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Overlying Theme: "Trust in the Lord next to Us" --- Faith, Hope and Love

Scriptural Theme:

*There are three things that remain --- faith, hope, and love --- and the greatest of these is love. I
Corinthians 13:13*

"Faith, Hope and Love"



Rev. Kaoru Okada
Pastor, Obihiro Church

Recently, a brother from my church, whom I will call Mr. H in this article, has gone to heaven after being hospitalized for about 10 months. At the beginning of his time in the hospital, he was not always happy because he was lonely, and felt guilty for leaving his darling wife, Mrs. M, at home alone.

Due to his state, his wife M and the people around him were not peaceful. To ease Mr. H's mind, hoping that he could be more relaxed, they discussed how they would treat him and prayed together.

After several months had passed, Mrs. M said to me, "we learned something while living apart." She continued, saying, "In our previous life, we lived as if we two were one person, but we did not know the difference between supporting each other and dependent on each other. I realized that we were each other's burdens then. Now we live apart in the hospital

and at home, but our relationship has become closer because we now pray together to our Lord."

This couple learned to be connected not just by looking at each other but by looking together to the Lord with common faith, and they were given a deep sense of comfort and strength. Mrs. M could not be at the bedside when her husband's life was ending, so she asked me to deliver a message to him. It was "My dear H, I was happy to have been married to you. Thank you. We shall see each other again in His kingdom." The words were filled with love and hope.

In the difficulty of being torn from her darling husband by death, though, Mrs. M had a heavenly hope. This experience has taught me that finding our Lord Jesus Christ in our lives and living in Christian faith is our treasure, comfort and blessing.