

Dear Students of Nyack Missionary College,

I feel greatly burdened at this time to let you know some of my views of death. There are many clichés concerning this mysterious, and oftentimes feared event, and I have heard them all.

Death, in my opinion, is not a defeat, but a wonderful victory and I intend that I shall remember it as such in the case of my parents' death. It is a hollow mockery to nod one's head to this, and then walk around in dazed horror and bitterness. God always has a reason for doing what He does, and I am the last person who needs to be told this.

I have been prepared for just such an event ever since my parents left for the field of Vietnam. To have tried to convince myself that everything was normal would have been deluding myself. My parents went over there to serve God and to them every day was a personal gift from Him. My mother recently wrote that I never should fear for them, for they were "immortal until their task on earth was done."

Just how many of you could say that with such confidence? I am confident that Mom and Dad received every benefit in heaven, because they gave up everything and everyone here on earth to serve God. The most important thing to them, whether it was working among their beloved MNong, or raising us, was that their work be acceptable in God's sight. They were people who truly believed that there was purpose in life, and a wonderful reward in heaven, and their expectations are completely fulfilled.

My friends, if I were to begrudge them that wonderful reunion with God, then I would truly be a selfish person! I had a most wonderful life, and was so lucky to be able to have twenty years of it with them. The one golden lesson which I was taught time and again, was that it never pays to disobey God.

My advice to you is to never let philosophies, sarcastic public criticism, or mod ideals deceive you into thinking that God does not exist. My parents were living proofs of His existence, and if this letter in testimony does not bear this out, then perhaps their death, itself, will.

Is your commitment to God so sure that you would even suffer death for His sake?

Sincerely yours,

*Judy Thompson*

Judith Anne Thompson

P. S. I have appreciated your cards of sympathy and your many prayers! Thank-you.