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"Angels Among Me"

By Marilyn A. Bonk

My husband, Allen, and I were "hit" with COVID pneumonia at the end of August 2021. After a month-long hospital/nursing home stay, I'm thankful that I survived but sad that Allen did not. As I ponder over the "heaviness" of that statement, I feel a bit unsure as to why I'm still here and he isn't. Perhaps it's because God has more work for me to do or because He has a story for me to tell.

Out of concern for Allen's underlying health issues, plus the COVID that had now begun to "set in," I called an ambulance to transport him to the hospital on an unusually warm Sept. 5th day. My symptoms were status quo, but within two days they had quickly worsened, and I was calling an ambulance for myself. I struggle, now, to remember everything that happened to me after that ride to the hospital on Sept. 7, but there are a number of interventions from God that will forever remain stored in my memory bank.

A doctor stood over me in the emergency room and said, "You have COVID pneumonia. It'll take months to recover. We don't have a bed for you. I know your husband is here, but there are no available beds right now. We're checking all the hospitals in the state to find you a bed someplace. We'll know by morning where we'll be sending you."

"Checking the whole state?" I asked. With a shake of the doctor's head, I silently uttered my first prayer to God.

"I need a miracle here, Lord. Please let me stay where Allen is." Eight hours later, I heard a voice softly say, "Marilyn, we have a bed for you in intensive care." God was listening. I wanted to cry because He'd heard my prayer. But I was struggling to survive and the tears wouldn't come. I just kept trying to breathe. I think I must've prayed the same prayer a hundred times in the days that followed: "I need a miracle here, Lord. If I can't get through this, then just take me home." I couldn't cry. I



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