

Unfinished...grace?

As we continue our 'Footsteps in Faith'.. I am wondering... As adults we are too readily focused on 'getting the job done', on 'finishing the task', on 'the journey's end'! Our 'unfinished business' can cause us undue stress... I am reminded of an old adage: *'God put me on this earth to accomplish a certain number of tasks: At the rate I am going I shall never die!'* Yet none of us is indispensable!



We could learn much from children. Watch them play or paint. More often than not their paintings are abandoned half done or sometimes scribbled over, almost like saying, 'I've tried that, so it's no longer needed.'

For children it is the process, not the product, which is important. The journey, not the destination, is the experience they live to enjoy. They are not so bothered about the 'finished piece of art', or the 'completed game', or the end product of anything. Their growing involves exploring the moment, not striving to finish.

There is something about the 'unfinished' which allows the journey to continue – which invites others to join in the journey, like a relay race, enabling it to go on beyond our own horizons, drawing the unfinished into unfolding eternity. And even completed tasks only have lasting value if they lead into new journeys...

Michelangelo was a master of the unfinished sculpture... art which invites the spectator to wonder how the rest of the shape might be...allowing space for other stories to emerge as we look and wonder...

My mother started a piece of cross stitch in her last year... she never finished it...but its unfinished shape invited me to do so. It has become a symbol of the relationship we had as mother and daughter...both timely and unfinished grace as we journey on into eternity. May Grace never be finished !

So if you find yourself getting anxious about a task you never finished – relax and let it go – you have been part of a complex journey and if the task is worth its salt it will continue to take shape in the hands of others, who will bring their own blessing. For those of us who strive to dot every 'i' here's some advice from a training incumbent: *'Never let perfection get in the way of progress!'*

And may the grace.... of the Lor... bless your unfinish... journ...