

In God's hands

"If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." Romans 14:8 (NIV)

My wife and I spent a week during a conference with our colleague, Dr. Janette Shackles, prior to her untimely death in a car accident. She kept all of us laughing as she shared her adventures since coming to Africa.

Two stories I will not forget. One was about a young man who was not expected to live. While performing surgery, she prayed, "God, if You'll spare his life, I'll make sure he hears the gospel." He did survive, and Janette shared the gospel with him.

Janette also told about her recent plane trip. Her flight stopped in Lomé (low-MAY), Togo, on the way to Abidjan (AB-ee-jhan), Ivory Coast. When the plane started down the runway to take off from Lomé, an alarm went off and the takeoff was aborted. After returning the passengers to the airport, the pilot made a test run and returned for the passengers. As they attempted to take off again, the alarm went off, but the pilot successfully took off. Although concerned, Janette said, "I must put my life in the hands of the pilot, just like so many people have put their lives in my hands during surgery." Immediately, she realized that even more importantly, her life was in God's hands. When I heard the tragic news about Janette's death, I thought about this story.

At a memorial service held in Ghana, Janette was remembered as a doctor who cared deeply for her patients and their eternal destination. Following God cost Janette her life. How willing are we to follow Him no matter the cost?

—ROGER, WEST AFRICA

Oh, that I may follow You, Lord, NO MATTER THE COST. THANK YOU FOR THE LIFE OF THIS DOCTOR WHO FOLLOWED YOU IN LIFE AND DEATH. MAY HER LIFE BE REMEMBERED AS A TESTIMONY OF YOUR FAITHFULNESS. Amen.