

The **Glory** of **Easter**

"Though now for a little while you may have to suffer grief in all kinds of trial ... so that your faith ... may be proved genuine and result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

1 Peter 1:6-7

The **Glory** of **Trials**

"He realized

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In these first months as president of Northwestern College & Radio I have heard some moving stories of how God works in the lives of our students and listeners. One story I especially want to share with you this Easter season is how God turned one family's grief into His glory. It's also a wonderful example of how Northwestern's college and radio ministries work together for God's divine purpose.

Nelly Hernandez is a freshman international business major. She's also a wife and a mother. In the past three years she has come to love the Scripture passage in 1 Peter about how today's grief and trials result in glory later. Her family has come to a personal, complete understanding of how Jesus suffered trials and His own death so that believers can experience His glory in Heaven - or even sooner!

Nelly's time of trial began on January 3, 1999. Her sons, 11-year-old Danny and eight-year-old Aldo, were going snowboarding with relatives near Marshall, MN, when a train struck their car, killing Danny and critically injuring Aldo.

The accident plunged Nelly, and her husband, Jaime, into grief. Often the tragic death of a child tears a family apart, and they struggled over the next months. Aldo suffered traumatic brain injuries, a broken pelvis and collapsed lung. He was transferred to Gillette Children's Hospital in Saint Paul where he remained in a coma.

Nelly suspended classes at Southwest State University to be with Aldo in Saint Paul while Jaime and their seven-year-old daughter, Betty, remained at home. Their marriage was already in trouble and the separation didn't help.



After hearing Nelly's moving story, I was pleased to meet this special family (center from left): Nelly, 12-year-old Aldo, 10-year-old Betty and Jaime.

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Northwestern College & Radio

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The Glory of Easter

"I wanted to go

to a Christian

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like Him."

Jaime, who was not a Christian, mourned Danny acutely and questioned God.

But God slowly worked through their lives step-by-step, miracle-by-miracle. "Jaime really struggled, but I kept praying. He finally came to Christ when he realized it was only through Christ he would see Danny again," Nelly says. His decision helped heal their marriage and together they prayed for Aldo's healing as well as their family's future.

In the meantime, Nelly found a Christian radio station on one of her many trips to the hospital that became a source of comfort and encouragement during those anxious and lonely weeks. She even called in one day to request prayer for Aldo and her family. She didn't know it at the time, but she was listening to Northwestern's own KTIS.

On March 5, 1999, eight weeks after the accident, Aldo regained consciousness. He made a remarkable recovery that amazed the doctors and went home to Marshall the next month. "It's because of God that Aldo recovered so fast," Nelly says. "He has some physical limitations, but we believe God will heal him completely in His time."

The Glory of Family

With Aldo on the road to recovery and her family together again in Marshall, Nelly's thoughts returned to college.

But the family's trials changed her educational focus. "I wanted to go to a Christian

college where I could learn about

Jesus, who He is, and how I can be

more like Him." Their pastor's

daughter, a Northwestern

student, enthusiastically

recommended NWC. "We fell

in love with Northwestern

and its mission when we

toured the campus,"

Nelly says.

Because of gracious

donors and the Northwestern





College Minority Grant, Nelly was able to begin classes in August. Through a Christian friend she found a place to stay in the Twin Cities during the school week and drove home to Marshall on the weekends.

Yet she greatly missed her family, and she and Jaime felt the weeklong separations were not good for the children. After much discussion and prayer, the entire Hernandez family moved to the Twin Cities in October. Now even Jaime, who cut short his college education when they married over 15 years ago, is considering returning to school, possibly to study music ministry.

Nelly and Jaime hope to return to their native home of Matamoros, Mexico someday. Nelly wants to use her education to set Christian standards of ethics, values and morals in her homeland. "Jaime went to college in Matamoros with people who are now in positions of corrupt power," she explains. "If they can get to such positions of power through corruption, think what we can do through Christ?"

The Glory of Faith



Danny Hernandez

As Nelly reflects on the last three years, her family's trials and tears have indeed turned to praise and glory. Their marriage has never been stronger and they grow closer to God every day. "Easter has become alive to us. Yes, we grieve because Danny is absent from us here on earth, but we rejoice knowing we will be reunited in heaven," she says.

Nelly's story reminds us how God works daily miracles in the lives of His believers. What begins as grief and loss God turns into good when we place our trust in Him.

As I learn about Northwestern's history and mission, and meet students, alumni and donors, it's thrilling to hear how the College and Radio impact the lives of our students and listeners. And these lives are impacting countless more lives around the world!

Please give a gift today to directly help Northwestern students, like Nelly, receive an education grounded in a Christ-centered worldview. The gifts to Northwestern College & Radio are making a big difference! God is using these gifts to help our students build a solid Bible-based and ministry-minded foundation that they will use throughout their lives for the glory of God!

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"He is not here; He is risen, just as He said." -

Matthew 28:6

