
Newsletter

Peter Collins, guest-editor

editor@adelphicare.org

#23 – November, 2023

adelphicare.org

God-centred care
for everyone



A Life O'erruled by God

Anna L. Waring was born in 1820 at Neath in Glamorgan-shire, South Wales. By the age of 13 she had composed the words for 36 hymns. She had been brought up as a Quaker but by age 22 came to prefer the Anglican tradition. Anna Waring's hymn "Father, I know that all my life" didn't make it into our hymnbook without some significant word changes. See if you can pick some – the original verse:

*Father, I know that all my life Is portioned out for me,
And the changes that are sure to come I do not fear to see;
But I ask Thee for a present mind Intent on pleasing Thee.*

Compared them the words we know so well;

*Father, I ask that all my life May be o'erruled by Thee,
The changes then that surely come I shall not fear to see;
I ask Thee for a steadfast mind Intent on pleasing Thee.*

We can see the intent of the words has changed somewhat. I wonder why? Possibly Ms Waring got her inspiration from passages such as Jer 13:25 *This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast for-gotten me, and trusted in falsehood.* Or, Ecc 5:18 *Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion*

The Hebrew word for portion is almost invariably found in tandem with the word for inheritance. So, we might ask, "Is our portion or lot in life so mapped out for us by God that there is an inescapable inevitability about our journey? Once embarked on a course, is there no way out?" I don't believe so.

Yes, the Father knows the beginning from the end. Yes, he can make of us a vessel for honour or a vessel for dishonour. Yes, he desires that all men everywhere might be saved and none perish – but that is not to be. We know that some will not be saved and that many will perish in ungodliness and unbelief. "Jacob have I loved, Esau have I hated". Why? Because of the choices they made in their lives. ... [Read more:](#)

<https://www.adelphicare.org/documents/082-oerruled.pdf>

If you would like to listen to this hymn featuring the Royal Albert Hall, London pipe organ please visit:

<https://youtu.be/eO5sUEjgv5o>

Grieving

It is six months since the night that changed our lives and our journey of grief began. Many layers, many

people, our grief for a son-in-law, our daughter's grief, his family, our family and his friends, everyone's grief unique to themselves. I can only speak for my own grief, that lives just beneath the surface of everything, and it doesn't take much to make it rise above the surface and spill down in tears. I also carry the burden and joy of being a mother who loves her daughters so much and watching a daughter grieve her husband is intense, knowing you cannot fill the gaping hole in her life, but wanting to, knowing all I can do is love her and be there when she wants me to be.

Grief adds a layer to life that will never be removed, I will always, from that moment, look at life differently, hold those I love tighter, be more grateful, realise the fragility of life and that every breath we take is a gift.

I believe with my whole heart that soon our hope will be realised and the dead in Christ will be raised for that amazing kingdom coming to be on this earth. This is my hope and my joy even though the tears are still here, and the empty spot is still in my heart. I thank my God for life, for love, for peace and for a future with no more tears, may that time come soon.

(Name withheld on request)

"How do I approach a spiritual caring opportunity with someone for the first time?"

A spiritual (pastoral) care conversation.

I could hear someone playing the piano; I knew who it was, this lovely lady would often come to the lounge and play. I listened and then when she had stopped, I commended her on her playing and how I loved to hear it. She told me; when she feels "sick in her heart" she will come and play. The conversation developed and I found out that she was missing her parents; there was a hole in her heart that is always there. "I know it's part of life and you can't do anything about it" she said "because they are gone". I reassured her that it was OK to feel like that and to think about her parents.

("People think that grief slowly gets smaller with time but in reality, grief stays the same size but slowly life begins to grow around it" Lois Tonkin 1996). ...

Read more:

<https://www.adelphicare.org/documents/083-spiritual.pdf>

(Please note - you may need to cut and paste the address into a browser to access the documents.)