



BASIS is a
support ministry
for bereaved parents,
children and their families.

Summer 2017

Renew

"...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength." Isaiah 40:31

A Letter From Heaven

Condensed version of letter to Joye Jones and family from her son, Stephen, on his first anniversary in heaven.

"Dear Mom,

It's been a year now since you last saw me – and since I never got a chance to say, 'good-bye', I thought I'd take this opportunity to send you this 'special delivery.'

I wish that I hadn't had to leave you so suddenly. But that Friday morning, April 7, 1989, was the most glorious day of my life. I really don't remember much of the accident. One minute I was riding in the car and the next, I was here (and by the way, it was *faster* than a "twinkle of an eye!"). I wish you could see it here. It is more beautiful than I could ever describe. It is beyond any of your wildest dreams. No preacher, scholar, or Sunday school teacher had even begun to explain how marvelous heaven actually is (although I know that *you* do the best you can when you teach the children, Mom!). It's just that you don't have the things on earth that we have here. You don't even *have* gold as pure as we have it and jewels as transparent and spectacular as you could ever imagine. (Can you imagine everyone's envy if they could see perfect flawless sapphires the size of basketballs! And that's not all. We have emeralds, diamonds, etc. and some I've never even seen on earth.)

It's absolutely breathtaking. But it would never compare with coming face to face with the Lord—earthly words can't even describe. He is wonderful, beautiful, glorious—just completely awesome. God seems magnificent when you're on earth. But He only reveals a fraction of Himself on earth. Wait until you see His Majesty when you stand before Him. I can't even describe it in earthly words.

Maybe God doesn't want you to know yet or everyone would never stay on earth long enough to do His work. They would want to come directly here! We spend a lot of time worshiping the Lord and singing His praises. I've met a lot of people here that know you guys. We've had many happy conversations reminiscing about my family. I am so wonderfully happy here. But I know, on that night last year when I left you to enter such glory, I left behind

a lot of sadness for my passing. I wish that you didn't have to go through such pain. I was instantly thrust into eternal happiness, while you were instantly thrust into extreme grief. It's something that I don't think that I could've handled if I were left behind and one of you were taken. I'm proud of the strength that you have shown!

Mom, I see you crying, and I just wish I could reach out and hold you. I know how much you miss me. I asked God to especially comfort you and give you peace. He said one of the reasons He allowed you to go through this was because He has many families in the future who are going to lose someone, and your ministry of comforting is going to be so meaningful to them.

I am sorry for all of the pain that this tragedy has brought you. I wish I could take back all of those silly arguments we ever had and I wish I had voiced my love to you more often. God tells me that you all know how very much I love each and every one of you and I am glad.

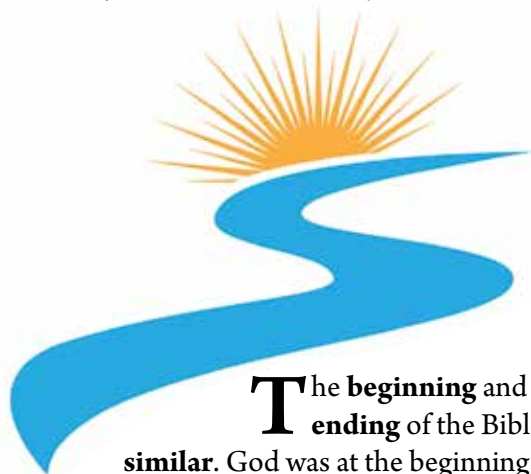
I am so thankful that you raised me in a Christian home and introduced me to Jesus while I was so young. I can't imagine what April 7th would have meant to me if I hadn't had Him in my heart. I can't bear to think of an eternity *without* God (and our eventual reunion as a family!). So please, in the time you're still on earth, tell as many people as you can about God. Since I can't do it anymore, I need you to do it for me.

In the meantime, I'll continue to ask God to bless you with a peace that passes all of human understanding. Please don't remember April 7 as a *sad* day—as the end of my life—but as a beautiful beginning of my eternity! Never forget that I love you all so much. Even though my life was short, it was rich and full of love. Thank you for carrying on without me. Please stay close to one another. I love you all!

Until we meet again,
Steven!"

The Beginning and the End

by Don Allison, Director of BASIS



The beginning and the ending of the Bible are similar. God was at the beginning and

He is at the ending. In the beginning there is “paradise” and at the end there is “paradise.” In the beginning there is a **river**: “*A river watering the garden flowed from Eden...*” Genesis 2:10. At the end: “*The angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse.*” Revelation 22:1 -3

We live in between the beginning and the end and it is no longer “paradise,” for sin entered the world and, with that, came a fallen world with sickness, sorrow, pain and death. Even still, a river flows, the **river of God’s love, grace, forgiveness, comfort and hope**. Through Jesus we can receive the blessings of that river that flows from God’s throne now.

