

Maybe . . . Tod's death . . . leaves a legacy of the brevity of life and how we are to live it . . .

Editor's Note: This letter comes to us from longtime MAGCS member and past president (1963) John Ebel, who communicated these thoughts to contributing editor John Gurke.

Hello, John.

For some time I've been meaning to respond to your substitute President's Message in the *Verdure* newsletter concerning Tod Hopphan. I just couldn't seem to put pen to paper. After reading your second tribute to Tod in *On Course* magazine, I better understand why the delay.

I really didn't know Tod very well, but have been a longtime friend of his father, Carl. The loss to Tod's wife, Debra, and their children is overwhelming, and for a parent to lose an adult child is an indescribable hurt. So, we ask why? And we don't know why. There must be an explanation of why Tod was taken so early in life. It's comforting to know that Tod was and is a man of God! Good news! We know he is in a better place living with the Lord.

Maybe the reason for Tod's death is to leave a legacy of the brevity of life and how we are to live it. His passing has had a very strong impact on the lives of many. Maybe we need to examine ourselves on how we live and where we plan to spend eternity.

Psalm 103 says, "As for man his days are as grass; as a flower of the field he grows, the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and the place shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting . . . upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children."

Our time here on Earth is brief, but God's love never ends. If Tod's passing has made a difference in the lives of those still here, then he has gotten the victory! Tod's death was not just some senseless accident, and the world is better because he was here.



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