

A white dove is shown in flight, carrying an olive branch, against a blue sky. Below the dove, a detailed illustration of a city with a river and hills is visible. The city is rendered in a style that suggests depth and perspective, with buildings and greenery. The overall scene is peaceful and hopeful.

Understanding THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Gave Me Peace

When my mom was diagnosed with terminal cancer, I could see only sadness in my future. And then she bore her testimony of the plan of salvation.

By Nance Regold J. Micabani

A few years ago, on the day of my parents' anniversary, my mom was diagnosed with a stage 4 pancreatic cancer. The results of her CT scan showed that her cancer was life-threatening and her body was deteriorating. It was in that moment that I knew my mom wouldn't live much longer.

I was not ready for that. I foresaw what life would be without my mom. Everything was dark, gloomy, and sad. There was no more joy or laughter—and no warm hugs from my mom that would comfort me. There didn't seem to be life at all.

Months passed by and my mom's body continued to weaken. But what amazed me the most was her desire to go to church, participate in our daily family scripture study, give lessons in our family home evenings, and even laugh with us.

One day, I asked her, “Haven’t you questioned Heavenly Father? Haven’t you wondered why *you* have to have cancer?” My mom smiled and shared her testimony about the plan of salvation. She told me that I needed to understand the plan of salvation to feel the genuine happiness that it gives. She said if I understood where we come from, what our purpose in this life is, and where we are going, I would understand that we will always be together, that I would never really lose her. She encouraged me to continue preparing for a mission and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and the plan of salvation with others so that they could receive the blessings of comfort and happiness as well.

I realized that my mom was right. Why would I fear losing her here on earth if I knew that as long as I kept my covenants and completed the will of the Father that I would see her in the next life? I felt peaceful.

A little while later, my mom passed away. During my mom’s wake—a celebration of her life we held before her

burial—even though it was hard and I was sad, everything seemed peaceful, and I could still feel my mom’s presence. Even the people around me seemed to be uplifted. I knew that I was feeling the true blessing of understanding God’s divine plan.

Later, when it was time to take my mom to the cemetery, a young boy came up to me and asked me why I wasn’t crying. I remembered how I thought of my mom’s death before and how I had only seen a lot of sadness and grief. I smiled and knelt down to his level. I told him, “I know that I will see my mom again if I continue to follow God’s commandments.” The boy smiled too, and I knew that he felt the same peace I was feeling.

My mom was gone, but the darkness, gloom, and sadness I thought would fill my life weren’t present. I said goodbye to her and told her that we would see each other in the next life. I felt comforted despite our loss. It was a blessing that came from understanding the plan of salvation. ■

The author lives in the Philippines.

To learn more about life after death, read Doctrine and Covenants section 76, in which the Lord describes those who inherit the celestial, terrestrial, and telestial kingdoms and compares the glory of those kingdoms to the sun, moon, and stars.

