



## Dear Friends,

It's been a whirlwind of a month for Kathryn and me.

It began on the eve of Easter Sunday. Kathryn received a call from her sister on Saturday evening. She said that their father, Bill may die in the next 24 hours. The news was unexpected. Bill had been admitted to a Brisbane hospital with a cold about ten days' earlier. Kathryn kept receiving reports that he would be discharged soon. Sadly, his condition suddenly deteriorated.

Kathryn took a plane to Brisbane first thing on Easter Sunday. God was very kind. She was able to spend several hours by Bill's bedside before he died. Her siblings were also present. It was poignant that Bill died on Easter Sunday. Like the apostle Paul says, Christians don't grieve as those without hope when we lose a loved one who belongs to Jesus (1 Th 4:13).

Within days, grief turned to joy as we welcomed a new grandchild. Our son's wife gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. I never cease to be amazed at God's gift of new life. A baby human is a remarkable creature. I felt overwhelming joy when I first held our granddaughter in my arms. I could not believe how beautiful she is! How masterfully God had created every part of her. I fixated on her ear. It is so intricately constructed and detailed. It brought to mind Psalm 139:14: "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

The next week, I travelled to the NSW North Coast to speak to a group of pastors for a couple of days. We stayed on a farm outside of Grafton. I was given the "penthouse," a caravan to stay in, while my colleagues slept in swags and sleeping bags in the farm shed or under the stars.

I love spending time with fellow pastors who love Jesus and his church. They shared openly with each other the joys and struggles of church ministry. I was invited to talk to them about big bible truths like God's aseity, union with Christ and the beatific vision, and how those truths connect to everyday life and ministry. Theology is just a lot of hot air if it doesn't draw us to love God and change how we live and do ministry.

Just before I was about to deliver my final paper, I got a call from my daughter telling me Kathryn had just been taken to hospital. It was the same day that Kathryn and I were due to meet in Queensland, the day before her father's funeral on the Friday.

I was in shock. My ministry colleagues were very understanding. They prayed for Kathryn and me before one of them drove me to the airport on the Gold Coast. I felt very loved and cared for by these pastors. I thought, "Their congregations are in good hands with pastors like them."

Sadly for Kathryn, the doctors advised she could not attend her father's funeral. So, at her request, our two daughters and I attended the funeral. It was a heartache for Kathryn not to be able to go and be with her family to mourn and to remember her Dad.

Kathryn and I recently read through the book of Proverbs in our daily devotions. These recent events brought to mind this proverb in Proverbs 19:21:

*Many are the plans of a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*

One moment you're planning Easter Sunday celebrations at church and a family event afterwards. The next, you're flying to Brisbane to sit with your dying father. One moment you're talking to a group of pastors on a peaceful farm miles from nowhere. The next, that peace is shattered by a call informing you your wife has just been taken to hospital.

The cross and resurrection of Christ is evidence that the Lord's purposes prevail, so that even when our plans are scuppered, we can entrust ourselves fully to the Lord.

God Bless,  
Mark Adams