

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

JULY 2026

We have come to and will be going through a time of grief within the life of this Church at the loss of dear Lorna. Grief takes its own time, but it is a God-given process to restore wholeness, and it will to the extent we allow it to happen. The lingering question that has been asked is understanding the role of prayer as we faced Lorna's passing. Did all the praying mean anything at all? That is a normal question at this juncture, but what the question exposes is our incomplete understanding of prayer.

Jesus said to His disciples and us,

"If in My name you ask Me for anything, I will do it." (John 14:14).

So many take that passage on face value and assume we have a 'blank check' waiting at our kneeling bench. Indeed, we see in the Book of Acts, the faithful poured out their prayers in difficult situations and miracles happened. So, we pounded on the gates of heaven on Lorna's behalf, pleading for a miracle and didn't get what we asked for, or so it seems. We must remember, in addition to the above passage, there are other passages that went the opposite way. Jesus prayed in the Garden, **"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."** (Matthew 26:39) and from there He ended up on the cross. One of the great heroes of the faith, the apostle Paul, while struggling with some disorder in his life, be it physical, mental, or psychological, prayed three (also meaning many) times to the Lord that God would take it away and all he got for an answer was, **"My grace is sufficient for You, for my power is made perfect in weakness"** (2 Corinthians 12:9) and his malady remained.

So, what role did prayer play in the loss of Lorna? A shallow understanding of prayer sees prayer as sitting on Santa Claus' knee with our wish list, indeed, what many times Christian prayer sounds like. Much greater is the whole nature of prayer. When we pray for someone or some situation, we enter communion with God on the matter. When we zealously prayed for Lorna, we entered her walk to her heavenly Father. At the door of heaven, we had to allow her to enter the joy that had been prepared for her in Jesus Christ. Finally, she was well again, finally she was whole again, finally she was free from every aspect of death and dying she had in her final days here on earth. Isn't that what we were praying for? Oh, we wanted her to stay with us, but her heavenly Father was calling her home to Himself. Did we want her to be denied that?

Oh, if we could see Lorna now. There is a wonderful song written many years ago and covered by several musicians. I encourage you to do a search and listen to one of the videos of it being sung. The words are on the next page if you just want to read through them. Lesson learned: Prayer is not getting what we want; it is learning to want what we get.

With love,

