

TRAILNOTES

The Christian life is a journey.

TrailNotes speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the "landscape" we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. *TrailNotes* is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we're learning and doing.



ElderTalk What do we do when we pray for healing and it doesn't happen?

ROBERT KEY

What do we do when we ask God to heal someone and that person isn't healed? I suppose that question does not bother those who don't expect God to heal in the first place.

Don't we sometimes find ourselves in that place though? We ask because we want it to happen, but figure there is a pretty low probability that God would actually do anything out of the ordinary. Then we want to blame God for the outcome. This reminds me of Matthew 8:13 "...as you have believed, so let it be done for you..." (NKJV)

What, then, do we do if we have a reasonable measure of faith that God may heal? We ask, knowing that He is a loving Father and wants what is best for us, and still the person is not healed. Do we write it off to God's sovereignty, figuring that He just didn't choose to heal this time? That is a tidy doctrine, supported by Biblical proof texts, which leaves us off the hook for any responsibility, but casts doubt on God's character no matter how much we chant, "God is good." Many people have walked away from God in bitterness because He didn't prevent some great suffering in their lives.

There is yet another common position that would say the above example demonstrated inadequate faith: that it is always God's desire to heal, but we don't have the faith to

appropriate that healing, or perhaps someone involved is harboring sin. This also is a tidy doctrine, supported by Biblical proof texts, which holds God's goodness in high regard, and puts the failure to see the healing at a sinful source. But it has other flaws. Faith is not a commodity which we can spend to get what we want. Faith is a response to a relationship with the loving God. Neither do we walk with God so that we can be delivered from trouble. We walk with God because He loves us, and we have come to love Him. There are numbers of examples in Scripture of those who suffered because they walked close to God.

So how do we deal with it when suffering and death invade our lives? Whom do we blame if not ourselves and not God, and how do we think of God in these times? The problem we really face is in our understanding of God, of all things eternal, and of the unseen world. This is caused by our limited and finite viewpoint from which we see all these things. One of our limited and finite characteristics is that we crave tidy doctrines. We want to be able to explain the infinite and eternal neatly with our finite understanding. We have often been told that we can't put God in a box, but we try to do it anyway. The fact is, we will never succeed in wrapping our minds, our

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Tom Feia...

with the Lord

October 3, 1957 - January 2, 2020



MANSFIELD, OHIO: *Thomas Allan Feia* passed away at 62 years old on January 2, 2020, surrounded by his family, after a courageous battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Beth, and his children, Jacob and Grace; his mother, stepmother, and seven sisters. They mourn the loss of Tom as does Beth's extended family, the Netherys.

Tom grew up in St. Cloud, MN. He learned many skills from his father which made him capable of fixing almost anything. Tom was also an accomplished clarinetist. He attended the University of Minnesota and Concordia College in MI, earning a degree in Human Resources Management.

The hallmark of Tom's life was his faith in Jesus Christ, his Savior. He came into the fullness of faith at the age of 20 and moved to MI to be a part of an ecumenical Christian Community, The Word of God. There he learned to live a life devoted to Jesus and to build strong friendships with other Christians.

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ElderTalk *(continued from p. 1)*

human logic, around the total truth of who God is and how His kingdom operates. There are things which He has clearly revealed to us. God is all powerful, all knowing, all present. He is love, truth, and life. He is a loving Father who wants what is best for His children. He is sovereign over all, yet allows a measure of freedom to His subjects. He desires all to be saved, yet waits for them to come to Him.

Things like these, and others which we can find in Scripture, are things to which we must hold tightly. Some of these things appear to contradict each other, and that is where the tidy doctrines fail us. They force us to chop off some of these truths to make it all fit in the box. We do it subconsciously, not maliciously. Our desire for tidy is so strong that we can close our eyes to some truths in order to make our favorite ones fit neatly in the box.

