

Tribute from Denise

I miss you, my dear friend—my breath of fresh air.

Yet my heart is filled with gratitude for every precious moment of our friendship spanning more than fifty years.



Mariana was someone we could always turn to when our spirits needed lifting. She had a God-given gift of bringing hope, peace, and encouragement.

Mariana was someone we could laugh with over life's little irritations. She reminded us not to take ourselves too seriously and to find joy in the ordinary moments that make life so precious.

Mariana was someone with whom we could be completely honest as we faced life's challenges. She never judged, never condemned—she simply loved us with the compassionate heart of Christ.

Mariana filled our lives with beauty, joy, grace, and unwavering faith. Her life reflected the love of God in countless quiet ways, and everyone who knew her was richer because of it.

Mariana made the world a better, kinder, and more godly place. She was a faithful woman of God whose love for the Lord shone brightly through the way she lived and cared for others.

Mariana was someone we treasured, for true friendship is one of God's greatest gifts.

As followers of Jesus, we do not grieve without hope. Death is only the end of this earthly life; it is not the end of our precious friendship. Because Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die. So I know this is not "goodbye," but "until we meet again." or as we say in Japan "matte ne "my dearest friend, my breath of fresh air.