

Joy Gladys Shearer. 1958 – 2011

My Tribute.

To Joy,

When you were a kid they said you would never amount to much. - Maybe so in the eyes of the world. But you were a good mother, a wife and sister in the Lord.

You were afflicted with asthma - they told me “onetime you were off school for 3 months” but God healed you one day and you didn’t have any of that again

You were shy and quiet but a “Meek and Quiet spirit in the sight of God is of great price”.

Someone said you were a dog. I know that “hurt” you. Until one day our pastor (Bro Bruce McKee) preaching on the spies that went into Canaan, shared the meanings of their names. They all had great names except Caleb. His meant dog. Caleb and Joshua were the ones who said “God has given it to us. We can take it” even tho there were giants living there. After Moses died, Joshua led the people into the land. Caleb was eighty years old and he still strapped on his sword, ready to fight saying “I want my mountain”.

Then he explained the characteristics of a dog - loyalty, fiercely protective of the master, tenacious, worshipful of the master.

You had a revelation, before any of the rest of us, that you were just like Caleb - because you were living the revelation. This became a “badge” of courage, and honour and you were so thrilled. There was no more “complex” about the comment someone had made. Praise the Lord.

I have been so honoured to have you as both a wife and sister in the Lord. Our children would agree that you were a great mother. We miss you still, but we will meet again - because “He is the Resurrection and the Life”.

Events leading up to sister Joy;s death.

In December 2010, Joy had a small tumor removed from her neck. This was just before Christmas and she came out of hospital after Boxing day. This was followed by Radiation treatment in January thru to April.(every week day 15-20 mins). In April during the last treatment the machine broke down. They left her on the treatment table while the technician repaired the machine. Twenty minutes later she had her last session.

We were due to go to a youth camp in Rotorua the following weekend and the next week we were to spend at the beach.(Pauanui). Joy’s skin under her chin blistered however which wasn’t unusual but was the only time it had happened. During the next week she developed radiation burns on her back, showing the intensity of the session.

A couple of months later on a Tuesday she had a sore back (she'd had this about 5 wks) by the Thursday she was having trouble walking, and by the Sunday she was paralyzed. It turned out there was a tumor inside a vertebrae pressing on the spinal chord. They cut the vertebrae open removed the tumor and then had to fit metal straps from the one above to the one below to support the spine. Brothers and sisters prayed and this healed up good and she was making good progress.

During the recovery process something happened and she ruptured her intestine. Maybe this was always going to happen. If it had happened at home I would have come home and found her dead. But because she was in hospital, they were able to stabilise her quickly. She had an operation to seal this. It didn't work so she had another operation.

Pillar of Fire.

It was after this one that the 'pillar of fire' was seen beside her by nursing staff. On her neck she had an entry for fluids and drugs. This had to be re-dressed, every so often. The sisters in the message have little bits of hair on their necks (uncut hair), I call them "strays". Some sisters are tempted to cut these "A christian should look tidy" or something is the reasoning. One of the nurses pulled out the sissors she carried, to "tidy" up this area. (If you are a sister having to have medical treatment to an area that involves cutting the hair there is no problem with that. In Joy's case it only had to be held out of the way). It was then that the Pillar of Fire manifested itself. I am thankful that sister Joy's headship at that time was not me - (I would fail and I wasn't present, but He can't fail). "What's that weird light - That is weird" one of them said.

(My sister it is at that time you need God's headship - don't cut the "strays").

After this Joy contracted a chest infection. You and I would be able to fight it, but she couldn't in her weakened state. I believe in Divine healing and have seen God perform miracles in the past. But if it is someone's time to die, you can't stop it. It was a very traumatic time but We were aware of God's presence so we knew God was in control. It is an awesome thing when He comes near to you. I don't know if you have ever had that sort of experience as many people don't.

Sister Joy passed away on 1st of September 2011 - (in NZ -the first day of Spring). He is our Resurrection.

God bless you,
Bro David Shearer.
Cambridge,NZ



Sister Joy at 18 (On our honeymoon). This is how I remember you. In heaven there are no old people or babies. Praise the Lord.