

I) Life with Grace

A) A member of our church, we worked together at school, easy to joke around with, always pleasant, but her family knows her best, so I'll let them speak.

B) Facebook comments

- 1) Julie, "I'm going to miss Aunt Grace's gentle presence and the lifetime of love she's given to me."
- 2) Phaedra, "She is a wonderful and loving person and she will be deeply missed."
- 3) Shane, "I would be at Lowes and look up to see Gracie with Richard and go get my hug, she would always hug my crew too."
- 4) Janna, "It speaks volumes we all have such fond memories with her!"
- 5) Kathy, "I remember one time as a kid being out in Texas for one of those amazing family gatherings that we used to have. I was sitting alone and she came over to me and we spoke for a while. Afterward, she showed me a little electric keyboard and taught me how to play, "When the Saints Go Marching in." To this day, that is the only song that I can play on a keyboard, but every time I see one I feel the need to tap it out. I think of her and this moment every time."
- 6) Jimmie, "My fond memories of auntie Grace was when she had a flower shop...She looked lovely and blended right in surrounded by many beautiful flowers as though she was one of them."
- 7) Rhonda, "Fried bologna sandwiches are my earliest memories, I still enjoy them...Her driving was a different story...flying down the road with two fingers on the wheel, you prayed a lot."
- 8) Kathy, "She always put her heart into the things she made."
- 9) Phaedre, "She was serious at times but she was also sweetly funny...she could always make you laugh at the most unexpected times. She was always so special in her own

way, cared for others her own way, and loved us her own way."

C) Or even better, the letters for her 70th birthday book

- 1) Margie: Memories of Grace trying to ride a mule; the two of them damming up the creek; the two of them trying to smoke in the barn and hiding in the woods from their mother; Grace and Nasby fighting over a piece of cake.
- 2) Frank: Gracie leaning when she drove in her car; tricking him into eating squash by baking it in a cake; And her general ability to dress up a meal; Taking the opposing view on a topic just to get her going.
- 3) Ginni: "Sisters by chance...friends by choice."
- 4) Lee: "I believe a wedding cake represents her best. It seems to reflect her beauty, Dignity and Pride better than most people can express themselves."
- 5) Katie: "Grace, I believe the Lord sent you to Carrollton for CAC, Jacob and me, and also, for all the Matson and Smith families." "I never dreamed that you would be part of my everyday life as you are today. I love having you in the next room at work and being able to call you or advice or just anything."
- 6) Jim: "You have been pretty much the same Grace throughout my memories of you: thoughtful, steady, reliable, a person of stature and possessing wisdom." Her influence on Jim cannot be understated.
- 7) Janet: "During our years apart, whenever we would see each other it was as if no time had elapsed. We had a common spirit that allowed us to be close at a moment's time and for this we were blessed.
- 8) Ginni: *Of Grace*: "Grace, the eldest of us girls, as feminine as a cultured pearl. A little on the fancy side, some would say, But always the same from day to day."
- 9) And Jennifer, Barry, Jeff, Jule, Ellie, Josh, Jennifer, Haley, Jason, Justin, Bobby and Jenna, Tara, Rhonda,
- 10) I'm sorry if I didn't quote anything from you, but you can try harder to make an impression in the next birthday letter.

- 11) It was easy to get the point
- 12) She was easy to be around. Easy to live with. A comfort.
A ray of Son-shine with an O. But how do we deal with her loss?
- 13) Make her sound perfect? Privilege of Christian funeral, we don't have to talk about the sin and error of the departed, for any sin we know in here, because we are believers, we forgive; for we have done the same.
- 14) We focus only on the positive - not to make a legend, not to rewrite history, but as a glory to God - to praise Him for all benefit we received from our sister Grace. For what happened in her life is indeed Grace from God.
- 15) But now she is departed, how do we deal with her loss?

II) Life without Grace

- A) Grief is normal. But we do not grieve as others do who have no hope. Our grief is temporary, as is our absence from her.
- B) But what is the best way to move forward? What path forward will honor her memory the best?
- C) Paul - 2 Timothy - prison - again, knows end is near.

III) READ 2 Timothy 4:6-8

- A) Grace - too modest for these words, blush, didn't do major things - lead a movement, pioneer the Gospel, obit. not in New York Times, or even the Courier Journal. Yet we can say,
 - 1) She has fought the good fight
 - (a) She did the impossible - live a godly life in a world that would have accepted sin, compromise, selfishness,
 - (b) Blessed life - joy, family, productivity,
 - (c) Like all of us - losses - siblings, parents, difficult people,
 - (d) like all of us - mistakes, life challenges.
 - (e) She fought the good fight - I say she did the impossible - but with God, all things are possible.
 - 2) She has finished the race
 - (a) With help from the Lord - believers around her
 - (b) Her close family; Her high-school sweetheart,
 - (c) She did what God had her here to do.
 - 3) She has kept the faith

- (a) active in church, worked at the Christian academy
- (b) fellowship with believers - most notably with her family
- (c) Maintained a pleasant disposition, a good sense of humor, and her faith
- (d) Her days were marked with prayer and the study of God's Word. She kept the faith.

