



## *Our Lifestyle of Learning*

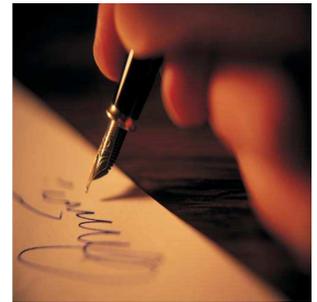
### *Once Upon a Family*

*Created by: Monica Guerra*

#### *Family Guest Book*

I am currently working on a guest book for our family. I hope to have everyone that stops and stays for while to sign their name and leave a short (or long) message. What a priceless possession this will be to open those pages in ten or twenty years and see the handwriting of grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, missionaries, our children's playmates and cousins.

You can go to town with this. Buy a gorgeous or simple scrapbook and add embellishments and pictures to the pages. I bought a composition notebook. I embellished the covers with varied scrapbooking supplies. I am going to glue pictures in different places along the book. The pictures and embellishments will add to the fun and give you the visual of that special dinner or birthday party. You may even add cards and postcards that have also visited your family and brought a smile to your faces. Outline the hands of our new baby nephew. How about a stray cats or lost dog paw print. You may even choose to add petals of flowers bought by a friend. The book will become a touch and feel visual feast for you eyes and heart.



I have forgotten to ask some friends to sign our book a few times. Keep it on the coffee table or by our front door or foyer. There is no reason why you can't write in what they said during their visit, who was visiting and the date. I bought a date stamp. I thought it would give it an old fashioned look. Ask your kids to remind you to give the guests the book and you'll never forget again. Have family fun with it. Now go make some memories!

#### *Here are some ideas for you:*

Scrapbook

Composition notebook

Store bought journal

Date stamp

Attach a ribbon with a pen for ease of use

Don't wait until they are getting in the car

Take pictures

Add thank you cards, birthday cards, postcards or any special note

When your book is full tie a pretty ribbon around it and start another. Have a special dinner and prayer night with your family once a year and REMEMBER and PRAY for your friends and family.



***Some beautiful scripture, poetry and quotes to add to your pages:***

... there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18: 24

A friend loves at all times... Proverbs 17: 17

No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends. John 15: 13

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you

John 15: 15(NKJV)

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are lavish and deceitful.

Proverbs 27: 6

Oil and perfume rejoice the heart; so does the sweetness of a friend's counsel that comes from the heart.

Proverbs 27: 9

As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. Proverbs 27: 17(NKJV)

***My Closest Friend***

I place my hope in you  
For you alone are Lord  
There could never be another  
I could ever love more

There's no one that comes closer  
To you in my life  
For you are my closest friend  
In whom I can confide

And share my deepest longings  
My hurts and my fears  
Knowing you will understand  
And wipe away my tears

Knowing I can come to you  
Morning, noon and night  
You will never turn me away  
But give ear to my plight

And you will not condemn me  
Nor judge what I say  
For you are full of constant love  
And listen when I pray

Your love was such that you died  
My soul you came to save  
From certain eternal misery  
Awaiting beyond the grave

But now in you I can be sure  
Of eternity with you  
Freed from pain and misery  
With eternal joy too.

© By M.S.Lowndes.

***Friendship***

We grow closer to each other  
When we're closer to the Lord  
The common faith that we share  
Binds our hearts in one accord

For friendships last a life time  
When built on Jesus Christ  
Throughout each different season  
We find we are in life

Friends are there through times of grief  
And times when hope is gone  
Always there with encouragement  
So we can carry on

So thank the Lord for giving you  
A true and faithful friend  
To laugh with you, and cry with you  
On whom you can depend

For friends will stay no matter what  
Giving you support  
And together your hearts truly unite  
With the love of the Lord

© By M.S.Lowndes.

"A Friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of Nature."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882) US poet & essayist.



"Grief can take care of itself, but to get the full value of joy you must have somebody to divide it with."

- *Mark Twain*

"The best mirror is an old friend."

- *George Herbert*

"With every friend I love who has been taken into the brown bosom of the earth a part of me has been buried there; but their contribution to my being of happiness, strength and understanding remains to sustain me in an altered world."

- *Helen Keller*

"What is a friend? A single soul in two bodies."

- *Aristotle*

"The friendship that can cease has never been real."

- *Saint Jerome*

"I count myself in nothing else so happy  
As in a soul rememb'ring my good friends."

- *William Shakespeare*

"I find friendship to be like wine, raw when new, ripened with age, the true old man's milk and restorative cordial."

- *Thomas Jefferson*

"Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light."

- *Helen Keller*

"Ah, how good it feels...the hand of an old friend"

- *Mary Englebright*

" 'Stay' is a charming word in a friends vocabulary."

-*Louisa Mary Alcott [1832-1888], American writer, reformist*

"When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves."

-*William Arthur Ward*

"Friendship? Yes Please."

-*Charles Dickens - Sent in by Steffi*

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

- *Martin Luther King Jr.*

***Monica Guerra***

***April 2009***

