



### **Cancer is so Limited**

It cannot cripple love.  
It cannot shatter hope.  
It cannot corrode faith.  
It cannot kill friendships.  
It cannot eat away peace.  
It cannot destroy confidence.  
It cannot silence courage,  
reduce eternal life, or quench the spirit.  
It certainly cannot lessen  
the power of the Resurrection.

Death has been conquered  
The victory won  
Christ lives forever  
With God's daughters and sons  
Faith is the entrance  
The cross is the key  
Death has been conquered  
For you and for me

By J. Mandeville & S. Siler



## **Words of Comfort for a Grieving Heart In Loving Recognition of Arthur E. Bittner, Jr.**

God has made everything beautiful for its  
own time.  
He has planted eternity in the human  
heart, but even so, people cannot see the  
whole scope of God's work from  
beginning to end. ....

And I know that whatever God does is



## **Grief**

Grief can isolate us...even here among family and friends.

We all grieve differently...

Grief can silence us... when the pain is beyond the words we can use...when it silences us from song.

Grief can bring anger...sometimes passionate and overwhelming for the future that we have lost.

Grief can be untidy... in a world looking for closure and moving on to the next news cycle.

Grief keeps it's own time.

Grief stretches us to our limits... and from this awful experience, we have learned a profound appreciation for the love and compassion that can be freely shared and unselfishly given.

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Psalm 145:18

As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

James 5:11

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19

The dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Revelations 21:3,4

Most of the poems in this brochure were provided by members of the Healing Exchange Brain Trust (an online community for sharing information and support about brain tumors and related conditions) who have been an invaluable source of information and support to our family over the last two years. May God bless them.

Compiled by Cheryl Bittner, Art's sister

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

II Corinthians 1:3-4

## ***THE OAK TREE***

A mighty wind  
Blew night and day  
It stole the oak tree's leaves away

Then snapped its boughs  
And pulled its bark  
Until the oak was tired and stark

But still the oak tree held its ground  
While other trees fell all around  
The weary wind gave up and spoke  
How can you still be standing Oak?

The oak tree said, I know that you  
Can break each branch of mine in two  
Carry every leaf away  
Shake my limbs, and make me sway

But I have roots stretched in the earth  
Growing stronger since my birth  
You'll never touch them, for you see  
They are the deepest part of me

Until today, I wasn't sure  
Of just how much I could endure  
But now I've found, with thanks to you  
I'm stronger than I ever knew.

By Unknown cancer patient

## ***Ease your grief***

Ease your grief. He is not gone  
for in your heart he will linger on.

His smile, his laugh, his special way  
will comfort you from day to day.

You'll feel his presence in the breeze  
that dances gently through the trees.

And it's his face that you shall see  
when you're in need of company.

At any time you can recall,  
the love you shared; you saved it all.

And in time, more than anything,  
you'll find peace in remembering.

By Geale Graveline

## ***I think this is what Art believed:***

### ***WAR AGAINST CANCER***

In this war against cancer, cancer will not win.  
I'm stronger than this enemy is, and I will not give in.

Every day is a battle; every day is a fight.  
I will stare down my adversary both day and night.

It may not be pleasant; it may not be fun.  
This is the worst of all times, but cancer has not won.

It may wear me down but not for long.  
My faith in the Lord is much too strong.

I see His devotion as I look around.  
His beauty and goodness are all around

The laughter of children, the singing of birds,  
The scope of His love is way beyond words.

He wants me to fight; He wants me strong.  
In this ultimate test giving up would be wrong.

He's with me each day. He watches me fight.  
He shares in my pain. He shares in my might.

He gives me strength so pure and divine  
to make me strong in both spirit and mind

Because of the Lord I will never give in.  
This cancer will concede and I WILL WIN.

## ***I Know Whom I Have Believed***

I know not why God's wondrous grace  
to me he has made known,  
nor why, unworthy, Christ in love  
redeemed me for his own.

I know not how this saving faith  
to me he did impart,  
nor how believing in his word  
wrought peace within my heart.

I know not when my Lord may come;  
at night or noontide fair,  
nor if I walk the vale with him,  
or meet him in the air.

But I know whom I have believed,  
and am persuaded that he is able  
to keep that which I've committed  
unto him until that day.

By Daniel W. Whittle

For I am convinced that neither death nor life,  
neither angels nor demons, neither the present  
nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor  
depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be  
able to separate us from the love of God that is in  
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:36–39

## **WORRY**

There are two days in every week about which you  
should not worry - two days that should be kept free  
from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is yesterday with its mistakes and  
cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains.  
Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. All  
of the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday.  
We cannot undo a single act we performed; we cannot  
erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow,  
with its possible adversaries, its burdens, its large  
promise and poor performance. Tomorrow's sun will  
rise either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, but it  
will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow,  
for it is as yet unborn.

This leaves only one day - today. Any man can fight the  
battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add  
the burdens of these two awful eternities -yesterday  
and tomorrow- that we break down. It is not the  
experience of today that drives men mad - it is remorse  
or bitterness for something that happened yesterday  
and the dread of what tomorrow may bring.  
Let us therefore live but one day at a time.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in  
everything by prayer and petition, with  
thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And  
the peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ

Jesus.

Philippians 4:7

## ***OUR BROTHER'S VICTORY***

Cancer did not claim him though others may disagree.  
The Lord came and took him home. This I clearly see.

Though an evil disease existed within his mortal flesh  
It was just the guise God chose to explain his earthly death.

He fought a good fight in his war against cancer.  
Our brother was victorious because God had the answer.

But dead is the wrong word to describe my brother today  
for he lives on in heavenly peace. God wanted it that way.

He will always be with me in my heart until the end.  
And one day I will see him, my sweet brother and my friend.

