Peace At Last Ministries (PALM)

Sharing God's comfort with the terminally-ill, their loved ones and caregivers.

eGlimpse #199 August 2026
Paul & Kathleen Humphreys

"Day by day…"



In 1858, a father and his 26-year-old daughter leaned together on the deck-railing of a ferry boat while crossing Lake Vattern in Sweden.

The boat suddenly lurched, sending the father overboard. Tragically, before anyone could attempt his rescue, the girl's beloved father drowned.

The daughter was Carolina Sandell. She later became known as "the Fanny Crosby of Sweden." Carolina wrote over 650 hymns in her lifetime. Her most famous hymn, *"Day by Day,"* was written shortly after the ferry-boat tragedy. Its lyrics reflect biblical truths that comforted Carolina in those dark days, truths that have since brought solace and peace to multitudes.

I, Paul, want to reflect on the lyrics in this eGlimpse against the backdrop of a personal trial currently unfolding in our lives, both as a couple and as a family.

Early in July, Kathleen felt a heaviness in her limbs. In the weeks that followed, the heaviness turned to weakness and extreme fatigue. She became unable to stand without assistance. Our doctor urged us to go to the emergency of our local hospital. Upon arrival, Kathleen was admitted and over the next few days underwent many blood tests, scans and an MRI.

No obvious cause of Kathleen's weakness was found. A further test necessitated her transfer to the Froedtert Hospital and Medical College in Milwaukee. There, Kathleen spent 48 hours in an emergency treatment room. Tests ruled out anything big and nasty but still did not reveal the cause of her weakness. She was discharged from the hospital after we set up a hospital bed and care facilities in our living room at home. Our daughter, Dawn, who works as a private CNA, came from Michigan to help care for her mom.

We are now awaiting follow-up appointments next week with an endocrinologist and neurologist. Though we still do not know what is causing Kathleen's weakness, test results appear consistent with thyroid-related maladies. In the meantime, Kathleen needs assistance with nearly all of her care; at times she barely has the strength to feed herself.

Needless to say, we are in a season of unknowns. Other family members have rallied to take over our care of Kathleen's father, Harold Tiegs, who is 93 years old. We are humbled and grateful for the outpouring of concern and prayer.

Thus, Kathleen and I find ourselves in a challenging chapter in our lives. It's certainly not the first, but it is significant. We ask for your prayers and also invite you to join with us as we echo the timeless truths from God's word, truths that comforted and fed Carolina Sandell's heart and soul during those most-difficult days many years ago;

1. *Day by day, and with each passing moment,*
   Strength I find to meet my trials here;
   Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
   I've no cause for worry or for fear.
   He, whose heart is kind beyond all measure,
   Gives unto each day what He deems best,
   Lovingly its part of pain and pleasure,
   Mingling toil with peace and rest.

2. *Every day the Lord Himself is near me,*
   With a special mercy for each hour;
   All my cares He fain would bear and cheer me,
   He whose name is Counsellor and Pow'r.
   The protection of His child and treasure
   Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
   "As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"
   This the pledge to me He made.

3. *Help me then, in every tribulation,*
   So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
   That I lose not faith's sweet consolation,
   Offered me within Thy holy Word.
   Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
   E'er to take, as from a father's hand,
   One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
   Till with Christ the Lord I stand.

Ever grateful for your sweet fellowship, prayers and support,



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