



Rev. Jim Craig 1942-2017

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

June 2017

“Passing into Glory”

Dear friends,

Some of you already know. The LORD took Pastor Jim home to Himself at 4:32 a.m. June 1, 2017.

Jim beat the cancer by the faith God gave him -- tests were showing little trace of it as of May 31st. In fact, a few days prior, the doctors expected improvement to the point that Jim could "come home." So we were in the process of doing all the preparations for that: talking with home health service personnel, organizing the house, etc.

But the 2nd round of chemo (which the doctor broke up into small sessions over 5-6 days (as best as he could to lessen the impact) apparently had so overwhelmed his immune system more than the first round had that he could not recover. The non-functioning immune system allowed for pneumonia and sepsis infection (system-wide) to set in. All of his organs shut down and could not recover. It was God's love and will, the only One who holds the power of life and death, to take him.

We will be holding a "Celebration of the Life of Jim Craig" Sunday, June 11th, 4:30 p.m. at Craighouse Christian Fellowship, 114 East McNab Road, Pompano Beach, FL. This will be an informal time of sharing and remembering Jim's remarkable life. I always call him "the Renaissance Man." He was gifted in any area in which he chose to pursue.

We ask that you NOT send flowers. The church is in a shopping center and not open except at our meeting times. If sent to our home, they have to go in "cat-free" zones because cats love gardens and flowers and such...so much so that you can imagine what happens!

We know that most of you will not be able to attend the memorial celebration, but we ask that you take some minutes to celebrate Jim's life.

Those of you who desire, may give as you are led to: Mary Craig Ministries, Inc., c/o Craighouse Christian Fellowship, 114 East McNab Road, Pompano Beach, FL 33060, in honor of Jim and in his memory.

An obituary is attached, and I also understand that Dignity Memorial, Kraeer/Fairchild Funeral Home, Fort Lauderdale, FL, has a page set up for Jim. <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Walter+James+CRAIG&lc=7092&pid=185691573&mid=7432308>

We are not having a funeral because upon being born again, born-out-of-God, in September, 1972, Jim's greatest passion was to know the truth. Even more than his love for music, especially Jazz, Jim loved the original languages of the Bible. For 45 years he studied New Testament Greek, Hebrew, and Ancient Hebrew diligently to get to the truth. He found that truth to be Jesus Christ alone. He knew the LORD best as Guardian and always told our family through the time of our 48-year marriage that God always protects us and we would make it through. Since February 2nd, when this nightmare began, he clung to this verse:

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. The one who believes in Me, though he were dead; yet shall he live. And whosoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11: 25, 26)

Jim believed with all his heart.

Jim and I had the kind of marriage that we were always together, except for a few years when he worked outside the home. Crossing mountains and valleys in the journey which is life, we were friends. Ours was a covenant of companionship. The Bible says that a cord of three is not easily broken. Our cord consisted of the two of us and Jesus Christ. That covenant, according to the Scriptures, is now broken; but we have the memories. Jim had a habit of writing little notes. They are everywhere. It will tell us more about him. Only the Living God knows us through and through, and only the Living God walks with us and shares our lives in their finite details.

So, to many of you this may seem strange; I don't care right now. But the morning of June 2nd, I clearly heard, "It is just as He said."

The Resurrection

...But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. [He is not here; He has risen, just as He said! Come, see the place where He lay.](#) Then go quickly and tell His disciples, 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.' See, I have told you."...

What Jim suffered those last hours was like being crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20). Years ago, Jim and I took a "spiritual gifts" questionnaire. I came in at zero for martyrdom, but Jim came in with a high score. The word "martureo" in Greek means "witness." Jim's Christian life is a witness, a testimony. He did not love his own life even unto death. (Revelation 12:11)

"And they overcame him (the Accuser) by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

Jim overcame. Even when his mind was affected by high ammonia levels and he would hold his head, he boldly proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whose he is and whom he served. The legacy of his life is just that: A Life Overcoming.

The day of May 31st, I happened to read: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." I "shelved" it because we fully expected Jim to come home. Instead, he went home and passed into glory.

Thank you for your prayers, your love, your sharing of Jim stories. May you be blessed and encouraged. Attached is Jim's obituary.

Sincerely in love,

Mary Craig

Mary Craig, D. Min.

I have fought a good fight,
I have finished *my* course,
I have kept the faith:
henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day:
and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.
(The Apostle Paul, 2 Timothy 4:7, 8)

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