**Canaan Union Church**

**314 Main Street**

# Canaan, Maine

**June 24-30, 2012**

**Sunday School 9:30 AM**

**Sunday Morning Worship 10:15 AM**

**Pastor: Diana J. Perkins**

**Send your letters to: Canaan Union Church**

**P. O. Box 1642**

**Waterville, Maine 04903-1642**

**Thanks to all who have shared in our ministry. The letters and many ways in which you support this work are greatly appreciated.**

**Last Sunday was Father’s Day. It is never too late to honor Dads and to encourage men to be an example of faith that will encourage their children to follow Jesus Christ.**

**Tom McGuinness was employed as a pilot on the America Airlines. He was a man of faith and was happily married to a woman named Cheryl and was the father of two teenagers, 16 year old Jennifer and 14 year old Tommy. Tom took his responsibility of being the role model of Christianity very serious. His greatest love was his family and he took time every day to read the Bible to his family and discuss Biblical principals with them. From the time the children were very small, Tom made sure that he built into their minds the importance of living a life pleasing to God. Tom not only taught the children the Scriptures; he lived them.**

**The day that Tom turned 42, the family took a two day trip together. On his special day the family celebrated with a wonderful home cooked meal prepared by his loving wife and the children both presented him with love certificates. Jennifer gave him a card inviting him to go out to dinner, just the two of them, for an Italian meal at a nice restaurant. Tommy’s gift was a card that said he would give one Saturday to his Dad helping him clean up around the woods behind their house. Cheryl toasted him with a birthday letter that told how much she and the children appreciated having a godly man in the house to lead the family. She read it to him and his eyes sparkled as he drank in the love and admiration from the three most precious people in his life, his wife and children. The evening finally drew to a close and the family retired for the night. Everyone was happy and joyful for the time that they all had together and the wonderful evening spent with Dad. He hugged each one of them and as usual told them how much he loved and appreciated having them in his life.**

**The next morning, Tom, kissed Cheryl goodbye and left for Boston’s Logan airport where he was scheduled to copilot American Airlines Flight 11 to Los Angeles. That morning was September 11, 2001.**

**After her husband was gone, Cheryl drove their children to school and then settled down at home sipping on a cup of coffee and reading her Bible on the back porch as this was her daily ritual to spend time in God’s word before starting her work for the day.**

**She curled up with a handmade quilt and spent some time in prayer. She was interrupted by the phone ringing. Her friends knew that she spent this time with God, so it was unusual to get phone calls at this time of morning. Cheryl answered the phone and it was her friend asking if Tom was home. When Cheryl said no, he had gone to work that morning, there was a hesitation on the other end of the line. Her friend told her that he and his wife were going to going to drive over to be with her until they got news that Tom was okay.**

**No sooner had she hung up the phone when it rang again. This time it was their children calling to find out if their dad was safe. Before long, the house was filled with friends, family, and neighbors who were concerned about the family’s situation.**

**Cheryl leaned that flight 11 had not only been hijacked, but deliberately flown into the New York City’s World Trade Center.**

**Cheryl cried hysterically and couldn’t be consoled. Friends went to pick up the children from school and life for them would never be the same.**

**Cheryl’s only comfort came from God’s word and the faith that had been instilled in her children. She tried to maintain a regular home routine for the sake of the children, but in the early days all she could do was cry to the Lord to hold her, comfort her and strengthen her in her new role as a widow and single mom. She thanked God for protecting her family from knowing what lay ahead the day after her husband celebrated his birthday and was honored so much from his family. The Scriptures became like jewels to her. She read Isaiah 65:24: “Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.” Psalms 145:20 says that God loves all who trust in him and he will destroy the wicked.” Cheryl believes that God will continue to watch over her family and that He will make all things right.**

**Cheryl declares that she takes comfort knowing that God received Tom’s spirit and he is in heaven with him. God watched Jesus as he died for the sins of the world on the cruel cross and He received his spirit also. One day this world will face the judge of the universe and those who have been a light to this world will receive their reward and those who were filled with violence and wickedness will also receive their just rewards.**

**Cheryl is encouraged by the faith that Tom planted in the hearts of his children. They express thankfulness that Cheryl isn’t angry with God. One night Tommy put his arm around his mother’s shoulders and said, “Mom, our life on earth is so short. Our life in heaven with Dad is for eternity.” Then he added, “Dad described eternity this way to me. “If you emptied all the oceans in the world one drop at a time, this would only be the beginning of eternity.” Cheryl is grateful for the strength that she gleans from the mouths of her children. Many times they speak words of wisdom that had been planted there so many years ago by their father.**

**1 Corinthians 2:9 says that no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. Cheryl declares her love for the Lord and she has hope because she knows how much her husband loved Jesus Christ. She takes note of Isaiah 55:8 that declares that our ways are not God’s ways and our thoughts are not his thoughts. His ways are higher than our ways and his thoughts are higher than our thoughts. She has learned that though she would have things differently if she had her choice, she will continue to believe and follow the path that God leads her for He has given her peace and the words that her husband left with her just days before he left this earth was this;”Tom told me that if anything ever happened to him, he wanted to be sure that I would continue to trust God to take care of our family.” I trusted the wisdom of my husband, and I will continue to trust God in all things. He does all things well!**

**Trust God in all the seasons of our live. He is faithful.**