

Dan Jeffries Memorial Service

We are gathered today to celebrate the life of Danial Price Jeffries.

We are joined today by Dan's immediate family, his wife Megan, his daughter Josie and his son Tyler. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them at this difficult time. We are also joined by all of you, Dan's friends, co-workers, his motorcycle club brothers and by many of the motorcycle community that knew Dan and loved him.

I spoke with Megan, Dan's wife last week, and learned a few interesting things about Dan. First, I learned that Dan had a strong desire to be a police officer from a very young age, because he really wanted to help people. Helping people was one of Dan's strongest desires, and he was willing to go to great lengths to do that.

In fact, Dan only decided to leave the police department because he found a job at the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute that allowed him to help even more people by working on traffic and motorcycle safety, awareness, education, and writing grants for these programs. Then, four years ago Dan had an opportunity to join the Texas Department of Transportation as a Strategic Planner, doing the same work, but with a bigger budget so he could help even more people. Our community of course have been the beneficiaries of Dan's great work in motorcycle safety.

Dan was clearly a special person. I met him only a few times, and I wish I had gotten to know him better. I have heard from many of you that Dan was a very funny guy, and it seems he was loved by everyone. From what I have heard Dan was one of the most selfless people you could ever meet.

Dan was a man of faith. He was baptized in the Episcopal Church, and after he and Megan got married he converted to Catholicism. To say that Dan was a man of faith, I don't mean that he just believed that there is a God. Dan believed much more than that, he believed that God was in control of his life, and he encouraged his children to trust God and that even when things didn't seem to go well, God was still in control and He was actively working in their lives to give them the best life they could have.

It is hard for those of us that remain behind to understand why God would take Dan so early. He was only 47, and I understand a recent physical examination didn't reveal any serious problems with his heart. I don't know why God took Dan now, I only know that Dan was spiritually ready when God said it's time.

I know many of you do have a relationship with God, and that some of you are "on the fence", either because you think you can't ever be good enough, or because you believe you have done too many bad things to be forgiven, or you just don't see the need for God.

I want to be very clear here; God will never accept you on the basis of what you have done, or will ever do. He accepts you based on what His Son Jesus has already done. The penalty for living an imperfect life (as we all do) is eternal separation from God, but Jesus took that penalty on Himself by dying on a cross for the sins of all of us. The only thing we have to do is accept the gift the God offers to us, which is simply to admit we are not perfect, and then receive the forgiveness that God offers us. Then He will begin a relationship with us and start revealing His plan for our lives. I beg you, please don't wait too long.

Finally, we have talked at length about how much Dan wanted to help everyone he met. I believe that Dan's desire to help people came from his living relationship with God. There is no greater joy that a man or woman can have than to see and experience God working in and through you in the lives of everyone around you.

Ok, well, there is actually one greater joy than that. The joy Dan is experiencing right now as he rides his motorcycle along side Jesus as they wind through the heavenly highways. Enjoy the ride Dan, and we thank you for sharing your life with us.