RICHARD TRAHEY -- Funeral, November 12, 1999

Revelation 21: 1-4: THEN I SAW A NEW HEAVEN & A NEW EARTH, FOR THE FIRST HEAVEN & THE FIRST EARTH HAD PASSED AWAY, & THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY SEA. I SAW THE HOLY CITY, THE NEW JERUSALEM, COMING DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM GOD, PREPARED AS A BRIDE BEAUTIFULLY DRESSED FOR HER HUSBAND. AND I HEARD A LOUD VOICE FROM THE THRONE SAYING, "NOW THE DWELLING OF GOD IS WITH MEN, & HE WILL LIVE WITH THEM. THEY WILL BE HIS PEOPLE, & GOD HIMSELF WILL BE WITH THEM & BE THEIR GOD. HE WILL WIPE EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES. THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH OR MOURNING OR CRYING OR PAIN, FOR THE OLD ORDER OF THINGS HAS PASSED AWAY.

A WEEK AGO TODAY RICHARD AND YOU, LOUISE, CAME TO THE RUMMAGE SALE & YOU BOTH CAME INTO THE OFFICES LOOKING FOR ME. I WAS NOT AROUND & YOU TOLD SOMEONE TO WRITE ME A NOTE: TELL PASTOR CARL WE WERE LOOKING FOR HIM. I GOT THE MESSAGE ON MONDAY & IT WAS THEN THAT I LEARNED RICHARD HAD DIED & GONE HOME TO BE REUNITED WITH OUR LORD. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS HE HAD MUCH SUFFERING & PAIN -- IN & OUT OF THE HOSPITAL. YET THE THING I REMEMBER MOST IS RICHARD'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE. HIS FAITH WAS AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL OF US. HE KEPT LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE. HE LOVED PARTAKING OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION AND PRAYING THE DOXOLOGY OF THE LORD'S PRAYER -- THINE IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER & EVER! HE LOVED SHARING HIS TIME & TALENTS BOTH AT SARASOTA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND THE GULF COAST VOCATIONAL SCHOOL. RICHARD HAD A VISION AND A DREAM OF ALL THE POSSIBILITIES THAT LAY BEFORE HIM. I CAN VISUALIZE HIM IN THIS NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH WHERE IN PEACE AND SAFETY EVEN THE LION LIES DOWN WITH THE LAMB --- I CAN SEE RICHARD PLAYING WITH THE MONKEYS. I REMEMBER HOW I AS A YOUNG CHILD WOULD LOVE TO GO TO THE ZOO IN ROYAL OAK , MICHIGAN, & SOMETIMES SPEND HOURS WATCHING THE MONKEYS PLAY & CLIMB & DO WHAT I THOUGHT WERE HILARIOUS THINGS.;;;;; CAN YOU SEE RICHARD WALKING THROUGH THE GATES OF PARADISE REGAINED, SEEING & HEARING WHAT WE COULD NEVER EVEN IMAGINE --- WHAT IN HUMAN TERMS EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD & NEITHER HAS ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM! A MAN TELLS ABOUT HIS AFTER DEATH EXPERIENCE. HE SAID HE CAME TO THE OUTSIDE OF HEAVEN & LOOKED UP A GRASSY SLOPE TO THE GREAT PEARL DOOR. HE NOTICED THAT EVERY SINGLE

BLADE OF GRASS HAD A DIFFERENT COLOR. IT ALL HARMONIZED INCREDIBLY --- MAGNIFICENT BEYOND DESCRIPTION --- & HE HAD NOT EVEN GOTTEN INSIDE THE CITY ITSELF. THE CITY WALL WAS MADE OF TRANSPARENT & TRANSLUCENT GOLD. CAN YOU EVEN IMAGINE ALL THE GREAT SPIRES & STEEPLES -- A CITY SO GRAND & GLORIOUS THAT IT WILL TAKE OUR BREATH AWAY --- MAGNIFICENT BEYOND DESCRIPTION --- TRANSPARENT GOLD & DIAMONDS & EMERALDS & PEARLS & JEWELS OF EVERY KIND & DESCRIPTION. CAN YOU EVEN BEGIN TO VISUALIZE & HEAR THE WONDROUS MUSIC COMING FROM THE MYRIADS OF ANGELS & ARCHANGELS & ALL THE REST TO THE COMPANY OF HEAVEN WITH THE COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF THE REDEEMED FROM TRIBE & NATION & PEOPLE & TONGUE -- THEY ALL HAVE THEIR ARMS WIDE OPEN TO EMBRACE RICHARD & GIVE HIM A HUG! WITH TEARS OF JOY, RICHARD KNEELS DOWN TO LISTEN TO THE HEAVENLY CHORUS: WORTHY IS THE LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN TO RECEIVE POWER & WEALTH & WISDOM & STRENGTH & HONOR & GLORY & PRAISE.... TO HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE & TO THE LAMB BE PRAISE & HONOR & GLORY & POWER FOREVER & EVER! CAN YOU SEE JESUS GETTING OFF HIS THRONE & COMING OVER TO RICHARD, REACHING OUT HIS NAIL PIERCED HANDS --- GIVING HIM A HUG & WHISPERING IN HIS EAR: WELCOME HOME, RICHARD! WELCOME HOME! CAN YOU VISUALIZE WHAT THE PSALMIST OF OLD WAS PROMISING: IN YOUR PRESENCE, LORD, THERE IS FULLNESS OF JOY & AT YOUR RIGHT HAND THERE ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE. DAVID WAS RIGHT! IT IS UP TO US NOW TO KEEP THE FAITH: SURELY GOODNESS & MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE & I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER!