

## "Ten Pages Later"

March 28, 2004

I actually knew Ken from a different venue than the church. Ken was a member of the health club where I work as a personal trainer one day a week. At forty-eight years old, Ken was in excellent health and greatly liked by the other members of the club.

While attending his parent's 50th wedding anniversary in Palm Beach, Florida, Ken decided to take the family to the beach for a fun afternoon of swimming and doing what most folks do at the beach. What he didn't know was that there were dangerous rip currents that day due to a large storm off shore. Suddenly, two of his nieces were caught by one of them and pulled out to sea. Ken dived in after them and perished in his attempt to rescue them. The children, however, were saved by other on sight rescuers.

In his obituary, Ken was eulogized as *"unabashedly enthusiastic about everything he was involved in, whether it be his beloved Red Sox, his colleagues, his new second home in Gloucester or most significantly, his family ... most professionals say all the right things about putting their families first, but Ken meant it and lived it every day. He went out of his way to schedule his work obligations around the needs of his family without ever letting down his clients or colleagues."*

The obituary went on to say that Ken was particularly noted for his generosity and hospitality and, in particular, welcoming many of his firm's foreign visitors to his home. He was extremely proud of his wife and two daughters, and regularly shared updates of their activities and accomplishments with his colleagues.

Ironically, for me at least, just ten pages later in the same section of newspaper was a wonderful write up of our church's recent "Teddy Bear Picnic". [To read this write up click here.](#) I thought to myself, what could possibly connect these two events and I came up with the Biblical admonition, *All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands forever. (Isaiah 40:6-8).*

Our life on earth is very short indeed when compared with "forever". We ought to go about living it with purpose and energy and celebration (it's the reason I get into trouble for insisting to lavishly celebrate Easter Sunday).

Generosity of spirit is best measured by a life that reflects those values that Ken lived and practiced. I shall miss you my friend.