

**My Dearest Pat**

**Forty one years, 1 month, and a handful of days ago I was standing at the front of Judson Baptist Church. The organist had just started playing “Here comes the bride” and I saw you accompanied by your father turn to walk down the aisle to the front of the church. On reaching the front your father gave me your hand and we finished walking up together.**

**We had been best friends**

**for nearly 10 years at that point but this was a new beginning. As we said our vows even though we didn’t have the concluding words “till death do us part” in our vows we knew we were covenanting to be together, to love each other exclusively, to care for each other, and to always seek the better for each other in both times of prosperity and need.**

**We have had a great life together. We have had the opportunity to raise two children who today are married, have their own children and are following Jesus Christ in their lives. We have had opportunities to see many parts of the world together and spend much time with our Grand Kids. You especially were able to have your Grand Kid vacations these last three years spending a special week plus with each of them.**

**I was so happy to see you working in your volunteer capacity at the Portland Adventist Clinic and showing Gods love to the low income clients at that place. You have always cared for people. Over the recent years your work at the Jail and the drop in center further evidenced your commitment to Love God’s people where ever they were and in whatever condition they were in.**

**We have also been able to spend much time together and singularly in ministry to the Lord. Whether it was as Sunday School teachers, Awana**

Leaders, Small Group Leaders, or just pulling the weeds from the front flower beds at church. I thank God for the part you have played in completing my life and enabling me to serve Him better by filling in for my blindnesses. I remember one retreat where you told me that you thought one of the attendees was hurting and I should go talk to him. I did and all I discovered was that all was fine which I then told you. Later you came by and informed me that he and his wife were having problems . . . you had learned this in just a few minutes of talking to him and I totally missed it and was unable to discover it and you completed me.

I remember many of our firsts, The first time we held hands and the excitement that was in my mind – and still is to this day. Our first real date, the first time we kissed, our first car, our first apartment, our first pay checks, our first house, being baptized together at Twin City Bible Church in Champaign Urbana, our first son, and our first daughter. What I also remember are many quiet times together – special times. Sometimes we would just sit, side by side, and others times you might stretch out, put your feet in my lap and I would sit and rub your feet for hours.

You have built into me many things. Your kind and loving spirit, your peacemaking spirit, and your Love for God.

Now, God has chosen to take you home. Oh how I love the thought of you waking up in the arms of Jesus, and seeing him look down on you and say “well done my good and faithful servant.” For now, God has chosen to support me with his perfect Spirit, with our family and with our friends. I will miss you but I will make it. I know that God has plans for me – plans to glorify himself by using me as a messenger and his servant. Some day in the future I will finish the tasks that God has planned for me and then he will take me home. After I see him face to face I will be looking around and see

you and we will be able to spend eternity worshipping and praising our God together.

I love you Pat, and I always will. Thank you for being my wife, my love and my partner in life and in service to our God. Don't worry about me. God has taken you home today and I know that I am fully in God's able hands. He will ultimately take me home and then we will rejoice together.

Your loving husband and Best Friend Forever,

Carl