

WHAT IF...



IN LOVING
MEMORY OF...

...IT WERE ME?

WHAT IF IT WERE ME?

As a pastor, conducting funeral services is a common ministerial duty and privilege. Through nights of vigil services, one weeps with the bereaved family, comforting them with the Word of God and the singing of songs of Heaven. The day of the funeral is always most painful especially during the act of en-coffining the body of the deceased. The family would weep and cry and many last words would be spoken through much tears.

Of the many funeral services I have conducted not one has touched me as this latest one. Just before the coffin was sealed, the family asked to put some personal things into the coffin. The glass casing was lifted and the family placed the items in gently. But what followed next shook me. The children of the deceased leaned forward and started to stroke their father's hair and said how much they loved him and missed him. With tear stained eyes one of them kissed him on the forehead. I was deeply touched by the final acts of affection.

The thought then rushed to my mind: "What if it were me?" I have three children whom I love very much. Struck by the warm display of love of the children for their departed father, I asked myself, "Would my children

do the same if it were me lying in that coffin?”

I went through a time of soul searching, asking myself some frank questions. “What have I done in this life to impact them and my family members and friends?” The deceased is gone forever. Whatever acts that he did or things he owned are all left behind. Whatever acts he might have wished to do will forever remain undone. The impact on the lives of his children and loved ones, whether good or bad can never be altered. No amount of tears can change that. The finality of it all shook me. I was numbed for a moment.

Suddenly a flood of memories came rushing into my mind: flashbacks of my children’s growing years from infancy to the present gave rise to mixed emotions: regrets ... sadness ... joy and thanksgiving to God. Whatever wrong that I had done cannot be undone. One must live with this sad but real emptiness in the heart. I wished I could have spent more

time with my children in their studies and be a little more involved in their lives. Little things like playing ball with my son or cooking with my daughters or simply doing things together as a family are now unfulfilled desires that can never be recalled, for my children have grown up.

Then my thoughts turned again to the grieving children. Behind their tears was the hope of reunion. Father may be gone but the parting was only temporary. Like them, father had believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as His Lord and Saviour. He had experienced the love of God in his heart. He knew that Jesus Christ the Son of God had died for his sins and had delivered him from Hell. He knew that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead for his justification and for the forgiveness of his sins. Father's soul is now in heaven safe in the arms of Jesus Christ his Saviour! There he is forever free from the pains, sorrows, diseases and burdens of this life. One day there will be an unspeakable and joyous reunion in the Lord Jesus. Then there will be no more pain of parting, no more tears and sorrows.

Then came the act of burial. At the grave site the coffin was lowered into the gaping hole in the ground, the final resting place of man's body. As the earth was piled on the casket, the same question was repeated: "What if it were me?"

Reader, what if it were you? Your only security is to believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.

If you would like to have Jesus as your

Saviour, PRAY THIS PRAYER FROM YOUR HEART:

“O God my heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I am a sinner. If I die in my sins I know I will go to Hell. I thank You for sending Your only begotten Son Jesus Christ to die for me. I pray for Jesus Christ to come into my heart and be my Lord and my Saviour. I believe that You raised Jesus Christ from the dead on the third day for my justification and for the forgiveness of all my sins. Thank you God for loving me so much! In Jesus Name I give thanks and pray. AMEN.”

May you by faith see the reality of God's promise of an everlasting Home where the Heavenly Father awaits you. If you wish to inquire further into the Christian Gospel, we invite you to:

Calvary Pandan B-P Church
201, Pandan Gardens, Singapore 609337
Tel: 6560 3885 Fax: 6566 3806
Email: enquiry@calvarypandan.sg
Website: www.calvarypandan.sg