemed perfect to me. My husband and I thanked the Lord daily for such a precious gift.

On February 19, 2009, I packed in preparation to return to school for my final year of classes. My husband and I didn't know that the next day our beloved son would contract a fever and leave this mortal life.

It was a difficult experience for me to bear. The members of our ward came to our home to console us with scriptures and hymns and to pray with us. I cherished their compassionate condolences, but my grief for my son persisted. Whenever I thought of him, my eyes became heavy with tears.

Four days after his death, I was inspired to study *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith*. As I held the book, it fell open in my hands to the chapter titled “Words of Hope and Consolation at the Time of Death.” I began to read and was deeply affected by the tragic losses Joseph and Emma had suffered as they started their family. When I reached an excerpt from a speech the Prophet gave at the funeral of a two-year-old girl, I felt as if cold water had been poured on my head, cooling my grief-ridden thoughts.

I called to my husband. Together we read: “I have . . . asked the question, why it is that infants, innocent children,

are taken away from us. . . . The Lord takes many away, even in infancy, that they may escape . . . the sorrows and evils of this present world; they were too pure, too lovely, to live on earth; therefore, if rightly considered, instead of mourning we have reason to rejoice as they are delivered from evil, and we shall soon have them again.”

The Prophet added: “A question may be asked—‘Will mothers have their children in eternity?’ Yes! Yes! Mothers, you shall have your children; for they shall have eternal life, for their debt is paid.”¹

Since we read those beautiful words, our family's prayers have been full of thanksgiving for the promise

that through the Atonement of Jesus Christ we will be with our son again.

Today we have three wonderful children, siblings to our departed son. We are teaching them the true and everlasting gospel, which will guide them back to their Heavenly Father and to their Savior, Jesus Christ.

I know that the Prophet Joseph Smith's message of life after death is true. I will be grateful forever for the hope, peace, joy, and happiness it brings to our family—on both sides of the veil. ■

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NOTE

1. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (2007), 176, 177.

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