

“Goodbye, My Dearest Annette”

Dr. Nicole wrote this tribute to his wife, Annette, upon her death on February 8, two weeks after the interview.

Dearest Annette,

We have known each other for about 67 years: six years of a lightning-fast courtship and 61 1/2 years since we were married in 1946. During that time we were never separated from each other for more than three weeks except for my tour of lectures around the world in 1959. I, more than anyone else, have known and loved you. Although I have been surrounded from birth by other charming and godly women — my paternal grandmother, my mother, my godmother and my sisters — you have taken first place in my life above them all.

I know that you have learned much at my side, but I have learned as much at your side — more than anyone could have imagined. You have been true and loyal to me when I was right and when I was wrong. You have filled my life with a tenderness and godliness greater than words can express. You have adorned our home with beauty and order, and you have made it so hospitable that three individuals and eight couples have adopted us and called us "Mama" and "Papa" Nicole.

You have taken an essential part in all the ministries that the Lord has given to us. You have spoken French, the language of my birth, with some of the endearing accents and vocabulary in which the Canadian French reflects something of the 17th century — the greatest of French culture. We have laughed together, as when we viewed a film of Quebec humor, and we have cried together, as when we visited your ailing mother for the last time.

I rejoice that you have received the Bible as God's Word and that you placed your trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation, for indeed it is "by grace that have been saved through faith . . . not of works so that no one could boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

Now the Lord who has given us so much has called you to Himself and away from me. I submit to what He has done. I rejoice that in this way I have to bear the pain of bereavement rather than you. I am glad that, after a year of illness and recurrent hospitalization, you have now entered into His rest.

Goodbye, my dearest Annette. I will see you again after I finish my course on this earth, God willing, hopefully soon.

Your loving husband, Roger

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