

# A Mother's Eulogy

As a Mother, this is one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. Where do I begin to share the story of my daughter Lisa-Marie who passed away suddenly October the fourth 2023.

Let me begin by sharing the words of a song that my Sister Annette wrote a few years back. The words to this song spoke volumes to Lisa-Marie as it did for me. entitled:

## BELOVED

O Beloved, treasured soul  
As your Mother, my heart wants you to know  
Who you are, as Heir to a King  
Created from love to share in everything.

You are unique and desired  
Part of the Father's Plans  
And carefully Fashioned  
From God's own Noble Hands  
You are beautiful and cherished  
And graciously Adored  
And profoundly Loved by the Lord

Lisa-Marie was my sweet baby girl and was unique in every way. Born the middle child with an older sister Desirae and younger sister Melissa. She was born three months premature weighing only two pounds, three ounces. She was bi-laterally hearing impaired and had cerebral palsy which affected her left side.

She was beautiful and Jack and I loved and cherished her. She was a precious gift from God.

She learnt how to rise above these disabilities with grace , determination and perseverance. She went through life trying to prove to those who knew her that she could do anything that she set her mind to and that she didn't need any help. Anyone who really got to know or work with Lisa-Marie had the privilege to see her beautiful heart. She wanted nothing more than to please and love those around her.

Lisa-Marie loved art (mostly drawings) from an early age, and in preschool she won her first award for a family portrait that she had drawn at age four. She received the best of the show award and had her picture entered into the local newspaper. Throughout her years in school, Lisa-Marie faced many challenges, battles and heartaches that she internalized and never would share. She became more determined to persevere and rise above to reach her goal to become a teacher. She poured herself into helping others who were struggling. Her final year of high school, she excelled and was awarded several plaques. The citizenship award, peer tutoring award, subject award Infotech, 5th year honor roll award and a scholarship. She was liked and appreciated by her teachers. I'd like to share an inscription from one of Lisa-Marie's science teachers Mr. Kliever

“Lisa-Marie, I really enjoyed having you in my class. I am amazed at how well you cope and how hard you work. Your faith has been a real encouragement to me.”

After high school Lisa-Marie chose to go to Prairie Bible College and graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Education and Religious Studies, she then later received her Bachelor of Education from the University of Alberta in middle years Education. Lisa-Marie finally reached her goal and obtained her Teachers Degree. She was beyond excited. She had this scripture highlighted in her bible from Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this, that he who began a Good work in you will carry it into completion

Until the day of Christ Jesus.

I remember her saying once, “Mom when I’m teaching it doesn’t feel like work, it just feels right, like what I am called to do.”

Later she went on to study and learn the American Sign Language and became fluent in it.

Here are a few inscriptions from her circle of friends in Three Hills

“Heh Lisa-Marie, I have been blessed by your Encouraging Spirit. Many times you lifted my Spirit when I was having a bad day. Never lose your love for the Lord and your love for others. God has done some real beautiful things in your life and He will continue working in you, and for you.”

Sarah A.

“Lisa-Marie when we look at your life we see Sweetness and Perseverance. We saw Jesus in you. Thank you, you are a gift to us.”

The May Family

Lisa-Marie was always looking for a full time teaching job. She did a lot of substitute teaching and tutoring, even while working full time with the Adult disabled.

Another scripture verse she had high- lighted in her bible was Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways Acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

While applying for a teaching job in Red Deer, she came upon another opening at High Level Christian Academy school. With a little encouragement from her big Sister, she applied, was given an interview and an offer was made.

So Lisa-Marie and I set out on a road trip to High Level. We visited the school and met the secretary and one of the Board members and their family. We both had a really good feeling about this school, the people and the town. She told them she needed time to pray about this. We then set off, and we had a beautiful drive home. I was so glad that I took that opportunity to make this trip with my daughter. ( Take every moment you can to spend time with your children.) I will cherish that time we had together forever. A week later she accepted the position, thus began the packing, sorting and moving. Once again I thank God that I had that time to help and be with her through the process. She was so busy, but very excited to get up North and start her job. August the 7th 2023 was the last time I got to hug my darling daughter Lisa-Marie as she headed off with great expectations on her journey to the North to begin her new job. Many people from the school helped her with the move in, which was a blessing to her as it was for me to hear.

She was busy from the time she got there, which left little time to talk. I had my last video chat with Lisa-Marie September 20 th 2023. She looked tired but happy sitting behind her desk in her classroom. I know that she was doing her very best to get everything just right. Because that's how she was.

Lisa-Maire had many hobbies and dreams. She always dreamed of owning a motorcycle one day. That dream never came true but she did own her own scooter, and loved the wind under her helmet. She is the only person I know that got a speeding ticket driving a scooter. When she showed me the ticket we both had a really good laugh. She loved playing all sorts of games. She had a bit of a competitive side which added more fun to the games as I was never serious. She loved doing all the latest crafts which

reminded me a lot of my Mother. Despite her disabilities she took up snowboarding and loved spending every moment she could up at the mountains. This was so good for Lisa-Marie's mental health as she did struggle from time to time with depression but always sought counsel from her Doctor.

There are so many more things I would love to share with you, like;

- her adventures during her years on paper routes
- her biking adventures through the mountains to raise money for camp
- cutting her hair to donate to the cancer society
- sponsoring a child with cerebral palsy from Mexico
- adventures of her and I getting lost in the corn maze

Just like my time is far too short to share all that is on my heart. Lisa-Marie's time at High Level Christian Academy ended way too soon. She touched the lives and hearts of many students, teachers and families. Lisa-Marie had a real gift for helping students learn and feel good about themselves while learning. She made Math fun and Science come alive. She gave students an understanding and insight of the hearing impaired world. She knew how to relate to students and understand their many struggles, encouraging them with her gentle Spirit.

On behalf of my whole family and myself, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the Principal Alisa of the High Level Christian Academy and to the many teachers, students and families and church members who were there for Lisa-Marie and Terry and I when we came. For going that extra mile. Then tracking down Lisa-Marie's cat Pearl and re-homing her. Words can not express our gratitude. We were truly blessed to be even a small part of your loving community. The love of Christ was so present.

Once again on behalf of my family and myself I would like to Thank everyone who helped us go through this process and celebration of Lisa-Marie's passing and her life. Thank you to all who reached out by phone, text, cards, flowers, food, music, visits. Services, direction when we

did know where to turn. To all my immediate and extended Family and Friends, and all who are here or watching at home. A big heartfelt Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

In closing I would like to share a quote that Lisa-Marie had written in one of her many year books. She said;

“Some words of wisdom I want to share are... We will fail, we will falter, then we will get up and start on the journey again.”

### **SHE TRULY WAS A TREASURED SOUL.**

I love you so much Lisa-Marie. There will forever be a hole in my heart. Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of Beauty Thank you God that I had the privilege to be Lisa-Marie's Mom this past forty years. She was always your child and now she is home.

**Love  
Mom**