2226 - Consolation for a mother whose son has passed away

the question

My 17 year old son passed away last month. I would like to say some doas and prayers for him but do not know how. Do I say the doa in my daily prayers or just read the Quran as a gift for him? What I mean is how can I help him as a mother? My father also passed away quite some time now and what do I do to help him. I am so ignorant on this. I read that a child's prayer for his parents is good but what of a mother to the deceased child especially one who is not married and with no children to doa for him.
Please enlighten me on this.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

How can your du`a (prayer, supplication) not be answered and not be of benefit to your son, when the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has said: There are three du`as which will undoubtedly be answered: the du`a of one who is oppressed, the du`a of a traveller, and the du`a of a parent for his child? (Reported by Ibn Maajah, 3852; see also Saheeh al-Jaami, no. 3033). The word parent [waalid, lit. father] includes both father and mother. You are his mother, who bore him, nursed him, fed him and brought him up. You are more compassionate towards him than all his other relatives, and you are the one who has suffered the most grief and distress because of his loss. Pray for him for forgiveness, mercy, Paradise and salvation from the Fire. Pray for him in your salaat and your sujood (prostration), in the last third of the night and on Fridays before sunset, and at all other times and in all other circumstances.

Be of good cheer and remember the great reward which will be yours if you bear this loss with patience, accept the will and decree of Allah, and hope for reward. You have lost your child to One

Who is more compassionate towards him than you, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate, Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. You also have the consolation of knowing that if you and he die believing in Tawheed and in Islam, you will be reunited after death. The righteous will be reunited with their offspring in Paradise, even if they are of a lesser status than them. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): And those who believe and whose offspring follow them in Faith, - to them shall We join their offspring, and We shall not decrease the reward of their deeds in anything. Every person is a pledge for that which he has earned. [al-Toor 52:21]

As regards your question about what you can do for your father and your son who have passed away, you will find a detailed and comprehensive answer under # 763, which describes things which the living can do for the benefit of the dead.

Finally, we console you with the words with which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) consoled a mother whose son had died:

To Allah belongs whatever He takes and whatever He gives. Everything has an appointed time with Him. Have patience and hope of a reward from Him. (Reported by al-Bukhaari, no. 6829). May Allah bless our Prophet Muhammad.