How we deal with the problem of evil, suffering, and pain is one such messy issue for which there are no pat answers and simple solutions. That issue of the freedom God has allowed to His subjects has caused a lot of the problems. It was freedom chosen wrongly that brought Satan into rebellion. It was freedom chosen wrongly that caused Adam and Eve to fall into sin. It is freedom chosen wrongly that brings trouble to many contemporary people. It has left us in a spiritual war where the shrapnel from spiritual roadside bombings affects bystanders.

Why then does the good God allow evil ones freedom to hurt others? What if only good people had choices? Actually, that is how it all started. Adam wasn't evil when he chose to disobey and caused us hurt. What would it be like if we had no choices? Would we want

that? Couldn't God just wipe out evil? Yes, and He will, but what about all those He loves who haven't repented yet? Is God good? Yes. Could he not somehow fix all this and still show mercy to the lost? I don't know; that understanding is bigger than I am. Why do we have suffering?

For every question we answer, there seem to be two more that we can't. I am becoming more comfortable with not understanding. I don't have to have all the answers anymore. What I do know is that God is good. I can't blame Him for suffering. I can cling to Him as I go through suffering, and He will carry me through. Sometimes, though, it still hurts.

*"Though the fig tree may
not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the
vines;
Though the labor of the
olive may fail,
And the fields yield no
food;
Though the flock may be
cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the
stalls,
Yet I will rejoice in the
LORD.*

*I will joy in the God of
my salvation.
The LORD God is my
salvation.
The LORD God is my
strength;
He will make my feet like
deer's feet,
And He will make me
walk on my high hills."*

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (NKJV)

Tom Feia *(continued from p. 1)*

In MI he met his wife, Beth, at a Christian publishing company. Together they raised two wonderful children, Jacob and Grace. In 1997, they moved to Mansfield where Beth's family lives.

As a Catholic, Tom attended St. Peter's Church in Mansfield where for many years he helped to lead music in the ensemble. He loved serving His church by singing; his beautiful, rich, and strong voice blessed many.

He treasured the sense of community he had at St. Peter's as well as the community of believers at Grace Fellowship Church where he attended with Beth. His devotion to God and his commitment to the Catholic Church was the bedrock of his life. As a prolific reader and deep thinker, he enjoyed reading books that enlightened him in matters of faith and theology. Eager to talk about what he was learning, he had many rousing discussions with friends with the intent of building bonds of unity and faith.

As a father to Jacob and Grace, Tom was a great example of what it means to be a man after God's heart. He expressed his love to his family by working hard for them at his job with New Life Service Company, working alongside two brothers in Christ whom he dearly loved. He prayed daily for the well-being of his children, and his heart was tender toward them always, wanting the best for them. As a husband to Beth, he devoted himself to supporting her in all her endeavors, loving her unconditionally, and serving her practically in so many ways.

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Tom Feia (concluded from p. 2)

A master at crossword puzzles, Jeopardy, Scrabble, and Words with Friends, Tom enjoyed games. If you took on any game with him, you got a run for your money. Only Grace could beat him at cribbage and Dutch Blitz. He loved to play golf most of all, and would golf in rain, sleet, and snow.


Tom was a content person. He bloomed where he was planted. He was the kind of man who stepped up and pulled through for others. His amazing sense of humor made him able to tell a great joke to the delight of those around him.

Through Tom's battle with cancer, his family was cared for by many with meals, visits, transportation to the James Cancer Hospital, cleaning, financial gifts, cards, prayer, and many acts of kindness and service. These people were truly God's hands and heart for their brother and his family. The Feia family is profoundly thankful for all those who loved and served them through the difficult days of illness.

Calling hours were Thursday, January 16, at Grace Fellowship Church with the Funeral Mass at St. Peter's Church on January 17, with Father Jeremy Miller officiating. After burial in Mansfield Cemetery, a luncheon was served at St. Peter's Franciscan Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Feia Family Educational Fund may be given through the Snyder Funeral Home, P.O. Box 3085, Mansfield, OH 44904 with checks made payable to Beth Feia.

