

Reflections @ Ben Dorsey's funeral, 31 August 2023

I guess the thing I want to say about this occasion is, "Unfinished business."

Ben had lots of life. He was a friend. He had ideas. The longer he came to Bethesda, the more he spoke up, during "Joys and Concerns," at meetings, riding in the car with me, again and again.

He's been hard to reach this past year or so. I'm not sure what was going on; and I just have to leave it at that, and think what I might do with the next person I love and who puzzles me ... I've got stuff to learn!

I had lots of fun going with Ben to study groups, police community meetings, Bible studies, whatever came up ... He enjoyed it, too, and said so..

But I guess that's Gospel news, the feeling things aren't done yet. We've lots more to learn, to give and receive, to watch for and, when there's an opening, maybe to make things a little better. That's pretty much the Good News, as I see it: There's so much to be hopeful about, and to learn to give thanks for right now, so it can earn interest later...

Let us pray: Jesus, you teach us that so much is just beginning. Whether in this world or the next, we know we thrive on surprises! Glory is already right here as we learn things: like, how to forgive, and how to accept forgiveness. Bless Ben, and thank you for giving him to us, and us to him, already ...and open our eyes to new ideas just because Ben introduced us to some and stimulated us to go and do likewise as believers. Save us from more warfare ... we know Ben went through some of that, not all we know but enough to be sure it's not good for humans or other creatures... Thank you for those who bravely defend us now, in this time after Ben's time of service. Let him hear and see our love, and and always ... and thank you for him in our midst, just beginning to be glorified in your image and thank you for this brother and father and friend and companion, now and forever. Amen.