

Holy Play

A South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo Publication

Rest In Peace Sweetie Belle

Friends, brothers, and sisters in Christ, I come to you today with a heavy heart. I just placed to rest a dear companion, My Rottweiler Lab mix named Sweetie Belle. She had been by our side for eleven years. She watched out for our house, our family and was always there to greet us with a smile. She never whimpered, complained about her food, or complained about her aches and pains. She was loyal, obedient and would have been a great mother.

When she came to us she was just a pup about thirty pounds. Some one had left her on the dirt road by my house. The first time I saw her she just hunkered down and waited for something bad to happen. You could tell that she had been abused. Her tail was cropped but whoever did it cropped it to short. When she saw you coming you could only see a nub wagging but you knew you were being welcomed.

I appreciate you letting me share this with you. I know you animal lovers out there will understand but I wanted to point out that God comes to us in many ways in our environment.

Sweetie Belle was a four legged angel. I remember telling my wife that we need a good old yard dog at this house out in the country. Almost the next day my wife woke me and said. "Your order is here." I said what are you talking about? She said go outside and look. From that day she was special. We went to obedience training together and she taught me more that I ever taught her. She taught me what it means to love unconditionally. In other words in her on way she showed me the love of Christ.

Of course I'm not comparing my dog to Christ but I am looking at the way Christ loves us. He always forgives when we ask. He watches over us, accepts us just the way we are, and welcomes us back with open arms if we are disobedient. He never complains if we don't spend enough time in his presence but is still willing to share with us the greatest gift of all. He gives us a pathway back to our source, the creator of all things, our God, who created us and my dear friend Sweetie Belle. Praise God almighty for all he has done, is doing and will do.

Please remember to uplift Tom and our team as they prepare for Coed #13 and especially pray that we share the love of Christ with those who will attend and all involved. Again run like the wind Sweetie Belle, I'll be along in a little while. In the mean time I'll practice what I learned from you.

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