

*Upon hearing of a dear friend's Alzheimer diagnosis I wrote this in an effort to comfort him. . .*

## **WHAT A FRAGILE THING LIFE IS . . .**

Thoughts about Alzheimer's disease

*by Robert Fitt*

The awareness that my mind is leaving on vacation came to me abruptly, and it was most unwelcome, I might add. I have so much to do, so much love to give; so many kindnesses to share with a companion who is so dear to me and who loves me so very much. And, too . . . I have so many choice experiences still before me with our children, and their children, and their children's children.

What will happen when I can't remember?

The Doctor's gentle voice and kindly eyes were not enough to mitigate the bombshell that has blown my fondest dreams asunder. If die I must, then let it be swift, without the lingering sorrows and distress that mindless meanderings inevitably bring. My daily wish has been to serve my God and, through his love, my family and the friends; I cannot bear the thought of causing them distress; and I pray that He will ease their pain as things progress.

Jesus loves me, this I know. I have sensed his tender arms embrace and I yearn to feel it once again—sooner better than later—now that I know my fate; but He is in charge, I am not. He only knows how hot the crucible must be to purify my heart and magnify my soul; Preparing me and mine to trust in Christ to make me whole.

I chafe under the yoke of forgetfulness that awaits me; yet through faith I can face that well enough. It is the fate of those I love that shreds my heart strings. My prayer will be that through this twilight of memory—when my mind plays hide and seek with facts and names and faces—that his irresistible atonement will mollify the suffering for those I love and replace it with feelings of hope and love and joy.

It is quite amazing and wonderful, I think, that through this bombast of disturbing revelation, a godly peace and quietude has overwhelmed my feelings. I have felt no fear, and but little stress; I feel only the overflowing love of God and the sure knowledge that through my God, all of this will eventually be for my good.

That is his promise; and I . . . I am a believer!!