

THE SHADOW OF DEATH

“*But His mother treasured all these things in her heart*” (Luke 2:51)

What things did Mary treasure in her heart? *Jesus’ spiritual astuteness, His comprehension of Scripture and His clear awareness that He was in the world to fulfil His heavenly Father’s will.*

Did Mary know that her Son would die upon a cross? She had been told by Simeon that one day “*a sword will pierce your own soul too*” (Luke 2:35).

Holman Hunt in his beautiful painting *The Shadow of Death* depicts the inside of the carpenter’s shop in Nazareth and has Jesus stripped to His waist, standing by a wooden trestle table on which He has put His saw.

He lifts His hands towards heaven as if stretching to relieve His aching arms, *and as He does so the evening sunlight streaming in through the open door casts a shadow in the form of a cross on the wall behind Him.* On the wall is a tool rack giving the impression of a horizontal bar, *to which, in the painting, His hands appear to be nailed.* Even the tools themselves are a grim reminder of the hammer and nails used in Christ’s crucifixion.

In the foreground Mary kneels among the wood chippings, and although her face cannot be seen fully she appears to be startled as she looks up and sees the cross-like shadow of her Son on the wall.

The idea may be fanciful but nevertheless it is true theologically. The shadow of the cross was over Jesus from His earliest years.

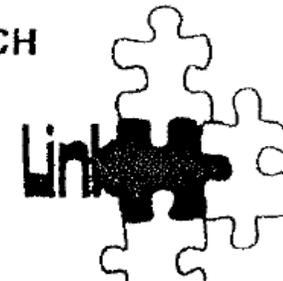
O Father, I can only glimpse a small part of what it meant for Your Son to spend His life knowing He must one day die upon a cross. I cannot comprehend it yet I appreciate it. For it was all in order to accomplish my salvation. Amen.



The Cross is a way of life;
The way of love
Meeting all hate with love,
And evil with good;
All negatives with positives. Rufus Moseley

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PRAYER IS THE KEY OF THE MORNING AND THE BOLT OF THE NIGHT

23 March 2014

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

He was despised and rejected by men,
A man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.
Like one from whom men hide their faces
He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

*Surely He took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered Him stricken by God,
smitten by Him and afflicted.*

***But He was pierced for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him,
and by His wounds we are healed.
We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.***

He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet He did not open His mouth;
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is silent,
so He did not open His mouth. Isaiah 53:3-6

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

LIBBY SPIES having Ablation Heart surgery on Wed 26th March, we pray for God's hand of guidance on the surgeon, a successful op for Libby and peace for the family.

MERYL & ALLAN have gone to CT in order to spend time with their daughter & family at this troubled time. We lift Megan & Rebecca up to our Lord praying for a return to health & wholeness for them & the family.

MAVIS EDMUNDS has been transferred to a sub acute facility near to Darrenwood Village where she lives. Mavis is feeling a little stronger, we pray for continued healing for her.

COUPLE have just moved to UK & their son in SA has been diagnosed with a rare disease & is terminally ill. We pray strength for the parents who are coming back to SA & healing for their son who is on new medication.

BILL & MARIANNE MARRS have moved to a Retirement Home in Albertville & are very lonely. May they feel God's presence & love at this difficult time.

JULIA JACOBS (Charmaine Wecke's mom) passed away Mon. Our thoughts & prayers are with Charmaine, Desiree, Errol, Michelle, Rob & family at this sad time.

DEONA BROUGH is in a great deal of pain after her hysterectomy. We pray for healing and a release of the pain.

VERA is in hospital after a 5th miscarriage. Pray for peace & comfort both for Vera and her husband Mick (who owns the Irish Club near Trinity).

CYBIL HORNE passed away on Tuesday. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and especially his granddaughter Courtney at this sad time.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

HOLIDAY CLUB LEADERS Praise God for a successful & spirit filled Holiday Club Camp last weekend. We pray for God's guidance & strength for the leaders as Holiday Club week approaches 31st March to 4th April.

RUSSELL JONES diagnosed with advanced stomach cancer which is inoperable. Russell is not coping well and we hold him and his family up to our Lord.

JACKIE ANTONITES is out of hospital and staying with her daughter. She has had 2 ops on her elbow and may need further surgery. We pray total healing of her arm.

MIKE & HELEN URBAN are both unwell & are going through a tough time; their son Matthew (almost 5 yrs.) is also not well. Pray God's healing & strength for all.

ERIK is in a psychiatric ward for observation. We pray that our Lord will surround Erik, and his family, with love, healing & His perfect peace.

MAVIS STRACHAN has seen the pulmonologist who referred her for a CAT scan & further blood tests on Thursday. We pray guidance for docs & peace for Mavis & family.

GRAHAM BROWN home & is doing well after appendectomy, pray for his recovery.

PAUL HART will be having a neck fusion & carpal tunnel op on his right wrist on April 3rd. Pray peace for Paul & family in the period leading up to the op.

PLEASE PRAY FOR the mom & dad who lost their son in a tractor accident at a camping park over the Christmas period. They are really battling to come to terms with their loss. We pray that our Lord will comfort them & strengthen their faith.

ELSABE VORSTER we praise God that her first cataract op was successful & pray for guidance of eye surgeon for the 2nd op on Mon 7, & peace for Elsabe.

DAVE MCBIRNIE is on crutches after knee op, we pray for his continued recovery.

MUSHE ROOS we continue to hold Mushe up to our Lord praying for his recovery.

DOUGLAS (Wayne Boucher's dad) is still in ICU and is coming on slowly; we continue to pray for his perfect healing.

JOAN POTGIETER out of hospital & recovering slowly, we pray continued healing.

ELLEN COETZEE is now in high care and has difficulty remembering and speaking. We pray continued healing for Ellen, peace & strength for her, Susan and family.

CANCER LIST: *Gordon Bennett, David Edwards, Anton Marais (Sydney), Lee Barnes, Nola Dodds, Tracy Hoy (UK), Hilda Louter, Val Warren, Dudley Middleton, Marguerite, Peter, Myrren (18), Joy Anderson, Diane Turner, Maureen Lupton, Garth Odendaal, Martin v d Merwe (Karin Blackburn's dad), Joy v d Klis, Jean Clarence, Les Tippett, Rebecca Owens, Daniela Andrade (7), Estelle, Jeanie (double mastectomy).*

CHRONIC LIST:

Denese Pieterse (back problems), Dave (Guillain Barre Syndrome), Emmanuel Thavhiwa (difficult times), Elaine Vermaak (osteoporosis, knee pains), Rolene (cellulitis), Craig Hart (sleep apnea), Moira Smith (hiatus hernia), Brian & Eva Humphreys (Eva's recovery), Maureen Dewberry (heart problems), Alison (spinal problems), Illia & Graham (UK), Rodney (very weak), Mavis Edmunds (Hip op), Douglas (heart problems), Diana Viljoen's Mom (stroke), Harold (very tired).



The reason for loving God
is God Himself and how
He should be loved is to
love Him without limit.

Bernard of Clairvaux

God, give me the grace to see only Jesus, my Saviour before me at all times, and to serve Him to the best of my ability and with all my strength. Amen.