

Dan Pruett

The voice of Dan Pruett will forever ring in the ears of those who heard it. It was loud, articulate, confident, and definitive. Dan spoke as if every word he said were the absolute truth. Sometimes it was. Always he made you listen. He made you think. He made you shake your head. And he made you love him. A voice like that echoes from one room to the next and from one generation to another.

Dan had big ideas about his life and about your life. No matter who you were he would fit your life into his, and you would feel honored by the privilege. He was used to managing things and managing people. So when he came up against an illness he could not manage, his circumstances seemed incompatible with the man we knew. The shock and sorrow that has surrounded Dan's battles with cancer especially these past few months can only be explained by the immensity of Dan's character. He burned with energy so bright that he seemed inextinguishable.

Yet for all his bravado, he was never a steely Dan. He warmed his heart with love for his colleagues and friends, and especially his family. God really blessed Dan with his family. I am partial because he shared his family with mine, especially with two of my nieces. We became part of a life so full of love and activity that most people would need a second life to experience what Dan did in one.

It's that warmth at the center of Dan's life that remains inextinguishable. It is what helped him accept this final illness with utmost grace. I am confident that Dan knew about all the love overflowing from the hearts of people like you, and that this sustained him when he needed it most. The last words I heard Dan speak were, "I love you, Paul." If he could say those words to me, he would have said them to every one of you.

Dan had a voice. And Dan had words.

Jesus also had a voice, and these were his words: "The hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live... all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out."

Tonight we gather in this sacred space because of our faith in Christ, his words, and the power of his voice. In goodness, God gave us the incomparable gift of the life of Dan Pruett. Dan will live on in his family and in his friends. He will live on in laughter and in charity. He will live on in confidence and in faith. The gift of Dan will never die.