



“Hannah’s Hope”

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Scene 3 – ICU at MD Anderson Cancer Center

[Scene takes place in ICU. Hannah has lost her hair, and is on a ventilator. Mickey (dad), Debbie (mom), Aunt Hope, Uncle Clay, & brothers Michael and Andrew, and Caleb are all in the room.]

Aunt Hope: (Reading from the computer) Hannah, this guestbook entry is from some guy in Canada. You've gotta hear this...

"Hannah, If only the Lord would let us exchange places..... I would give my life to be in your shoes..... to know what you know..... Your courage, strength and attitude show that you are wise beyond your age..... It shows that you are truly in the Lord's hands..... You are an inspiration to all, and I will never ever give up my battle with cancer because you have never thought about giving up yours....My family is praying for you and yours...
Cliff in Canada"

Uncle Clay: Hannah, the Lord is using your life even right here from the hospital. Your Caringbridge web-site has over 200,000 hits.

Hannah: (Holds hands up helplessly as if to say, I guess so).

Mickey: You'd rather be in Kentucky, wouldn't you baby? (Hannah nods)

Uncle Clay: I'm sorry Hannah, I wish you were there too.

(Female Dr. Grant and male Dr. Smith enter at this point).

Dr Grant: (Looks at Hannah first) Hey Hannah. Hey everyone. (Turns back to Hannah)

Hannah, how are you feeling? (Hannah waves hands and makes face indicating "so-so")

On a scale of 1-10, how much pain are you in? (Hannah holds up 3)

Do you need any more pain medication? (Hannah shakes her head "no")

If you need anything please let the nurse know. (Dr. turns to the parents) Can I speak to you in the hallway?

Mickey & Debbie: Sure. (Deb looks at Hannah's brothers) Boys, will you stay here with Hannah?

Hannah's brothers: Sure.

Debbie: (Deb looks at Clay and Hope) Will you all come with us.

(As Dr., parents, Hope & Clay head out of the room, Hannah waves her hand to get Aunt Hope's attention.)

Aunt Hope: What is it, Hannah? (Hannah does the cross motion across her chest). Oh, yes. Dr. Grant, Hannah would like for you to have this. (Hope reaches in the cabinet for one of the cross necklaces, and places it in the palm of her hand. She extends it to Dr. Grant.)

Dr. Grant: (Clearly moved, looks at Hannah) You want me to have this? (Hannah nods) Thank you Hannah (placing it around her neck). I'll wear it always. (She squeezes Hannah's hand warmly. Then Dr. leaves the room with others)

(In the hallway just outside the door.)

Aunt Hope: I'm Hannah's aunt, Hope and this is her uncle Clay.

Dr. Grant: Nice to meet you both. (Turns to parents) Unfortunately, I have bad news. The test we did yesterday came back positive – there is blood in Hannah's lungs, meaning that the cancer has spread there as well. More treatment is just going to make her sick. I'm very sorry to tell you, but Hannah is not going to make it. In fact, she will go very quickly.

(There is a short pause)

Debbie: Dr. Grant. Thank you for your care and concern for our daughter. You know, the day that Hannah was born, we gave her back to the Lord. She is His little girl, to do with whatever He pleases.

Dr. Grant: (She places her hand warmly on Debbie's arm) I encourage you to keep your strong faith, but please know that Hannah is a very, very sick young lady. Our plan will be to make her comfortable over these next few days. If there is

anything that we can do, please let me know.

Debbie & Mickey: Thank you Dr. Grant.

[Dr. Grant exits. Debbie, Mickey, Hope and Clay return to the room, Hannah watching them return. The four gather around the bed. Hannah raises her hand and shrugs her shoulder slightly, as if to ask "Well, what did she say?"]

Mickey: Do what, baby? (Acting as if he doesn't know what she wants. Hannah repeats the motion, this time a little more forcefully).

Mickey: You want to know what he said? (Hannah nods. Mickey squeezes her hand, choking back his tears) Well, baby, Dr. Grant said that the cancer has spread to your lungs, and that it would be more difficult for them to treat. But it's not harder for the Lord to treat – we will just keep trusting Him.

(Hannah looks at him, then each adult around the bed. All give her the same reassuring nod.)

Guide: Please follow me.