

Obituaries

5/23/2006

Zan Perry



Huley Alexander Perry, III (Zan) of Irmo, S.C. was born on a Sunday, March 16, 1958, and departed this earth on a Sunday, April 23, 2006. He fought colon cancer for 5-1/2 years but continued living life to the fullest until his body weakened the last few weeks. His friends were numerous, especially the ones he grew close to at Gateway Baptist Church in Columbia where he was a member and deacon and where his funeral was held on April 26 at 2 P.M. The assistant pastor, a very close friend and encourager, Charles Fant (wife Jill), assisted in the service and was always there for him throughout his struggles. His family will be indebted to him forever. The ever faithful deacons at Gateway took turns sitting by his hospital bedside day and night--non-stop, quietly reading to him from the Bible, the last few days of his life. His pastor, Don Brock, who officiated at his funeral, was his friend and stabilizer. He was there for Zan when he had questions only a pastor could answer.

Zan left the University of South Carolina a year after graduating from Winnsboro High and started his career at GTE in Winnsboro. He started as a repairman and climbed telephone poles and became known as "Zan, Zan, the Telephone Man." Later he transferred to Myrtle Beach. This is where he decided he wanted to go into telecommunications. Enrolling at USC-Coastal, he began studying advertising and marketing. Jarvis Telephone in Columbia gave him his start in sales. From there he went to Southern Bell. A few years later he was proselyted by Tadarin Corp. and began selling telephone systems

Tadarin and Zan's mentor, Pinchas Just of Israel and the US, became an extended family member. The person who first hired Zan at Jarvis and gave his career a start, Bill Gillam, remained his close friend throughout the years. Bill gave a poignant and humorous eulogy at the funeral which described Zan to a T.

Zan, always an avid reader, would quickly tell you this is how he furthered his education. He was a very good golfer and cherished pretty days when he could go out and commune with nature and play with his friends. He last played golf in November and we understand his illness had not interfered with his skills.

Zan loved the inmates at Manning Correctional Institute where he was a volunteer with Trinity Bible Fellowship. He looked forward to being with these men on Thursday nights as he was able to attend. The love, prayers and encouragement shown by them were an inspiration to Zan throughout his illness.

His wife and soul-mate, Leann, a registered nurse, became his primary nurse and caretaker, a duty of love. He referred to her as "a rock-his rock." They had four children, three sons and a daughter, all of Irmo: Trey (Kelly) and their year old son Peyton (One of Zan's goals was to live to see his first grandson.); Natalie; Brandon (Danielle); and HAP (short for Huley Alexander Perry, IV) who will be a rising senior this fall at Chapin High.

Zan's diagnosis of cancer in 2000 brought him to the realization of the need to reprioritize his life. As he frequently said, that was when he started putting God first, family next and then his career. We feel that was also when he caught hold to God's hand and never let go.

After Zan retired because of his illness, this allowed more time to spend with his parents, Huley and Sherrill Perry, who were also retired. His brother Jimmy (wife Janet), an RN, was injured in a motorcycle accident in May of 2005 and was unable to work for approximately nine months. The accident turned out to be a blessing

Chuck Feaster, and moved back home. Zan was happy resuming his former friendship with Chuck and knew he would love and care for his little sister and her son.

When Zan questioned his sister about her former work and the many people she had been with in death, she quickly reminded him that he would never die—that there is no death in Christ. She reminded him that he would simply close his eyes on earth and open them in heaven. He told his mother shortly before departing he did not believe that in heaven you would always be sitting on fluffy clouds, singing songs and playing harps—to him this would be boring. He said he felt God has work for us to do in heaven. Zan loved his work and also "to work." We feel that Zan's work on earth was done and God now has a greater work for him in heaven.

Zan's body is resting in his home church cemetery at Bethel United Methodist Church, Winnsboro, S.C.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Harry and Juanita Beckham, Catherine Taaffe, Huley A. Perry, Sr., step grandmother, Rosa Perry, and his aunt, Harriett Thigpen, all of Winnsboro.

Zan was honored in death by a former co-worker and close friend from Bell South, Sandy Walsh, who has been a mission worker at ACAP (A Child's Answered Prayer). This is a non-profit organization changing the lives of children in the Dominican Republic. (Zan and Leann had adopted by mail a little girl.) Sandy has established a learning center which will be known as "The Zan Perry Children's Learning Center." The address is P.O. Box 25634, Columbia, S.C. 29224 www.acap-DR.org

Zan is gone from this earth but far from forgotten. He will be missed by his loved ones (including aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.) The family wishes to express much gratitude for the many faithful prayers and concerns that went out for Zan and his family during his illness.