

HELEN SANDERS
11-6-2021
YOUR DASH

I have attended and officiated many different funerals. Many times, there are stories told about the one that is being remembered. Sometimes there is humor and sometimes there are a great deal of tears that are shed.

I will be attending a memorial service today of an Elder in our ministry, Vickie (Evelyn) Summers. She was part of our church for several years. She had pastored for many years before she became a part of Spirit of Life Ministries having come from a long heritage of believers. Vickie was very strong in faith. She shared the good news of Jesus Christ with everyone that would listen. She walked strongly in the gifts of the Spirit, and I counted her as a friend. She developed COVID19 while she was in the hospital for other things, and never came out.

As a tribute to her, I think of this poem by Linda Ellis and put it in today's newsletter in honor of Vickie. Please read it in its entirety and then mediate on what it says to your heart.

THE DASH BY LINDA ELLIS

I READ OF A MAN WHO STOOD TO SPEAK
AT THE FUNERAL OF A FRIEND
HE REFERRED TO THE DATES ON HER TOMBSTONE
FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END

HE NOTED THAT FIRST CAME THE DATE OF HER BIRTH
AND SPOKE OF THE FOLLOWING DATE WITH TEARS
BUT HE SAID WHAT MATTERED MOST OF ALL
WAS THE DASH BETWEEN THOSE YEARS

FOR THAT DASH REPRESENTS ALL THE TIME
THAT SHE SPENT ALIVE ON EARTH
AND NOW ONLY THOSE WHO LOVED HER
KNOW WHAT THAT LITTLE TIME IS WORTH

FOR IT MATTERS NOT HOW MUCH WE OWN
THE CARS ...THE HOUSE ...THE CASH
WHAT MATTERS IS HOW WE LIVE AND LOVE
AND HOW WE SPEND OUR DASH

SO, THINK ABOUT THIS LONG AND HARD
ARE THERE THINGS YOU'D LIKE TO CHANGE?
FOR YOU NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT
THAT CAN STILL BE REARRANGED

IF WE COULD JUST SLOW DOWN ENOUGH
TO CONSIDER WHAT'S TRUE AND REAL
AND ALWAYS TRY TO UNDERSTAND
THE WAY OTHER PEOPLE FEEL

AND BE LESS QUICK TO ANGER
AND SHOW APPRECIATION MORE
AND LOVE THE PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES
LIKE WE'VE NEVER LIVED BEFORE

IF WE CAN TREAT EACH OTHER WITH RESPECT
AND MORE OFTEN WEAR A SMILE
REMEMBERING THAT THIS SPECIAL DASH
MIGHT ONLY LAST A LITTLE WHILE

SO, WHEN YOUR EULOGY IS BEING READ
WITH YOUR LIFE'S ACTIONS TO REHASH
WOULD YOU BE PROUD OF THE THINGS THEY SAY
ABOUT HOW YOU SPENT YOUR DASH?

May God be with each of you my friends, and remember we only have a limited number of days before we are called home. Make the most of your "dash."