

派博在一家五口葬禮上的禱告

上週日（注：2016年8月6日）早晨大約11:30，有一家人同時且一起步入了天國。

當時，賈米森（Jamison）和凱薩琳·帕爾斯（Kathryne Pals）帶著他們的幼童正從明尼阿波利斯驅車前往科羅拉多州，為去日本宣教做最後準備；他們原計劃十月離美。然而，在那不拉斯州西部的一處州際施工區，一輛半掛式卡車撞上了他們的車尾。

很不幸，這個家庭所有成員當場死亡，其中包括29歲的賈米森與凱薩琳，以及三個年幼的孩子：三歲的以斯拉，23個月大的維奧萊，兩個月大的加爾文。

已與主同在的帕爾斯一家

53歲的卡車司機（注：托尼·維克利 Tony Weekly），因肇事被捕，並被指控犯有五項車禍致死的重罪。

今天，在明尼阿波利斯的伯利恆浸信會教堂裡，人們紀念賈米森和凱薩琳·帕爾斯的忠心與順服。約翰派博牧師受邀作牧禱。

以下是派博牧師的禱詞：

哦主，你是滿有能力、恩慈和奧秘的上帝，你把箭袋中的箭射入你所愛之民的胸膛。你用茵陳和苦膽灌滿我們的喉嚨。你用沙石碾我們的牙齒，將我們傷痕累累地置於夢想的灰燼中。

你奪去我們的安眠，用愁苦代替歡樂。你使我們所愛之人的陰影籠罩我們；我們想要伸手觸碰他們的軀體，卻無處可尋。

大雨傾倒進窗櫺，驅走了喜樂；平安欲棄門而去，忍耐在我們靈魂的門檻處搖擺不定。

哀傷和痛哭的聲音聞于耳，如同拉結那樣。她無處受安慰，因為她的兒女都不在了。然而你沒有存留他們的性命，那些孩子、勇士、年輕的愛人和你最忠心的僕人；卻存留了我們的性命——我們這群惶惶度日本該欣然跑完人生路、代替他們離開世界的無義之人。

哦主，我們定睛於你。我們不從別處尋找指望。我們單單向你哭泣。願你紀念我們的悲傷、我們的茵陳與苦膽，讓我們不白白喝這苦杯。

我們想起這事，心裡就有指望。哦主，你堅定的慈愛永不止息，你的憐憫不至斷絕；每早晨都是新的；你的誠實極其廣大。哦主，唯獨你是我們的分，因此我們仰望你。

凡等候你的，凡尋求你的，你施恩給他們。今日你是慈愛的；在上週日，你仍是慈愛的。我們等候你，我們等候主你的救恩。我們並非要逃離這至暗時刻的軛，或棄掉出於你美善主權的重擔。但我們在等候，盼望軛變得容易，擔子變得輕省。

你必不永遠隱藏自己。縱然你使人憂愁，但還是憑著你豐盛的慈愛發憐憫。因你並不甘心使人受苦，使人憂愁。

哦主，我們曉得你的心腸。因為在這世上，沒有任何的人、事、物，比你在你兒子耶穌的死與得勝的復活上所顯明的心意更光明，更耀眼，更可怖，更美麗，更血腥，更有盼望。

他誠然背負我們的痛苦，擔當我們的憂患；我們卻以為他受責罰，被神擊打苦待了。哪知他為我們的過犯受害，為我們的罪孽壓傷；因他受的刑罰，我們得平安；因他受的鞭傷，我們得醫治。我們都

