

Writing Blind

When divers combed the wreckage of the *Kursk*, the Russian nuclear submarine on which 118 sailors perished, they found a letter written by Lt. Dmitri Kolesnikov, addressed to his wife, Olga.

It was written after the explosion that felled the sub on Aug. 12, 2000, in the Barents Sea and confirmed the speculation that all the crew had not died instantly.

Hours after the sub plunged to the bottom of the sea, Kolesnikov wrote, “All the crew from the sixth, seventh and eighth compartments went over to the ninth. There are 23 people here ... None of us can get to the surface.”



The last lines of the letter indicated that death was closing in as the auxiliary power failed. Kolesnikov wrote unevenly in the pitch-darkness: “I am writing blind.”

The apostle Paul, blind, in jail and knowing that a martyr’s death was near, also wrote goodbye letters. His writing, though, was filled with hope in Christ, not despair, as evident in the Russian sailor’s letter.

We may not be lying trapped in a submarine, at the bottom of the sea, but all of us face times in our lives when we are confronted with adversity, perhaps fear, uncertainty, and challenged by what lies before us. But as believers in our Lord, we can face the future confident of the outcome and our eventual destination – heaven and eternal life.

And that is a great comfort, no matter what storm may be surrounding us.

– Beecher Hunter