

“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

It was - it still is! - Patricia’s joy to live those words. “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Probably in more ways than we can imagine, Patricia set up her life for the words of her mouth and the meditation of her heart to be pleasing to her LORD, in tune with God. The music she listened to; the music she sang. The little sayings she latched on to: FROG - Fully Rely On God; the not so little Bible passages she set in her heart and mind - Jeremiah 29:11 - “I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to give you peace and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” And Isaiah 41:10 - “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” And her crosses. Some of you, probably many of you, have a cross from Patricia. She made them in different sizes, different colors. I have some here that she’d like me to share with you. The crosses remind us ... the crosses reminded Patricia - words and meditation that please God begin and end with Jesus.

I wouldn’t be surprised if you have one of Patricia’s crosses. Patricia wasn’t shy in sharing and wanting these crosses shared. She wasn’t shy in sharing the music she listened to; she wasn’t shy in sharing the music she sang. She wasn’t shy in sharing those little sayings or in sharing the big verses. Patricia wasn’t shy in sharing what set her heart with Jesus. She figured we’d want to set our hearts and minds with Jesus too.

Why? Patricia knew how good it is to have Jesus. You’ve probably heard her - sometimes with a smile, sometimes with a tear, sometimes with both: “I don’t know how people can make it without Jesus.” You see, Patricia wasn’t shy about Jesus and Patricia wasn’t shy about being Patricia. Sometimes that hurt. Sometimes that left her disappointed, frustrated, hurt. God used that, and God used 10 years of cancer, to focus Patricia - to show us - what Jesus can mean for us. Without Jesus, I’m on my own - on my own with my hurt, on my own with my guilt. Without Jesus, we’re on our own to come up with our own solutions. God uses cancer and death to teach us that our solutions can’t fix our hurt or resolve our guilt; our solutions can’t fix suffering and death. God uses cancer and death to show us this world isn’t worth living for. But with Jesus we aren’t left on our own; with Jesus we aren’t left living for the approval of this world, or having to settle for the fun and games of this world. With Jesus and his cross - your sins are forgiven; our guilt is gone; we have God for us. That means, with Jesus, we aren’t alone in this world or alone in our hurt. We have Jesus redeeming us, delivering us, saving us; we have the Father helping and holding us; we have his Spirit giving us hope. With Jesus, we have more than this world - good or not so good. With Jesus, we have heaven ahead of us.

Today, heaven has Patricia! No more hurt or heartache; no more sickness or suffering. Instead, today Patricia is enjoying life the way it’s supposed to be - with Jesus. With Jesus and with Patricia, may we always live - “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”