FUNERAL – MAY 5, 1999 – EVELYN WITTE

JOHN 14, 1 MY FATHER'S HOUSE

THERE IS AN OLD ADDAGE THAT SAYS, WHAT YOU LIVE WITH, YOU LEARN / WHAT YOU LEARN, YOU PRACTICE / WHAT YOU PRACTICE, YOU BECOME! THAT WAS CERTAINLY TRUE FOR EVELYN. EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL DEMENTIA OR ALZHEIMER'S, SHE NEVER LOST HER SMILE. EVERYBODY REFERRED TO HER AS SMILEY. AND TO GO ALONG WITH THAT UPBEAT, POSITIVE ATTITUDE & DISPOSITION, SHE LIVED AT SUNNYSIDE. THE TWO COULD NOT BE MORE COMPLEMENTARY! AND JESUS' PROMISE TO ALL OF US: I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU! I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS! I BELIEVE THAT IS WHAT BROUGHT THAT WONDERFUL SMILE TO HER FACE. REMEMBER THE OTHER DAY, JOAN, WHEN WE WERE WALKING DOWN THE CENTER AISLE, LEAVING THE CHURCH, AND YOU LOOKED UP AT THE BANNER / HIGH ON THE WALL / AS YOU LEAVE SANCTUARY. IT SHOWS A BUTTERFLY FLYING FREE & UNCONFINED. / ONE OF EARLIEST XIAN SYMBOLS OF THE RESURRECTION REALITY / THAT LIFE ALWAYS FOLLOWS DEATH! WE USUALLY THINK THE OTHER WAY AROUND – THAT DEATH FOLLOWS LIFE / YOU LIVE & THEN YOU DIE / NO! NO! NO! THE GREAT & BLESSED ASSURANCE OF OUR XIAN FAITH IS THAT LIFE ALWAYS FOLLOWS DEATH. I AM THE RESURRECTION..... BECAUSE I LIVE.....THIS MORTAL MUST ..... THIS CORRUPTIBLE MUST.....HAVE YOU EVER REALLY LOOKED AT THOSE AWFUL, ICKY, HAIRY, WORMY-LIKE CATERPILLARS. THEY EVENTUALLY SECRETE THIS STICKY JUICE WHICH HARDENS INTO A CASKET. THEY MAKE THEIR OWN CASKETS / & THEN THEY DIE! THEN THE CASKET SPLITS WIDE OPEN / & OUT COMES THIS BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY! / HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A BUTTERFLY UNDER A MICROSCOPE? -- GORGEOUS PERFECTION!

NOW, CAN YOU SEE EVELYN / FREE FROM THE COCOON OF THE DEMENTIA THAT HAS IMPRISONED & ENTOMBED HER FOR THE PAST MANY YRS. / CAN YOU SEE HER SKIPPING & JUMPING & DANCING NOW ALONG THE STREETS OF THE NEW JERUSALEM / FREE AS A BUTTERFLY? ..... EVELYN HAD A DREAM / A DREAM THAT HAS NOW COME TRUE WHERE XP HAS ABOLISHED DEATH.... WHERE EYE HAS NOT SEEN..... WHERE DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP.... I PERSONALLY HAVE SUCH GREAT MEMORIES OF EVELYN'S SMILE, THE LIGHT IN HER EYES, & SOMEHOW TURNED HER NEGATIVES INTO POSITIVES. SHE BROUGHT LOVE & KINDNESS TO ALL THOSE AROUND HER.

ONCE MORE I AM ASKING YOU TO FOCUS ON THIS AXIOM: WHEN YOU ARE BORN, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CRIES / EVERYBODY ELSE LAUGHS..... WHEN YOU DIE, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO LAUGHS / EVERYBODY ELSE CRIES! DO YOU SEE EVELYN GOING WITH GLADNESS & JOY & ABSOLUTE EXHILARATION TROUGH THOSE PEARLY GATES TO PARADISE REGAINED INTO THE FATHER'S HOUSE? CAN YOU SEE HER IN THE COMPANY OF THE MYRIADS OF ANGELS & ARCHANGELS ALONG WITH THE COUNTLESS NUMBER OF THE REDEEMED / CAN YOU SEE THE SMILE ON HER FACE & THE RADIANT LIGHT IN HER EYES AS THEY OPEN THEIR ARMS WIDE TO WELCOME & EMBRACE HER? THEY TAKE EVELYN BY THE HAND & THEY LEAD HER TO THE GREAT, WHITE THRONE OF GOD. IN THE BACKGROUND THE ANGELS ARE SINGING: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY. AND THEN EVELYN JOINS THE REDEEMED AS THEY ALL FALL ON THEIR FACES & BEGIN CHANTING: WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN TO RECEIVE POWER & WEALTH & WISDOM & HONOR & GLORY & BLESSING! AND THE LORD HIMSELF LOOKS DOWN AT EVELYN / HE REACHES DOWN & PUTS HIS HAND ON EVELYN'S SHOULDER & SAYS FOR THIS I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH / YOU ARE FREE AT LAST / FREE AS A BUTTERFLY! COME, INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH! EVELYN RISES FROM HER KNEES / BIG GRIN ON HER FACE / & SHE SAYS TO THOSE AROUND HER, WOW! IT'S REALLY TRUE! EARTHLY EYES HAVE NOT SEEN, NOR HAVE EARS HEARD, NEITHER HAS ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM..... IN HIS HOUSE IS FULLNESS OF JOY; AT HIS RIGHT HAND THERE ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE! WOW!

"Goodness & mercy have followed me all the days of my life.