

For Allen's funeral Oct 14, 2019

When Allen was in palliative care at University of Iowa hospital, the family was told he could still hear and perhaps comprehend but would not be able to communicate.

Early Wednesday afternoon Alice noticed Allen was struggling to breathe with short rapid breaths. As Alice touched and comforted Allen, Carla read a devotion from "Our Daily Bread". It was about Augustus Toplady who wrote the famous hymn "Rock of Ages" in 1763 after experiencing God's comfort while traveling along a cliffside road and finding a cleft to duck into for protection during a violent thunderstorm. Experiencing Alice's, Carla's and God's love, Allen's breathing began to calm, and Allen seemed to be at peace again.

All of us one day will experience the transition in which our physical bodies will lose function and our breath will cease. However, as Christians we have hope in the resurrection knowing that one day the earthly tent in which we live will be replaced with a heavenly dwelling. Our temporary bodies will be made new into eternal glorified bodies not subject to the frailty so familiar to us. Apostle Paul was acquainted with much physical suffering and left us with this scripture to give us hope. We also read this passage to Allen along with the devotion. We trust it will give you hope and encouragement as we believe it did Allen.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:2 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

⁵ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,