

November 22, 2005

Matthew, Abby, Ben & Brian,

I hope that you have (have had) a wonderful Thanksgiving and the Holidays will be joyful for each and all of you. I especially hope that you are well, that school is going OK and that you are growing and learning - each of you being separate ages, the challenges that you face vary...sometimes significantly; yet, I trust that the Lord has answered my prayers in that you are protected and each of you knows that He loves you far greater than anyone and everyone else.

My understanding is that you have moved to St. Augustine - not far from the coastal park where we used to hike and take the dog. I am so happy for you and know that this place is home for you...and a good home I trust. Perhaps you can say "hello" to that beach where we use to go or remind that trail of my whereabouts. I miss that place, our trips and adventures; and simply the time together.

I am thankful none the less and so very blessed by the knowledge of your whereabouts and, in particular that you have settled-in to new schools with opportunities to learn and have fun. I am also thankful for the memories that include Saint Augustine and its old town, fort, and parks. Some time ago, I passed by the horse carousel (near the library) and thought immediately of Abby; a similar memory has occurred at the Gadsden Mall (in Alabama) where all you went for a spin.

Years ago, the Jackson Five (Michael and his brothers) produced a song called "I'll Be There" - other groups may have recorded as well. This song captures some of my feelings regarding each of you: if and when you need me, and can make the decision on your own, "I'll Be There" if possible.

Until then, the Lord be with you, the Lord keep you, the Lord shine his face upon you.

Love always.