

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR YORKIE – JUNE 28, 2010

Shep: Let's pray - Father, Tonight is a very hard night for us -- and at the same time -- it's a celebration of sorts. Our dear sister, Yorkie, has gone to be with You Lord, and that we celebrate for her pain and suffering have ended, but our love of her and our fellowship with her has also ended for this present time. I ask Lord, be with us as we share tonight. I pray for direction as I lead this time of remembering her, and our testimony of her life and celebration, of her smile and love shine through it all. We give you praise and thanks in advance for what we know you are going to do -- in Jesus' name, amen

LRae: amen

LJ: amen

cakreci: amen

Shep: When I think of Yorkie, two things come to my mind – 1) prayer warrior and 2) eternal optimist. Whether she was hurting, feeling sick or having a 'pretty good day' Yorkie made it a point to stop in and say "I am praying for you." Or she would send an email and say "Tell everyone I am praying for them." While it was not uncommon for her to say "I am too sick to stay and chat" Yorkie never complained about being sick. Rather, she didn't want to 'burden us' with her illness and problems that never seemed to get any better – she wanted us to know she was still thinking about us and praying for us.

Ann\_van: That was the thing I so admired about her.

Shep: Yorkie was an encourager, pray-er and had a heart for each or her friends.

Shep: In Romans 1:11-12, we read "For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established – that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me." This is what a visit from Yorkie was like. When she came into the room – there was an encouraging word from her and because we share in the same love of Jesus Christ, we felt a hope for a better tomorrow, and the knowledge that our present circumstances were not our eternal destiny.

James 5:16b reads, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous (wo)man avails much." I believe being confined to a house and a bedroom for so many years, she learned the blessing/power of being a pray-er.

LJ: oh yes

Shep: I am sure that most of us could say they remember a time when Yorkie came into the room just long enough to say "I just wanted to say hi, and I am praying for you." then leave because she was too ill to stay on the computer. I believe that Yorkie's prayers for each of us and for Shepherd of Hope Christian Chat Ministry are still being heard at the foot of the cross!

Psalm 13 reads:

1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?

2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, Lest I sleep the sleep of death;

4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him"; Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.

5 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

6 I will sing to the LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

Shep: I would imagine most of us could say a hearty "amen" to verses 1 and 2, and I imagine Yorkie asked that a few times herself. But if we read on, we see in verse 5 "I have trusted in Your mercy" (past – trusted) and "My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation" (future – shall) then "I will sing to the Lord because He has dealt bountifully with me" (because of the past, I will sing in the present time because I can place my trust in YOUR WORD.)

Shep: Yorkie was an example of a 'Woman of Faith' – someone who truly walked according to her beliefs. I am sad that our earthly visiting is over, but I rejoice for her that her suffering was not in vain – that she suffered for Christ and that today, she is sitting with Jesus, whole, joyful, smiling, singing praises together with the saints,

rejoicing in the Salvation of Jesus Christ, and I speculate, asking Jesus to bless her friends at Shepherd of Hope Christian Chat & Chronic Illness.

I would like to open up for you to share your thoughts and memories of Yorkie. Please, feel free to just share from your heart. I will ask that you post a "!" mark and I will call on you so that we don't type over each other. When everyone has had an opportunity, we will close in prayer.

Shep: would someone like to start?

Ann\_van: !

Shep: please go ahead Ann -- TY for starting!

Ann\_van: Yorkie had a good sense of humor, which she would display on her better days. She liked to participate in the "Endorphin" nights

Shep: yes Ann!! That's for sure!!! Here's something that goes along with that Ann.

Shep: Probably one of my favorite memories of Yorkie will always be 'blonde joke time' when I tell that age old story about Yorkie and someone else, walking into a building. Then ask, I wonder why they didn't use the door. Yorkie would groan so loud I could almost hear her voice! When Harold and I first went to meet Yorkie, we met her and her mom at their home in Ohio. I just mentioned the blonde joke and she groaned! When she was in the hospital, we visited her there on a separate occasion, and I told her, when I picture you "walking into the hospital" it is always at that side entryway --- we both knew exactly where I was talking about whenever I told that joke. When we attended her funeral, we drove by that 'place' and I remember a tear coming to my eye as I said "I will always picture Yorkie walking into that hospital right there."

