

So Final – by Donna Davis

As you will know from our last newsletter my Aunty Pam recently died. I was aware that she had been to see a number of doctors but until her last visit was sent home being told there was nothing wrong with her. Therefore, when I heard the news it came as a big shock. I think one of the first emotions I went through was feeling guilty, I could have called her, I could have said, done etc. etc. Why is it always that way? I struggled with this for some time and thought to myself that if I ever feel led to do something or feel the Lord prompting me, I MUST act immediately. I was sure that morning I had thought of phoning her, it would have taken seconds! Perhaps what I went through afterwards wouldn't have been the way it was if that phone call had been made. I then found myself trying to justify why I had/hadn't made certain decisions to try and make myself feel better. I kept thinking about the situation over and over again! Then there was the run up to the funeral. Hearing how her flat had to be emptied by a certain date and who wanted what of her belongings, as memories of her. Isn't it strange that all through our earthly lives we surround ourselves with things that we like; things that give us pleasure, but then our life ends and as we've heard so often the hard reality that we take nothing with us, really hits home. All those things now mean nothing and are left to someone else. It made me feel like everything is so pointless. After all we go through, all the situations we experience, all the struggles we have with ourselves and how we try and deal with parts of us we don't like, all the pressures, our health, family situations etc. finally ends in death. Even though for us Christians we have the whole of eternity and everlasting life, if the Rapture doesn't happen in our lifetime, we too will experience death. I thought how my Aunty could no longer do those things I could, how she couldn't ever pop into town, or enjoy a lovely warm day or be a part of our lives, our family; how she loved to be around us all.

I also saw how it affected those that were closer to her than I was. How sad, lonely and how a part of them felt like it had been taken away. That empty feeling. Especially for my Nan who had outlived her daughter and was trying to come to terms with it all, being 100 years of age. I couldn't imagine what she was going through and felt it hard enough to cope with my own feelings. I knew those around me were by my side supporting me every single step of the way, however I almost felt like I was carrying the burden alone. I think for us ladies, our emotions can be so up and down and when we experience something, if our emotions are already high; we can go off the radar!

It was quite powerful around the grave too, seeing a wooden box with someone you love in it, being placed into the ground. Also seeing the funeral car arrive back at the church, again I experienced a sense of finality. First there were 2 cars, the hearse and the family car taking her; then there was one.

It made me think again how I want to be prepared, for Aunty Pam there was no opportunity, no time. Nothing was personal anymore and for Aunty Pam nothing mattered. I know where she is and that of course is a great comfort and I know I will see her again very soon; however we are human and I find this whole journey of life so complex, so incredible it is hard at times to explain.

So life goes on, this is another hard fact. One life begins, one ends, and life for everyone just goes on. Back to work, back to the mundane, back to planning the next holiday, it seems so harsh and sometimes as if no-one really cares.

So I found this quite a difficult time in my life, perhaps you will understand why through some of the things I have written. I do thank the Lord though, that as always, His faithfulness and understanding brought me through and I trust has helped me to learn and to keep on considering others in this selfish world we live in.