

"Adam" in the words of his dad

On March 18, 1987, my life changed forever when our third child was born. For some reason still inconceivable to me God brought this special baby boy into our lives. I don't say he was special because of his stature (he wasn't very big) or because of his looks (although he was a fine looking boy) or because of his talent (although he was very talented). But there was something special about him that was hard to put your finger on, and I think God blessed him with that.

My wife Cindy reminded me recently, when we were having one of our special talks, about his birth. He had real difficulty breathing. Cindy and I prayed together then that God would allow him to live. And live he did! And so started a journey that lasted 18 years, 8 months.

Not that he was perfect by any means! I remember one time that I spanked him and he look up defiantly and said, "Are you finished yet?" I replied that I thought I was but I guess I wasn't, so I continued on to the best of my ability.

He picked up singing even before his fingers were large enough to put around the neck of a guitar. He would sing with me, and rare back as he belted out the Lord's music. He loved singing with his brothers. He learned very early to lead and sing harmony with them. Our three little boys would sing their hearts out in perfect, or sometimes not so perfect, harmony!

As was inevitable, his older brothers grew up. Never missing a beat, he taught himself how to play guitar, learning bar chords that to this day I wish I could play. He found his niche at school and at church taking on a leadership role in the youth department and on the school campus at CHA.

Everything he did, he did with 100% of everything he had. I've seen him over and over make up with he lacked in size on the field or court with heart. His Lord Jesus, his loved ones, his friends, his family and his church and school were priorities. "Whatever it takes" was one of the last things he was remembered as saying at school before we left for a three day soccer and volleyball tournament in Dayton, TN.

On November 5, 2005, my life changed forever again. After three happy days with his family and loved ones, God carried through the prayer that was prayed 18 years, 8 months earlier in that hospital in Rocky Mount, VA. We prayed that Adam might have life, and boy how God answer that prayer! After driving his girlfriend home, at 1:30 a.m. Saturday morning, the Heavenly Father set in motion a series of events that would lead to my son's death. I was privileged to be with him in his last moments on this earth as I was present at his birth. The last words I heard him say was "Dad." He said my name, not as if he were panicked and fearful, but as if he were calling my attention to something. Although my back was turned, I believe he was calling my attention to what he saw. I believe that God's angels, maybe one with a guitar strapped to his back, one on Adam's left and one on his right, lifted him up and carried him aloft and that he offered no resistance in being brought into the presence of the one to whom he has praised and sang about for so long.

Looking back, I can see that everything had become accelerated in his life. The "I love you-s" came more often. He had a restlessness that our family picked up on. God was preparing his heart to come home.

Saying all this about him brings me to what I know he would really like for me to say. He didn't know when his last day would be, that he would be sharing heaven now with his loved ones. But I know that he would want me to proclaim and even yell at the top of my voice as I did at his games, "Be ready! Be ready!" Accept Christ now. Don't put it off even one minute. I know that if you did there would a boy in heaven who would give a silly, thunderous laugh that could be heard everywhere. Turn to God. He loves you no matter what you have done. I leave you with a scripture that Adam had taped to his wall in his room, "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will acknowledge him before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32. Acknowledge him today. God bless you.

Love forever, Dad

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Cor 10:31