One day there will be a **new heaven and new earth**. God will restore what was lost and those who receive salvation in Jesus will enter the **new “Paradise”** prepared for His children. We celebrated the homegoing of my mother (99) a few years ago, and shortly before her death she had quoted to my niece, “*Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*” Psalm 23:6

It is comforting to know that “Paradise” awaits believers but also to know that **the river of God’s grace, mercy and love flows into our lives each day of our sorrow and grief**.

Memorial Gifts

December 2016, January and February 2017

BASIS would like to gratefully acknowledge memorial gifts from the following:

Given By

In Memory of

Don & Iris Allison	Crystal Allison Kline
Skip & Christine Axe	Kurt M. Axe
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Ted & Helen Walborn	Kristi Walborn
David & Carolyn Wells	Michelle Patch
Joanna Williams	Jimmie Williams
Leroy & Shirley Wolfe	Tim Wolfe

How You Can Support BASIS?

- By your prayers
- By referring other bereaved parents to our ministry
- By participating in BASIS sponsored events as you are able
- By placing your child on the “Wall of Remembrance”
- By using resources provided by BASIS
- By your financial donations

By supporting BASIS you will help others.

H*VMI Events 2017

April 22	NJ Banquet Fundraiser, Voorhees NJ
May 6	BASIS Breakfast, Aldan PA
May 24	Handi*Camp Orientation
May 29	Handi*Camp begins
September 9	BASIS Support Group Leaders Planning & Training Day
September 19	Golf Outing Fundraiser, Tanglewood Golf Course, Quarryville PA
October 12	National Day of Prayer for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding, Lancaster PA
October 14	PA Banquet Fundraiser, New Holland PA

Call us at 717.859.4777 for additional information.

Wall of Remembrance

If you would like to include your child in our Wall of Remembrance, please complete the enclosed slip and mail, with a picture, if you have a picture. For children who are stillborn or miscarried, we are using a butterfly symbol.

You can also email pictures and information. If you want the picture returned, please note that on the form.

Edith



Edith Sullivan
4/7/1970 - 5/17/2007
Daughter of
Anna Sullivan
Cause of Death: Suicide

We ask that you consider sending a donation to BASIS. Those who send a donation with their "Wall" request will receive a duplicate of what is placed on the wall, such as shown to the left.

Having the "Wall of Remembrance" in our office helps us identify and remember the children and to pray for the parents.

BASIS Breakfast 2017

May 6, 2017

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Finding Help When Your Heart is Broken

Our next Annual BASIS Breakfast for bereaved parents is just around the corner, on May 6. I want to urge you to consider attending the breakfast this year. If you have never been to one of these breakfasts I encourage you to come; and if you have attended I hope you will come again. These are times of sharing with other bereaved parents in a relaxed setting with people who can identify with your loss. We will have an excellent meal, but more important, we will share fellowship, encouragement, and yes, even some fun and laughter.

Mark your calendar now and register. There is no cost to attend. We will provide opportunity for people to donate to the BASIS ministry.

I look forward to seeing many of you on May 6. I would count it a privilege to meet some of you I have never met, and to renew fellowship with those whom I have met. See the enclosed insert for more information.

Support Groups for Bereaved parents

Join us at one of these locations.

Akron, PA	3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM (September-May)
Aldan, PA	3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 PM
Lakeland, FL	4th Monday of the month, 2:00 PM
Lavelle, PA	3rd Sunday of the month, 1:00 PM (September-May)
Lebanon, PA	1st Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM (September-May)
Williamstown, NJ	2nd Friday of the month at 7:00 PM (September-May)

Call us at 717.859.4777 for additional information.

Dates to Remember

MAY

- 2: Annie Marie Craven-birthday
- 3: Corinne Harris-birthday
- 4: Dusty Auld, Emily Porter, Lucas Thompson, Philip Wilkins-died
- 5: Amanda Vonderhorst, Daniel Weaver-birthday
- 7: Jessica Baransky, Jimmy Nowasielski-birthday
- 8: Brittany Wrigley-birthday
- 10: Kathleen Fullam-died
- 11: Tyler Hamvas-birthday
- 11: Tina Genovese-died
- 14: Tina Genovese-birthday
- 14: Terri Wilson-died
- 15: Anthony Lepera-died
- 16: Ashley Sankus, Edith Sullivan, Sakina Wilson-died
- 18: Timothy Flocco-died
- 18: Robert Ranck-date of birth and death
- 19: Scott Wolff-birthday
- 20: Ryleigh Canham, Abie Schneck-died
- 21: Robbie Gillis-birthday
- 21: Presley Robinson-died
- 22: Sarah Ann Cole-died
- 22: Glenn Auld, Gioanni Cole-Birthday
- 23: Gioanni Cole, Jason Herr-died
- 25: Aaron Wilbur-birthday
- 26: Amy Parker-birthday
- 26: Sheila Hollinger-died
- 27: Nathan Swymer, John Witcraft-birthday
- 27: Jerry Legg, Tim Wolfe-died
- 28: Susan Alexander-birthday
- 28: Thomas Lavin-died
- 29: Jessica Simrell-birthday
- 29: Anna Diffenderfer-died

