

FUNERAL FOR JERRY BOURNE SEPT. 20, 2014

ECCLESIASTICS.....

"IN ALL YOU DO, LOOK TO THE HEART OF LIFE....".

EPHESIANS....

"I PRAY THAT CHRIST MAY BE PRESENT IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH AS YOU ARE ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE..."

GOSPEL

**"COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE BURDENED,
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.....
I AM HUMBLE OF HEART;
AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS."**

CAROL, KEVIN AND CATHY, EILEEN AND TIM -

KRISTEN AND RYAN

JEFF AND SUE

JENNIFER AND LOUIS

**WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE ANOTHER STEP SON - BEN JUDD WHO IS IN
OSAKA, JAPAN.....**

**FRIENDS AND RELATIVE OF JERRY BOURNE - INCLUDING THE QAC
COMMUNITY**

**ALLOW ME TO BEGIN WITH A STORY - OR RATHER A LEGEND - WHICH I
BELIEVE IS RELEVANT AT THIS TIME.....**

**THIS LEGEND TELLS HOW, AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME, GOD RESOLVED
TO HIDE HIMSELF WITHIN HIS OWN CREATION...**

**AS GOD WAS WONDERING HOW BEST TO DO THIS, THE ANGELS
GATHERED ROUND HIM....**

'I WANT TO HIDE MYSELF IN MY CREATION,' HE TOLD THEM. 'I NEED TO FIND A PLACE THAT IS NOT TOO EASILY DISCOVERED, FOR IT IS IN THEIR SEARCH FOR ME THAT MY CREATURES WILL GROW IN SPIRIT AND IN UNDERSTANDING.'

'WHY DON'T YOU HIDE YOURSELF DEEP IN THEIR EARTH?'

THE FIRST ANGEL SUGGESTED...

GOD PONDERED FOR A WHILE, THEN REPLIED, 'NO, IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE THEY LEARN HOW TO MINE THE EARTH AND DISCOVER ALL THE TREASURES THAT IT CONTAINS. THEY WILL DISCOVER ME TOO QUICKLY, AND THEY WILL NOT HAVE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO DO THEIR GROWING.'

'WHY DON'T YOU HIDE YOURSELF ON THEIR MOON?'

A SECOND ANGEL SUGGESTED.

GOD THOUGHT ABOUT THIS IDEA FOR A WHILE, AND THEN REPLIED, 'NO. IT WILL TAKE A LITTLE LONGER, BUT BEFORE TOO LONG THEY WILL LEARN HOW TO FLY THROUGH SPACE.

THEY WILL ARRIVE ON THE MOON AND EXPLORE ITS SECRETS, AND THEY WILL DISCOVER ME TOO SOON, BEFORE THEY HAVE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO DO THEIR GROWING.'

THE ANGELS WERE AT A LOSS TO KNOW WHAT HIDING PLACE TO SUGGEST.

THERE WAS A LONG SILENCE.

I KNOW, PIPED UP ONE ANGEL, FINALLY. 'WHY DON'T YOU HIDE YOURSELF WITHIN THEIR OWN HEARTS? THEY WILL NEVER THINK OF

LOOKING THERE!

'THAT'S IT!' SAID GOD, DELIGHTED TO HAVE FOUND THE PERFECT HIDING PLACE. AND SO IT IS THAT GOD HIDES SECRETLY DEEP WITHIN THE HEART OF EVERY ONE OF GOD'S CREATURES, UNTIL THAT CREATURE HAS GROWN ENOUGH IN SPIRIT AND IN UNDERSTANDING TO RISK THE GREAT JOURNEY INTO THE SECRET CORE OF ITS OWN BEING. AND THERE, THE CREATURE DISCOVERS IT CREATOR, AND IS REJOINED TO GOD FOR ALL ETERNITY.

THAT JOURNEY INTO OUR HEART, THE CORE OF OUR BEING, IS THE JOURNEY WE ARE ALL CALLED TO MAKE.....

AND I WOULD SUBMIT THAT JERRY MADE THAT JOURNEY ESP. IN THE LATTER YEARS AND MONTHS OF HIS LIFE....

OF COURSE, WE DO NOT MAKE THAT JOURNEY ALONE....

