

Memorial to my sister – we are not promised tomorrow

“A true friend knows all about you and loves you anyhow.” – Author unknown

Being a member of a household with many kids was always a comfort to me growing up. I was the oldest of four siblings, and later five siblings when at 17 years old, my baby brother Lil’ Mac was born.

We were all “Navy brats,” my father being a lifer in the U.S. Navy for 26 years. We lived all over the U.S. growing up and always had each other whenever we moved to some new town where we knew no one and had no friends or family. In just over two years we lived in Charleston, S.C., San Diego, Calif., Baltimore, Md., Mississippi and finally settled in Fairfield, Calif. for 13 years. My parents instilled this sense of adventure in us all by getting us excited about the next town we might live in. It could have been rough, but we always had each other. My siblings were always there.

Being the oldest, my brothers and sisters treated me like I was “the golden child” to them – I could do no wrong. They fought amongst each other but never fought with me, except maybe over wheth-

er we watched Super Friends or Scooby-Doo on Saturday morning cartoons, but I digress.

I remember when I was in middle school, if anyone said anything bad about me, my sister Tracey would literally go at ‘em to kick their butts. I never really cared about what people said about me, but in her eyes, I could do no wrong. She was almost two years younger than me, so we were usually around the same grade levels throughout our school years. She also used to go to bat for me whenever I liked a girl. I was extremely shy and unsure of myself (yes, really) and she was my “wing man of middle school.” My sister was always there for me.

As we grew up all of us went our separate ways. I got married (twice) and moved to S.C. with my wife and youngest daughter. My youngest sister stayed near mom and dad, one brother lives in Pennsylvania and another

in Michigan. My oldest sister, Tracey, moved to Illinois decades ago.

Because of us being all over the place, none of us spent much time together. Not even talking or writing. Life kept us all so busy with day-to-day minutia, personal family matters, work and the distance from one another that weeks, months and then years would pass us by in what seemed like a blink. But in the back of our minds we all knew that we would somehow soon all get together and break bread. A big family reunion. My siblings were always there.

So I’m sitting in a meeting at work and I receive a phone call from my mother. My mother does not call me in the mornings, so getting a phone call from mom meant something was up. I answered the phone and my mother was sobbing. “Tracey died...” I was so stunned that I literally could not feel anything, which was helpful because I had to sit through the meeting over the next hour.

I was changed at that moment. I became a person who has lost a sibling – my sister. Now I know how that feels.

The scriptures tell us that we are not promised

tomorrow, so we are to give no concern for what might be tomorrow. We are also compelled to not hold onto the past. We cannot change what was. So that leaves today. We should be concerned for today. It is written that “His mercies are new every morning,” and it is written that we should not put our hope on earthly things, but “store our treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not eat.” And that is the purpose for my writing. To point out that we are to look to things eternal, not to what we have here on earth.

Those things could be wealth, a nice home, a job that we love or even a person that we love. All of these things could be gone in an instant, so if we place all of our hope on any of these they will fail us. There is only one who sticks closer than a brother, closer than a sibling – Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He also sent Holy Spirit who will never leave you nor forsake you.

The only catch is, if you don’t know Jesus, then you don’t have Holy Spirit. And that leaves you vulnerable to the possibility of losing everything that we would otherwise put our hope in in this life. If you are one who has money to put

your hope in, that money will always be there to fall back on, you might think. I cannot stress enough how quickly your many dollars could be brought to nothing. If you are one who believes that your home will always be there, one good storm could most certainly change that. If you are able to consistently depend on your personal health and ability, I can assure you that your health and ability are sure to fade. The scriptures state, “So remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of adversity come, and the years approach when you will say, ‘I have no delight in them’” (Eccles. 12:1 HCSB).

And now I know from experience that those we love and know will always be there can be gone in a moment. I am not saying that we should not enjoy our health, wealth and loved ones, not at all. Delight in all of these things. But do not place your hope and therefore, your future, on these things. There is only one who holds your future. Put your hope in Him! If you do not know Him, it is such a simple thing. You can ask Him right now to be Lord and Savior. You do not need to “get your

life cleaned up” and “then I’ll go to church,” as so many are sometimes led to believe.

We are not promised tomorrow. I cannot stress this enough. Today is the day of salvation.

Ecclesiastes 11:7-9, New Century Version (NCV), “Serve God While You Are Young:”

“7: Sunshine is sweet; it is good to see the light of day.

