

John—11 years old

Closer to the Light—Melvin Morse, MD

John was dying from lymphoma. In his last days, he was hospitalized with severe, untreatable pneumonia. He was not given morphine or Valium to reduce the pain because they would make breathing more difficult.

Three days before his death, a circle of loved ones gathered around his bed. They were startled when John suddenly sat upright and announced that Jesus was in the room. He then asked for everyone to pray for him.

At 3 AM, John sat up again, startling the four people gathered around the bed to pray. “There are beautiful colors in the sky!” he shouted. “There are beautiful colors and more colors. You can double jump up here, double jump!”

By dawn, it seemed that life was almost over for John. His breathing was labored, and his heart was pounding like that of a marathon runner’s. Opening his eyes wide, he asked his grieving parents to “let me go”. “Don’t be afraid.” he said. “I’ve seen God [and] angels ... It’s wonderful. It’s beautiful.” he said, his hand held out in front of him. Soon he laid back and fell asleep, never regaining consciousness.