



# Why Our Family?

By Betty Marschner

I watched our 43-year-old son scurrying across the dining area in the nursing home he now calls home. For a moment I rejoiced in that now he was able to get around with his own power as weeks earlier he had to be taken everywhere. It wasn't more than a moment later I felt sadness that he had to be in this place so early in his life, and a part of me once again asked, "Why Brian? Why our family?"

This is not an uncommon question for our family to ask. From our first child, born many years ago with a rare achondroplastic skeletal disease, to finding out recently that our second grandchild has hearing deficits needing special services, we have asked "why?"

Encountering unexpected trials within our family actually has gotten easier as we go through them. Dealing with the first set of serious health concerns we faced in our daughter brought with it a real sense of denial. "How could two perfectly normal adults have such a rare disease in a child?"

When Brian became ill with a deadly leukemia, we wondered if we did rile up God's anger against sin in our lives. We were once told we were under the devil's spell. This only brought us more despair, worry, and depression.

It was sometime after Brian's first set of Gran Mal seizures due to earlier cranial radiation that we began to mature in our faith.

Yes, we still get angry. When Brian succumbed to a massive hemorrhagic stroke, resulting in right side paralysis and inability to speak, we were angry. Many choices needed to be made

as to rehabilitation and a nursing facility. Some of us were looking forward to his homecoming, hoping it would be soon, yet others were less enthusiastic. Could we be involved in so much daily care in our home?

Through all this, we realized that, yes, we are all sinners and we deserve God's wrath because of our sins. Psalm 130:3 reminds us: *If you, oh Lord, should mark iniquities, Oh Lord, who could stand?* However, because Jesus sacrificed Himself for our sins on the cross — because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ — we have a sure promise. Jesus tells us in John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

We will find trials in our lives, but the Son of God can be glorified through them. We can use these infirmities to give God glory for His sustaining love, and we can help others through similar trials.

Apostle Peter writes in 1 Peter 1:6: *In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* So now we can ask, "Why not our family?" *Q*

*Betty Marschner, active in her local and district LWML, freely shares how life's greatest struggles can bring the biggest growth of faith through God's mercy and grace.*