

BRIAN SEDLOCK

Brian was not the kind of kid who attracted a lot of attention. But he sure did this week. He was just a great kid -- playful, smart, friendly, cooperative. Not a showoff. The kind of kid you might overlook, but a kid who'd make any parent proud. Really good at math. He already completed sixth grade as a math student and was working on seventh. Looking back on it, he crowded a little extra bit of life into the life that he had.

Brian shared the same inquisitive spirit we all have. We may not think of ourselves as curious about life, but when a good kid inexplicably doesn't wake up one morning, we've got a lot of questions. We hate to admit it, but there's a lot about human life we just don't understand. There are mysteries about the human body that defy examination, even by a trained eye. We can give a child the best of care, as Steve and JoLena have done. We can give kids a good home, a loving family, an excellent school, faith in God, room to play and grow. We can protect them from every harm we can think of, and do a right good job of it. Then, once in a while, we get reminded that we don't have complete control over human life. To receive a human birth is to receive a human death, and everything in the middle is a gift from God.

"None of us lives for oneself," St. Paul says, "and none of us dies for oneself." Paul wrote those words when he thought he'd be dying soon. "For if we live, we live for the Lord," Paul continues, "and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." It's a lovely thought, but at the same time, it's kind of hard to take. On any given day, we live for our own enjoyment, or we live for the people we love. We think we're in control, but it's an illusion.

Our faith says we're not in control, but God is. That's not the same as being out of control. That's being in the control of God's sustaining love. How can you listen to the story of Jesus and the little children and think otherwise? Jesus reached out to the most vulnerable in society, to children in need of love, to the sick in need of hope, to the restless in need of faith. God reaches to the heart of our silent fears to bring comfort and consolation. There are mysteries about the human body that defy examination. There are mysteries about God that defy examination too. But we believe that even in the midst of our greatest, unthinkable sorrow, God's plan for each of us is good. God created Brian, gave him a good home, a good school, and a good church, allowed him to touch a lot of lives by his goodness, and calls him home to an eternal life more joyful than any video game could ever hope to be.

Steve and JoLena, on behalf of everyone here, I want to thank you for Brian, for sharing him with us, and for taking such good care of him. And Kristen, thank you for being such a good sister to him. Brian taught us to be grateful for what we have and to treasure beautiful things we may not otherwise notice.