

N • E • V • E • R ALONE

By Hillary Slaughter

One day in January 2010 my world was flipped upside down. My younger sister was diagnosed with cancer. I could not believe it. How was it possible? My sister was only 14 years old and very active. She was part of the school show choir. She loved softball and basketball. How could she have cancer?

Not too long after that fateful day, I found myself home alone. I felt completely overwhelmed and lost. My comfortable life had been shattered. Cancer is a scary thing, and I had no idea how to deal with it.

As tears coursed down my cheeks, I felt the need to pray for some form of comfort or peace.

*My prayers
were answered
in a way
I didn't expect.*

Shortly after finishing my prayer I heard a knock on the door. Answering it, I found my Young Women leader standing on our porch. She took one look at my tear-stained face and asked what was wrong. More tears filled my eyes as I told her about Madey's diagnosis.

When I finished she simply said, "You're the reason why I'm here." She then told me to get my shoes on and to come with her.

I spent the next couple of hours with her and her grandson eating ice cream and talking. I told her about all that had been going on and how lost I felt. We talked about cancer and the possible treatments. When she brought me home, I felt lighter and more hopeful than I had since learning that my sister had cancer.

Sadly, my sister eventually lost her battle with cancer. But my Young Women leader's visit taught me a lot. Since that day I have come to recognize that I am never alone. Friends and family are there to assist, but more importantly, my Heavenly Father is always ready to listen to and help me.

I am so grateful that He is there and that He answered my prayer that day, starting with a sensitive Young Women leader. **NE**



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