

A Few Short Words...

by Pastor Phillip Short

THE LOVE of the FOLLOWERS of JESUS CHRIST and the HOPE of RESURRECTION.

I am looking forward to celebrating The Resurrection with the believers and disciples of the Stuart First United Methodist Church. I know several people refer to Sunday, April 12th as “Easter,” but in light of the sense of loss that I have experienced in my family a few days ago, I want to call it what it is: **RESURRECTION**.

I was able to fly to Germany to help get my mother back to Lakeland where the family wanted her to spend her last few days. Once arrived, the doctors spoke of how her situation had deteriorated and so we decided to let her live out her days there in the clinic in Bad Mergenheim. My father was there with her. My older sister Sally had come up from Coral Gables. My brother Hunter had flown over from his home in Lady Lake. My little sister and her husband made it in from New York City. Once arrived, we each took our turns in telling her that we loved her. Then we each had a word of prayer over her. Then we prayed *The Lord's Prayer* in unison and we quoted the 23 Psalm. We sang a few songs, including “Soon and Very Soon We're Going to See the King,” and “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling.” We then said a benediction.

My mother spoke of seeing a beautiful river, and we could hear her speaking to my grandmother who ran on 8 years ago. Her last words were: “I'm grateful.” A beautiful life came to an end of sorts, but the people of the resurrection faith know that a beautiful life has actually just started. I find myself mourning for my father more than anything else. They were close friends and they still loved each other.

I want to thank the church of Jesus Christ here at Stuart. You are wonderful with your prayers of support, words of encouragement, visits, comments, cards and calls. Thank you for keeping Jesus, indeed the resurrected Jesus, the main thing. Thanks for your expressions of love and support.

I am thankful to Jesus, our sin-conquering, death-defeating, stone-rolling, garden-visiting, tear-drying, hope-giving King of kings and Lord of lords Who sees to it n the life to come, we shall be also.

You said it best Mom, I too am grateful!!!