8: People ought to enjoy every day of their lives, no matter how long they live. But they should also remember this: You will be dead a long time. Everything that happens then is useless.

9: Young people, enjoy yourselves while you are young, be happy while you are young. Do whatever your heart desires, whatever you want to do. But remember that God will judge you for everything you do.”

My sister Tracey knew me very, very well, and loved and honored me anyhow. Pretty amazing.

Visit David Beverley’s YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/user/jesusfreakcg. E-mail all comments and questions to jesusfreakcomputergeek@gmail.com.



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David Beverley

Ember Church’s Love in Action receives donation

The Love in Action program at Ember Church recently received a donation for families in need from an unusual source. Codee Varnadore, a black belt apprentice with Kenaki Karate donated the items to the Love In Action program. Kenaki Karate requires their black belt apprentices to perform certain community service actions as part of the karate school’s commitment to giving back to the community. Varnadore was able to collect blankets, comforters, coats, heaters, fire alarms, and more. The members of Love in Action said they are very thankful for his efforts and know so many families will be blessed by his hard work.

Pictured: Codee Varnadore talks with members of the Ember Church about his donation. At right, Love in Action volunteers receive Codee Varnadore’s donation.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

CHURCH CALENDAR (FROM PAGE 6)

- Wednesday Night Word, 7 p.m. every second and fourth Wednesdays.

New Life Baptist

- On Sundays, prayer at 9:30 a.m., Sunday school at 10 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Prayer and Bible study, 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Church is at 1044 Columbia Road, Chester. All welcome.

- GRIEFSHARE is a weekly seminar and support group whose purpose is to rebuild your life after the death of a loved one. GRIEFSHARE is designed around God’s word, which offers help and encouragement. This non-denominational group at New Life, 1044 Columbia Road, will be open to the public and will meet from 6 to 8 p.m.

- Deacons’ meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 12.

- Church Christmas meal and children’s Christmas program, Sunday, Dec. 17.

- Visit to Chester Active Day Center, Thursday, Dec. 21.

- On Christmas Eve, mornin worship only. No evening service Wednesday, Dec. 27.

- Bible study and prayer, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Parkway Baptist

- WMU doing a drive for coats, clothes and shoes for men, women and children.

- Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon offering begins Sunday. In-gather-

istry community service, 2 to 3 p.m. every Sunday at 238 Gadsden St. Free Panera bread distribution.

Purity Presbyterian

- Chancel Choir rehearsal, 9:15 a.m. Sunday. Adult Sunday school at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m.

- Women’s Fellowship Christmas lunch and shopping, Sunday after worship at Michael’s in Rock Hill.

- Handbell rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. Sunday.

- Tuesday morning Bible study, 10 a.m.

- Wednesday night programs, 6 p.m.

- Music will be part of each worship during Advent and Christmas season. Purity Bells will lead worship with two

St. Mark’s Episcopal

- Sunnyside Up Breakfast for children and seniors, 8 to 10 a.m. the third Saturday of each month. Event features a garden to table healthy meal served with music, hands-on demonstrations and stories. Call 581-3273 or 379-1683 or e-mail to sunnysideup119@gmail.com.

- Tuesday Power Lunches, noon every Tuesday. Noon-time prayer and sermon from a visiting minister (approximately 30 minutes) followed by a free home-cooked lunch.

- Sunday services include Bible study at 10 a.m. and worship services at 11 a.m.

Sweet Hope

Christ-centered outdoor character development adventure program open to boys and young men ages five to 17. For more information, call Rick Wheeler at 385-5724 or e-mail to TLUSA0651@gmail.com.

- An American Heritage Girls Troop has been chartered through Trinity PCA (beside Chester Regional Medical Center) and will meet twice a month on Monday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. AHG is a Christ-centered scout program for girls ages five to 18. Girls will earn badges, work on service projects and go on fun adventures. For more information, call Laurie Luu at 209-2781 or e-mail to AHGSC0651@gmail.com.

Gadsden St., Chester.

Wesley Memorial UMC

- Sunday school at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m. Nursery and children’s church at 11 a.m.

- New women’s Bible study, 7 p.m. Thursdays.

- Christmas cantata, 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

- “Miracle on Maine Street Puppet Show Spectacular,” 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17.

West Chester Baptist

- Men’s breakfast, 8 a.m. Sunday.

- Feed My Sheep Ministry next delivery, 11 a.m. Thursday.

- Prayer Team meets at 6 p.m. Tuesdays.

West Side Baptist