

Robert E. Barr had a Masters Degree and Honorary Doctorate of Christian Service. He worked as a minister and hospital chaplain in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for over 45 years, and had a beautiful singing voice that brought joy to many. His wife Dolly saw Bob gradually lose all his gifts during a six year battle with frontotemporal dementia. When he died on September 7, 2008, Dolly offered this tribute that puts the devastating course of FTD in the context of Bob's lifelong faith.

If...Bob could have looked down the halls of time and could have seen the future as it would unfold....

If...God had come to him and said, "There are some terrible things that will be visited on men. Men will bring some terrible things on themselves, but other things are in the world because evil is in the world and man has no control. With sin in the world, there are some diseases that will take their hold on man and people will have to bear them."

God continued, "All diseases are filtered through my fingers, I will help you bear them--I will limit their time. There will be diseases which will be so devastating, they cannot be imagined. Many diseases will afflict the 'earthly tent'--most of these will be known diseases and the effect will be seen as it weakens the body.

"Some diseases, however, will affect the brain and mind. They will be imperceptible at first. They will be confusing to all who witness the long tragic results. These diseases will slowly rob a person of his personality—until 'self' is gone. All reasoning, logic, inhibitions and social skills will be lost.



"No observer will know what is happening and the change will not be evident to the one afflicted. Life, as one knows it, will be altered beyond belief."

And Bob said, "If it is possible that I may help in saving someone else from THAT type of terrible disease and help in understanding it, **I'll take it.**"

God said, "There **is** one disease--about which not much is known, but you are a preacher, and with this disease you could no longer preach." Bob said, "I have preached, I have planted, others will water and reap. **I'll take it.**"

God said, "You are a teacher, you could no longer teach." And Bob said, "I have taught and others have understood and learned, and will pass the lessons on. **I'll take it.**"

God said, "You are a singer and with this terrible disease you could no longer sing." Bob said, "I have sung and others have heard and been blessed. **I'll take it.**"

God said, "You are one who prays, you could no longer understand prayer." Bob said, "I have prayed for many people, they will pray for me. **I'll take it.**"

God said, "You are a husband and a father. You will not remember your wife and children." Bob said, "**They** will remember me. **I'll take it.**"

God said, "You have worked with your hands. You have erected buildings, laid brick, and been a mechanic, brought in the harvest from the fields. Your hands are strong and tough; your hands will become soft and weak." Bob said, "I was willing to use **all** my abilities, others will pick up my tools. **I'll take it.**"

God said, "You love people, and with this disease you could no longer remember love." Bob said, "All to whom I gave love will remember and give love. **I'll take it.**"

God said, "You were a servant, and with it, you could no longer serve." Bob said, "Perhaps through this disease, I can teach others to serve. **I'll take it.**"

God said, "In time, you will suffer terrible pain; your physical body will be broken," and Bob said, "I have ministered to many people suffering physical pain, I can share in that. **I'll take it.**"

God said, "Only your physical body will suffer this disease—your soul can not be touched."

And Bob said, "I know, my soul resides in You, this body was not meant to last--You have promised to give me a new body, **I'll take it.**"