IT CAN BE SO CHALLENGING, RISKY AND SCARY - AND WE CAN DECEIVE OURSELVES SO EASILY.....

WE NEED OTHER SPECIAL PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES TO ACCOMPANY US...

CERTAINLY CAROL WAS SUCH A SPECIAL PERSON IN JERRY'S LIFE....

THEY MET IN THE MID 1980'S AT A BEGINNING EXPERIENCE - A GROUP FOR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, DIVORCED AND SEPARATED...

LET ME QUOTE A SELECTION OF A THANK YOU NOTE THAT JERRY WROTE TO CAROL AFTER THEY HAD CO-FACILITATED A WEEKEND BEGINNING EXPERIENCE....

I THINK IT CAPTURES SOMETHING OF BOTH JERRY'S DESIRE FOR

COMPANY ON HIS HEART JOURNEY AND HIS CAUTION....HIS ANXIETY

"CAROL, I HAVE THE UTMOST RESPECT FOR YOU, LOVE YOUR INTELLIGENCE AND WIT AND HOPE FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP... OTHERS OF MY FEMALE ACQUAINTANCES PALE BY COMPARISON WITH CAROL, BUT I DON'T WANT TO SCARE YOU, OR TURN YOU AWAY - SO SOON. I JUST WANT TO KNOW YOUR FRIENDSHIP, WANT IN SOME SMALL WAY TO BE A LITTLE SPECIAL IN YOUR LIFE, AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW ALONGSIDE YOU TO THE DEGREE POSSIBLE AND PERMISSIBLE....."

THEY ENDED UP DATING FOR SEVERAL YEARS - WITH CAROL

EVENTUALLY READY TO MARRY - BUT JERRY NOT YET READY TO TAKE THE PLUNGE AGAIN A SECOND TIME - SO CAROL DECIDED IT WOULD BE BEST TO BRING THE RELATIONSHIP TO AN END AND WROTE HIM A VERY LOVING BUT DIFFICULT LETTER...

ALLOW ME TO SELECT A SMALL PORTION OF THAT LETTER...

I APPRECIATE THE VULNERABILITY THAT YOU ALLOWED ME TO SEE IN YOU. THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME EXPERIENCE THE TRUST OF LOVE.

I APPRECIATE HOW YOU HAVE KNOWN AND ACCEPTED MY LOVE. YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE THE GIVER OF LOVE.

I APPRECIATE HOW YOU HAVE KNOWN WHEN TO REACH OUT TO ME. YOU HAVE MADE LIFE AND LOVE EASIER IN THESE TIMES. THANKS FOR SHARING WITH ME THE GENTLENESS AND SAFETY OF LOVE.....

THANK YOU MY DEAR JERRY. YOU ARE AND WILL ALWAYS BE THE LOVE OF MY LIFE.....LOVE CAROL

IT WASN'T LONG AFTER THAT FAREWELL LETTER THAT IT BROUGHT ABOUT ITS DESIRED EFFECT.....

JERRY DECIDED HE COULD NOT CONTINUE HIS JOURNEY WITHOUT HER AS HIS COMPANION....HE DECIDED TO MARRY CAROL

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL, ESPECIALLY FOR US MALES AND ESP

INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED MALES - LIKE JERRY ...

TO BEGIN OUR JOURNEY, OUR SEARCHING IN OUR HEADS -

WHERE WE ARE MORE COMFORTABLE AND IN CONTROL

AND IT CAN TAKE QUITE A PUSH - IN THIS CASE, PROVIDED BY CAROL

FOR US TO TAKE THE PLUNGE AND DROP DOWN INTO OUR HEART...

AND WE SEE THAT IN THE ACTUAL WEDDING CEREMONY - CELEBRATED

RIGHT HERE AT QAC IN 1991.....

EVIDENTLY, BOTH CAROL AND JERRY, HAD PREPARED STATEMENTS

THEY WERE GOING TO MAKE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CEREMONY -

THEY CAME DOWN THE AISLE - CELEBRANT INTRODUCED THEM...

CAROL TOOK OUT HER STATEMENT AND READ IT ALOUD...

IT WAS JERRY'S TURN... HE ASK CAROL FOR HIS STATEMENT...

"I GAVE IT TO YOU".....SHE SAID BUT HE COULDN'T FIND IT...

