

**October 26, 2008 – Kim's Mom is with the Lord**

Dear All,

I finally got to sleep about 5:30am this morning and then was awakened just before 9:00am by a phone call from my sister, Ellaine. The staff had taken Mom's vitals about 8:45 and she was asleep and quite at peace (she had been typically quite agitated during these last couple of weeks). About 10 minutes later they brought her breakfast into her and she was no longer with us.

From what Ellaine has shared with me, although Mom had stopped talking, she was, by her hand motions, communicating that she did recognize Annie and I. I didn't get to sing Psalm 27 to her before she died, but perhaps I will sing it at her memorial service. I trust that she will be able to hear it.

Annie and I are so grateful we got to say 'goodbye' to her. We truly believe the Lord gave her the strength to hold on until we got here. God is so good! Thanks for praying for this to happen for Mom and for us. Please continue to ask the Lord for strength and comfort especially for Dad (and the rest of the family).

Dad first met her in 1942 when he was stationed in Brisbane, Australia (where Mom is from). They dated for the time he was there and he continued to correspond with her from the States after the war ended. He returned to Brisbane in 1951 when they married. Ellaine was born there and then they returned to the States and had a son, yours truly. I said to Dad in the afternoon, "Dad you two were married over 57 years, and you knew each other for over 66 years. That's a long time!" With tears in his eyes he looked at me and said, "Not long enough."

Please pray for wisdom for us as we try to sort out what we do now. We were planning on taking furlough late July or early August 2009 - that was before we got the word that Larissa and Charles are expecting. She is due the 2nd week of May so we were looking at coming earlier, maybe late April - now we're here. Pray too for us to get over this jet lag soon and be able to sleep at night. I haven't been able to sleep at night and there's no time to sleep during the day. We meet with the pastors Monday morning to plan Mom's memorial service and with the funeral home folks mid-afternoon. Lots of calls to make and emails to send... Thanks for standing with us in this difficult time!

No we don't understand  
And we don't see His plan  
But we are beginning to trace His hand...

Trusting His heart in all these things.

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