

Even though Raquel and I are in the Philippines, we were able to attend the funeral for Dad via Skype and Shoni's iPod. Thanking the Lord for new technology. Also thanking Him that we had great internet connections during the whole time. Only an hour beforehand there had been no internet connection and shortly afterwards the internet connection again went down.

The viewing was on Thursday 10-11 AM and Raquel and I were able to see and chat with most of my relatives and friends that were gathering in the Shepherd of the Valley Church. Shoni would walk around with her iPod handing it from one person to the other. It was great seeing those close to Dad and us. Then during the service (11-12:30 AM) Shoni pointed her iPod towards the pulpit and we were able to see and hear those who shared and sang, catching most of what was said. I want to especially thank my sisters Beth and Debra for all their hard work in preparing for the funeral. Also special thanks to my friend Pat Lunemann who read my blurb on Dad (see attachment if interested). I could not have picked a better reader, Pat being gifted by God with a booming distinctive bass voice. Pat also sang a couple of songs: "This is my Father's World" and "How Great Thou Art".

Much was said about Dad by his pastor, my siblings and niece, but I'll try to summarize what they said, mainly mentioning those characteristics about Dad that I failed to mention about him in the attachment:

Dad's Pastor: Really appreciated dad's faith in Jesus and his profound insights during Bible studies. He also mentioned that Dad was a superb teacher, which was echoed by my brother-in-law having attended a few of Dad's lectures and observing that Dad would even get standing ovations in his classroom. [I myself took a number of credits in college from dad due to the fact he was a superb teacher. And he continued to allow God to use this gift of his even up to his passing at 86 years of age.]

My brother Tim: Dad was a searcher of truth and was not afraid to express what he believed in, even if it was not popular. Others too were amazed that dad would read for hours a day, even when his health was failing – mainly books related to nutrition and the body and religion. [Kermit's reflection: May we all follow Dad's footsteps in walking in the truth, and never stop wanting to learn more from the truth we can gain especially from God's Word.]

My brother Doug: Doug shared that when he was in his younger years of elementary school, Dad received a call from school that Doug was regularly late arriving at school. Dad then took time off from his normal working hours to follow Doug as he walked to school. There was some construction work going on and Doug would stop and watch it all happening for some time. Dad then called the school and just told them that for the next few weeks Doug would be late. Besides Dad's lack in ability with regard to music, he also was not gifted or all that interested in mechanics or construction (similar to his other son Kermit). However he recognized this need in his son Doug, and being a wise father figured this would be more beneficial to Doug than his being on time at school. [Kermit's reflection: may we recognize that we all have special gifts and interests and encourage (like Barnabas and Dad) others in utilizing and growing in their

particular gifts.]

My sister Debra: Not only was Dad very interested in nutrition and lived the talk, but he also shared this knowledge with others due to his concern for their physical well being. Even when he was in the hospital, he would try to impart this knowledge to the hospital staff. I know that Dad was astounded at what the medical world can do in the area of surgery. But it also astounded him at how ignorant they are when it comes to nutrition. [Kermit's reflection: May we recognize that God created this body of ours, but also made us responsible for what goes into it. May we be wise as we (in cooperation with the creator and great healer) maintain this body of ours. Dad's main emphasis (from what he gained from all his research and experience) was organic and natural, which makes sense – since it would seem that God would be wiser in producing nutritious foods for us than we with the use of chemicals.]

My niece Juanita: In tears she mentioned that Grandpa was her best friend. She also commented that recently she experienced another disappointing miscarriage, this last time with twins. Grandpa however greatly encouraged her, held her hand, and told her he would most likely see her twins before she would, and he would give them a hug and tell them their mother loved them. [Kermit's reflection: Dad indeed was a great encourager, a great Barnabas. May our heavenly Father empower us all to be likewise.]

[Final reflection from me, Kermit: We often take so much of life for granted. So many of our parents good characteristics are not really appreciated until their passing. Like all of us, Dad of course had weaknesses, but he did bless a multitude with his knowledge and gift of teaching and in expressing the characteristics of love found in 1 Corinthians 13 (the passage read during his funeral). May we too, with the help of the Holy Spirit be patient and kind, not jealous or boastful or proud or rude, not demand our own way, not irritable, and not keeping a record of being wronged, not rejoicing about injustice but rejoicing whenever the truth wins out, never giving up on one another, never losing faith in one another, but always being hopeful, and continuing to love people and to refuse to stop believing and hoping in one another. Of course none of us while in this flesh will ever be perfect with the above characteristics. However the Easter season reminds us that our relationship with our Creator and Father is not dependent upon following all the above to the max. We are privileged to be children of a loving Father who gave His Son on our behalf, that His blood has made us clean, and His resurrection is our assurance that He is greater than death, that death has been conquered. May He be praised this day and forever.]