

I THANK GOD FOR EVERY MINUTE I HAD WITH HER

A husband's journey

David's 54-year-old wife Judy was killed by a drunk driver in 2008

BY DAVID JONES, adapted from the book, *Grief Diaries: Through the Eyes of Men*
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I had to rebuild life without her physical presence

My faith in God has deepened since Judy's death. When she died, the book she had with her in the car was *Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*, by Henri Nouwen, and her blood was all over the cover. It was a library book, so I just paid for the book and continue to use it for spiritual guidance.

Judy was a source of spiritual comfort and guidance for many women in our church, and one of my regrets is all the people she would have helped in the future had she not died then.

After Judy died, I served on our church's finance committee for the next six years. One reason was to see through the projects she had planned for children's ministry, and to do what I could to help bring those projects to fruition. Many people donated money in Judy's name to provide funding for creating a children's church, an area for young children to worship in an age-appropriate way. I tried to channel her vision for continuing to serve children.

One morning I visited Judy's grave, watered the flowers, and had a long talk with God. It was

eight years ago that day when Judy died, and I needed some comfort. I thanked God for every minute I had with Judy, and prayed that someday we would be reunited in Heaven.



I had a dream some months after Judy died. I was driving on twisty roads through mountains and hills for a long time when I came to a valley where Judy was preaching to villagers. She told me she had been assigned a mission from God, and that I needed to stop looking for her in my dreams and let her go. I will never forget her, but I also had to rebuild my life without her physical presence.

My faith in God is why I try to save lives and continue Judy's ministry, extending her legacy.