如羊走迷，每個人都偏行己路；耶和華使我們眾人的罪孽都歸在他身上。

我們或站立——或俯伏——在這偉大又榮耀的磐石上，獻上對賈米森，凱薩琳，以斯拉，維奧萊及加爾文生命的感恩，因他們將順服看得比自己的性命更寶貴。

我們稱頌你，因他們沒有為攫取地上的年歲而放棄對至高王的忠誠；他們將堅石般的臉朝向日本，定意要完成他們從主耶穌所領受的路程與事奉。

我們稱頌你，因為他們確實完成了——正如你的使徒保羅在羅馬所寫，“當跑的路我已經跑盡了”，儘管他一生未能去到西班牙。

我們站立在基督這大能的磐石上，站立在他為我們的罪及帕爾斯一家的罪而流的寶血上，站立在他勝過死亡的凱歌上，我們站立在這磐石上禱告：

為著賈米森和凱薩琳的父母——祖父母，曾祖父母——他們手握著從母腹中就開始織造的生命的殘片靜坐，看著它燒盡。父啊，求你在他們心中放下不搖動的信心，曉得他們在賈米森、凱薩琳及他們的孩子身上付出的無數心血，不是徒然的。你在《哥林多前書》15:58 中應許說，“所以……他們的勞苦在主裡不是徒然的”。這個“所以”建立在聖經最偉大篇章的龐大基礎上：基督復活了，他用寶血買贖的人也同樣會從死裡復活。

我們也為著賈米森和凱薩琳的弟兄姐妹們禱告，儘管手足間無價的紐帶被可怕地突然切斷，願他們依然能感受到因著耶穌而建立的、牢不可破的兄弟情誼，他曾說，“誰是我的弟兄姐妹？這是我的弟兄和姐妹！凡遵行我天父旨意的人，就是我的弟兄、姐妹和母親了。”

主啊，幫助這個家明白並且切身感受到：這個紐帶並沒有斷裂。我們也為這些孩子，他們的表兄妹們禱告。主啊，願復活、永活、掌權的耶穌真實地顯在他們當中。儘管他們經歷了我們不願任何孩子遭受的變故，求你讓他們曉得並感受到，在耶穌的懷中有平安。因為他應許的並非是“我會與你們同在，直到你生命的終結”，而是“直到世界的末了”，無論是生，是死。

我們也為這個教會，及世上的年輕人禱告，願他們找到另一半——他們的凱薩琳，他們的賈米森——一同領受賈米森的第二次“求婚”，帶領全家人一同順服主。“無論是生是死，是苦楚是失望……背起我們的十字架——正如耶穌一樣——受苦死去。”主啊，奉耶穌基督的名，照著這五個人所流的血，我請求你，興起！為著耶穌基督在全地榮耀的威嚴，興起眾多的接班人。不要讓你的兒女們因聽到這個噩耗，便將生命耗費在虛無裡。

父啊，我們也為托尼·維克利（注：Tony Weekly，肇事司機）禱告，他頭蒙羞愧，手沾鮮血。但凱薩琳和賈米森和家人並沒有懷恨在心。我們祈求維克利先生可以尋得醫治他羞恥感和負罪感的唯一解藥：耶穌。我們也祈求在合適的時間，他能藉著耶穌基督進入天國，與已在那裡的人們和好；那是無法用言語描述的奇跡。

最後，我們也為日本來禱告。願這個家庭所灑的血——甚至是這三個幼童的，雖然他們的身形尚未長至成人的榮美，他們的生命轉瞬即逝並未經歷七十年的試煉——但可以擊垮這個國家所拜的金銀偶像及對物質成功的追求。願這五個人，可被尋于興旺日本福音的諸多鬥士們之中。

奉耶穌的名，願他得榮，阿們。

本文由報佳音書店譯為中文。

原文地址: <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/john-pipers-funeral-prayer-for-a-family-of-five>

Last Sunday morning, at around 11:30, an entire family entered heaven together.

Jamison and Kathyne Pals and their small children were driving from Minneapolis to Colorado for final preparations as missionaries to Japan. They planned to leave in October. But in an interstate construction zone in western Nebraska, a semi truck rear-ended the family's vehicle.

Tragically, the entire family died at the scene, including Jamison and Kathyne, both 29, and their three young children, 3-year-old Ezra, 23-month-old Violet, and 2-month-old Calvin.

The 53-year-old trucker was arrested and charged with five counts of felony motor vehicle homicide.

Today, the faith and obedience of Jamison and Kathyne Pals was celebrated at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis. John Piper was asked to deliver the pastoral prayer. Here's what he said.

O Lord, God of might and mercy and mystery, you have driven the arrows of your quiver into the breast of your people, your beloved. You have filled our throat with bitterness and gall. You have made our teeth grind on gravel and laid us down with wounds in the ashes of dreams.

You have taken away our sleep and replaced our gladness with groaning. You have covered us with the shadows of those we love, and we have reached out in vain to touch their bodies.

Happiness has left through the window where the rain pours in, peace has put her hand on the latch, and endurance wavers at the threshold of our soul.

