

*A young man named Jason Kelly inspired this poem written for him to his mother Kay. Jason had just died from a prescription drug overdose in 2003 after an accident at age 27. He had been in the "Boys" scouting group at our church that I was part of 17 years ago when he was 10, and I remember that he and his mother, who was a single parent escaping a troubled relationship to Connecticut from California, were especially close. It was always just the two of them, Jason and his mom, together.*

*I was recently blessed, by being able to read it at Jason's funeral. After reading it, his mother said that it was the most beautiful poem she had ever heard, and as she and I looked at Jason in the coffin tearfully, she said to me... "That's the man he became!"*

## **When I Was a Boy**

*From Jason to Mom*

When I was a boy, you'd look at me,  
and wonder what a man I'd be.

You'd lift me up when I was down,  
and turn to smiles my every frown.

We'd play alone, just you and me,  
'cause we were two, instead of three.

My cuts and scrapes you'd always fix,  
and always laugh when I played tricks.

Through silly, sad, or serious,  
they all could see that it was us...

## **Just you and me!**

But, I was a boy, and I'd look at you,  
and feel your love that was so true.

So every day, the world would see,  
some change that you had made in me.

I'd feel the tears roll down your cheek,  
when times were bad, or they got bleak.

And I'd lift you up when you were down,  
and turn to smiles your every frown.

'Cause, as a boy you looked at me,  
and wondered 'bout the man I'd be.

dh. May 2003