Funeral -- Stanley Yarber Jr. Nov. 1, 2001

Romans 8:18-25: What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will give us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future Day when God will reveal who His children really are. Against its will, everything on earth was subjected to God's curse, All creation anticipates the Day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We too wait anxiously for that Day when God will give us our full rights as His children, including the new bodies He has promised us. Now that we are saved, we eagerly look forward to this freedom.

WE ALL KNOW HOW THE BIBLE BEGINS: IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.....THEN GOD LOOKS OVER EVERYTHING HE MADE & SEES THAT IT WAS ALL DONE IN AN EXCELLENT WAY,,,, THEN ADAM & EVE SIN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN & GOD BANISHES THEM FROM HIS PRESENCE. WE CALL IT PARADISE LOST & THE LORD STATIONS MIGHTY ANGELIC BEINGS TO THE EAST OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN & A FLAMING SWORD FLASHES BACK & FORTH, GUARDING THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE....THEN GOD IN HIS MERCY & GRACE SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY & DEAR SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE. THAT TELLS ME THAT GOD WANTS A RELATIONSHIP WITH US & HE WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE CROSS TO BRING US BACK TO HIMSELF. THE APOSTLE PAUL SAYS IT CLEARLY: IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION. THE OLD LIFE IS GONE & A NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN. STANLEY SR., I LOVED IT WHEN YOU SAID YOUR SON PAINTED BEAUTIFUL PICTURES OF NATURE. I LOOK BACK IN MY OWN LIFE & I STILL REMEMBERR AS A YOUNG BOY LOOKING UP AT THE STARS AT NIGHT & BEING AMAZED AT THE ARTISTRY OF THE HEAVENS. THE UNIVERSE IS FILLED WITH WONDER & IS MORE MIRACULOUS THAN ANY OF US COULD HAVE IMAGINED --- THE MAJESTY OF 100s OF 1000s OF SUNS & THEIR PLANETS MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY. STARS ARE ONLY A PART OF OUR GLORY. THERE ARE MORE THAN 100 BILLION GALAXIES IN OUR UNIVERSE & 100 BILLION STARS IN ALL ONE --- THAT'S WHY THE PSALMIST CRIES OUR IN

GOD....YOU ALSO WROTE HOW YOUR SON ENJOYED FISHING. I LOVE GOING FISHING WITH MY SONS & GRANDCHILDREN, WATCHING THE DOLPHINS PLAYING. I ALSO LOVE TO WATCH THE MANATEES EATING THEIR HEADS OF LETTUCE. THEN THERE ARE THE BIRDS & THE SQUIRRELS. IN MY YARD, THEY ARE ALWAYS COMPETING WITH EACH OTHER. AND WHAT ABOUT THE CHIRPING BIRDS & GORGEOUS FLOWERS? WALT WHITMAN LOOKED AT A BLADE OF GRASS & SAW IT AS WONDROUS AS THE STARS. HE SAID, AN ANT IS EQUALLY AS PERFECT AS A GRAIN OF SAND & A TREE TOAD IS A MASTERPIECE OF THE ALMIGHTY.* HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED AT A BUTTERFLY? THIS IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST SYMBOLS OF THE RESURRECTION REALITY! HAVE YOU EVER REALLY LOOKED AT THOSE AWFUL, ICKY, HAIRY, WORM-LIKE THINGS CALLED A CATERPILLERS? THEY EVENTUALLY SECRETE THIS STICKY JUICE THAT HARDENS INTO A CASKET & THEN THEY DIE. OVER TIME THE CASKET SPLITS OPEN -- & OUT COMES THIS GORGEOUS BUTTERFLY. IF YOU LOOK AT A BUTTERFLY UNDER A MICROSCOPE, YOU WILL SEE THAT IT IS BEAUTIFUL BEYOND DESCRIPTION. CAN YOU SEE STANLEY NOW, FREE AS A BUTTERFLY? CAN YOU SEE HIM IN HIS GLADNESS & JOY & ABSOLUTE EXHILARATION. I CAN SEE JESUS REACHING OUT TO HIM WITH HIS NAIL-PIERCED HANDS TO EMBRACE & HUG HIM. STANLEY LOOKS AROUND AT THE MULTITUDES OF ANGELS & ARCH-ANGELS & THE COUNTLESS NUMBER OF THE REDEEMED & THEY ARE ALL SINGING AT THE TOP OF THEIR VOICES: SALVATION BELONGS TO OUR GOD & TO THE LAMB. THIS IS OUR FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISE, AS THE APOSTLE PAUL SAYS: GOD WILL GIVE US OUR FULL RIGHTS AS HIS CHILDREN. JESUS WILL WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS FROM OUR EYES. THERE WILL BE NO MORE WEEPING, NO MORE CRYING, THESE FORMER THINGS HAVE ALL PASSED AWAY. STANLEY IS WITH CHRIST IN GLORY

* Father ~ little girl can say, "Cardy."
Stars for all their immensity

We all emerged from a single cell.