A voice is heard, like Rachel's — lamentation and bitter weeping. Where is the comfort for her children, because they are no more. You have spared us — us who have lived out our days through no merit of our own, who would happily have finished our course and taken their place, but you have not spared the children, or the valiant, young lovers and your most loyal servants.

O Lord, our eyes are on you. We do not look to another for hope. To you alone. To you we cry. Remember our affliction, remember the bitter wormwood and the gall! You have not made us drink this cup in vain.

This we call to mind, and therefore we have hope: Your steadfast love, O LORD, never ceases; your mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. You alone, O Lord, are our portion, therefore we will hope in you.

You are good to those who wait for you, to the soul who seeks you. You are good today. You were good last Sunday. We are waiting, we are looking for the salvation of the Lord. We are not running from the yoke of this dark providence or throwing off the burden of your good sovereignty. But we are waiting, and looking, for the yoke to be made easy and the burden light.

You do not hide yourself forever. Though you cause grief, you will have compassion, according to the abundance of your steadfast love; for you do not afflict *from your heart* or grieve the children of men.

We know your heart, O God. For there is nothing in the world more bright, more blazing, more terrible, more beautiful, more bloody, more hopeful, than the revelation of your heart in the death and triumph of your Son, Jesus.

Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned — everyone — to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

This is the great and glorious Rock where we stand — or lie prostrate — and on which we give thanks for the lives of Jamison and Kathyne and Ezra and Violet and Calvin, who did not count their lives to be more valuable than obedience.

We praise you that they did not snatch a few vain years of life on this earth in exchange for allegiance to their King, but set their faces, like flint, toward Japan and the finishing of their course and the ministry they had received from the Lord Jesus.

And we praise you that they *did* finish it — like your apostle Paul who wrote from Rome, “I have finished my course,” though he never got to Spain.

We stand on this mighty Rock of Christ, and his shed blood for our sins, and for the sins of the Pals family, and on his victorious triumph over death. And standing on this Rock we pray . . .

For these parents — grandparents, great-grandparents — who sit with pieces of thread in their hands from a fabric of life woven from the womb, and then consumed. Father, we ask that you would sustain in their hearts an unshakeable confidence that the countless hours of investment in Jamison and Kathyne and the children were not in vain. Because your promise in [1 Corinthians 15:58](#) that their labors were not in vain is built with a mighty “therefore” on the massive foundation of the greatest chapter in the Bible about the blood-bought resurrection of Christ and his people from the dead.

And we pray for these brothers and sisters of Jamison and Kathyne that in spite of the sudden and horrific severing of priceless sibling ties they will feel the unbreakable bond that binds them still through the brotherhood of Jesus, who said, “Who are my brothers and sisters? Here are my brothers and sisters! Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.” Lord, cause this family to know and feel: This circle is not broken.

And we pray for these cousins — the children. O God, make the risen, living, reigning Jesus real to them. And as they taste what we could wish no child would have to taste, grant them to know and feel that in the arms of Jesus all are well, for he did not promise, “I will be with you to the end of your life,” but “to the end of the age.” In death and life.

And we pray for the young people who remain — in this church and throughout the world — that they may find the love of their lives — their Kathryne, their Jamison — and embrace together the second proposal Jamison made — to lead the family in obedience — “whether it is life or death or discomfort or disappointment . . . to take up our cross — just as he did — to suffer and die” ([April 15](#)). Lord, in the name of Jesus, and by the blood of these five, I ask, raise up — raise up! — a legion of replacements for the global glory of his imperial Majesty, Jesus Christ. Forbid that any of your children would hear of this news and waste their lives on trifles.

And we pray, Father, for Tony Weekly, whose head is covered with shame and whose hands are stained with blood. The heart of this family is not a vengeful heart. We pray that Mr. Weekly will find the one and only remedy for shame and guilt, Jesus. And we ask that, in time, through Christ, he would make his way to heaven, and know the indescribable miracle of reconciliation with those already there.

And finally, we pray for Japan, that the great idols of gold and silver and material success would fall before the blood of this family — that these five, even these three little ones, who have now grown to the fullness of their glory and the perfection of beauty, not through the trials of three score and ten, but in the twinkling of an eye — that these all — all five — might be found among the champions of the victory of the gospel in Japan.

In the name of Jesus and for his glory, Amen