

4 Months of God's Mercy

A JOURNEY OF TRAGEDY AND FAITH



Beverly Seaton Ingersoll

KW

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BEVERLY SEATON INGERSOLL



Beverly's memoir is a masterpiece of truth in the human experience. It is a powerful example of the triumph of faith and conviction over human frailty.

This book was especially meaningful for me as my own beloved father succumbed to brain cancer. Like Larry, he was diagnosed close to September 11, a time that is synonymous with unspeakable tragedy. My father's symptoms and path of treatment and illness were almost identical to Beverly's poignant descriptions. My father also fought his disease in the year of my parent's 35th wedding anniversary.

Like Larry, my dad was a military veteran of Vietnam who, in the end, was able to die with

the dignity and peace afforded to those with devotion to God.

My copy of this meaningful book is stained with cleansing tears. I cannot thank the author enough for putting her painful but revelatory experience into words. Her story will have relevance and provide comfort for anyone who reads it.

Cher Jacobsen, MD

In memory of her incomparable father, Ronald E. Wright

Bev openly shared her final months with her beloved husband, Larry, and through her words, you come to understand the great strength of her faith and her unwavering dedication to the one she loves. Bev epitomizes the evangelist George Müller's statement that, "The only way to learn strong faith is to endure great trials." Bev is a person of great integrity with a tremendous Christian spirit, and it is an honor to know her.

Brad Murray, Superintendent
Lakeland School District

REVIEW

In this book, Bev chronicles her walk *through the valley of the shadow of death*, as the dreaded disease of cancer took its toll on her husband's body. She testifies to the reality of the fact that a sovereign and loving God walked this journey with her. Hope shines through confidently in the narrative of the struggle and the loss. Her experience is a guide and documentary of the process and the expectations. Caregivers who follow her will benefit from the assurances and insights she shares.

Dr. Ronald Hunter, Pastor

BEVERLY SEATON INGERSOLL

I dedicate this book to:

Kimberly and Scott, my children, who have been a constant support, encouragement and blessing. I love you with all my heart and will forever be grateful that you are part of my life.

Sean and Kathy, my son-in-law and daughter-in-law, whom I love very much and are a very important part of my family. I thank you for your support, your love, and your love for my children.

Andrea, Sydney, Joshua, Jordan, Anna, and Micah, my precious grandchildren. May you one day realize how much you were loved by your Papa and are loved by me, your Nana.

BEVERLY SEATON INGERSOLL



Introduction

I began this book as a form of grieving therapy right after Larry's death. When I returned to work, it helped to share with co-workers and friends the amazing story of the previous four months. They stressed the need for me to finish my writing so I could share it with others going through the same thing.

Because of their encouragement, I continued working on the book with the goal of giving it to local hospice groups. Since that time, I have realized the need for the information in *4 Months of God's Mercy* to be available for everyone. The hospice pamphlets and brochures I read during Larry's illness helped prepare me for what was ahead, and hopefully, this book will fill in the cracks. I wanted to help

others if I could in some small way, and it is my prayer that I have achieved that goal with *4 Months of God's Mercy*.

By sharing the many things that happened during those four months, I hope to give people hope and comfort. The Lord provided Larry with peace and strength to face dying without fear. We witnessed so many miracles during those months. Some people with little faith soon realized that the things that were happening could only come from God. He is responsible for my finishing this book; after all, it is really His book.

Death and dying are as much a part of life as birth. Please remember you're not alone; God is with you every step of the way. When you feel you can't go on, let Him take over. But the best solution is to let go and let God take over before you reach that point of desperation. Perhaps then you will recognize the beauty in tragedy. I hope this book will be of help to you in your time of need.

INTRODUCTION



Spring & Summer 2002

It wasn't like Larry to sit and stare off into the distance. Being a retired First Sergeant, Larry was a disciplined man and usually engaged in some activity around the house or garage, but in the spring of 2002, he wasn't interested in his usual activities or even in the grandchildren, whom he adored. I knew something was wrong and wondered at first if he was depressed or maybe unhappy at work.

Larry was a highly decorated war hero, proud and reserved, with an inner strength few have. He was a man who had faced the indescribable horrors of war, and yet you would never know it. He never spoke about his time

in Vietnam, nor did he talk about or complain when he was not feeling well.

As this detached behavior continued, I felt strongly that whatever was affecting Larry was physical, not psychological. I prayed every day that the Lord would heal whatever was wrong, and as time went on, I simply prayed that the Lord's will would be done. God was telling me something big was happening, and I was not to be afraid. God was in control. Never in my wildest dreams was I prepared for how horribly things were about to change in our lives.

As I look back now, there were many signs that should have warned me that Larry was not depressed or even experiencing the so-called mid-life crisis that we all hear about. Larry began acting strangely in June 2002. We had gone to Poulsbo, Washington, to visit Larry's brother, and on the way back home, he took an unexpected exit off the freeway. When I asked why, he didn't know; he just said we would get back on the freeway, and we did.

In July, we were on our way to our hometown, Orofino, Idaho, to help my mother move. While driving through one of the small

towns along the way, Larry couldn't remember which way to turn. We had driven that road for over thirty-four years, and now he couldn't remember how to get back to Orofino. I had to remind him twice which way to go. When we arrived at my mother's home, he was exhausted and seemed disinterested in what we needed to do. My family asked what was wrong, and I admitted I didn't know, but I knew I had to get him to see our doctor.

After our return from Idaho, I had a doctor's appointment for myself, and I asked the doctor about Larry. The doctor explained that he couldn't comment on my husband's condition until he came to see him personally and asked for help. I asked Larry several times to go to the doctor, but he always said he was just tired and that things at work were heavy on his mind. Larry insisted he was fine and that everything would be all right.

BEVERLY SEATON INGERSOLL



Beverly Seaton Ingersoll



Author Beverly Seaton Ingersoll has a love for life and the Lord which is evident to all who meet her. Now retired, Beverly worked in the educational field for twenty-five years.

Beverly has two children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She recently moved to the East Coast and is enjoying the beautiful scenery and friendly people. Golfing and volunteering for Vets Helping Vets, Hospice, and her church is keeping her busy. However, she is allotting time for her writing and is presently writing a novel and a children's book.