



Living Hope Bible Church

Where hope comes to life, and the Son always shines.

February 26, 2022

Dear Church Family and Friends:

I want to take this opportunity to once again thank each of you for your loving support, prayers, and sympathy over my mother's recent death. I have truly sensed the love and care of our Savior through your many texts, calls, meals, and cards. In this difficult time for me, I was once again reminded of the special bond of love we share as a church family and how precious a gift it is. As Paul tells us in I Corinthians 12:26, "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it: if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." Thank you again for your love and concern!

I believe it would only be appropriate to also take this opportunity to thank God for the gift of my mother and briefly share what she meant to me and my family. Rose did not live an easy life. Her father (my grandfather) came to America as an immigrant from Sicily at the young age of only sixteen. He did not speak a word of English but was a hard worker who slowly built his life and raised his family in South Philadelphia. My mom did not have a lot materially and I am reminded of her telling me that as a young adult she was required to give her entire salary to her father. My mom later married my father, Edward, who most of you know went home to be with the Lord at only the age of 48. My mom was left with four children to raise by herself. Additionally, she was forced to reenter the work force full time and still managed, somehow, to care for each of us.

My mom sacrificed much of her own life to care for her four children. Remarkably, I never recall my mother ever complaining. She was a true selfless servant who gave herself over to her children and family. In many ways she exemplified the attitude of Jesus Christ, which we are all exhorted to adopt (Phil. 2:5-8). She was always thinking about and encouraging each of us. In fact, there were times I would call my mom and somehow, within the first minute of our discussion, she would detect that something just wasn't right. She would 'read' me and want to understand and share in my own struggles. You really couldn't hide anything from her.

One of my fondest memories, of my mother, was when she took me to a Phillies baseball game at the old Veteran's Stadium in South Philadelphia. I was about 12 years old and wanted desperately to go to a game that was sponsoring a Jersey Day, in which every child under 14 would receive a free Phillies baseball jersey. Although my mom was not a sports fan, had never attended a baseball game before, and did not drive, she took me by herself to that game. Through her love, she managed to somehow be a mother, father, provider, and so much more to me and my siblings.

My mom was a true gift from the Lord, and I count it a privilege to have had her as my mother. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "No man is poor who has a godly mother." I have been blessed and forever will cherish the special relationship I shared with my mom. This is one reason it is such a bittersweet time for me, as I grieve her loss. Although I will miss her, I am so thankful that through her faith in Jesus Christ she has gone home to be with the Lord. I praise God that I now possess the blessed "hope of glory", that assures me that someday I will see her and my father again, when I too go home into my Lord's wonderful presence. This is the same "blessed hope" all of us can likewise have, who have received Jesus' free gift of salvation. It is through this eternal gift that we can be assured of, and look forward to, the wonderful victory Jesus Christ has procured for each of us through His glorious resurrection.

In closing, I once again want to express my deepest love and appreciation for the precious love shown to me and my family over this past week. I truly praise God for each of you, and the special bond of love we share in Jesus Christ. I remain excited about the tremendous things God is accomplishing in our church, through each of you, and what He has in store for us in this new year. Our Heavenly Father is so good, and He is putting together a wonderful plan for our church that will far exceed our greatest dreams.

May He continue to unite, strengthen, and direct us to greater blessings, as we continue to trust and obey Him! God bless!

Your Servant In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Living Hope Bible Church

35 South Main Street

Plains, PA 18705

O: 570.406-4295

plainslhbc@gmail.com | www.lhbcpa.org

***“Where hope comes to life,
and the SON always shines”***

