

*In memory of Brian  
Pastor John Hicks  
First United Methodist Church*

*We preachers always hope that God has given us the right words, and that we are instruments through which God speaks.*

*When Pastor Brian Hamrick of First Baptist Church of Clewiston became sick, the pastors of our community lifted him up in prayer. When things became more serious and the church called a prayer vigil to bathe Brian in prayer, a number of us were there. During that time of prayer, God spoke to me and I was called to share blessings for the church for the way they had pulled together in the midst of their “downed” shepherd and to encourage them as a church to continue to do so. I also got a very clear message that Brian was going to be okay. I felt led to share that message as well.*

*Brian seemed to get better, then complications set in. On April 24, he died. It hit me hard. He was a young 31 years and four months old. He had a wife and two sons ages 1 and 3. How could this happen? The message I had received seemed so clear. I once again turned to God – this time with questions.*

*God came back to me, “Brian is okay. What about you?” I realized that the message I had received was true. I was looking for Brian to be healed. What Brian got was the ultimate healing.*

*For those of us with faith, death is not the end, but a “going home” to be with God. Brian’s earthly body may have perished, but his heavenly body lives on for eternity. Brian is more than okay.*

*But what about us? What if you were to die today, or your spouse, or your child? Would you be okay? Would they? How is your soul? How is theirs? No one knows what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds tomorrow. It would do us good to make sure of our connection with Him who holds our tomorrows so that when the roll is called up yonder, we’ll be there.*

*One of Brian’s favorite verses was Philippians 1:21, “For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Brian’s service was a living testimony to this. We did not experience a funeral, but a celebration of his life and love for his God. Vaya con Dios, my brother. May we also claim blessed assurance, Jesus is mine.*