

Tribute/Memorial for Dan Cummings

Death Came Out of Due Season

In 1984 I meet a young man that was the pastor of Hudsonville Baptist Church. I knew the first day we met that a lifelong friendship had begun. We talked about ministry and all of its facets many times. It soon became clear this young man had a heart for God and for God's people. Dan had a mind full of questions in the area of theology. We spent hours talking about God and his sovereignty as well as the wonder of the work of Christ on behalf of his church.

He was kind to include me in his plans for preaching as the church grew and new facilities were built. The name was changed to Grace Community Church and the work flourished under his leadership. He moved on to Five Points Community Church in Auburn Hills where he again included me in many aspects of his ministry including the wonderful Spurgeon Conferences at Camp Barakel. His passion for God continued to grow and he remained open and teachable in areas of ministry. Again the work of the Lord flourished under his hand.

In May of 2008 he called me and informed me of the diagnosis of fourth stage colonic cancer. He asked me if I would walk through this with him and I readily consented. After much prayer, hope and many treatments nothing stayed the development of this cancer so Dan asked if I would help him die well. Again I said yes, but this time my heart was broken. Olde Pilgrims ought to die before young pilgrims. God in his providence allowed me to be with Lonette, Sara, Benjamin and Bradan the evening that Dan died. The children proffered their love for their dad and expressed their gratitude for his fatherly care amidst the tears and grief of their souls. Lonette held him in her arms and expressed what every husband would hope his wife would say at his death. I recited some of his favorite passages and held him and prayed.

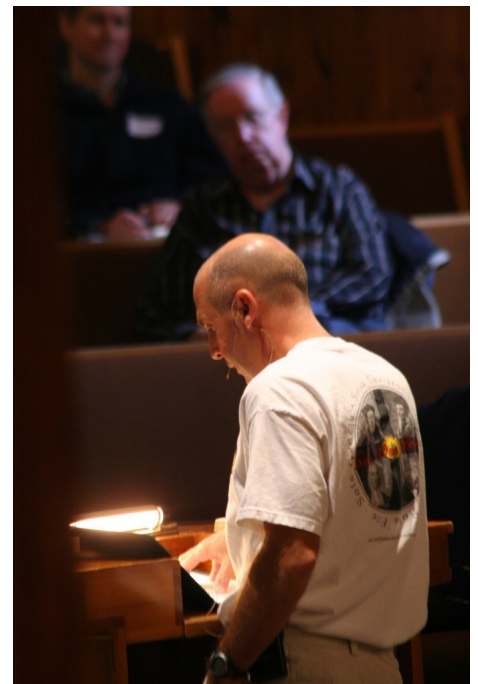
Dan Cummings died well. No fear or struggle as death came. His confidence in his Savior never wavered. His love for the Savior was as evident in his death as it was in his life. The Puritans used the word *quietus* to describe dying well. Dan was released from his mission of preaching to quietness on earth. His voice now sings and speaks in the throne room. Given the honor of delivering the funeral homily the gospel, from Genesis to Revelation, could be the only focus. The Gospel Dan loved and lived was the appropriate tribute to a faithful servant who died well and is now in the City. He will be carried in my heart until we meet in the city.



How He Loved to Preach Christ!



Teaching Spurgeon Conference



The Olde Pilgrim Listening Intently to the Young Pilgrim