So let it be clear who won this long fight.  
My brother was the victor as he walked into the light.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever  
follows me will never walk in darkness, but will  
have the light of life."

John 8:12

Jesus told them, "Put your trust in the light while  
you have it, so that you may become sons of  
light."

John 12:36

## ***Remember Me***

To the living, I am gone.  
To the sorrowful, I will never return.  
To the angry, I was cheated.

But to the joyful, I am at peace,  
And to the faithful, I have never left.  
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.

So as you stand upon a shore, gazing at a beautiful  
sea - remember me.  
As you look in awe at a mighty forest and its grand  
majesty - remember me.  
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity -  
remember me.  
Remember me in your heart, your thoughts, and your  
memories of the times we loved, the times we cried,  
the times we fought, the times we laughed.

For if you always think of me, I will have never gone.

### THE GIFT OF SOLITUDE:

There are times when we want nothing better than to  
be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the  
gift of solitude to others.

### THE GIFT OF A COMPLIMENT:

A simple and sincere, "You look great in red,"  
"You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal"  
can make someone's day.

### THE GIFT OF A FAVOR:

Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

### THE GIFT OF BEING CHEERFUL:

The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word  
to someone. Really it's not that hard to say, "Hello" or,  
"Thank You!"

By Eric Funston, Diocese of Kansas

Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed.  
They make you smile and encourage you to succeed.  
They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they  
always want to open their hearts to us.  
So give them a special gift today!

## ***GIFTS THAT DON'T COST A CENT***

Neglect not the gift that is within thee.

Gifts don't have to be expensive. Why, some of the best gifts you can give a person are totally free. These gifts that don't cost a cent:

### **LISTEN:**

You must REALLY LISTEN. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just LISTENING.

### **THE GIFT OF AFFECTION:**

Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

### **THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER:**

Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

### **THE GIFT OF THANKS**

It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

## ***Don't Think Of Him As Gone Away***

Don't think of him as gone away,  
his journey's just begun.

Life holds so many facets  
and this earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting  
from the sorrow and the tears

In a place of warmth and comfort,  
where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing  
that we could know today

How nothing but our sadness  
can really pass away.

And think of him as living  
in the hearts of those he touched,

For nothing loved is ever lost,  
and he was loved so much.

By Ellen Brenneman

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God,  
believe also in me. In my Father's house are many  
mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.  
I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and  
prepare a place for you, I will come again, and

receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:1-4

## ***Death Is Nothing At All***

Death is nothing at all.  
I have only slipped away into the next room.  
I am I, and you are you.  
Whatever we were to each other, that we still are.  
Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the  
easy way you always used.  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.  
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we  
enjoyed together.  
Play, smile, think of me.  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always  
was.  
Life means all that it ever meant.  
There is absolutely unbroken continuity....  
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?  
I am waiting for you.....  
for an interval....  
somewhere near,  
just around the corner.  
All is well.

By Henry Scott Holland  
1847-1918, Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral

## ***Attitude***

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts.

It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people say or do.

It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church.. a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past.. we cannot change the fact that people will act a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude..

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

And so it is with you.. we are in charge of our attitudes.

By Charles Swindoll

## ***He is Gone***

You can shed tears that he is gone,  
Or you can smile because he lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that he will come back,  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see him  
Or you can be full of the love that you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live in  
yesterday,  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of  
yesterday.

You can remember him and only that he is gone  
Or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.

You can cry, close your mind, be empty, turn your back,  
Or you can do what he would want:

Smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

By David Harkins

## ***I'm Free...***

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.

I took His hand when I heard Him call,  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day.  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.

Tasks left undone must stay that way.  
I found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,  
then fill it with remembered joys.

A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss.  
Oh yes, these things too I will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow.  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full...I savored much.  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief.  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.

Lift up your hearts and peace to thee.  
God wanted me now; He set me free!

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free  
indeed.

John 8:36

## ***Dancing with angels***

It's just so hard to believe  
All I have to hold is your memory  
From this side of the clouds all I see is grief  
But on the other side I know you're free  
And you're dancing, dancing with angels

Somewhere just out of my reach  
You're keeping heavenly company  
When I'm feeling lonely it's for myself I cry  
'Cause there aren't any tears in paradise  
When you're dancing, dancing with angels

I can almost hear your laughter  
See the fullness of your joy  
Knowing that you're present with the Lord  
And though today I miss you I know the day will come  
When every believer will behold the Son  
And we'll be dancing, dancing with angels

By J. Mandeville & S. Siler

You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing.  
You have taken away my clothes of mourning and  
clothed me with joy that I might sing praises to  
you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give  
you thanks forever!

***dance at my funeral***

\* *Glioblastoma Multiforme Tumor – Same as Art*

I want you to dance at my funeral  
I want you to celebrate your life  
Yeah I want you to dance at my funeral  
In this way you'll remember me, remember me  
You'll keep my life alive

Don't you shed no tears for me baby  
'Cause I've been dancing with the angels in the sky  
Yeah my Jesus he's going to save me  
My Jesus he's gonna dry your eyes  
Yeah he's gonna dry your eyes

So I want you to dance at my funeral  
I want you to eat ice cream and read poetry all night  
Go ahead you can dance at my funeral  
In this way you'll remember me, remember me  
You'll keep my life alive

Yeah, death's nothing more than a doorway  
A doorway for all to the light  
By his grace we'll be there someday  
Until then keep your torch burning bright  
Until then keep your torch burning bright

By Dan Stevens, GBM\*  
12/1977-12/2002, Musician & songwriter

The young women will dance for joy, and the  
men--old and young--will join in the celebration.  
I will turn their mourning into joy. I will comfort  
them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing.