

Gus

From: Mary Todd <toddmomof4boys@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, 19 May, 2013 5:14 PM
To: gus@gjclaw.com.sg
Subject: Our analysis of Shane's suicide note

Dear everyone,

I am very sorry it has come to this. I just want to make it clear that I do not blame anyone for my condition (What condition? The only condition Shane ever mentioned to us was his high level of anxiety because of what the company was putting him through.) People at work have been patient and kind to me and have given me ample opportunity to succeed. (Shane never would have said this about IME. He hated the way IME was run and the way the top management treated people. Shane did succeed to the point he was awarded \$22,000 bonus for being the top employee.) My parents and family have given me more support than I could ask for. (The only support he asked for was to have his dad help him transfer his money out of Singapore. He told both of us that he was afraid for his life, which caused him to be very anxious. I helped talk him through his anxiety.) My friends in Singapore have been very kind and understanding and have tried to help me through this. (We talked to several of Shane's closest friends and coworkers, not one of them said that they knew Shane was in trouble and needed help. They all stated how excited Shane was to go back to the U.S.) And my girlfriend Shirley has been always (grammar) loving and supportive even when it was no fun to hang out with me. She has been the most constant source of support, love, and friendship to me in Singapore and without her I wouldn't have made it this long. (According to Shirley, Shane never once mentioned that he felt suicidal or that he needed her help. She did say that he depressed about his job and seemed anxious, and that his hands were shaking more than normal.)

I am so sorry it has come to this but I feel I am just a burden to those around me. (Shane has never said to us that he felt like a burden. Shane has been on his own since he started college at age 17. We never paid for his education, his prospective school always covered tuition and living. Shane has been one of our greatest delights. We have never considered him a burden. He has a large family who loves and adores him beyond life itself, as you will see when you see the video of Shane's funeral) I have tried to get jobs in the U.S. but I know I am not capable of fulfilling the duties required of me. (Shane had a great job offer with a company in Virginia and was very excited about working for an American company. At his going away party right before he was murdered he was telling all his friends about it.) I hope that you can remember the good things about me, about how I was loving son, (note Asian grammar) grandson, brother, nephew, cousin, friend, boyfriend, coworker and teammate. I had a few successes in life, so please try to remember my actions by those successes and not by the failure I have succumbed to. (This is ridiculous! We are a family who cares far more about who a man is, not what he has accomplished. Our son would never say this.)

I understand that this a a crime in Singapore. But for the sake of my family, I ask that you please be lenient and allow my family the ability to decide on what to do with me. If they wish to bring me back to the U.S., I ask you to please allow them to do so. I also ask that you allow them access to my bank account to pay for any expenses that arise. If you allow me to, I ask that my family decides what to do with any remaining money.(Again, note grammar, very Asian). I suggest giving the money to charity. (Is this the voice of a man so desperate that he would take his own life, yet be this calculating?)

I am very sorry for the pain and trouble this causes. I never wanted to hurt anyone and I hope that you forgive me.

Love to all, (I've never seen Shane end a letter this way.)

Shane Todd

Parents: Richard Todd and Mary Todd (What's this all about? How did Shane have the presence of mind to add this?)

(This letter does not reflect one thing that I recognize in Shane's way of writing or way of relating. Shane was a much better writer than this, and a much deeper person. If Shane really wanted to kill himself he would have thought it through long and hard. He never would have done it this way or in Singapore. He had his airline ticket for July 1, 2012. It was obvious by the condition of his apartment that Shane was in the middle of packing and selling off his things. I do not believe for one minute that Shane took his own life, and neither does anyone who knows him)

Dear Mom and Dad,

I just want to let you know that I am so thankful for having you as my parents. You have given me the most love, patience, and support that any son could ask for. As you know I have been going through a difficult time and I am facing problems that I don't know how to solve. (To our knowledge, the only problem Shane was going through was anxiety due to the stress at work and the things they were asking him to do. He had solved his problem by quitting his job and getting a new one in the U.S.) You both have given me such good advice but I don't have the strength or ability to follow through. (Shane did take our advice. We told him he needed to get out of Singapore ASAP. He gave his 60 day resignation notice to IME. He was getting ready to come home when his life was taken from him) I want to reiterate that none of this is your fault and despite the things I have said to you in the past, I am the only one to blame for my problems. (We have no idea what this means. Shane has never said or blamed us for anything in the past. The only thing he has said to us in the past is that moving to Singapore was the biggest mistake of his life...) I am so proud of the things you have built and the lives you have touched through your church and ministry. (This does not make sense. The accomplishments that have always matter the most to us is the family we have built and the relationships we have maintained.) I hope that you understand that I am so sorry for the pain this causes. I just know how much of a burden I will be to you in the future

so I feel it is better to do this now rather than wait until I have caused more damage. (Shane would never say this. My sons are my greatest gift, my highest desire, the thing I value most in life. I have raised them to know that they are the best gift God has ever given me. My son would know that this act of self destruction would kill me. There could be no more damage than this).

You gave me so many great memories in life, spending time on the lake in Montana, going to the beach to drink Shirley Temples, bean dip at happy hour, fishing and snorkeling in the Keys, going to my countless sporting events barbeques and family functions in our house on the hill, and going to church on Sundays. (Not one of these memories are significant. They are all periphery. Nothing said here touches my heart strings. Not to mention we never drank Shirley Temples on the beach. I hope that you cherish our good memories together. I love you very much.

Dear John, Chet, and Dylan,

I am so proud of the great men you guys have become. You guys are my best friends. I hope that you will always keep family close and have faith that God will bless your lives. I love you very much. (This is not the way Shane would say good-bye to his beloved brothers. Dylan was turning 21 on June 26. Shane couldn't wait to celebrate with him. Shane was going to be an usher in his cousin Katie's wedding on August, 4th, which he never mentioned in this letter. Truly, two meaningless sentences are an insult to the relationship Shane shared with his brothers and cousins. John and Dylan also met with the FBI in Singapore to outline why they were sure this letter was not written by Shane)

Dear Shirley,

You have been an angel to me.(This is the only thing that is remotely familiar, Shane did call Shirley his angel) I know this will cause you great hurt but I know that you will be able to stay strong and rely on God to help you heal from this. (Shane loved Shirley, he never would have left his body for her to discover and in turn traumatize her life forever) You are so talented in so many ways and have a very bright future ahead of you. Please remember the good times we had and know that you are the best thing that happened to me while I was in Singapore. I love you. (If Shane loved Shirley, but was so desperate to kill himself, he would have done it in a way that would not include her)

Dear Friends,

I thank you all for being a part of my life. Please remember the good times we had.

Again I am sorry and I hope you all forgive me.

Love,

Shane

There is so much to say, I don't know where to begin. All I can say is that when I read this letter it did not evoke one ounce of emotion in me. I felt relief, because I knew my son did not write this letter. It is not his style of writing. He is much smarter than this, much more feeling and a far better writer. It is way too cold and calculating, covering every important point. The memories were not our memories.