FEBRUARY 2020

- 2** Presiding Elder Eric Byrom preaches on Romans 1:16-17, 10:00 am.
- 8** Women of Grace meeting from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Youth Building. Game Night, 6:00-9:00 pm at GFC.
- 9** Eric Byrom preaches on Romans 1:18-32. 
Circle Church leaders meeting 12:45 pm, Multi-Purpose Room.
- 15** Men's monthly prayer breakfast, 9:00 am at McDonald's on Hanley Rd.



- 16** Elder Jon Vega preaches on Romans 2:1-16.

- 23** Eric Byrom preaches on Romans 2:17-3:20.



Upcoming:

March 9: GFC hosts March of Prayer 2020, 6:00-8:00 pm.

April 19: MCS Choir, Image, joins us for morning worship at 10:00 am.

April 24-25: Annual Table Fellowship Conference, Spooner, WI.

"No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the mind of man what God has ready for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Kaitlyn Lori Kochheiser

“a daughter of the King!”



April 2, 2001 - January 13, 2020

MANSFIELD: Kaitlyn Kochheiser found a little bit of heaven everywhere. She found it in the joy she felt and the love she shared, in the grace she showed a world that needed hope, in giving of herself in service, and in challenging others to be Christ-like, and she found it in the bells and twinkling lights of Christmastime. Kaitlyn found a little bit of heaven everywhere.

Kaitlyn’s view of heaven opened Monday evening January 13, 2020, as the Lord called her to Himself from her home, with her parents at her side, following a 14-month battle with melanoma. In the midst of tremendous suffering, Kaitlyn and her family experienced the grace of God in many ways through many different people. She was 18.

Born April 2, 2001 in Flowood, Mississippi, Kaitlyn was a senior at Mansfield Christian School, who had aspirations of studying interior design, ceramic and clay pottery design, or dog grooming. A National Honor Society scholar, Kaitlyn sang in the MCS choir for several years before switching to ceramics. She found a niche in throwing pottery. “O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay, and You are our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8) As Kaitlyn shaped beauty from lumps of clay, she allowed her heart to be molded by the Master Potter. The resulting vessel was a caring young lady with a sweet and sensitive spirit, quick to apologize, who loved Jesus, who loved others, and demonstrated that love with acts of kindness.

She was active in American Heritage Girls from third grade on at Berean Baptist Church, and was

active in small group ministries, Surge Student Ministries, and served in the children’s program in the toddler’s Sunday School at Berean for several years.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13) was more than her favorite Scripture verse. It was her mantra for living. Kaitlyn knew the Lord was always with her. She would not be shaken. Her singular mission in life was to glorify God. She simply wanted people to know Jesus.

Kaitlyn loved animals, especially her black Mini-Schnauzer, Anna, and Teacup Bichon Frise, Olaf. She enjoyed long walks and bike rides with family, flower gardening, mowing, and landscaping projects around her home.

She will be remembered as a thoughtful young woman with beautiful blue eyes and an electric smile, who lived her faith.

She is survived by her parents, Steve and Kathy (Clever) Kochheiser; her brother, Joshua Kochheiser; paternal grandparents, Dick and Marilyn Kochheiser of Bellville; maternal grandparents Loreice “Peachie” Rinehardt of Mansfield and Dale Clever of Galion; her boyfriend Kasi Facio of Mansfield and many extended family members.

Calling hours were held on Monday, Jan. 20, at Berean Baptist Church. A worship service honoring the life of Kaitlyn, giving glory to God, was held Tuesday, Jan. 21, also at Berean. Burial followed in Bellville Cemetery.

Contributions in Kaitlyn’s memory to help defray final expenses can be sent to Snyder Funeral Home, PO Box 3085, Mansfield, OH 44904 with checks payable to Snyder Funeral Home.

Grace Fellowship Church

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Eric Byrom	Presiding Elder/ Pastor
Jadaé Fox	Elder
Andy Heininger	Elder
Robert Key	Elder
Jon Vega	Elder
Kay Berry and Jadaé Fox	Office

(A complete list of church functionaries will return next month)