

Saturday Evening Devotion

Oshkosh YMCA Wisconsin

Hil:

Hi everyone! For those of you that don't know, this past February we lost one of our teammates who was a big part of our lives. There was a car accident where 4 of our teammates were coming back from a swim meet. While three were severely injured, Natalie Bolin, our sister and friend, lost her life. Natalie's purpose in life was to bring joy to the world and put smiles on people's faces. Natalie was known for her infamous smile and infectious laugh that filled the room. At this meet, our goal was to carry out her bright spirit.

Siri:

Natalie's last day was filled with things she loved to do. She started her day off with her favorite breakfast, Swedish pancakes. Natalie and her sister, Leah, spent the rest of their of their morning volunteering at the local hospital. Helping others was a high priority in Natalie's life. After volunteering, Natalie, her sister Leah, and friends Rachel and Jennifer took a road trip to Madison, WI for the boy's high school state swim meet. Natalie had a blast cheering her friends on, especially one boy in particular.

Abbey:

After the meet, the girls went to their favorite place to eat, Noodles! I'm sure many swimmers can relate. On the drive home, the car was filled with lots of laughter and singing like always. Natalie was able to thank her Mom for giving her the chance to go to the meet and told her Mom she loved her. She was also able to congratulate her sister, Stephanie on her swims at Conference and talk with her other sister, Ashley, during her last few hours. Family was the most important thing in Natalie's life, so being able to talk with all her family members was very special.

Leah:

Hi I'm Leah, Natalie's sister, and I had the honor of sharing Natalie's last day with her. This week at Spring Nationals, Rachel and I, and the rest of our national team are swimming in honor of Natalie. We hope that you all enjoy your last night of the meet by swimming your best and having fun, because that's what Natalie would want. This day proved that Natalie embraced every moment in life without knowing which day was her last. Live everyday to the fullest and take nothing for granted. Good luck guys and swim your heart out!

Rachel:

I'm Rachel and I was part of the accident. Please bow your heads:

Dear Lord, Thank you for providing us the opportunity to swim here at Nationals this year. As many of us continue to heal both physically and mentally, we ask you to give us the courage to accept the things we cannot change and the strength to change the things we can. Please watch over us on this last night of competition and challenge us to be the best we can.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.