

# The Tale of Two Lives

By Melody Lundmark

In the fall of 2005, a horrendous story unfolded in Pennsylvania. A young man named David Ludwig was “in love” with 14-year-old Kara. Both of these young people were from Christian families, and they both had been home schooled. Kara’s parents were waiting for her when she arrived home early Sunday morning (11/13/05). Kara had lied to them about where she was going and had been out with David all night. In the confrontation that followed, David Ludwig shot and killed Kara’s father and mother and then fled with Kara.

Also in the fall of 2005, another story was unfolding halfway around the world in the country of Mongolia. Another young man who had been raised in a Christian family and had also been home schooled was experiencing the fulfillment of his parents’ vision for their whole family to serve the Lord together overseas. Isaac Waller’s life demonstrated his commitment to Jesus Christ. He was diligent in spending much time each morning with the Lord in prayer and in reading Scripture--at times in his life rising at 3:45 a.m. Previously, because of his character and his diligence, Isaac had advanced at the company where he was employed and was given the opportunity to receive good pay and success there. He chose instead to move with his family to a farm in Wisconsin. After several years, the Lord opened the door for their family to embark on a new mission.

The Waller family arrived in Mongolia in June, 2005 to begin serving the Lord there together. In October, 25-year-old Isaac began having trouble with what appeared to be an infection in his leg. After taking antibiotics and being on bedrest for a month, Isaac’s situation suddenly became more serious. On November 3, he and his parents flew to Korea for more advanced medical treatment. However, on that flight, Isaac slipped into unconsciousness and went into the presence of the Lord. He had a rare form of very aggressive leukemia, and even the best hospitals would not have been able to do much to help.

So, what is the point in these two true stories? As I pondered these two situations that occurred within a few days of each other last fall, a verse of Scripture came to mind that put it all into perspective: “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” Matthew 16:25

David Ludwig had decided that he was going to have what he wanted no matter what he had to do to get it. In attempting to get what he wanted, he took the lives of two others and lost any “life” he had. His freedom as he knew it is gone.

Isaac Waller invested his life (gave up the desires, plans, wishes he had) to help take the Gospel to the people of Mongolia. Even though his life on this earth is over, he has entered into eternal life in the presence of His Savior. Because he invested in the things that are eternal, everything that he labored for and hoped for and worked for will be remembered and rewarded. He has truly entered into life! What a clear picture!

So, how does this relate to us? Both of these young men were raised in Christian families. They very likely heard many of the same things. The difference wasn't what they heard but how they responded. The choices they made determined the outcome of their lives. The same is true for each person. Only as we consistently surrender our desires, our plans, and our wishes to the One Who gave His all for us will we truly find the joy of living. The question for each of us is, "What is the story of my life? Am I one who 'saves my life' by fulfilling my desires with no thought of God, or am I one who 'loses my life' by surrendering my desires and fulfilling God's will in my life?" It's your choice. What will the tale of your life be?