

Wisdom Not Worry
Friday, May 8, 2020
Psalm 91:16

“With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

Early in the morning of November 21, 2002 Bonnie Penner Witherall, a missionary from our little town of Lynden, answered a knock in the medical clinic where she was serving in Sidon, Lebanon. When she opened the door, a lone gunman opened fire, discharging three fatal bullets into Bonnie’s head. She was only 31 years old. Did the promises of “long life” not apply to her? If not to her, what hope have I whose service in the Lord seems of much lesser sacrifice than hers?

Even though she died as we say, “before her time,” Bonnie Penner Witherall was and is experiencing the joyful satisfaction of long life. I say this with certainty knowing she entrusted herself to Another who died at the young age of 33.

As a good meal satisfies a hungry stomach, serving His Father was Jesus’ greatest satisfaction (John 4:34). Like her Savior, Bonnie enjoyed the joyful satisfaction of a life lived for the glory of God. And when her life on this earth came to a violent end, in that very moment, she was welcomed into her eternal home by the One who conquered death and grave. In an instant she realized that all pleasures of life – loving parents, the beauty of a sunset over the bay, the majesty of a snow-capped Mount Baker, a grand child’s hug, that first morning sip of good coffee – were but shadows of the delights of heaven. In His presence “there is fullness of joy” and “pleasures forevermore” (Psalm 16:11). Her joy in serving the Lord in life was exceeded only by the all-surpassing joy of serving Jesus in eternity.

Do you know this joy? It is not reserved only for those who die a martyr’s death. No, the satisfying, long life of salvation is a gift to all who put their trust the One who gave his life so we could live life in that joy both now and for eternity. This, my dear friends, is good news!

So grateful,
Ben

PS. Be blessed by David Ring's testimony and singing of "What a Day that Will Be"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xtv3uUQJpk>