



Charlie
1992 - 2009

OET with Cheryl Morey Inspired

BitterSweet

READING THIS COLUMN each issue, you are accustomed to seeing Charlie. On August 8, just one week shy of our third annual IGC Show, our much loved and adored baby passed away. Having triumphed over diabetes for nearly seven years, and blessing us with his huge personality for 17 years, his poor little body just tucked out.

I've prayed through the years that when his time with us was to come to an end, that the Lord take him quickly - explaining that my heart just could not bear to see him endure a long, drawn-out ending. Faithfully and mercifully, He did just that. I am so thankful, Lord Jesus, for those final precious moments and for you honoring my final prayer for him

This year's IGC Show was another blessed success. Our third annual event broke records, registering on-site attendance of 6,043 - up 36 percent from last year - and drawing garden center buyers from 49 states and 24 countries to Navy Pier. By the time you are reading this, you will have already enjoyed, learned, restocked your shelves with all of the wonderful products discovered, caught up with friends and rejuvenated your spirit!

We ramped things up even further this year with a panel of IGCs to select the IGC Best of Show products. Carol Miller, former editor of Garden Center magazine, worked with us in assembling a panel of your peers to scout the show and select their favorite

Though we no longer need to worry about our Charlie, he will of course still be very much in our hearts. We must look forward now, and this year's show will be another blessed success.

- to see your Glory and know your Peace. For those of you who know kitties, you know they are extremely happy and content when they look at you with their tongue out. That is the way he died, and it is the way he is buried. Thank you, Jesus, Messiah, Comforter and Healer for taking him quickly, happily and peacefully and for showing me that indeed he rests in your peace.

This year's show was bittersweet for Jeff and me. Though we no longer needed to worry about our Charlie, he was of course still very much in our hearts. But we must look forward now.

products within specified categories. See what they picked on pages 12-13. Congratulations to these vendors for your dedication and innovation to our IGC readers! Be sure to also check out pages 14-17 for the most popular product selections from our advertiser supporters. These vendors are the reason we are able to bring you *Garden Chic* and *Nursery Retailer*.

Get inspired!