Ann\_van: That's sweet

Shep: LJ groans too

Ann\_van: lol

Shep: Did you hear about St. Peter and Yorkie walking into the Pearly Gates of Heaven?? They met Jesus on the other side!!! ☺

Shep: would someone else like to share a thought/memory?

Ann\_van: !

Shep: go ahead Ann

Ann\_van: I can imagine Jesus saying "Well done, thy good and faithful servant!"

Shep: oh yes!!! I thought that too Ann!!!

LRae: Now she really can walk through walls

Ann\_van: lol

Shep: amen!!! lol

Ann\_van: I think she is grinning right now

Shep: From hearing her eulogy --- I think she ALWAYS had a smile on her face!!! Her smile and her positive attitude were mentioned by many people! She was not a complainer.

LJ: i loved yorkie's sense of humor

**Shep: amen!!!**

**Jules: !**

**Shep: please go ahead Jules**

**Jules: She teased me once in jest about 'walking into walls as I often do from balance issues & she followed with "soon you'll be walking THRU walls like Jesus did."**

**Ann\_van: lol**

**Shep: awww sweet Jules!!!**

**Greeter-Beth: That's so neat Jules!! Wow!**

**Shep: here's another I have ready --- then if someone else has something -- please, post a "!" Another time that will always make me laugh hard enough to bring tears to my eyes is the time Yorkie told about an incident regarding her little Yorkie, Caitie. Caitie is only about 4-5 pounds. The first time we met her, she was wearing a pink t-shirt and blue jean coveralls... pink ribbons in her hair by her ears... and a frown! YORKIE loved pink and dressing Caitie up in human type clothing, but I am not sure Caitie was so crazy about the whole thing!**

**Shep: You may recall Yorkie telling about a time when she was in bed, trying to pull up the covers but they just wouldn't come up...She thought they were stuck, so she gave a hard TUG and then she heard a loud "thud" on the closet door! She sat up to see Caitie – dazed and confused – she had been flung off the end of the bed into Yorkie's closet door! She normally slept in a pink doggie house place beside Yorkie at the head of the bed...but this night, she had apparently thought it was safe to lie down near Yorkie's feet --- I bet she never did THAT again!**

**Shep: I can still cry laughing when I picture that!!! Thinking how can something so tiny hold her blankets down – lol (laughing out loud)**

**LJ: i was going to share about that too Shep; her super-dog - flying through the air.**

**Shep: please do LJ -- you may remember more about it than I did!!! I can laugh til I cry when I think of that!!!**

**Ann\_van: rofl (rolling on floor laughing)**

**Shep: probably the dog had on Pink PJS!!!!**

**Jules: lol-super-dog ROFL-sorry**

**Ann\_van: rofl rofl**

**Shep: probably most of us needed a LOO break after she told that one!!**

**Ann\_van: lol**

**Free2BMee: !**

**Shep: Free go ahead, please.**

**LJ: !**

**Greeter-Beth: !**

**Shep: LJ, after Free, please go ahead with what you wanted to share k?**

**Free2BMee: You know, it was a pleasure to 'get to know' Yorkie through her family's words, and as well through here at Shepherd of Hope. It always amazed me that no matter what kind of day she was having, just as you**

mentioned, she took time out to pray for us and chat with us when she could. It takes a person with a truly compassionate spirit to put aside their own health issues to the degree that they were and talk to others and share with them in their own life experiences. As I think about all the people I came across, it was touching to see how many people she touched and the stories that each and every one of us had.

Shep: so very true -- describes Yorkie very well indeed! Her eulogy was about her smile, her sense of humor and her compassion for other people ----

Free2BMee: That quote they said truly sounded like something she would say, I loved it.

