



Reflections by the Lake
Devotions for an Unordinary Time

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God's Grace in a Teddy Bear
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“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18

Recently I saw a news story that brought me to tears. John Reid lost his 18 year old son, Dakota, in an automobile accident. The family was devastated but decided to donate Dakota's organs to help others. Tuft Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts performed the organ transplant of Dakota's heart. The staff there grew close to John, who had speech disabilities, and helped as arrangements were being made.

A year later at his check up, the recipient of Dakota's heart talked with the electrocardiograph team about recording his heartbeat. It had given him a second chance at life, and he wanted to thank Dakota's family. A few weeks later, John Reid received a package. When he opened it there was a Build-a-Bear with a note to John. It said, “Press the Teddy Bear's paw for a message.” The message was a heartbeat . . . Dakota's heartbeat! The note continued saying, “Dakota was a hero that will never be forgotten.” Through his tears, John stated, “This gift reminded me as to why I donated his organs and how much of a hero my son became.”

Recently, as I was visiting one of our church members, I realized that emotional support was far more important than the fruit bowl that I delivered to her. Lakeside members have always given of themselves, and it is so important that we continue to “Be the Church.”

“A person's most useful asset is not a head full of knowledge, but a heart full of love, an ear ready to listen and a hand willing to help others.”

from *Mindful Christianity Today*