

Xaviera Latta

Daybreak Board Member

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV). These powerful words have been my lifeline, reminding me that even in the depths of despair, God has a purpose for my life.

My husband, Stuart, and I are blessed with four beautiful children, each one a unique gift. But today, I want to share the heart-wrenching story of our third child, Jacoby—our rainbow baby after two heartbreaking miscarriages. Jacoby entered this world during a serene home water birth, filling our hearts with indescribable joy. He was a vibrant soul with a big smile and an even bigger personality.

Tragedy struck when Jacoby was just three years old. On a bright Saturday in May, while we enjoyed a church community outreach event at a local park, our lives were shattered in an instant. A tree limb fell on him, taking away our precious boy. How could a beautiful day turn into the most painful moment of our lives? I stood there, filled with disbelief, asking God, “Where were You?” The anguish was unbearable as we went from being a complete family to planning a funeral in just hours.

In my darkest moments, I found solace in scripture. Job 1:21 (KJV) rang true: “the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” I clung to these words

as if they were a lifeline. I felt so alone in my grief, facing judgment from others who couldn’t understand my pain. Yet, in my cries to God, I began to feel His presence wrapping around me like a warm embrace. Piece by piece, He revealed where He was during that tragic day—playing with Jacoby on the playground, holding my hand as I said my final goodbye.



Jacoby’s time on this earth may have been fleeting—just three years, one month, and two days—but God knew how long we would have him. Through this heartache, I discovered that He is Jehovah Jireh, providing comfort. He is Jehovah Rapha, healing our wounds; Jehovah Roi, guiding me through tears; and Jehovah Shalom, granting peace amidst the storm.

In honor of Jacoby’s memory, our family has created a non-profit called Jacoby’s Shield to support bereaved families. No one should walk this painful journey alone. I am grateful that God transformed our tragedy into a mission of hope. To

anyone who is hurting right now, you are not alone. God is always with us—my Immanuel. Together, we can find hope and joy once more.

Xaviera Latta is Executive Director of Jacoby’s Shield and Jacoby’s mother. More information about Jacoby’s Shield can be found at this site: www.jacobysshield.org.