Shep: if you remember it free -- feel free to share it. I remember her saying "No Doubt!" so many times when we were on the phone.

Shep: like "You should get a discount for all the time you spend at that hospital!" and Yorkie would laugh and say "No doubt!"

Free2BMee: "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, its about learning how to dance in the rain."

Ann\_van: Wow

Greeter-Beth: Wow is right!!

LRae: Makes me smile

Shep: oh yes, that was beautiful --- that's from the eulogy

Shep: they sang "Amazing Grace, my Chains Fell off"

Shep: how beautiful!

Shep: LJ -- you are welcome to post

LJ: yorkie showed us the importance of "checking in" - staying connected with each other and with our Lord

Ann\_van: yes. put me to shame

Shep: what a great point LJ!

cakreci: very true, LJ.

juju: she was truly a godly woman

Greeter-Beth: not always easy

Shep: even though it was brought out at the funeral that she was a very 'private person' -- I think most of us could say we knew her well ---- she really did check in with us! What a great observation LJ!

Ann\_van: !

Shep: go ahead please, Ann

Ann\_van: I remember about a year or so ago, we were having a prayer vigil for someone, and Yorkie hung in with us way after midnight-2 A.M. or so. I was impressed!

Shep: I think that was for Lukla one evening that we did that -- because for her time zone -- we had to meet in the middle of the night.

Ann\_van: Yeah, I think you're right

Shep: Beth -- did you have something to share?

Greeter-Beth: Yes. I appreciated a lot of the things already mentioned about Yorkie. Because I'm also a dog lover, I loved to hear about her tiny pups. I loved the story she told of how one of her dogs activated something on her wrist in the night and the medics came running to her side! Lol Remember that?

Shep: oh yes!!! That was Caitie again ----

Greeter-Beth: May have happened more than once - not sure

LRae: YES! Was just thinking about that night

Shep: Her mom was out of town and Yorkie was home alone!

Greeter-Beth: oh funny!!!

Shep: she is supposed to wear it all the time -- but took it off --- Caitie got a hold of it and chewed on it and set off the alarm.

Ann\_van: lol

Shep: the police, fire, ambulance, EVERYONE was at the house because they are aware of the urgency of her situation -- and Yorkie woke to this pounding on her door -- totally freaked out by all the lights flashing! She opens the door and a police woman asked "Are you okay?" and Yorkie is like "ya..... why wouldn't I be?" She said the neighbors were all outside and everyone was standing there -- her in her pjs.

Ann\_van: he he

Ann\_van: rofl

Shep: they said 'your alarm went off!'

Shep: and she found Caitie with it in her mouth ---

Greeter-Beth: She must have thought "Yea, man's best friend, but YOU, CAITIE, have just shortened my life!!! How she loved her dogs - and then was it some of her church friends who brought her a new puppy just a few weeks ago?

Shep: I don't know about that beth - a new puppy I mean - I don't know if she got a new puppy. Her surgery was just a few weeks before she passed away --

Greeter-Beth: I think it was just before her surgery. Does anyone else remember?

Anne\_in\_Vermont: yes Beth it was about a week or two before the surgery I believe

Greeter-Beth: A teacup yorkie - it was from one of the families in her church!!

Free2BMee: Oh yes that's right

LRae: Yes, the new one was only 1 lb

GlorytoGod: yes she got a new teacup yorkie

Shep: how sweet.

Shep: I know that when we took up a collection and sent her flowers and a big box of pampering things a couple of years ago -- she was SO happy and blessed -- she felt we were TRULY her friends!

LJ: (picture of rose) yorkie

Greeter-Beth: (picture of rose)

Shep: she named Caitie that after her mother -- Katie --- because she said she knew she could never give her a grandchild -- so she gave her a puppy.

Shep: (picture of rose)

Free2BMee: (picture of rose)

Shep: would anyone else like to share anything before I close in prayer?

juju: (picture of rose)

Free2BMee: I would if I could

LRae: !

