

Main text

Luke 12⁵⁰ **But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!**

Tribute from KNBC

Hello everyone, it is good to share this occasion with you, they are bitter/sweet times.

In 2016 Minnie responded to someone pointing out the sign outside The Chapel. She felt a clear call belong to a local church and became a member.

She quickly became part of the fellowship and was dearly loved by all.

We have missed her these months when she could not join, There's an empty seat where we picture her sitting half way up on the left.

A gentle soul, one who bore life's troubles with grace.

She was an example, she was an encourager. She made every effort to be involved and to be present, she asked about people and prayed for people.

She took my mother to heart and I would ask the Lord will you answer Minnie's prayer for her. We will miss her.

Now a 15 minutes reflection

Message

EU's chief negotiator Michel Barnier coined the phrase "the Clock is ticking" and then famously at the end said "the clock is no longer ticking" One of Minnie's favourite statements was "I'm getting there" x2 well she has arrived! She has got there x2

Minnie is not dead. She has left her earthly body and passed to Glory. That is the only way in. This is the day that is described as better by far.

In this life we live by faith - but the time comes when we will see him face to face. Minnie has reached the end of her time in this world - she has reached the journeys end. Peter says to Christian on this journey: **Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.** 1 Peter 1:8,9

Minnie slowed down as time went on, she had trouble with her legs and a weakened body but we can say "She has run the race" x2

Outwardly we are fading away but inwardly those in Christ are being renewed every day.

Jesus as he was heading through life here with all it's trials and snares said

I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! Luke 12:50

His baptism was the cross, this was his death - but he knew what was the other side So it is in this life, Jesus continued on for the joy set before him - and so will all his followers.

Baptism

I would like to think about 'baptism' x2 for a moment

There are two main events in a Christians life

The first event is their birthday – not natural birthday, but spiritual birthday.

We are all born into this world but nor all born again into the kingdom of God.

■ **A Christian has two birthdays – the Queen three!**

Do you have a second birthday? A spiritual birthday when you were born into the family of God, you could then say that God is your father and know it? Know his loving care over your life, know the certainty of sins forgiven and now live a life of repentance and faith. Has that happened to you?

If it has then this is something great to celebrate in.

John the Baptist baptized people ... but he said "**I baptise you with water**, but one will come after me **he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.**" Mr 1:8

Minnie may have had an inherited faith from her parents, and we can be set on the right track by our parents - and every parent should do all they can to make sure their children are brought up with a fear of God and be well versed in God's word.

But this faith cannot be a second hand faith - No it has to become your own. I don't know when - but there came a time when Minnie's faith became her own.

Minnie was baptized in water – but what is important is that she was baptized by God's Spirit. This is the Spirit of Christ who now lives in a believer and makes Christ mine.

The work of the cross 2000 years ago is brought to me now.

That is the time I am declared guiltless in the sight of God, that is when I cross over the bridge, I am made alive, I enter in through the narrow gate, I am adopted into God's wonderful forever family,

There are tears, I am broken by the Lord and it is no longer me living but him in me. I have crossed from death to life.

This is the major change that takes place, no longer away from God, no longer dead to the things of God in my sins, I have been forgiven of everything past present and future and now made alive in Christ.

Then as a new born baby we grow in this new life of faith, a follower of Christ.

Ro 10:9 **That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved**

This inner change that Christ does is then made public. True faith must show. Jesus said we should believe and be baptized.

✚ **So I call all my friends and family together, everyone, and in a public profession I stand up and declare my new faith,**

I stand to declare my faith publically, to seal it. To honour him before men. I declare Jesus is Lord. Having believed in my heart I confess with my mouth.

How important it is that everyone crosses into life – has a spiritual birthday

Between entering this world and leaving it – it is an urgent business to pray and plead that all may find life in Christ.

With Christ it is not just a guarantee of what is to come - but you have everlasting life now.

Yet you don't experience the fullness of it.

The fullness to come

- Ladies remember when you received that ring, the engagement ring, but you had to wait, to wait for the great day, the wedding day to arrive!

In Jewish times the engagement, the betrothal was much stronger than our engagement today. They were as married, that is why Joseph wanted to 'divorce' Mary quietly when she was found to be with child.

It is at that first Birthday that Christ gives you his Spirit and makes you his own. That is the engagement ring – the wedding will come. The great day of being united will come.

Now we wait, we long, we live trusting, expecting – one day fullness will come.

For Minnie she has now received fullness. She is with the Lord she loves

This is the second great event.

The first changeover is actually the big one - even though it is invisible. That is when the Spirit who gives life comes, you are united and at peace with God, because he lives so you live - his life is eternal life - so you have this eternal life!

Later the physical has to come as well. This is the visible and dramatic but actually it is not the main change. For Minnie already had eternal life from the day she truly believed. Now is the day of shedding the last remnant of this world in preparation for the next, the new one to come.

✚ **To receive a new body - we have to shed this one.**

- **And like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly it has to go through a complete transformation.**

Jesus' bodily resurrection from the grave to a new resurrection body promises hope to all in Christ that we too will be transformed. Jesus has the power to do it and he will do it!

We read that Jesus **who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body**. Php 3:21 *Hallelujah. Praise God*

While Minnie entered this life at her spiritual birthday she has now entered life fully. Sin has no influence, the world no influence, the devil has no influence.

She is now in complete freedom, true freedom. *Praise God*

This side it is hard and difficult - but not the other side, there the is fullness of Joy.

- **For Minnie the long hard winter is over and spring has come.**

Minnie I know you are "getting there" x2 well you have got there x2

Let us thank The Lord for his great grace. Let us thank the Lord for the gift of life that he gave Minnie and also this new life eternal life he gave Minnie.

END