



boat operator slowly circled the area. About 500 yards away from the canoe, I saw Sally's and Dwight's bodies floating in the lake. For the first time during the whole ordeal, I allowed myself to cry. Over the next few weeks, tears and nightmares continued to plague me until I turned my sorrow over to God. I asked Him to give me peace, and blessedly he did.

After my rescue, I quickly became a medical miracle. Yes, I was suffering from exposure and

even short-term liver injury from struggling to pull Mark's body into the canoe. I was alive, but with no reasonable, scientific explanation for it. I had spent 15 hours in lake water that was a mere 49 degrees. I had then swam a mile and walked aimlessly for another 5 ½ hours after reaching shore. This was considered much more than the human body should have been able to withstand. I smiled at the treating physician, who admitted he was an atheist, and told him I was glad he

wasn't the one in charge. He admitted to me he was considering reexamining his theories.

The Lord recently impressed upon me that it was time for me to go back to Lake Ann Camp and give my testimony. What a blessing it has been to see the growth that has taken place at the camp since 1980. What a blessing it has been to work and talk with young people and see them come to Christ. I don't know if our tragedy played into the continuing successes of Lake Ann Camp, but, as I said, our lives are filled with GMC's (God Made Consequences). I believe I was spared because my work on this earth was not yet finished. Why just me? Only God knows the answer to that question, and I trust him with, and thank him for, my life – literally.

In closing, I want to share some truths I have learned during the course of my life.

#1) God really does love you and you are not on this earth by accident. (Isaiah 44:2)

#2) Don't wait until tomorrow to "get right with God." Tomorrow may never come for you. (James 4:14)

#3) Don't stand over a grave with regrets in your heart. If you love someone, tell them today.

(Colossians 3:12)

#4) Give God thanks for your life everyday and live it to the fullest - don't take it for granted. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

#5) You may not know where you are going, but you know who is going with you, and if He is with you, it doesn't matter what you are going through (Jetezen Franklin, "Believe That You Can").

May God richly bless you and yours.

— Cheryl Tinsley



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