

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

57 “*This time I don’t even have to pack my bags!*”

My father died on December 17, 1951 after a severe stroke. I was 26 years old and struggling with my faith. I was upset and literally shaking when I saw him lying still and dead on the hospital bed.

I made a full commitment to follow Jesus in 1969, and my mother died 10 years later, December 26, 1979. A few days before Christmas she called and said she needed to go to the hospital. When I arrived she was standing on the curb waiting for me.

Mom spent Christmas in the hospital. Our family was going to Colorado the following day to ski, so we went to check on her and see if we should stay home. She insisted we go on. She told us she wasn’t worried about dying, and smiled as she said, “*You know how I like to travel.*” Then she concluded, almost with a chuckle, “***This time I don’t even have to pack my bags!***” We left content that she was O.K., but returned about 3:00 a.m. after receiving a call informing us Mom had died.

She was a small lady, about 85 pounds. As she lay there I thought, “I came from this tiny old woman.” How grateful I was. She raised us to know the Lord; released us to become men; quietly stayed in our lives, but never tried to tell us how to live; always supportive; never condemning; growing in her faith all her life.

I bent down and kissed her to say, “Goodbye!” Dad died days before Jesus’ birthday celebration. Mom died the day after Christmas, 28 years later.

She was at peace. This time, so was I!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2018 Marvin J. Martin