Shep: please LRae

Shep: and free -- please share right after LRae is done - take your time!

LRae: I considered Yorkie a dear friend and I am really missing her. I feel so sad and teary as I think of my dear sister and how much she meant to me, even though I never got to meet her in person. She always brightened my heart, even if she could only be in the room for a minute. I, too, was always so impressed, inspired, and challenged by her heart for prayer and how she would always tell me she was praying for me. She always had a way of making me feel that it was okay to "unload" on her with my struggles even though she was feeling so awful. I was so touched and grateful for the way she made herself available to me and others like that. I also admired the way she cheerfully persevered. She was also honest about how she felt, but didn't dwell on how miserable she felt and always quickly turned things around to communicate interest in the other person. My heart aches that she's no longer going to be around to bring cheer to my day and a smile to my face and I will certainly miss her faithful friendship and prayers, but I am also thankful that her suffering has ended and she is with our dear Jesus, experiencing total wholeness.

LRae: I love you Yorkie! You will always be dear to my heart and my life is richer because I knew you.

Ann\_van: same here

Greeter-Beth: LRae, well said!!

Shep: amen!!! She surely did that well LRae -- I hear your heartache and loneliness for her

LRae: <<<sniffle sniffle

Ann\_van: (I'd like to add one last thing)

Shep: I was thinking -- it was just 5 days short of 6 months ago that Hope went to be with the Lord ---- we just don't know the time or the circumstances -- we need each other and we need to keep our eyes on JESUS don't we?

Greeter-Beth: thank you

Shep: I think free was next, then ann, if you want to follow

Shep: this has been a beautiful testimony of her life -- I think she would be happy to know how she blessed us all so richly!

Free2BMee: I don't know if I can see well enough at the moment to type this, but what beautiful words you just shared, LRae - all of you - tonight. I was talking to one of the friends after everything was done that day, and she was telling me a little bit about Yorkie's life. I was agreeing with the statement that Yorkie would always say, "I'm

hangin' in there." One of the times we had talked about meeting after she improved health-wise, we discussed the fact that her church was not far from me. When she found out where I was, she said one time, "Well, we might just have to have service in your backyard." lol

Ann\_van: cute

Greeter-Beth: aww!

Free2BMee: I told her if she did, the dogs could 'fellowship' too lol

Shep: oh sweet!!! I do wish you had met face to face -- but it was wonderful that you got to come to her funeral Free -- and we got to meet you in person ---

Free2BMee: I told you, Shep, that God would use that time

Ann\_van: I remember one of the times I had to be hospitalized for depression and Shep had organized a card shower for me. When I got home, it was waiting for me, and I found a card and a lovely note from Yorkie! It really put things in perspective for me that she would put her pain aside to encourage me.

Shep: she sure had a way of doing that ann -- HER pain was not her priority -- OUR prayer needs were! She was good at encouraging others.

Shep: I would like to thank everyone for their participation in the card shower for Yorkie's mom -- we raised \$200 which I have sent to her -- to help with funeral expenses -- she cried when I told her what we were doing.

Ann\_van: awwww....

Greeter-Beth: Bless her dear heart!

Shep: well, if no one else has anything to share -- I would like to close in prayer, then I have just been notified of something else I think we need to stop and pray for as well

Shep: LJ's mother passed away today --- she didn't mention it, but came in for the memorial time -- I put in an email to her telling her to call me at 10:15 if she would like to talk --- so we need to pray for her

Greeter-Beth: but she still came here - she had just come from the hospital

Shep: yes, she really loved Yorkie a lot -- they had gotten very close -- I know it's what kept her from coming to the room after the announcement -- so I am really happy she came out tonight too. Well, is there anything else to share on Yorkie? If not, I will close in prayer now - please, feel free to join in the prayers with me!!!