EVIDENTLY, SEVERAL SECONDS OF SILENCE ENSUED BEFORE THE

CELEBRANT SAYS TO JERRY - YOU BETTER DO SOMETHING, SAY

SOMETHING.....

SO JERRY SAYS SPONTANEOUSLY, "AS ANATOLE FRANZ SAID, MORE

POWERFUL THAN ALL THE ARMIES IN THE WORLD IS A GOOD IDEA

WHOSE TIME HAS COME. AND THIS WEDDING IS A GOOD IDEA WHOSE

TIME HAS COME"

VERY FUNNY AND APPROPRIATE..... BUT....OF COURSE, THE WEDDING WAS

NOT AN IDEA - IT WAS NOT A MATTER OF THE HEAD -

IT WAS A MATTER OF THE HEART FOR JERRY

WHICH MADE IT EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN ALL THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD....

AND SO ON THAT DAY HIS HEART JOURNEY TOOK ON A NEW INTENSITY AND REALITY ONLY TO CULMINATE IN THESE LAST FEW MONTHS OF A 23 YEAR MARRIAGE.....

I DO NOT THINK IT IS ANY SECRET THAT THESE LAST FEW MONTHS ESPECIALLY HAVE BEEN VERY TRYING AND CHALLENGING FOR THE HEARTS OF BOTH JERRY AND CAROL

PERHAPS WHEN WE EXPERIENCE SEVERE LIMITATIONS OF OUR MIND THE ISSUES OF OUR HEART COME EVEN MORE TO THE FORE....

AND IN JERRY'S CASE, HE HAD NOT ONLY SUFFERED THE LOSS OF HIS FIRST WIFE AT THE AGE OF 54, BUT THEN ALSO HIS DAUGHTER....

AND THEN HIS DEBILITATING DISEASE.....

THERE WAS SIGNIFCANT PAIN AND DISAPPOINTMENT, ANGER AND LONELINESS TO WORK THROUGH - AND THE WORK OF FORGIVENESS - ALL OF WHICH - CAROL HELPED TO GUIDE HIM THRU IN THESE LAST MONTHS AND THEN IN HIS LAST HOURS ARRANGING FOR KEVIN, HIS SON, AND EILEEN, HIS DAUGHTER TO SHARE WITH JERRY THEIR LOVE FOR HIM OVER THE PHONE FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND A LOCAL CARE FACILITY....

AND THEN CAROL ACCOMPANIED HIM INTO A FINAL LETTING GO AND ASSURING HIM THAT PATTY, HIS FIRST WIFE, AND MARY PAT, HIS DAUGHTER WERE WAITING FOR HIM ON THE OTHER SIDE - AND JERRY

ACKNOWLEDGED IT WITH HIS HEART BY OPENING HIS LEFT EYE...

WE NEED ONE ANOTHER WHEN IT COMES TO MATTERS OF THE HEART....

ON BEHALF OF JERRY AND ALL OF US, THANK YOU, CAROL....

WE ALSO NEED A COMMUNITY WHEN IT COMES TO MATTERS OF THE HEART....

JERRY KNEW THAT.....HE WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY AND A FAITHFUL AND COMMITTED MEMBER....

HE WAS CONCERNED ENOUGH FOR THE COMMUNITY TO INVITE ME TO JOIN THE TEAM OF PRIESTS EIGHT YEARS AGO....THANK YOU, JERRY ON BEHALF OF CAROL, THANK YOU, QAC FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT OF JERRY AND CAROL, ALL THE CARDS AND VISITS DURING THESE DIFFICULT LAST MONTHS.....

JERRY GREW ENOUGH IN SPIRIT AND UNDERSTANDING TO RISK THE GREAT JOURNEY INTO THE SECRET CORE OF HIS BEING - HIS HEART - AND THERE HE DISCOVERED HIS CREATOR AND HAS REJOINED GOD FOR ALL ETERNITY....WE BELIEVE, GIVE THANKS AND WE RECALL OUR READINGS:

"IN ALL YOU DO, LOOK TO THE HEART OF LIFE...."

"I PRAY THAT CHRIST MY BE PRESENT IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH AS YOU ARE ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE"

"COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE BURDENED AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST....FOR I AM HUMBLE OF HEART AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS...."