

I hope the bus strike will be over before the holidays, or otherwise we will have to figure out some other way for my mother to get here. When there are so many people without jobs, you would think that employees could figure out that a good job is better than No job, even if they don't get 10% raises yearly. I am sure I told you all over the phone what a fantastic job Mom did on her slide show presentation about her Luther trip at our feedback at church on REformation Sunday! Members of the church still are coming up to me on the street, saying, June, I didn't know your mother was such a fantastic person! to do all that at her age, and then be able to take such professional pictures and give such a great talk about it. Not one wasted extra word, but all apropos and beautiful and even a little loving witnessing put in here and there.

Now about Grandma Grayson: I am sure you are all wondering, and this will be easier than calling:

She is in the hospital, not in pain except when she moves, she is getting all kinds of medicine, Darvon for pain, sleeping pills etc, she has a trapeze over her bed to help her move, she is getting physiotherapy too. The bone biopsy of the knee was done Thurs under a little general anesthesia, it was read Friday morning. It showed, almost conclusively that she has lymphoma of the bone. That is a type of cancer that attacks the bone marrow and gradually replaces it so that explains the anemia, the tumors are crowding out the bone marrow and they are not making enough red cells to replace the ones she is losing. Untreated, also, it can kill eventually by overwhelming infection because it also crowds out the white cells that fight disease. Also, she has become unable to eat because of high calcium in the blood caused by destruction of the bones. However, now Dad has suggested that they start treating her with cortisone, and that will relieve the calcium overload and she will get back her appetite. Also, on Monday, all the doctors will have a conference and decide what regimen of chemotherapy to try. The prognosis is that all people with this type of lymphoma die within 5 years. And the ones with the most virulent types will die very soon after discovery even with treatment. But hopefully, in many cases chemotherapy will achieve a remission of pain and happy progression of disease for many months or a few years. Dick is taking it very professionally and with equanimity, Priscilla suspected the worst fatal disease right from the start, and Pat is here now for a week to be with her folks and she is a very solid optimistic tower of strength. At first Grandpa Grayson was so distraught that he was threatening suicide, as soon as she dies. And at first Grandma Grayson was so distraught that she was irrational and would not help with her care and cooperate at all. But now she has risen above that, everything is open and above board, all honesty, and informed decision making rests in their hands after thorough discussion.

But I have to share with you all the beautiful things that are happening too. It just shows that all things do really work together for our good if we trust God. I think it was Wednesday that I was led to visit Gr. G at the hospital. I was off work, had no excuses, and knew she was in a panic because of the surgical test scheduled for the next day, and I hadn't visited her yet. So I took some of my little favorite prayer books, and I wrote out on a card, in big print so she could see it, the title of one of Billy Grayhan's sermons, that Dick just loved, "Is anything too hard for the Lord" book of Jeremiah, and took it over to her. I also told her I was sorry she had to suffer, and that we both knew maybe we shouldn't pray for total healing, but we could pray for partial healing, and we decided to pray for partial healing enough so that she could recover and go home and celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary next June 1st. Before, she had only groaned, if she had to be in pain she wanted to die, but now she decided that it was worth fighting for and she would do what she had to.

Then by accident Dick came in the room, and she was talking about how hurt and sad she was when she was "rejected" by the synagogue. Last year a new synagogue was forming out near the lake, and Gr. G was so happy, I think all her life she had the idea that she could get back to her roots before she died and feel at home in the Jewish community even though she



hasn't gone to a synagogue since she was a little child. And even tho we invited them to all the things at our church, they would go to the bazaars etc, but usually avoid church services. And even when Aaron was baptized and Dan was his sponsor a few years ago at the Luth church in Chicago, and even my mother went with us, Gr and Gr G. came after the church to Pris house.. So GR and Gr G went to the new synagogue and gave money, several imest, but they were never followed up on oreven acknowldged and that made her so sad. I am sure it was just because the new synagogue group was disorgazimed and was not a purposeful rejection, but anyway they perceived it as that.

So she was sharing her feelings about that with us for the first time from her hospital bed and she ended, you know I don't even feel Jewish anymore, there is nothing there for me. And I said, well, good, now you can be Lutheran! (I didn't say all this, it was just God working - it was like a script running thru) and she said we have talked about that, but would they ~~xxx~~ let us in - and Dick says, they let every one in, and she said, would your feel we were "horning" in, and we said, that is the purpose of the church, and she said what would we have to pay (Jewish synagoges assess their members and bill them what they think their fair support is, and you have to pay for tickets to get into the sanctuary for the high holy days) and Dick told her it was all secret, you didn't need to pay anything if you didn't want to, it was all from the heart). So we had already asked Pastor BAerwold to visit them, he is not even installed yet, and he has been, so Sat ~~xxx~~ morning after hearing the bad diagnosis, I called him and asked him where he stood on all this, because I wasn't going to have them rejected again, Iremember always hearing that one of the little old Pastors when my folks wer married said that Dad had to be rebaptized German Luth, because Sweddish Lutheran wasn't good enough, and I thought we didn't need any more of that. And I wanted to be sure that if they did want to join the church and make a profession of faith or anything else, that he wouldn't tell them that they had to go to 2 years of instruction and be baptizd and confirmed and all that jazz, especially when Gr G could slip away any minute if God chooses. And he was so sweet, he said, Mrs. Grayson, you should have more confidence inme than that!! He said that he already had an appointment again to see her on MONday, and he hasn't been pushing or anything but now that he understands that situation, he will just meet them wherever they are at. And take it from there.

I do know that the outward ceremonies are necessary and beautiful but I also know that just a longing to be with the Lord is enough. Remember when the thief on the cross who was dying said to Jesus, Master, rmember me when you come into your kingdom, and Jesus said, TODAY will you be with me in Paradise.

It is rather eerie, I do feel that Gr G has transcended into some area where she is already serene and at peace, add above contenhion.