

COMFORT AND HOPE

It has been a rough several days since the passing of our dear sister Maria Hernandez. She was a wonderful example of what a godly woman should be and she will be greatly missed by all of us.

This past Sunday morning in the message I brought and that Arthur Huron translated from the pulpit, I tried to use God's word to relay comfort and hope for all of us who mourn the death of Maria. God's word tells us that while we are here on this Earth, we who are in God's family will be comforted. Prayer plays an integral part in our comfort that comes from above. Praying to God about our difficulties, our pain, our temptation, our sickness and suffering, and about losing those we love should leave us comforted. The peace we receive in our hearts knowing that God is in control and all will be done according to His will should evict the doubt and worry that all too often controls us.

We who are in the family of God also have hope in a better life that we will receive when this life is over. Those outside the body of Christ have no hope. As Peter put it in 1 Peter 1:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

Maria has received the end result of what Arthur Norton called in his prayer “a life well lived.” She is cancer-free, pain-free, worry-free and safe in the arms of God. It is up to us to comfort Omar, David, and Brianna in any way we possibly can.