
Widow Might May Newsletter

From Widow Might <info-widowmight.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

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To kathy.scheffler@widowmight.org <kathy.scheffler@widowmight.org>



May Newsletter

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Thoughts From Kathy Scheffler, Widow Might Executive Director

"Then my husband moved in with Jesus," was delivered like a punchline. My new friend was clarifying how she had come to share a home with her mother-in-law and that it really wasn't supposed to be just the two of them under one roof. The snarky manner in which these words left her mouth made me snicker. My response burst out before I'd had time to check its appropriateness. Did she think that my spontaneous reaction implied that I didn't believe that her husband was in heaven? I scanned her eyes to make sure I hadn't offended her. They twinkled and a smile slowly spread across her face, assuring me that my reaction was exactly what she anticipated.

In those seven words she conveyed the unfairness that I believe every widow has known. A feeling of being abandoned in a situation not of our choosing. A drawing of the "short straw". In the days immediately following my husband's death, I agreed with friends and family that his untimely death was tragic for him. But I soon discovered that I got the raw end of the deal. I'm the one left to deal with grief and everything that comes with living in a broken world, while he gets to enjoy the good life. Like my friend, I believe my husband is living it up with Jesus, but I'm a little jealous.

Prior to my husband's death, I hadn't really given heaven much thought. Sure, I've always wanted to go there, someday, after I'd lived a long full life. But my interest in the pearly gates and streets of gold was piqued when my husband's residence changed. In the months following Russ' death I found myself reading books containing near-death experiences. I wanted to know what my husband was doing. Who was he having conversations with? What was he learning? And most importantly, what, if anything, did he know about what was happening in my life? Most of these books left me disappointed and rightly so, since these were all accounts of people who had only caught a glimpse of heaven. I remember reading one account where the author stated that after he died, he had no thoughts of anything of the world. It was as if this temporarily deceased man had amnesia about his entire earthly life. How could he be unaware of the circumstances of his own death? How could he not feel the impact of his death on the people he loved? As you can imagine, that did not sit well with me. I was not ok with having my husband totally forget me!

I've continued to be curious about heaven, but cautious about what I read and believe from the so-called experts who have had near-death experiences. Then recently, on a trusted podcast, I heard an interview with the author of the book called "Imagine the God of Heaven." What intrigued me about this book was the author had studied over one-thousand near-death experiences (NDEs) over three decades from people of all ethnicities and backgrounds looking for commonalities. I picked up the book (I highly recommend the audio version) wanting to hear the NDE accounts, but what I got was so much more. In studying the NDEs, the author, who began his investigative journey as a skeptic agnostic, discovered what these reveal about the character of God. Seeing the depth of God's love, portrayed in these stories, has convinced me that God knows better than me what Russ should remember from the past or see in the present. God loves Russ and me immeasurably more than we loved each other, so I can leave it up to Him to choose what to reveal about my life as a widow to Russ.

Many of my questions about heaven are still unanswered but I am convinced, now more than ever, Russ moved in with Jesus immediately after he took his last breath on earth. Not because he deserved it, but because of God's great love for him. He would stop at nothing to ensure that Russ would spend eternity with Him.

I like to picture Russ and Jesus sitting on the front porch of Jesus' mansion sipping Cokes. I envision Jesus leaning over and saying in a whispered tone that only the two of them can hear, "guess what Kathy just did?" before sharing with Russ my latest life event. Then I imagine Russ grinning from ear to ear and responding, "yup, that sounds like Kathy!" Followed by, "I'm glad she feels both of us cheering her on. She needs to sense that I still care for her. Thank you for always watching out for her, especially now that I can't." Then breaking the seriousness of the moment, I can almost hear him say, "Let's go get something to eat. I hear you've got all my favorite dishes here, even those things that Kathy wouldn't cook for me!"

Spring Luncheon Follow Up

Many of you connected with Jamie Bollinger's message and worship during our recent event.

If you've found yourself thinking about it since... or needing a quiet place to sit with what you're carrying, she's created a gentle place to begin.

♥ Start here → <https://www.jamiebollinger.com/starthere>

Updates to Book List

On our website we have many books that you may find helpful on your journey through widowhood. I want to highlight a few of them here. More information and links to order them on Amazon are found on our website at <https://www.widowmight.org/books/>:

[Names of God: Who God is in Our Time of Need – Finding Hope, Healing and Faithfulness Through His Name by Jamie Bollinger](#)

Discover the Power of God's Names to Bring You Hope, Healing, and Strength. We are never promised a life without heartache, distress, or pain—but we are promised the constant presence of the God of Peace, who walks with us through it all. Whether you're in a season of waiting, grief, joy, or growth, Names of God will guide you into a deeper understanding of who God is — and how His character meets your every need.

[How to Love your Morning: Faith-Filled Habits to Build a Life of Joy and Purpose One Day at a Time by Jennifer Dukes Lee](#)

Despite your best intentions, mornings can be stressful and chaotic before your feet even hit the floor. Your thoughts spiral and hope feels just out of reach. You long to wake up with joy and energy, believing that God's mercies really are new every morning, but you aren't sure how. You'll also find special advice and encouragement for every life stage—including widowhood. With reflective questions and practical advice, this is your invitation to create a morning routine that fits your real life so you can experience God's mercies new every morning.

[Imagine the God of Heaven: Near-Death Experiences, God's Revelation and the Love You've Always Wanted by John Burke](#)

Millions of people around the world have reported a near-death experience. Do they prove the existence of a loving God? John Burke has spent the last three decades studying the commonalities of more than 1000 NDEs. His investigative journey started as a skeptical agnostic, when his own father was dying from cancer. When he first read these eyewitness accounts, he couldn't help asking himself: "Could this be real evidence—even possible proof of God's existence?" John Burke unveils the love story and characteristics of this God of all nations, revealed throughout history and in Scripture, now illustrated by these thrilling encounters of life after death.

Thank You for Your Gifts to Widow Might

The fees we charge to attend our in-person events do not cover our costs, so our generous donors make up for the shortfall. This allows us to bless widows at our events with great speakers in beautiful venues, within our local Widow Connect groups, and worldwide through the content on our website. Widow Might does not ask for anything in return from the widows we serve, but if you would like to help us in our efforts to make sure all widows are connected with the community and resources needed, there are multiple ways to give at: <https://www.widowmight.org/donation/>

We also accept gifts through United Way and Thrivent Choice dollars, as well as matching gifts from employers.

Widow Might is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization: EIN# 45-3641480

Widow Might | www.widowmight.org | PO Box 490112 | Blaine, MN 55449



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