

FLEURIEU EDGE

Two Portraits

Clutching two framed photographs, the proud grandmother showed them to friends in the church foyer. The first picture was of her daughter back in her homeland of Burundi. The second was of her grandson, born recently to that daughter. But the daughter was not holding her new-born. She had died giving birth to him.

A friend approached and looked at the pictures. Reflexively, she reached up and held the dear grandmother's face in her hands. All she could say through her own tears was, "I know, I know." And she did know. Two months earlier she had buried a son.

There's something special about the comfort of others who have experienced our pain. They know. Just before Jesus's arrest, He warned His disciples, "You will weep and mourn while the world rejoices." But in the next breath He comforted them: "You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy." In mere hours, the disciples would be devastated by Jesus's arrest and crucifixion. But their crushing grief soon turned to a joy they could not have imagined when they saw Him alive again.

Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah, "Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering" (Isaiah 53:4). We have a Saviour who doesn't merely know about our pain; He lived it. He knows. He cares. One day our grief will be turned to joy.

Tim Gustafson

John 16:19-24 ¹⁹Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me?' ²⁰Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. ²¹A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. ²²So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. ²³In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. (NIV)

"Doing Life Together"



Fleurieu Family Church

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