

“Chapter and Verse”

This week I'm doing something a little different - I'm going to dedicate this one to a couple of friends. I had a neighbor/friend (in Ohio) named Vicki who had been battling cancer for over a year, and I'd brought her to our Prayer team quite often! For several months, Vicki was one of my family and friends I texted every morning, and I always did my best to encourage her, and was able to pray with her on a few occasions. Several weeks ago, she was admitted into a local nursing home

A few months ago, I met her daughter Staci who Vicki described as “her rock.” The last few weeks, Staci and I have been texting back and forth daily - her giving me updates on Mom, and me giving her encouragement. Willow (my dog) and I made several trips to the nursing home to visit with Vicki which really brightened her day! Sadly, last week Miss Vicki went home to be with the Lord - she will be sorely missed by family and her many friends.

Her funeral was yesterday (Monday), and I wanted to send Staci a comforting word this morning, but I felt the Lord wanted me to share my thoughts openly here. As I shared a few weeks ago, our lives are like a book, with different seasons or chapters if you will. Some chapters are real thrillers, some are great adventures, some might be sad while others are quite a mystery. For my friend Vicki, the final verse in the last chapter of her life was penned by God on August 20th, and her “book” as we knew it was closed.

For Staci, and those of us like her, this begins a new chapter in our lives - one we would rather skip, because it's a sad season of loss - a time of grief and the heartache of losing a loved one. For some, this chapter is relatively short, and for others, it's a chapter that we move through very slowly, but one we must move past in order to move forward to the next chapter in our lives..

I guess this is meant to be an encouragement for those of us who have lost loved ones. For the rest of the world, life moves on, and the lives of our loved ones are like a borrowed book that was due to be returned - one that they might remember fondly on occasion, but for those of us who have suffered a loss, their lives are an open book forever etched in our hearts, and we can easily bring to life any of the chapters and verses whenever we please. Amen!