Shep: Let's pray then

Shep: Dear Heavenly Father, Abba, Daddy, the One who we can come to with our heavy hearts and burdens -- never to be turned away or told to 'wait' - You love us like little children -- and in some ways -- Yorkie is still a very young girl, and it just didn't feel right to say goodbye to such a young girl. But Lord, you have amazed us with what you can do in just 39 years in the life of someone willing to serve you with her whole heart!!!

Ann\_van: Yes Lord

Free2BMee: Yes Lord

Shep: She may have done more in her 39 years than some do in their 89 years!!! She surely touched the hearts of so many of us here.

Greeter-Beth: yes she did

Shep: the testimonial tonight is clear that she was a prayer warrior, and not a complainer, but an encourager to so many others; she brightened our day -- when her day was dim; she made us laugh, when she felt like crying; she brought joy and encouragement, she brought laughter and faith in Jesus ---- she was FULL OF LIFE -- and

indeed, while her life was not full of many days, her days were full of a LOT OF LIFE!!! She was FILLED with JESUS and she shared Him freely. We thank you for the blessing of having been able to call her "friend".

LRae: Thank you, Lord, for giving us such a dear friend and sister in Yorkie. We are eternally grateful to You for creating her life and for the blessing she was to us

Greeter-Beth: Thank you Lord

Shep: We thank you for the personal time she took with each one of us --- we can all attest to times of personal messages with her where it was ONE on ONE --- just YOU and Yorkie!!!! How blessed we each are to have those One on One memories with her!

Shep: she touched the hearts and lives of so many people and I believe You had a plan for her life ---

Anne\_in\_Vermont: Thank you Lord for the time you gave us with Yorkie and thank you Lord for putting her suffering to an end as well. We will miss her but she is now free and with you and happy

Free2BMee: Yes Lord, praise You for the blessing You brought us in Yorkie

Jules: and HEALED!!

Shep: You sent her into this world and even though much of HER life was in four walls and a house --- she reached out and touched SO MANY people - we do rejoice that her suffering is over, that she has heard "well done, my good and faithful servant" for indeed she is a powerful example of what it means to live your life for Jesus.

juju: thank your Lord for Yorkie and may your strength and peace be with her mother

LRae: Thank you for her inspiration and how her life challenges and encourages us to love like you

Shep: may we always remember her smile and her joy ---- and may we feel your comfort in our own hearts as we continue on this journey without her physically -- but always in our hearts

Shep: We do lift her mother, Katie and ask Lord that you would continue to strengthen her and encourage her

Greeter-Beth: Thank you that our memories of her will motivate us to be loving, honest, praying, strong followers of you

Ann\_van: Yes Lord

LRae: yes

Shep: bring friends around 'after the immediate situation' is over --- that time when is feels so LONELY

Greeter-Beth: oh yes Lord'

juju: yes Lord

Free2BMee: Yes Lord

Shep: draw friends to her side to help her stand and draw her to YOU LORD as never before -- may Yorkie's faith, as rich as it was, leave an indelible mark in her families lives.

LRae: please Lord

Shep: we loved her so much Lord, but we know that you loved her even more than we could ever imagine!! And You LOVE US in that same way

Ann\_van: Yes Lord. May Katie feel your presence as never before

**Shep: THANK YOU JESUS for your powerful, all-mighty love for us**

**Greeter-Beth: Thank you that one day, maybe soon, we will meet Yorkie and Hope in Heaven**

**juju: (picture of rose)**

**Free2BMee: Yes Lord**

**Shep: thank you Jesus for the memories and friendships we have of Yorkie --- may she now rest in peace -- and until then.... may we continue to be the people you created us to be!**

**LRae: yes**

**Shep: in Jesus wonderful and powerful name, Amen**

**Greeter-Beth: Amen**

**Ann\_van: Amen**

**Free2BMee: amen**

**Ter: Amen**

**brennza: amen**

**LRae: Amen**

**Shep: (picture of rose)**

**Greeter-Beth: (pic of rose)**

**Anne\_in\_Vermont: amen**

**Ter: I love you and will miss you my friend Yorkie.....**

**Shep: amen!!!**