

It all began with Steve's vision. He started seeing double. And through it all he was a perfect patient; he never complained. As I told Mark and Shirley, I've never seen an adult accept treatment and discomfort as patiently as Stevie did. It's almost as if he wasn't just seeing double. Perhaps he was seeing deeper. Maybe we all could use a little of Stevie's vision.

Certainly his vision included the story of today's Gospel. Jesus loved children. "Don't hinder them," he says, "let children come to me." He put his hands on them and embraced them. We need have no fears about letting Steve run to the arms of Christ today. Jesus loved children. And he loves Stevie.

I could see this image of Jesus each time I went to the Geier home. Mark and Shirley, you are Christ for your children. You have embraced them with the arms of Jesus. You have loved them. For me, to watch you has been to watch Christ. I have complete confidence that Steve will continue to receive the loving care you have begun.

The Book of Revelation gives us a vision of another life where the Lamb of God will reign. Maybe for Steve this will be the Ninja Turtle of God, I'm not sure. But the kingdom is one where there are no more tears, no more hunger or thirst, no more heat. And life lasts for ever.

Steve's life with us may have been short, but it was complete. Steve lived five years, but some of us will live eighty-five years and never bring about the love, care, and respect for human beings that Stevie Geier accomplished. His life was brief, like a poem, like a summer flower, like a Saturday morning cartoon. He charmed us and he enriched the lives of those who knew him. Personally, I have felt a special love for Steve because another member of his family was one of my best friends, and David died after a brief life. I know personally from another member of Steve's family that you don't need to live long to have a profound impact on someone's life.

In the vision of Jesus with the children, Jesus admonishes us to accept the kingdom of heaven like a child. Stevie did more. He not only accepted the kingdom; he accepted the cross. We shall be blessed indeed if we accept the kingdom of heaven like this child.

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