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A LETTER TO MY DAUGHTER JAMIE ON HER 41st BIRTHDAY

My Dearest Jamie,

Your birthday month is here again. Every single day I think about what you would be trying to get me to do or what you would be trying to get me to buy you from your gift list. You would always try to get gifts early and often before your birthday celebration and then still get your pile of gifts at your party. It makes me smile thinking about how excited you would get, just like a little girl.

Life is moving forward but it is still not any easier without you here with us. I spend time with you and miss you each and every day. It also seems that as each day passes, I miss you more. I know these feelings are never going away, you are a part of me that is missing, and you left a big hole in my heart that seems like it will never heal. I pray that you are at rest and have found peace in Heaven.

I hope that you are able to watch over your two beautiful kids, Chloe and Cody. They are amazing and so beautiful. I know that you would love them and be so proud of them. Chloe just started kindergarten and Cody is almost 2 ½ already. We talk about you a lot and Chloe misses you. Its amazing some of the things she says she remembers and some of the questions she will ask me about you and Heaven. She is very smart and always thinking. As for Cody right now, he is all boy, running, jumping, and into everything constantly. He is adorable and of course a lot to handle but so much fun!

So as another year has passed us by, I will continue to work hard for you here on earth for your kids, your family and your Foundation. So many of your friends, and of course your family, are still missing you and having such a difficult time without you here in their lives. We try to comfort each other as much as we can, we live, we laugh, we love, we cry, we hug, and above all, we pray. We pray for your soul, your kids, and your family. We pray for ourselves to be there for you and to stay strong and to be able to support each other. You are so important to so many people that life without you tests every part of us. There are days when every cell in my body cries out for you. Just one more hug, one more phone call, text, or email, one more kiss goodbye but I know I can't have it and it just hurts so bad.

As we celebrate your birthday and I summon up every ounce of strength to make it through the day just know that I am still here working for you each and every day. You are never far from my thoughts. It just takes the smallest thing, like a song, a sign, or a place to bring back a memory of you and make me cry or laugh! I also hope that you know that even in your passing you are continuing to do good things and random acts of kindness that are so helpful to others!

Happy Birthday my sweet girl. Enjoy your day in Heaven and look down on us as we wish you a happy birthday. May God continue to bless your sweet soul. I love you with all my heart now and forever.

XOXO Dad