

Living For Christ: Buddy Carrier

I wanted to let you all know that Dad died 3/25 after several hospital visits over the past 2 months with pneumonia and chronic lung issues. It was just 6 days short of the 1st anniversary of my Mom's death (3/31/19) and the past year has been hard for Dad without Mom. They gave him the coronavirus test March 19 and placed him in CCU quarantine, so it was very painful to not be with him and he was all alone for March 19-25. However, Christ was his strength and his comfort. We found out after he died, he did not have the virus. Due to virus rules per State of Virginia, we will only have an outdoor graveside service April 4 for 8 family members. We will then have a Celebration of Life in Christ Service in the next few months once it's safer and we are allowed to meet in groups.

I also want to share how he died as it's a testimony to how much our Heavenly Father loves us.

My last in person contact with him was wearing a gown, mask and plastic head/neck helmet in quarantine on March 19 in CCU. After that we could only talk on the phone and he was able to say goodbye to grand kids, his sisters, my wife, Roy, and I. So, he had 6 days alone (except his Heavenly Father was with him). On March 25, I called him for the last time and read him the verses below (see end of email). About 3-5 seconds after finishing the last verse of Psalm 23 ("Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever"), he stopped breathing and the nurse came on to say he had just died. **What a blessing the Lord allowed him to hear those words before seeing the Lord face to face.** Also, his favorite nurse from another floor was the nurse and her name was Tammy (my sister's name).

We can be assured by God's numerous promises that Dad is with the Lord, not because he was a good man and not because he did anything to earn his way to heaven. We can know because Dad accepted God's free gift of Jesus Christ to pay the price for all of Dad's sin and Dad made a decision to place ALL his trust in the Lord as his Savior and the Lord over his life, his choices, thoughts, and words.

Throughout his life Dad quietly loved others, served others and sacrificed for others so Christ could shine thru his life. Throughout his life and during the past few difficult weeks he has repeatedly said **he serves a good God, is thankful for all his blessings and trusts the Lord through it all.** I would at times enter his room and he would be praising his Father in prayer. It was so sweet to hear. He privately told me many times his **main life goal was to "at least touch one life so they can accept Christ, to experience the absolute joy/peace of Christ here, and to spend eternity with Him"**. He did that through his whole life all very quietly and without fanfare. Even on his last day here....he impacted his doctors for Christ.

After he died, his main hospital doctor called me to tell me that thru Dad's three week stay that he had never seen God displayed so much in a man's life, actions and words. He admitted that as a doctor he is not supposed to discuss God with patients and family, but he just had to share with me. He then opened up and shared his renewed desire to love and serve God more. He dedicated to his sister that night that he wanted to join a church and do more with his life to love and serve Christ....all because the Lord used Dad to show them God's love daily, how Dad cared about the doctors/nurses lives, and prayed for them. Dad did this while knowing he was going to die. **What an awesome Heavenly Father we have!**

Then a second doctor called me to tell me that Dad truly touched his heart in that through his pain/suffering Dad always asked about the doctor, thanked him for everything he did, and showed he cared for him.

Most that knew my Dad, Buddy, experienced the love of Christ in his eyes, his loving sacrifice and service for others, his encouraging words, and his unrelenting trust in his Heavenly Father thru all the good and hard times of life. One way Dad did this was by making over 10,000 "Smile God Loves You!" smiley face necklaces (see picture below) for children in the US (Eagle Butte), Bolivia, Nigeria, Moldova, Haiti, and several other countries. Over a decade, he painstakingly hand cut, sanded, and hand painted those 'Smile, God Loves You!' words over 10,000 times because he simply wanted others to know Christ and understand the overwhelming love of their Heavenly Father. Dad also wrapped, supplied gifts for, and packaged up thousands of 'shoebox' Christmas gift boxes for children around the world as part of the Samaritan's

Purse Operation Christmas Child project (See picture below). Most don't know any of this about him which is the way he wanted it....he wanted ALL glory to go the Lord.

Sorry for long note but I wanted to share how great our loving, gracious Heavenly Father is and how much he loved and cared for Dad and I thru this hard process....and **how much he loves you and sacrificed his precious son so you could have a personal, eternal relationship thru Jesus Christ. Please share with others to show the awesome power, sovereignty and love/goodness of our Lord!**

God Bless,
Brian Carrier (briancarrier5@gmail.com)

Verses Shared With Dad Before He Died:

Matthew 25:22-23: "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

Psalms 23:1-6 : "The Lord is my shepherd, **I lack nothing**. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, **he refreshes my soul**. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**"

