

Scott Sweetland

Thank you for welcoming me into your family. Steve and I e-mailed a lot in the past few years, and we shared a lot of common values and had so many good memories of our times together. It was always easy for me to talk to him about life and to wonder about things that were going wrong, or to celebrate the things in life that were going great. I'm sure that in your life, you just don't get to have many friends like that....if you're lucky, one or two, and if they happen to be your brother, you are especially blessed. He was always there for me, and he was a comforting source of strength, to have his friendship and to be able to pick up the phone or write him. He was a great man.

I don't know if he is laughing at us, certainly he is smiling at us....and our focus on his departure. Now he is with God and understands life's great mysteries...and so yes, he is smiling and wondering why we don't understand the "big picture". In my prayers I have asked God to let Steve be my angel every so often.....to guide me, and to keep teaching me about what truly matters in life. Of course an angel of Steve's talents will be in big demand! So I'll be happy if he visits my family and me every now and then. I was thinking about a heavenly life with God and I am sure it is wonderful. As a scientist, Steve can spend the first half of eternity marveling at the answers to so many of the mysteries of science. Things like...."wow God, that's why you did it that way?" and then, for the second half of eternity, Steve can marvel in the answers to the rest of life's mysteries....like why teenagers act the way they do! I will keep in touch; I am with you in my heart and in my prayers.

Steve always loved to fish, and he loved to eat the fish we caught! We had some great times together fishing – and telling lies, I mean *stories* about the fish we caught! Funny that Steve became a storyteller..... he was a storyteller since the day I met him.

** Scott was in Steve's 7th grade science class when he taught school in Fernandina Beach, Florida. They remained friends since then and now Scott has children of his own.*