

For those of you who do not know me I am Bills sister Lisa.

My mother said that when she was pregnant with me she gave my brother a doll to and told him they were going to have a new baby, he carried that doll everywhere. When I finally came he was so excited, he called me his baby. He helped change my diapers and when I cried it made him cry too. He would climb up my crib and fall right on top of me; my grandmother said he's going to kill her. But he just loved me and wanted to be with me. Willie and I loved to play together. We played Batman and Robin, Army soldiers, he liked us to dress the part, and we wore soldier outfits and marched around the yard like real cadets. He even wore his soldier outfit to see Santa Claus. When we were a little older we rode bikes, he had a Schwinn Lemon Peeler. I checked it out on EBay, if he had that bike today it would be worth about \$3,000. We also enjoyed badminton in the front yard with neighborhood friends, practice casting with our fishing poles in the street, and a favorite - target practice with our BB guns in the backyard. Our parents were not rich people but they felt it was important to send us to private schools so they made that financial sacrifice. We went to Pinecrest School; He was an Honor Guard, which he loved because on Friday's he had the privilege of wearing a special uniform. We also learned songs like the Pinecrest theme song "Pinecrest is the very best, the very best school we know...we like being taught to do the things we ought to do every day...", "Up in the air JR Birdman", a real favorite, as well as an assortment of Jewish Holliday songs, "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel", etc... It was while at Pinecrest my parents found out that Willie tested as highly intelligent, he had a very high IQ, a photographic memory and tested at genius levels. When Willie graduated out of elementary school he decided to change his name to Bill. So from Jr. High on he insisted we call him Bill. We were raised by Christian parents who took us to church. Bill accepted Jesus as his savior at a very early age. The bible says in Proverbs 22:6 that if you bring up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Keep in mind that it doesn't say they won't ever stray, but we, as parents do have this promise that they will come back to Christ. Our family went to church Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday night for bible study, when we were young, Thursday night for Royal Rangers and Missionetts, and Saturday evenings here at

CFC were known as the Saturday Night Sing. Our family also served as Missionaries supporting orphanages in Mexico. The children there when they would see our camper coming onto their property they would holler out “Willie McCovey, Willie McCovey” that was the name of a famous baseball player back in those days. The children really loved Bill. He took his clarinet on several occasions to entertain the children there. Bills love for the clarinet and saxophone started after seeing the movie “The Sting” starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Learning to play instruments and read music came easily to Bill. My mother remembers him telling her that he could hear and pick out all the different instruments in songs he would listen to. Music was definitely a gift that the Lord blessed Bill with. I remember Bill was what he called jamming with a friend that consisted of playing the piano and singing. They were in the Living room at our house jamming and looking out through the front window they could see the neighbor’s across the street pointing at our house. They thought “wow, they like our music” and played even louder. Latter we found out that there was a monkey on our roof and the neighbors were just pointing at it, after all how often do you see a monkey on top of someone’s house? Bill attended LA Baptist High School from 10th grade through 12th. During that time he owned several cars, a Baja Bug, a SS Camaro, and a truck. He loved to drive fast, I remember a friend telling me that he drove 90 miles an hour down Woodley Ave. He loved working on and restoring cars. I remember I had a 67 Mustang and although I forget what went wrong with it, Bill told me he would help me repair it. While getting my hands dirty under the hood I cut my hand. My dad said that was the last time I would ever work on a car, he was right. Bill had several friends from LAB; some of you are here today. He also helped plan one of his late High school reunions and really enjoyed spending time with his classmates there. After High school Bill took up an interest in CB radios and worked at Buddy Sales, it was there that he met the love of his life, his wife Shannon. They were married in 1985. Bill was a machinist by trade. He even opened his own machine shop when he lived in the Antelope Valley; however he was in a serious car accident and had to let it go. Latter in his years of employment he was an inspector of machine parts and then became a quality assurance inspector, inspecting Rocket parts for the Aero Space industry. In his adult life Bill enjoyed fishing, bowling, and motorcycle riding. In fact he was

a motorcycle escort for funerals, he told me he rode his bike escorting Johnny Cochran's funeral. He also loved going on cruises, I know some of you here went on some of those cruises with him and his family.

My brother had a quadruple bypass when he was 36 years old. At that time he rededicated his life to Christ. I remember praying that prayer of rededication with him. It's through times like this that make you think about your life and where you are going, will I make it to heaven if I die? Do my kids know Jesus? My wife? Soon after Bills bypass Shannon gave her life to Christ, they became active members in their church and can't imagine life without Christ now. Bill enjoyed being a father and a grandpa to Ron and Angela's children; he loved his nieces Candace, Cassandra and Tiffany. And his son William was his treasure. Bills health started declining about 12 years after his bypass. All way up until the end of his life he enjoyed being on the music team at his church worshipping the Lord on instrument and in song. Bill loved playing at the Sounds and Grounds coffee house nights here at his church. He told me that when he played his horn in worship, he felt that God had given him extra breath to play. Not too long ago while Bill was at his wound care appointment he had the joy of meeting Andre Crouch. He was able to let him know how much he enjoyed his music and enjoyed playing and singing his songs at church. I remember my brother singing Andre's music, songs like To God Be The Glory and Through It All at the Saturday night Sings here at the church when we were teenagers.

Although many people prayed for a miracle to heal my Brother, which is scriptural, in James 5:16 it says to pray for each other so that you may be healed. Sometimes we get our healing right away and sometimes it comes overtime. Don't be discouraged, Bills miracle came in a different way, his miracle was going home to be with Jesus. Whether you live to be 2 or 92 our lives are short here on earth compared to all of eternity, which is unending. It's what you do here though that matters. What you do here - will determine where you will spend eternity. It's not by your works though; we are saved by God's grace. You see It doesn't really matter if you are rich or poor, infirmed or healthy because our time here is so minuscule in the scope of all eternity. Now Bill is without pain, running and

jumping, and full of joy. I can just imagine him worshiping and praising Jesus without limitation.

After my father died in 1985 I had a dream that I went to heaven to see him. When I arrived there, although it is difficult to describe, it looked like a beautiful city and I arrived just inside of the gate. I asked "where is my dad?" I had expected to see him there to greet me. I was told that he was busy at a convention worshiping the Lord and they would take me to him. The next thing I knew I was gliding, not swimming but gliding through a still, clear body of water, I didn't need to breathe, and I didn't get wet. I remember arriving to see my father and how happy he was there. After my brother passed away I told my friend Susan about my dream. She gave me a revelation that I never realized before, and honestly I think the Lord was holding this one just to comfort me at my brothers passing. It does say in the bible, Matthew 5:4 that God comforts those who mourn. My friend told me in the book of Revelation it talks about the Glass Sea that runs down the center of Heaven. She said that in your dream you were probably swimming in the Glassy Sea. This was very exciting to me. It's my belief that I had a dream or glimpse of heaven if you will. This revelation just made the dream I had years ago even that much more real to me.

If there is anything that I would like you to take away from Bills life is this. If you are not sure where you will be spending eternity, secure your spot and come to Christ. The back page of the bulletin will show you how to do that. Take your children to church, teach them about Jesus. So that you too can lay claim to the promise that when they are old, they will not depart from it.

Our ultimate purpose here on earth in the short time we are given here - is to tell others about Christ so they can know Him and Spend eternity in Heaven.

In closing:

To my precious Brother, well done thou good and faithful servant, I will cherish your memory in my heart forever, you will be greatly missed.