

Maya:

I arrived in Anchorage Alaska in 2002 with my husband Brett and our children: Cameron and Kennedy. We were stationed here, as Brett is active duty military. As a native South Floridian, Alaska was an unexpected and undesired shock to say the least. Shortly after moving, though, we decided this was all in God's plan for us. Within the month, I met my dear friend Timea Webster. We became fast friends as we shared similar interests. However, 5 years later, in November of 2007, our relationship took an unexpected turn.

Timea:

I received a call from my Grandpa that something had happened to Brett and Maya's son, Cameron. I knew that Cameron played football, so I thought he had gotten injured in a game. As soon as I walked into the hospital room, I saw Maya, Brett, and the doctors—and Cameron hooked up to machines, with tubes coming out of his mouth.

Maya:

Cameron had fallen ill due to an asthma attack triggered by a food allergy. We had dealt with asthma attacks on a few occasions and Cameron was an overall healthy kid. I did not expect that this would be the last time I would hear my son's voice this side of heaven. I was contacted while away on a business trip, and returned to Anchorage to find my son in a drug-induced coma.

Timea:

The doctors told Brett and Maya that Cameron would not recover. I looked at Brett and Maya and my heart broke. I could not stand to look at the pain on their faces. Right then, I knew God wanted me to be present to listen to Him for Maya and Brett. I grabbed Maya's hand. We walked around the grounds of Providence Children's Hospital. We talked, we cried. I listened as Maya explained what had happened. After listening for some time, I asked Maya this question: "Maya, will you love the Jesus, with or without Cameron?"

We called everyone. Around the clock, Cameron was being prayed for. That night, hundreds of people came to Cameron's hospital room—young and old, of different races, his whole football team, kids from his school, people from his

youth ministry, from different churches—all coming to pray for him. It was pretty amazing.

Maya:

I had no doubt Cameron would be ok. Timea was with me, as well as other friends, family and people from the community and surrounding churches. Everyone was praying. But I will never forget that question! I had not even considered I would be without Cameron, which is exactly what I stated to Timea. She told me, "I'm with you on this, and I believe Cameron will walk out of this hospital as well, but Maya, I need to know, with or without Cameron will you STILL LOVE JESUS?" After much prayer and tears, I looked over at my friend and answered yes, absolutely I will still love Jesus with or without Cameron.

That following morning the doctors started bringing Cameron out of the induced coma, I was so excited, I comforted my son and talked to him. The monitors showed how his heart rate would speed up when I would speak to him.

But a few minutes later, things took a significant turn for the worst. It was suggested I call my mother in Florida and have her get on the next plane to Alaska. By that evening, the machines were the only thing keeping Cameron alive. We decided that the following morning we would allow our son, Cameron, a follower and lover of Jesus to go and spend eternity with his King.

Timea never left that hospital. My friend sat in silence with me. After Cameron went to be with the Lord, Timea took my hand and walked with me through hospital, prayed with me, cried with me, and she even stayed with my son afterwards and made sure Cameron's remains were cared for appropriately. In the following days and nights, my friend was a constant fixture in my presence, listening to our wishes as to how we would like Cameron to be remembered, and helping tremendously with the preparation for the celebration of Cameron's life, as did many others.

Timea:

We threw a party because Cameron was a follower of Jesus Christ, and for parents there is a lot of peace in that. The praise and worship was awesome. So many people came out to celebrate and honor Cameron, that when the fire department showed up, I thought they were shutting us down because we were breaking the fire code. But they came to show their support. It was the

ambulance crew that responded to help Cameron. Glory to God! That day, over 250 people surrendered their lives to Jesus, including my little sister.

Timea:

Colossians 2:5 says:

For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

The journey for Maya and me is not easy. There are days when she calls me and needs me just to listen to her cry. There are nights when we sit on the phone and I pray with her. Through Maya, God has taught me what it means to be a friend and a sister in Christ. I am forever grateful to Maya and Brett for allowing me to walk with them during such a costly time in their lives.

Maya:

My son came to know Jesus as his personal Savior right here in the children's ministry at Changepoint that Previous Easter. Since then and now almost 2 years later, Timea has continued to be a constant fixture in my life. I go through moments of anger, disappointment, confusion and sadness and I have a friend in Timea upon whom I can depend. She listens to me, encourages me, and I am more than willing to do the same. God has given me the desire and willingness to seek out other women who are in pain. I miss my son deeply, and when I am down, that same question comes back: "Will you still love Jesus with or without Cameron?" and my answer is, even more so now than before, Yes. I still love Jesus and am so blessed that Cameron is now resting safely in his arms. I am grateful to have Timea in my life and through Jesus Christ in this friendship, I continue to be transformed.

Timea:

I have witnessed three children come into this world, but nothing was as powerful, precious and peaceful as watching a soul who loved Jesus leave this earth. Nothing stirred my soul like the prayers, beautiful singing and worship from two people who love their son but who love Jesus even more, thanking Him for the time that He allowed them to spend with Cameron. In partnership together with Jesus, Maya and I continue to be transformed by the love, patience and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for letting us share today.