

GODLINESS IN ACTION

by Rick Founds

Psalm 16:11 – “You have made known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

It was pouring rain. Thunder, lightning, the whole bit. To make matters worse, there were possible tsunami warnings, (due to an early morning earthquake off the coast of Chile.) These were not the best weather conditions to be scattering Aunt Joy’s ashes out on the Pacific Ocean.

Forty-five of us, friends and family, slowly cruised through the harbor, heading out to open waters. I read a few passages of scripture and sang a couple of her favorite songs; “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” and “Carry Me Away”. As we were sharing our favorite memories, I began to reflect on what a wonderful example Aunt Joy had been of “Godliness in action”.

She was fun, energetic, and full of life. She was loyal, and always generous with her time, her baked goods, and her finances. She was always helping someone in need. She was beautiful inside and out. She had such style and class. She loved people. She would talk to everyone in her path. She loved to laugh, and had fun everywhere she went. She loved to say shocking things, just to see your reaction. Aunt Joy was always interested in how you were doing and what was going on in your life. She was an amazing listener. She loved her family and friends. She was a good daughter, sister, aunt, great aunt, great-great aunt, a second mother to many, and a dear friend.

Aunt Joy possessed a quiet, consistent, practical, and active faith in God. A faith that was demonstrated through countless acts of selfless generosity and servant-hood. Too numerous to mention, are the charitable organizations and individuals who have been recipients of her gracious generosity.

There were a few moments, as we began our trek into the open waters, when some of us on board secretly wondered if this could possibly end up as a mass burial at sea. But then, as if God were reading our minds, (which indeed He was), the ocean began to calm dramatically, and as the sun peeked out from behind storm clouds, we were granted the “window” for which we had been praying.

Aunt Joy’s life and character were lived in a manner that truly honored the God of her salvation. Her Savior has honored her, by gently ushering her into His presence.

Heaven has recently become even more of a JOY-ful place.

Lord, help me become someone like Aunt Joy. Someone who, when people reflect on my life, will say that I too had been an excellent example of “Godliness in action”.