End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Ronnie Burns (Rev.)

I am writing in connection with the above, both as a practising Christian, and more importantly, as a Minister of the Church. In the course of many years of pastoral care, I have witnessed the passing away of many with 'incurable illnesses' and on every occasion, their passing has been peaceful. I attribute this purely to the hope and peace that comes through prayer and the encouragement of the life to come through faith in Christ. Just a matter of weeks ago, I took the funeral of a relatively young husband and father of 5 boys. The fact that I had introduced them and the deceased to the dimension of faith and eternity made a huge difference.

I believe that if society goes down the route of assisted suicide or euthanasia it will mean that some lives will be regarded as of little or no value and we will be riding against the Christian heritage of our nation (the Bible condones neither suicide or euthanasia). I am no politician but it seems to me that much of the wording of the Bill is vague and therefore open to misuse. I also understand that historically both the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments have been opposed to assisted suicide in recent years.

I would be pleased if you would take into consideration the above when coming to a decision.

Ronnie Burns (Rev.)
29 April 2010