

Recently Pastor Rosemary has had several requests to again print in the newsletter a copy of her letter to her family regarding her end of life wishes. She honors those requests here.

October 23, 1997

TO MY FAMILY, FRIENDS AND WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter is not a request; it is an order.

I have tried to live with dignity and I wish to die with dignity. If my fate is such that I am too old or too ill to make a rational decision, you are hereby instructed to give the attending physician, hospital personnel, or anyone involved in my care, instructions that my life is not to be prolonged by any extraordinary measures whatsoever.

If I am terminally ill or stricken with illness or disability of an irreversible nature, and I am unable to speak for myself, please speak for me. Make this letter available to whomever is concerned in order to have my wishes and intentions clearly stated. If such a situation should occur, I want no surgery, no X-ray or Chemotherapy, no blood transfusions, no ventilators, no intravenous feedings, and no other such procedures or treatment. If my situation is borderline, or if something might be done to give me few more weeks or months, I wish any error to be made on the side of not enough rather than too much treatment.

I would hope that any expense spared for treatment at the end of life would transfer to someone younger, but I am not writing this letter to validate sound medical ethics. I am stating my convictions for my own personal care.

I do wish to be as comfortable as pain medication can make me so long as it does not mean that I have to be tied down or forced in any way to receive it. I love life, and I consider pain and death part of the life I love.

I am relieving you of the burden of making my care, treatment, and life and death decisions. It is done. I have done it.

My thanks in advance for honoring my wishes.

My love always,

*Rosemary D. Bane*

Rosemary - Mom - Grandma

