

THE WORLD STOOD STILL TODAY

(This was written by our pastor after our son died)

July 29, 2011

(by Rev. David Banfield)

The day began like every day
The busyness, the hurry, the need to get things done
The norm of life was in full flow
Then the world stood still

The norm was shattered with the unexpected
In a moment the unwanted imposed itself
Everything came to a stop with a crash
Then the world stood still

All the busyness of life didn't matter at that moment
All that we think is so important faded from view
Our world became focused on one tragic point
We were frozen in time

The hours ahead were filled with pain
Unanswered questions flew in and out of our minds
We cried, we embraced, we sat in uneasy silence
Our world stood still

The time came to start the clock again
We didn't want to, but we had no choice
Slowly, painfully we moved
We moved back into the flow of time

I drove home alone and watched the world rush by
Don't they know, don't they care
I felt the terror of a life cut short
I felt myself being swept back into the relentless flow

One day the world will stand still
And time will be no more
Good-bye will become a forgotten word
When we stand on that eternal shore

"O think!

To step on shore,

And that shore heaven!

To take hold of a Hand,

And that God's hand!

To breathe a new air,

And feel it celestial air.

To feel invigorated,

And to know it immortality!

O think!

To pass from the storm and the tempest

To one unbroken calm!

To wake up,

And find it GLORY."

(Author Unknown)

Homecoming Party
Jean Formo (©1982)

Death is God carrying us
in one arm while the other
flings aside heaven's door

to welcome us
back to the blazing hearth
of our first home.

while those inside,
having arrived before us,
rush to the door

like glad children shouting,
"They're here!" "They're here!"

Death has a bad name
on earth, but in heaven,
it's a homecoming party
everytime the door opens.

God does not forget
those earthbound children,
sad and left behind.

God leaves the party early
to enter into their despair and
to get them ready for their
own parties someday.

REMEMBER

by Angie Cherney

You may weep for me,
but, remember, I am laughing above.

Darkness may engulf the casket,
but, remember, I am dancing in the light.

Grief has broken your heart,
but, remember, mine is rejoicing with the Savior.

Your tears are a close companion,
but, remember, someday God himself will wipe them away.

You may long for my presence,
but, remember, I am where I belong.

You may despise the good-bye,
but, remember, I will greet you again.

Walking with Grief

by Angie Cherney

You strode your way in one day
walking ahead of me along the way
You blocked my view of life
and all I saw was strife

You walked beside me
and shook with glee
But the Lord was near
and you slowed with drear

You thought you had won
but I was not done
The LORD is my strength
and He led me the length

Grief's breath is heavy
behind my laden back
Yet there is nothing I do lack
for God's love is ever steady

His word is sure and true
though the road is long
God gives the sorrow a song
and joy comes out of the blue

Two Years in Heaven

by Angie Cherney

You've now been 2 years in Heaven,
and I wonder what it's like.
They say it's great,
but I can't forget that fateful date.

Two years in Heaven,
it seems like another life.
They say it's time to move on,
but the pain is far from gone.

Two years in Heaven,
and an ocean of tears.
My LORD says don't be afraid,
His strength won't fade.

Two years in Heaven,
How long will it be?
Grief continues to lurk,
yet faith must finish its work.

Two years in Heaven,
I need you to know.
I wasn't ready to say good-bye,
I didn't want you to die.

Two years in Heaven
is like eternity here,
but in the blink of an eye
God will let my spirit fly.

Two years in Heaven,
what will it be like
when we join you at last,
and this grief will be past.

The Birds in the Trees

by Angie Cherney

I saw the branches of the trees.
Brown they were, without leaves.
They appeared lifeless and cold.
So much like me, and old.
I asked God for a red bird so fair,
Then flew one swiftly in the air!
The birds in the trees so bare
I did not see them, though there.
Hidden treasures for me,
A cardinal I did see.