

Esther Pearl's Eulogy

Written By Rev. Jonathan Elliott

Esther was a child who was loved and adored by people everywhere. She was the daughter of a missionary and therefore she was a missionary in the land of Mongolia. She went by many titles. To churches she was a MK (Or Missionaries Kid), she was a beloved daughter to her parents, a great sister to her brothers and sister, a wonderful granddaughter to her Grandparents, and an awesome niece to her Aunts and Uncles. As her Uncle I was privileged to witness her love for the people in Mongolia, and for her family in America.

She enjoyed many things such as spending time with her family, seeing trains, and even life itself. I was able to spend a few days with her in the hospital after her surgery and was impressed at her cheerfulness even in the face of uncertainty and pain.

She was aware that she had cancer and she was at peace with death. She has been described as being unique, joyful, enthusiastic, outgoing, pleasant, loving, courageous, brave, and at times even stubborn. I want to concentrate though, on her courage. You see, her favorite bible story was that of her namesake, Esther. Esther had courage from the Lord to act and react in ways that provided for the physical salvation of the Lord's chosen people. Our Esther, also found her courage from the Lord. Her favorite verse was Ps 56:3 "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." She had the opportunity to travel somewhere with her family and enjoy a trip. It was her desire to go home to Mongolia. She wanted to be home again, and see the people. She wasn't able to make that trip but they were able to have a trip to Florida and she had a great time with her family. Her courage was manifested throughout her life and demonstrated throughout her illness in many ways.

After her surgery, she displayed her courage by requesting that her Dad help her travel a little to see some family. Travel was difficult and often painful, but she enjoyed spending time with her family. She spent two weeks in Mississippi with my family and her Uncle Andy and his family. We had a great time with her, Eliza, Elijah, Ethan, Uncle Daniel and Aunt Lydia. Esther truly was a blessing and I enjoyed spoiling her during that time. After leaving Mississippi, she went north to Indiana to visit with her great grandparents and extended family there. She had a fun game with a toy McDonald's store set. She sold hot coffee, hamburgers, and ice cream. As she would get tired she would say the store is closed, she would then lay down and take her nap, and upon waking she would announce that she now had hot coffee again. While in Indiana she was more likely to read a book than to watch TV, and she even tried to keep up with her homework.

She never complained about her cancer or the pain, she just accepted it patiently.

Daniel, Lydia I want to thank you both. You have been put through one of life's toughest trials. I have been impressed with your love for Christ throughout everything. Through our conversations Daniel, I know that you gave Esther and her cancer, (Live or Die), to God before returning to the States. I have observed you both as you have exemplified Christ through this heartbreak. Our church in Mississippi has been praying for you both from the beginning and I have been impressed. You see, the thing that you have most often asked prayer for, is that you would be able to keep their eyes on the Lord no matter what. Daniel, Lydia, you have been an example to all of us.

Esther, we love you – and we will miss you!