

Wedged in a Cave

Jason Tuskes was a 17-year-old high school honor student. He was close to his mother, his wheelchair-bound father, and his younger brother. Jason was an expert swimmer who loved to scuba dive.

He left home on a Tuesday morning in 1987 to explore a spring and underwater cave near his home in Brooksville, Fla. His plan was to be home in time to celebrate his mother's 42nd birthday by going out to dinner with his family that night.

Jason became lost in the cave. Then, in his panic, he apparently got wedged into a narrow passageway. When he realized he was trapped, he shed his yellow metal air tank and unsheathed his diver's knife. With the tank as a tablet and the knife as a pen, he wrote one last message to his family: *I love you Mom, Dad, and Christian*. Then he ran out of air and drowned.

A dying message – something communicated in the last few seconds of life – is something we cannot ignore.

God's final words to us are etched on a Roman cross. They are blood red. They scream to be heard. They, too, say, *I love you!*

--Beecher Hunter