

Darling Mum what can I say? You were the Mum I never had, I never knew a mother, I never knew love. And you were all that to me and more. And we loved you so much in every way.

I did not want to speak, but I have to speak because one week before you died I sat on your bed and we remembered together wonderful things about all of the family that you loved so dearly. I wanted to share just a few of those memories.

Going to Thailand with Mum, sharing the double bed, waking up in the middle of the night convinced that someone in the house. I woke mum up and I said there is someone in the house, what should we do. She said: *Pick up that stick. We are going in to John and Nah's and it will be ok.* So we literally ran into John and Nah, and said: *John, John quick.* Of course it was someone going to the toilet., We felt very stupid.

She wanted me to tell you just what you mean to her - everyone of you - she loved so very, very deeply, and she was such a wonderful person. I remember when I first met her, driving up to Middlesbrough with Stuart arriving very, very late at night. With my own background I said: *We cannot go into the house we have to sit here until the morning* and Stuart said: *No, of course not Mum will be there.* I will always remember walking in at midnight there was Mum and there were Dad and the family I had never known. She was such a wonderful friend and mum and granny and everything.

I wanted to speak because she planned this funeral with me. And I said to her that night when we talked and remembered: *Has Stuart talked with you about the funeral.* And she said: *No, and I didn't think he would want to.* So I said: *Would you like to talk to me about it.* So we started to talk and I said: *Are you frightened about dying?* She said: *No, I am not frightened I just want to go to sleep and not wake up, and then I shall be in heaven.* And she said when we talked about heaven, she said: *It's going to be terribly crowded up there. How is God going to manage all those people? And I really hope he's not going to put me on a cloud to float around.* And I said: *You are going to have a body and you are going to be really happy and you*

*are to meet those who love the Lord., you are going to meet them and we started to cry together. And I said: Will you be there when I get there. And she said: I'll be there and if he lets me I shall open the door.*

When we talked about the colours and the flowers, she said: *Don't let everybody feel they have to wear black, they can wear whatever colour.* So, the flowers and the cakes - the cakes, little Jasmin, we decorated the cakes together, didn't we? We put the ribbon on for your great granny.

I know you miss her. I know she would want to say to you, that the Lord - she came to know [him] when she was in her later years. She was [a] lady that really loved the Lord. She was such an encouragement to me, and to our family and to everyone of you. She loved you so much and I know she is skipping around in heaven – and mum, I hope you are having - if you are hearing this – I don't think you are - Pastor Joe. If you are: *Thank you for being [who you are].*

Chris