Death and Resurrection

August 27, 2013

“Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor: 54-55, 57)

Losing a close love one to death is one of the most difficult transformations in our lives. My father was the first close person to me to die. In 1991 on Christmas Day, my father died of a massive heart attack. For nearly two years I wrestled with “Why?” “Why now?” The pain of accepting his death seemed to never end. My father was a Baptist preacher for nearly 45 years, and I was 44 years old when he died. Finally, another close old friend of the family said, “Your father lived his life as God called him to live and he died the way he wanted to die. He died in Christ surrounded by his family. Now it is time for you to move on and discover the call God has for you.” Those were bitter words at the time. I soon came to understand that death was not the end for those who die in Christ. Often, it is the beginning of a new phase in the lives of the loved ones left behind.

Prayer: O God, who gave us birth, you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray. You know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Give us now your grace, that as we shrink before the mystery of death, we may see the light of eternity. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or death will be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Submitted by Rev. Annie Travis