- 4) She won the crown - all believers receive this crown of righteousness - and lay it at the feet of Jesus, for it is Him in us that works salvation, and it is His righteousness given to us that we have.

B) What's the secret?

- 1) Not what we know, it's who we know
- 2) The Gospel - a person,
 - (a) we all have sinned
 - (b) Christ died for our sins
 - (c) Believe in Jesus Christ, saved, born again
 - (d) Then the Holy Spirit works in us the character of Christ

C) Her life explained by her faith - what we know for certain:

- 1) Grace is with the Lord
 - (a) not because she rid herself of sin
 - (b) not because her good things outweighed the bad
 - (c) not because she ended on a good note
 - (d) She is with the Lord because of His grace - because his sacrifice made it possible
- 2) Grace was a good person
 - (a) not to earn a spot in heaven
 - (b) not to try to make up for past sins
 - (c) but because she was already a citizen of heaven

3) Like Paul

D) I chose Paul

- 1) chief of sinners
- 2) persecutor of Christians
- 3) Was able to say this at the end these things
- 4) We are able to say it with confidence about sister Grace.

IV) CLOSE: Praise God, consider her faith, talk to someone,

V) Notes

- A) Grace was a ray of Sonshine - spelled with an "O" - in this world
- B) Prayers for the family - comfort, joy, challenge,

VI) Facebook comments

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- F) Jimmie, "My fond memories of auntie Grace was when she had a flow shop...She looked lovely and blended right in surrounded by many beautiful flowers as though she was one of them."
- G) Rhonda, "Fried bologna sandwiches are my earliest memories, I still enjoy them...Her driving was a different story...flying down the road with two fingers on the wheel, you prayed a lot."
- H) Rhonda, "Soon she will have the most radiant smile ever seen, and she will be greeted with such love and comfort."
- I) Kathy, "She always put her heart into the things she made."
- J) Phaedre, "She was serious at times but she was also sweetly funny...she could always make you laugh at the most unexpected times. She was always so special in her own way, cared for others her own way, and loved us her own way."

OBITUARY

Mrs. Grace (Smith) DeBell, age 86, of Carrollton, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, December 3, 2021 at Signature Health Care in Carrollton with her high school sweetheart/husband by her side. Born February 6, 1935 in McKee, Kentucky, she was the daughter of Lee Matson and Geneva (Clemmons) Smith.

Mrs. Smith graduated from Oneida Baptist Institute in Oneida, Kentucky where she was raised, and majored in business and graduated from Spencerian College in Louisville, Kentucky. She was the creator of Grace's Designs in Tyler, Texas and Carrollton, where she made beautiful wedding cakes and gowns, and worked as an accountant for Shelton Brothers Hardware Store in Tyler for many years. She moved to Carrollton in 2000 and worked for the Christian Academy of Carrollton for several years.

Mrs. Smith was a member of the White's Run Baptist Church in Carrollton where she enjoyed serving for several years.

Talented in so many areas, Grace accomplished much in life. She has blessed many and will be missed for many reasons by many people, but certainly for her quiet, gentle and sweet spirit.

Surviving is her husband, Reverend Richard A. DeBell, to whom she was married in 2013; one son, Todd Price of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; one daughter, Gena Price of Texas; two grandsons: Thomas and Lee Price of Louisville, Kentucky; one brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Janet Smith of Carrollton; two sisters: Katherine Matson and her husband, David of Campbellsburg, Kentucky, and Virginia McNamee of Tyler; four sisters-in-law: Diane Smith of Carrollton, Yoriko Smith of Hawaii, Brenda Smith of Tyler, and Kathy Smith of Catlettsburg, Kentucky; and several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Tony Price; five brothers: Theowill Smith, Lee Smith, Jr, Nasby Smith, Harold Smith, and Cecil Smith and his wife, Barbara; one sister, Margie Bowman; one niece, Geneva Lowe; and two nephews: Nathan Smith and Toby Smith.

The Reverend Eric Newcomer will conduct the funeral services.

Interment will be in the Kent Cemetery, Kent, Indiana.

VII)Funeral of Grace (Smith) Debell, .

- A) song #1
- B) welcome
- C) reading of the obituary
- D) eulogy
- E) prayer
- F) song #2
- G) Biblical message
- H) closing prayer
- I) song #3
- J) recessional and exit.

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IX)70th Birthday info

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