Funeral Sermon Rev. Carl F. Thrun
Mrs. Ruth Vanstone -- Mother of Donna Reinhadt
Sept. 12, 1977

IN NOMINE JESU

ST. JOHN 10: 28-29 "NO ONE SHALL SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY HAND... .....NO ONE IS ABLE TO SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY FATHER'S HAND."

I want you to concentrate on these words with me: GOD DOES NOT LET GO! In spite of ourselves -- our failings, and fears, and weaknesses -- GOD DOES NOT LET GO!

You must never weaken in your faith about the GRACE, and MERCY, and LOVE OF GOD in Christ Jesus, our Lord! His GRACE is eternal! His MERCY is everlasting! His LOVE knows no end! He is SO STRONG, and SO POWERFUL, and SO MIGHTY that HE WILL NO LET GO!

I remember how when my children were small, I would hold them over my head and toss them up in the air. They would come down LAUGHING AND GIGGLING -- sure that their DADDY WOULD CATCH THEM .... Or I would put them on top of the REFRIDGERATOR and tell them to JUMP. And they would LEAP OFF into my arms..... Or I would stand in the SWIMMING POOL and encourage them to JUMP -- all the while assuring them: "Daddy will catch you." And THEY WOULD JUMP -- sure that DADDY WAS THERE and would KEEP HIS WORD

If that is true of an EARTHLY FATHER -- how much more true it is of our HEAVENLY FATHER! He does not GO BACK ON HIS PROMISES HIS COVENANT IS SURE! HE DOES NOT LET GO!

Your MOTHER and LOVED ONE was "BURIED WITH CHRIST BY BAPTISM INTO DEATH." She was also "RAISED WITH HIM." God made His everlasting COVENANT with her. He "CALLED HER BY NAME." He made her His REDEEMED CHILD! And like the HOUND OF HEAVEN, He DOES NOT LET GO! "NO ONE SHALL SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY HAND..... NO ONE IS ABLE TO SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY FATHER'S HAND."

I did not know your Ruth (loved one) very well. I met her only that one time in the hospital -- and we prayed together. And I THANK GOD for that opportunity. I thank God that I was able to talk to her about FORGIVENESS, and LIFE, and SALVATION through Him Who has "LOVED US WITH AN EVERLASTING LOVE" -- even JESUS CHRIST, our Lord -- LOVED US all the way to HELL AND BACK -- LOVED US all the way to the CROSS! And HE DOES NOT LET GO!

That must be your FAITH AND CONFIDENCE today! We have a GOD who "GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON" for us and for our salvation. We have a God Who comes to bring "HEALING FOR THE BROKENHEARTED, COMFORT FOR THE MOURNING." We have a God Who brings "A GARLAND TO REPLACE OUR ASHES, THE OIL OF GLADNESS TO REPLACE OUR MOURNING, AND THE SHOUTING OF AN ALLELUIA CHORUS FOR AN OTHERWISE FAINT SPIRIT." That LOVE and that STRONG HAND OF GOD is BOLTED TO THE CROSS of our Lord. HE DIED FOR US! He TOOK OUR SINS into the grave with Him! He ROSE AGAIN that we might have RESURRECTION AND LIFE ~~WITH HIM~~! In "HIS PRESENCE THERE IS FULNESS OF JOY" and "AT HIS RIGHT HAND THERE ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE." in His Name

Let this be your COMFORT today! Think of the JOY that is now hers. "NO MORE SUFFERING, NO MORE PAIN, NO MORE TEARS, NO MORE CRYING" -- ONLY JOY! And then, the "angels and archangels and all the company of heaven" singing their endless and eternal ALLELUIAS to HIM "WHO WAS SLAIN FOR US AND FOR OUR SINS." And because of the STRONG ARM AND THE ~~STRONG~~ mighty HAND OF GOD AND HIS CHRIST who will not let anyone "SNATCH US OUT OF HIS HAND" -- we look forward to a blessed reunion in heaven. GOD KEEP YOU IN THAT FAITH.

Amen.