

Every one of us as we reach adulthood comes to a deeper appreciation of everything that our parents did for us. Growing up we had some understanding of the love they shared, the sacrifices they made, the disappointments they endured, and the suffering we sometimes caused them. But once we become adults, we see our parents differently.

Danny and Luci had an intense experience of parenting. Through twenty-two weeks in the womb and two days in the hospital, their son led them through a series of emotions: joy and sorrow, disappointment and anger, hope and expectation, pride and grief. They did not go through this alone. They had the unbending support of their family and friends, coworkers and strangers. People say it takes a village to raise a child; it takes a village to raise parents too.

All children draw something special out of their parents. Lucas was no different. He needed parents who could make the right decisions for him under pressure. He needed two people whose love for each other gave them the wisdom and strength to help him every moment. Lucas got the right parents.

What happened to him was not fair. He did nothing to deserve the struggle he faced. He entered the world as a precious infant. He responded to the voice of his parents. He had long fingers. His face carried the beautiful features of his mother. He inspired all the delight and concern that any child brings. What happened to him was not fair.

But it has produced extraordinary results. Lucas has drawn his big family together. He has made us better appreciate the gift of life and of one another. He trained Danny & Luci how to be parents. Most importantly, because he first bravely took the path from womb to hospital, he has made it possible for future brothers and sisters to be born. He lived and died so that others might have life.

Jesus Christ lived and died so that we might have life forever with one another and with him. The resurrection of Jesus transforms everything about life and gives us new hope. It so changed the world that our Church celebrates it each year for 50 consecutive days and on every Sunday. At the end of the Book of Revelation, in the very last chapter of the very last book of the bible, when you'd think the story should come to a close, John hears a voice with another message: "Behold, I make all things new." "God's dwelling is with the human race.... God himself will always be with [his people] as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain."

There were plenty of tears when Lazarus died. Even Jesus cried as some bystanders said of him, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" Jesus took this occasion to proclaim his authority over life and death: "I am the resurrection," he said, "and the life." Those who believe in him live for ever.

Lucas will live forever in our hearts and memories. He loved us enough to give life a try, and we loved him back. Lucas showed how simple it can be to have an impact on the lives of others if you just do your best with the life you have. Lucas got everyone to love him totally every moment of his life. We cried more than he did. He lived a complete and perfect life: He made us better people.