

# Brianna's LIGHT

by Dr. Yvonne Lewis

Our *Urban Report* program is one of my favorites on Dare to Dream. In fact, it's our network's flagship program, and often features riveting interviews that inspire our viewers to "Dare to Dream."

Recently, I interviewed Rod and Mary Cassidy. They both came from dysfunctional families filled with abuse, alcohol,

and divorce. This led them to wait ten years before having their first and only child.

However, 2014 was a very difficult year for the Cassidy family. Rod, an accountant by training, had been out of work for nine months, and had been unsuccessful at finding a job. But in October, he and his wife Mary were watching a program on 3ABN where someone mentioned a need for a bookkeeper. That led him to contact some ministries, and he was thrilled that someone responded, and the Lord provided him with work.

## TRAGEDY

But then tragedy struck. Their daughter Brianna was a precocious, natural-born leader who was strong willed, determined, and accomplished. She loved media, interning at a local documentary film studio, and she excelled in photography. She was also mission-minded, traveling to Japan, Ecuador, and Panama on mission trips for the Lord. At 16, she had her private pilot's license, and now was interning at a local airport, working on her Airframe and/or Powerplant (A&P) mechanic's license. To top it all off, she was just weeks away from obtaining her commercial pilot's license.

As she prepared for work on a dreary, rainy day in Southern California, Mary cautioned her. "Brianna, be careful. The roads are wet."

Brianna replied, "Mom, you've got to let me go," and headed out the door.

She made it safely to work, but later that afternoon, Mary noticed that her

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daughter was late getting home. Then she received the call every parent dreads. It was the hospital, calling to inform her that Brianna had been in a major car accident, and didn't make it.

Mary was in shock. Surely there had been some mistake! She called Rod and told him, and they both hurried to the hospital, racked with pain. For two days, they were in torment. The man who hit her was driving recklessly and had caused the head-on collision. However, Brianna hadn't suffered, and died shortly afterward.

## WINGS OF PASSION

How were they going to go on without their only child? Why was their precious daughter cut down so early in life? Plagued by those questions, they sought God for answers, and then decided to do something radical. They would do something that would honor Brianna and promote the Lord's work at the same time.

That's how Brianna's Wings of Passion Foundation began, and today it provides financial resources for those who, like Brianna, have a passion for media ministry and aviation.

Today, Rod and Mary Cassidy are on a mission. Determined to carry on their daughter's legacy, they travel to churches, sharing their testimony and ministering to others who are grieving. As a friend told them, "Some lights burn slow and

long, others fast and bright—like Brianna." They await that grand reunion with their daughter on Resurrection Morning when our Lord Jesus will call all the sleeping saints to life, never more to part. ☺



For more on Brianna's amazing life and information about her Foundation, visit [briannacassidy.com](http://briannacassidy.com).

Dr. Yvonne Lewis is a naturopathic doctor, author, lecturer, and singer, as well as the general manager of 3ABN's Dare to Dream Network for urban audiences.

