

My Last Wishes

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## How will I talk to my family about my death?

Even though death is inevitable, and everyone will face it one day, many people do not like to talk about it or even think about death. The Bible is prominent that our time on this earth is short. *"O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all humankind stands as a mere breath! Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing, they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!" Psalms 39:4-6*

I was ten years old when my litter sister passed away, and from that day forward, helping people during their last minutes of life has been part of my life and ministry. It is a very tough subject for many people, but it is a reality that must be faced. I have faced two realities, families that have everything ready and prepared for the time to say goodbye to a loved one and families that do not know what to do at all, when their loved ones die.

Nobody knows when and how we will depart from this life, but we must be prepared. I have learned many essential things in this class, but one thing is sure I want to be ready when my day comes. If I go with the rapture of the Church of Christ or my death, I want to be ready, and I want my family to know what to do for me.

On my last trip to Africa, I got malaria and almost died. From that day forward, I decided wherever the place I dyed buried me. God in His sovereign plan for us now and orchestrated the time perfectly. However, if I am home by the time of my departure, my husband already says he will cremate me, and the reason is straightforward, it is cheaper and accessible. I have nothing against it because this body will perish, and My Father in Haven has a new and perfect body for me.

Furthermore, there is a place near my house, Walnut Beach, where I walk and pray in the morning. I love that place. I have made many friends while my walking, and I encounter Jesus there, in the nature that surrenders me, in the peace of the sunset or the beautiful mornings. I wish my arches were spilled there.

The best way to leave this world is to organize your life the best you can and not leave anything behind you for somebody else to take care of or have a headache. I already did my living will,

and my family knows that I do not want to be resuscitated; I do not want to be coupled in a machine at the hospital, and I do not want to stay there. However, I want to die in peace lying down in my bed at home, surrendered by my family.

I always say that my family should give me all the flowers I deserve to receive in life because I love them, they are expensive, and I want to enjoy them. A dead person no longer enjoys anything, so please do not waste money on something I cannot enjoy.

I love to live and am trying to enjoy my life and my journey on this earth. Furthermore, I love my family. They meant a lot to me, and I have tried to show them every day of my life how much they meant to me. Indeed, I am far from perfect, but I have tried my best to live what I preach. I love God first and my neighbors as myself.

At my funeral, I want people to know the meaning of life. God should come first in our lives, then ourselves, family, neighbors, and everything else. I want my funeral to celebrate my life, the people I loved during my journey, and what they represented. I want people to recognize that God Is Whom He Says He Is. He is The God The Father. He is Our Savior. He Is The Provider. He Is The Counselor. He Is The Prince of Peace. He Is The Best Friend a person can have. I want my funeral to tell that God has been all that for me.

I love to sing. I love to sing songs to my God. I love to glorify His Name. I want everybody to sing to My Lord and King at my funeral. I want His Name to be glorified and exalted. I want people to remember how many trials and tribulations we went through together, but the faithfulness of God brought us to a place of rejoicing and peace. I want people to have peace because I will be with the Lord forever, and peace and joy are abundant. I want them to sing: Amazing Grace, He knows my name, The Blessing, I Am Not Alone; in Portuguese: "Fala Senhor Querido," "Ele é Tudo Pra Mim," and "Mais Perto Quero Estar."

I want everybody to read Psalm 23 with certainty that we serve that Lord, who walks with us in the middle of our desert and valleys. However, He helps us to climb the top of the mountains too. That is a truth in my life that everyone must pause and reflect on.

I am not perfect, but during my entire life, I have relied on Jesus in His love and sufficient grace. I want everyone to know that: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* 2 Timothy 4:7

Life is short, and I am trying to live a life that will leave a legacy for my family and friends. Until my last breath, I want to do my best to conquer and realize my dreams and purpose in life. I want to fulfill the call God puts in my heart to serve Him with dignity, a sincere heart, and honesty and to love the people around me. *“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.” 1 Corinthians 15:52*