JUNE

- 1: David Parrillo-birthday
- 3: Christine Garber-birthday
- 3: Charles Robinson-died
- 4: Chuck Weir-birthday
- 5: Caleb Austin, Baby Manthey-died
- 6: Patty Bennett, Donna Mackin-birthday
- 6: Amanda Halteman-died
- 7: Joshua White-birthday
- 8: Brianne Carter-birthday
- 8: Kevin Barto-died
- 9: Alena Hicks-date of birth and death
- 9: Cindy Kelly, Jessica Simrell-died
- 11: Sarah Yellets-birthday
- 12: Jason McGill-birthday
- 12: Victor Andronie-died
- 13: Brent Bissinger, Megan Hayes, Jeff Hipple-died
- 14: Crystal Allison Kline, Ninel Zaharia-birthday
- 14: Noah Lord-died
- 16: Lauren Antonelli-died
- 17: John Griffith-birthday
- 17: Rachel King, David Weaver-died
- 18: Bryan Hanson, Justin Mack, Michael Stone-birthday
- 18: Kara Hocker-died
- 19: Richard Singmaster-birthday
- 20: Bryan Hanson-died
- 20: Richard Hollingsworth, Katie Nealy-birthday
- 21: Carl Henninger, Thomas Lavin-birthday
- 22: Nichole Holt-birthday
- 23: Christopher Burlingame, Timothy Ward-birthday
- 24: Justin Novak-died
- 25: Brian Raske-died
- 26: Aaron Kramer-died
- 27: Joe Pilotti-birthday
- 28: Paula Nyce-birthday
- 28: Mark Meher, Jason Thomas-died
- 29: Caleb Austin, Scott Hickman, Ashley Romer-birthday
- 29: Thomas Leidy, Mark Lefever, Dawn Wagner-died
- 30: Fred Muller Jr.-Died

JULY

- 1: Luke Searls, Lindsay Smallwood-date of birth and death
- 2: Scott Fischer, Mary Ellen Moore- birthday
- 3: Eric High, Daniel Legg-birthday
- 4: Meisha Armstrong, Vicky Gehman-died
- 4: Joshua Brown, Jay Butcher, Megan Hayes-birthday
- 5: Nathan Peters-died
- 7: Aaron Kramer-birthday
- 7: John Kirkpatrick, Maurice Long, Tyree Long-died
- 8: Mary Grace Drosehn-birthday
- 8: Jamie Gillis, Robbie Gillis-died
- 9: Adam Herr, Nikki Pasker, Kasey Rebstock-birthday
- 10: Vincent Cellucci-birthday
- 10: Phyllis Ellis-died
- 11: Billy Bauernschmidt-birthday
- 12: Joel Haines-died
- 12: Chelsea Denham-birthday
- 13: Gretchen Watts-birthday
- 14: Peter Toebe-died
- 15: Gabrielle Le'Gree-birthday
- 15: Aaron Wilbur, Natalie Wilbur-died
- 16: Jamie Gillis-birthday
- 16: Gabrielle Le'Gree-died
- 18: Emilee Davis, David Steiner-birthday
- 18: Cory Golis-died
- 19: Bill VanDerbeek-birthday
- 19: David L. McIlvaine-died
- 20: Richard McAfee-died
- 21: Peter Gray-died
- 22: William Steiner-died
- 23: Eric (Ricky) Radcliffe, Kasey Rebstock-died
- 24: Faye Ganesin-died
- 25: Grace Lobis-birthday
- 26: Sage Robinson-died
- 26: Jeremy Bickling, Joshua Ewing-birthday
- 27: Janice Arrell-birthday
- 29: Doug Palouian, Lucas Thompson-birthday
- 29: Ava Perkins-date of birth and death
- 29: Mark Lueder-died
- 30: Jeremy Lavoie, Dorie Williams-died
- 31: Cindy Kelly-birthday

NOTE: If you received RENEW and your child's name is not shown in their birth and death month, please notify us immediately so we can make those corrections. Thank you for your understanding.



BASIS Director
Don Allison

BASIS
is a ministry of
compassion to
bereaved
parents and families.

*A ministry
under the leadership of*



**Handi*Vangelism
Ministries International™**

hvmi.org

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Enhancing Trust