

JOHN CHRISTIAN TON
September 25, 2008 - April 17, 2009

A PRAYER / RECITAL

We thank you Father in heaven for the life of little John Christian Ton. We only knew him for a little while and during that time he never spoke a comprehensible word. And yet Father, during that short time he worked his way into our hearts and into our affection so that we will not forget him until the day we die. Six months was all you gave Peter and Valerie, Father, to look after a very special boy, whose heart was not connected to his lungs, but who nevertheless stole our hearts. And I don't doubt for a moment, Father, that he stole Your heart as well. As the child of believing parents he is a member of that great covenant You made with Abraham and which was sealed by your Son's blood.

We the living rest in the assurance Jesus Himself gave us that little John Christian is numbered among those who sleep in Jesus to await the resurrection.

When the ruler of the synagogue who had come to Jesus for healing was told that his daughter was dead Jesus replied, "Do not be afraid, only believe." And so Jesus says today to Peter and Valerie and young Peter and Jenna and Elizabeth and all of us: "Do not be afraid, only believe."

When Jesus came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue He made this incredible statement: "THE CHILD IS NOT DEAD, BUT SLEEPING." And so Peter and Valerie, Jesus says to us today: "Little John Christian is not dead, but sleeping." For the benefit of those who believe that Jesus misspoke Himself, He went into the little girl's room and He woke her up.

And to seal this testimony about "resurrection sleep" with two witnesses, Jesus did it again just prior to His own death. When Jesus was told that his good friend Lazarus was very sick he tarried. Finally He said to His disciples, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." The disciples misunderstood, Father in heaven. They did not yet realize that you have life in Yourself and that You have granted the Son to have life in Himself. So they thought of natural sleep while in fact there is a "resurrection sleep" where the believer falls asleep in Jesus. So Jesus went to Bethany and explained to Martha that He, the Alpha and the Omega, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David -- had life in and of Himself. "I AM THE RESURRECTION" Jesus said to Martha. AND I AM THE LIFE; THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE FOUNT OF LIVING WATER. Whoever comes to Me will live forever. Come, Jesus said to Martha and the crowd: Behold the glory of the Father. And as He stood before the open grave of Lazarus, Jesus shouted: "Lazarus, come forth."

As we make our painful way to the cemetery, Father in heaven, give us strength and give a double measure of strength to Peter and Valerie and the children that they may believe that they need not be afraid but need only believe.

"For you died," the epistle to the Colossians tells us, "and your life is hidden with Christ in God. " And although this statement straddles two dimensions of reality, that of heaven and earth and was said to the living, Paul then moves onto the time of Christ's return as he says: WHEN CHRIST, WHO IS OUR LIFE APPEARS, THEN LITTLE JOHN CHRISTIAN ALSO WILL APPEAR WITH HIM IN GLORY."

Ps 63 1-4

And in Psalm 63 we read the marvelous words of joy and fellowship which David wrote when he was in the wilderness of Judah:

O God, You are my God;

early will I seek You;

My soul thirsts for You

My flesh longs for You

In a dry and thirsty land

Where there is no water.

So I have looked for You in the sanctuary.

To see your power and glory.

BECAUSE YOUR LOVING KINDNESS IS BETTER THAN LIFE,

My lips shall praise you.

Thank you, Father in heaven, thank you. We commit John Christian to Your loving care and move from here to the cemetery with the resolute assurance that You are a loving and compassionate Father. And we look forward to the day of resurrection when we will meet again.

AMEN.

John Hultink