

Remembrance of Kelly J. Bever

By: Erin Nix

I was standing in a store last week, so tired and sad, and I saw a little trinket that said:

"Family - where life is born and love never dies."

Those of you who know the good and bad our family has gone through recently know just how appropriate that message was.

During the past month or so, our family has been through some of the most difficult days of our lives. We saw things that one would be tempted to say no one should ever have to see. But that cannot be Truth because we did see them; we experienced them; we lived them. And God does not abandon our lives to chance.

There is an old prayer that says:

Sometimes I wish that I might do
Just one grand deed and die.
And by that one grand deed reach up
And meet God in the sky.
But such is not thy will, oh, God
Not such is thine decree.
But day by day, and tear by tear
Our thoughts - our souls - our spirits
Must rise to thee.

And I know that's true, even now only a few days later looking back, because during the past few weeks, I also saw some of the most beautiful things I have ever seen:

As I watched my sister be so patient during the bulk of her suffering.

As I watched Dave take care of her, showing her a level of love and friendship that few people find in this world.

As I watched her children move heaven and earth just to hold her hands while she died.

As I watched her get to hold her new grandson.

I know that I am a better person than I was before this difficult journey began. Maybe we all are.

Dave was telling me that there was a time when this first started when Kelly just hoped she would live long enough to see Evan graduate. We didn't know then that she was going to get to spend many more years with her family, take trips, see her daughter earn her doctorate and

become a professor, see her son get married to an amazing woman, see him get ordained, and then...as the final completion to see a grandson come into this world.

Kelly spent many weeks preparing gifts for Isaiah for those future holidays that she will not spend with him. One day, not too long ago, she said to us: "I hope that if Isaiah gets gifts from me, and sees photos of me holding him, that he will feel like he knew me."

But Isaiah knew her before he even arrived, and he came early just to be with her for a little while. He will remember her from the stories we will tell him. But most of all he will always know her through her biggest gift that she left him - a loving family - and she will always be with that family, where love never dies.

Kelly told me recently, "I'm not afraid of dying, but I'm going to miss my family so much."

But I do not believe she is missing you all today. I believe she is in a place of joy, and completion, and peace. And I know she will always be watching over you.