

# Daniel Harper

Daniel Harper has been selected for Alumnus of the Year because of the legacy he left during his last sixteen months of life.

Diagnosed with a malignant glioblastoma brain tumor in the summer of 2007, Daniel approached his cancer with the same intensity with which he had lived up to that point. His disease only made him bolder and more on-purpose. The energy and risk-taking he had previously poured into board sports and making money was now channeled into fighting cancer.

Cancer transformed Daniel's life. While he never lost his passion, enthusiasm, sense of humor, drive, or desire to achieve, Daniel's focus began to change. His once-held desires to achieve material things in this life were radically changed as God transformed and renewed his purpose for living.

Sixteen months before Daniel died, he began sharing his thoughts and experiences with the world through his blog, "Precision Points of a Called Christian." Daniel was a great writer and his edgy humor and articulate way of driving home an important spiritual truth caught the attention of many who began to follow his blog. Just nine months before he died, Daniel wrote: *I have no idea how this whole journey with cancer will all play out. But when I look back on what's already happened, it's mind-boggling to recognize all the things God has done to get me this far. Mind-boggling how He could use this nasty disease to totally reshape my life: to alter my apathetic attitude towards Him and His son's sacrifice made SPECIFICALLY for me, to renew my vigor for life, and to awaken a thirst for knowledge and other interests I didn't even know I had...* (From his blog "Tears, Fears and Seizures," November 29, 2010.)

Daniel poured himself into life and ministry during those months of battling cancer. When he could no longer engage in paid employment, Daniel looked for ways to minister to others through his church, as well as on his own. His blog writing is one of the most powerful aspects of his legacy. Now a book, *Daniel's Blog* contains 41 of his 72 blogs, which continue to inspire and bless readers.

Supported by the fierce love and strong faith of his wife, Logan, his parents, siblings, extended family and friends, Daniel bravely fought for his life. Ultimately, he lost his battle with cancer, but through Daniel's life and death many were brought into a saving relationship with God.

Up to this point, those selected as honored alumni have inspired and motivated us to live better lives. Daniel set an example for us in not only how to live, but how to die. Because of this, Daniel Harper, class of 2004, has been chosen to receive the Alumnus of the Year award.