

Children's sermon: January 8, 2012

"Rocky"

Our story today is dedicated to Rocky Clark ... an incredible young man ... who died on Thursday night ... and his equally incredible mom – Annette – who stood by him every moment-and-step of the way. Rocky was paralyzed from the neck down ... after being tackled in a high school football game in September of 2000. He played for Eisenhower High School ... AND HE WAS GOOD!!

Oh, I have a song. It's my favorite "non-church" song ... but today ---- it is a church song.
"Gonna fly now."

You mean you don't know where this came from???? ----- you kids are way too young!@!!
It's from the movie "Rocky I" ...

Look at this football named Rocky.

Solid. Strong. Inspirational.

He played with such spirit. And so often ... when Rocky would go out ... people would come up and ask for his autograph. This football is full of signatures of people who admired him.

And then it happened. An ordinary day ... an ordinary game.

Rocky is tackled ... and he will never walk again.

Rocky spent the next 11+ years as a quadriplegic.

I'm sure he had his doubts ... what could have been? ... will people remember me?

Like this football here ... he is "deflated" ----- he can't roll and bounce and fly through the air like he used to.

And yet ... over time ... thanks to his incredible mom ... his friends ... and people who care -----

ROCKY'S SPIRIT KEPT ON SOARING.

Balls of all shapes and sizes ... balls of all colors and religions ... balls who never even knew him ...

they came by ----- to be touched and inspired by Rocky's story.

And not just his story ... but by the courage and grace ----- coming from his soul and his mom's ...

Rocky died this week.

Yet his spirit ... it will grow ... and fly ... and make a difference forever in our world.

Think of Rocky this week. Pray for his mom --- Annette.

Pray for all those who have been touched by his journey.

Rocky is "flying" now ... in a kingdom "way above the clouds."

Here is a gift for each of you ---- a football. But ... it's more than a football ... it's a symbol of an incredible young man ... and an incredible journey.