

10th May 2013

It is with mixed emotions that I sit and write to you today to inform you that Leah was recently promoted to glory. She lived 19 ½ years on this earth and is now enjoying the rewards of her labours, as she parties for eternity with the One who saved her soul.



As you know, Leah's life was never easy – having contracted a terminal illness from her mother in the womb, she knew what it was to suffer pain and discomfort. Through the years we had thought more than once that Leah would be going to see Jesus, but her stubbornness and fighting spirit enabled her to come through so much sickness – the fact that she stayed alive for so long truly was a miracle. When she came to live at CRIB at the age of 18 months we were told that she would probably not survive beyond the age of 2 years!

As I look back on Leah's time on earth, it is with a heart of thanksgiving for all she accomplished and for the many lives she touched. Leah managed to complete her primary education, albeit at a slower pace than other children, and went on to work in the Nursery class at the King's School as a classroom assistant. She was a favourite with the younger children because of her big smile and cheeky sense of humour.

Since last summer, when she became too ill to cope being around so many little people, Leah remained at home, but would keep herself occupied making amazing bracelets and necklaces out of tiny glass beads – she was so creative.

To the end Leah continued to have a positive outlook on life. Three days before she died, Leah was at my house baking muffins and decided that she wanted to make 100 to give to the school, to raise money in their Easter Fair. Leah had become so thin and weak, but even so she was thinking of others and how she could be of help to them.

The day before Leah passed away the fight seemed to go out of her and she just kept saying how tired she was. For the first time ever, Leah asked to go to hospital, which was a real indicator of how ill she was feeling. We all had the privilege of spending time with Leah over the next 18 hours, saying all that needed to be said and giving her our last hugs.

The next morning, whilst she was being visited by Rosa, the House Parent who has looked after Leah for the last 10 years, she said 'I think I am going to go to heaven today'. Rosa asked if there was anyone Leah wanted to telephone to talk to and she said 'Everyone. I want to tell everyone that I am going to heaven', and with that she lay down, closed her eyes and woke up in heaven. That is the way I want to go – not in fear or worry, but full of peace, with total assurance that the best is yet to come.

Leah's death was very difficult for the rest of the children to come to terms with, but when they looked back on her life, their overriding memory was one of a bossy sister, always telling them what to do – but not because she was mean, but because she wanted them to be the best they could be. They are now determined to live becoming the best they can be in memory of her.

Thank you so much for your support of Leah for so many years. She lived her life to the full and is now enjoying having her new body with no more pain or suffering. We are confident that we will see her again soon.

May God bless you richly,

Libby Nahimana