

A New Beginning

Dear Sweetheart,

We are celebrating our twentieth anniversary, a day in which we celebrate and remember the birth of our lives together. A day which signifies a new beginning; a starting point of great hope, joy, peace and love. A day of great expectations into a new life where nothing could stand in it's way because our love for each other could not be swayed.

We longed for each other as the months slowly passed when I was in Africa. So far away from each other, we both longed in our hearts to hold each other, to see each other face to face. Nights were long and lonely, the silence in the night was painful, the darkness daunting and friendless. How I longed for you, how I wanted to hold you in my arms and kiss your face.

Finally the morning came, first the light, then the sun shone brightly and gave hope once again to a new day. My heart leaps inside me as thoughts of you run through my mind. I



was in love, in love with a beautiful girl. I can't believe someone so beautiful could love me too, why has God gifted me like this? I can't even believe it, is this a dream, will I wake up and find myself alone?

I look at the clock
hoping the post
office is open

already. The walk into town is long, but with each step I take I can feel my heart begin to race. My walk begins to quicken as I make my way up the stairs to the second floor and into the building. There's a line, how can this be, don't they know who I am? Don't these people know what I have come for? With anticipation in my voice I ask if there is any mail for me, my heart stops... Yes! A smile returns to my face.



I repeated this ritual every day; every day like a hunger pain driving me to food, how I longed to hear from you. You were all that I could think of, all that I wanted.



Leaving and opening the letter as I make my way back home, I begin to read and lean on every word, I flip to the last page again and again just to look at the words "I Love You, Mary". I read the letter over and over, closing my eyes I can see you walking with me, holding my hand and just loving me, and me loving you.

At night I lay in bed, reading your letters over and over trying to be comforted, but it's not enough, I want you. I

just want to hold you and look long and deep into your eyes. To touch your face, your precious face. The silence of the night begins to weigh heavy on my heart... oh God, how long must this go on, how can I possibly take even one more night away from her? My heart pounds within me, my stomach hurts and I become frantic.

Prison would be better than this. I'm on another continent, thousands of miles away; I can do nothing, nothing. Everything inside me now wants to scream out, to break free. I must be with my love or I will die.



Can this be true; today I finally get to go home? No more trips to the post office, no more sleepless nights, no more lonely walks. My hopes and dreams are all coming true, only hours

away. I'm coming home my love, my dearest one.



I will never forget the day I seen you for the very first time. You where so beautiful. Is this really happening? I can't believe it again.

That was twenty years ago.

God gave us one of the most amazing stories ever told. Two young people, in love and

ready to begin life together. We have so much to be thankful for. As I looked through the pictures of the past I had to sit and cry, so many beautiful memories we can lay hold of. Our children remember a good life.

They were just babies a short time ago. They are too young to know that life has been or can be difficult at times, but they are full of anticipation for their futures. Life moves by quickly as we have been told, and now we know, but for our children it has only just begun. And as for you and I, we can remember and hold onto all the good times of our past. We must remember to cherish our past because it is the foundation in which we can start our future.

So here's my prayer; that God will guide us back to what we once knew, and to a future we can look forward to. I also believe and pray with all my heart that we need to make the choice to love, the choice for a new beginning. And like the movie characters said it so well... "I Choose Us".



I love you Mary with all of my heart,
Your loving husband,
Steve