Todd Gibbs Book

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Cystic Fibrosis is an inherited disease that causes mucus to build up in a patient’s lung and digestive tract. It leads to an early death.

In this week’s “View from the Hill”, Amy Bingham has more on a book detailing how a ’94 WKU graduate refused to let the illness keep him from living.

The book is called “Not a Wasted Breath” and it was truly how Todd Gibbs lived his life. When diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at age five, doctors said Todd wouldn’t live past the age of twelve. But they didn’t know Todd and the zest he had for life.

“Little man that thought he was seven foot. He knew there were 24 hours in a day but he tried to put 36 in it.”

Larecea Gibbs is describing her son Todd, who succumbed to cystic fibrosis at the age of 31…nearly two decades past his life expectancy.

“ I think Todd was touching so many lives and spreading God’s love that God gave him those extra years.”

Many of the lives Todd touched were in his native Allen County and at Western Kentucky University.

“He was a basketball referee so I knew him through basketball coaching, coaches who would talk about him, knew him through Lady Invitational of the South.”

A popular newsman in Scottsville with the nickname Scoop, Todd was eventually recruited by Younglove to work in WKU’s media office.

“I called him and said hey you have any interest in helping out? We could use some help in our office, you know exactly what we do.”

It was another part of his very busy life that also included battling a fatal disease.

“You wouldn’t think he had this debilitating disease, whatever the doctors told him you knew he was gonna beat the odds, he was always gonna beat the odds.”

And he did beat the odds, until 1995. Now more than 15 years later, he continues touching lives through a new book his mother has written called “Not a Wasted Breath.”

“I argued with God for 14 years, now God, do you really want me to do this?”

The answer was yes and He even told her how to arrange it.

“Do it in three parts, put Todd’s writings, you can tell your story and get other people to share their memories.”

Mrs. Gibbs says this is a book about living, not about dying and it highlights her son’s unwavering faith and his sense of humor.

“Todd’s in heaven going I wrote a third of the book and moms getting all the credit.”

She says the response to the book has been more than she could have imagined and its rewarding to share it with others.

“When I wrote, I was hoping it would touch one life.

LaRecea Gibbs will be signing her book at the Southern Kentucky Book Fest on April 16th at the Carroll Knicely Conference Center.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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