End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill

Jim Gibson

Having read the details of the Bill, there are many apparent flaws which are frightening, apart from the basic flaw which is that only God our Creator has the right of life and death. I am aware that whilst this is a matter of opinion and belief, it is probably the most serious matter as it affects the sanctity of life itself. Our birth and our death are not ours to decide and should not be in our own hands. We do not have this right. As a Church Pastor, I have the privilege of dealing with many situations and going through many serious and painfully sad times with people, I am unswerving in my resolve on this.

I have just recently along with my family, shared the passing of my mother who at 85, was diagnosed with terminal cancer 16 months ago. We were very privileged to have her with us for over a year and share the most precious and wonderful moments with her. While she did suffer some discomfort, we were very grateful to the Palliative Care Team who were amazing in reducing our mother’s pain. We were allowed to comfort her and be with her as she went on her journey and passed away in a very peaceful way. Whilst this would have been very painful as the cancer was right through her body, she was, because of the excellent care and expertise available, able to die with dignity.

I hope that this will help in any decisions made with this very important and fundamental right of every individual to die in the right way and also to protect every person from having to take on the great responsibility of ending a life with the obvious consequences and guilt that it would bring to those left living.

Jim Gibson
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