

planning your funeral

by Shannon on December 2, 2010



Death is a topic that many shy away from, and understandably so. When we think of death, we often think of sadness and loss. It wasn't until my first pregnancy that I started to have anxiety about dying. I would have dreams that I passed away and left my daughter to grow up without her mommy, it was horrible. Over time my feeling of anxiety subsided, but returned two-fold with my second pregnancy. I was not afraid of death itself—as a Christian I have a

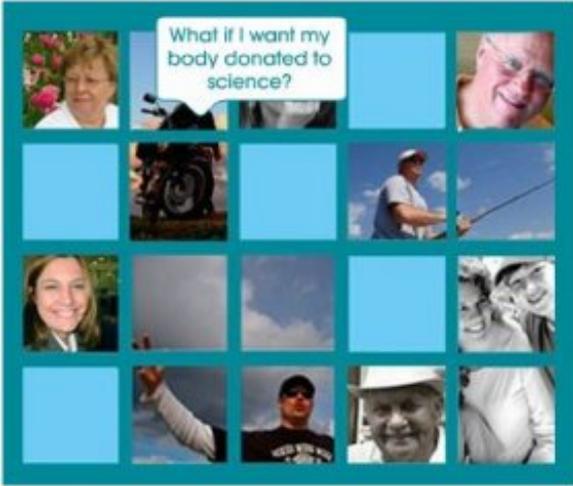
strong belief that the grass only gets greener, and that we have great things to look forward to. Instead, I feared the impact it would have on my family. How would it impact my girls? Would they understand how much I love them and that I would always be their in spirit? Would they feel abandoned by me or even angry? What about my husband? My mom? My family and friends? I can't go around telling everyone how I feel about them "in case I die"—they would probably have me monitored! I have always been a planner, but how do you prepare for your own death?

It is a touchy subject because so many of us think that by discussing death, or planning for it, they are going to make it happen sooner. News flash!! By admitting that you are going to die some day, you are not speeding up the process. Death is inevitable. We will all be faced with it at some point or another. How wonderful would it be to have a way to resolve "unfinished business" and take care of certain things in an appropriate way before it even happens? As a person that likes to plan EVERYTHING, it only makes sense that I would take the necessary steps to help my loved ones manage my passing. There is an incredible site, MyWonderfulLife.com, that provides a "free online service to help you plan and personalize your own funeral, so it reflects the way you lived." If you have ever lost someone close to you, and had any part in planning the funeral or gatherings, then you understand all that is involved. With MyWonderfulLife.com, you can take the guess work out of the planning process and provide all of the necessary information, with your final wishes in one convenient place. These are some of the services provided, as listed on MyWonderfulLife.com:

- Leave letters to loved ones
- Document the music and writings you love
- Leave your favorite memories, and anything else you'd like to share
- Let your Angels know where all your "stuff" is, like bank accounts, wills, and other important information
- Leave meaningful possessions to loved ones and tell them why
- Make sure your kids and pets are taken care of
- Write your own obituary
- Design your own headstone
- Upload some of your favorite photos that can be used at your service

The service is convenient and simple to use. You sign up for a free account, you pick your "Angels" (who will be responsible for carrying out your final wishes and, most likely, the individuals who will be planning your funeral), you fill out a "Book" with all of the important information that will be needed after your passing (do you want to be cremated? have a traditional funeral? more of a celebration? flowers? donations to a charity in your name? where is your will? and much more), and you are all set. You can log in and make changes or updates over the years as well.

By signing up at MyWonderfulLife.com, I almost felt as though a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. I have written two letters, one for each of my girls, that I want them to have, and I plan on writing more over the years. I want to be able to tell them how much I love them, and that I will always be there for them, even after I am gone. Life is short, and you never know what is going to happen tomorrow, but I feel a sense of relief knowing that when my time comes, I have said what I needed to say, and my family won't have to frantically decide what "Shannon would have wanted."



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