

November 3, 1998

Dear Friends and Family,

It is our desire to pass on the legacy of our Mother to our younger siblings and our future children. For this reason we are asking as many friends and family members that we can think of to write down a special memory or memories of Mom.

We would like to forever remember how our Mom's life touched those around her.

We are continually grateful to God for all of your love, support, and prayers.

Please use the enclosed paper and mail to:

Jonathan and Kathryn Trotter
902 Jackson
Raymore, MO 64083

Gratefully Yours,

Jonathan &

Kathryn

"He is no fool who gives
what he cannot keep to gain
what he cannot lose."

Jim Elliot - Martyred 1956

July 27, 1998

The Reminder

REFLECTIONS ... jim dalton

A friend suggested I read the devotional for July 25th in *Streams in the Desert*. The verse selection at the top of the page was John 13:7 "You do not realize now what I am doing, but

later you will understand." At times such as this my heart, soul and mind is quickened by such a word from the Lord as this. My heart is aching as I write this, for I have lost a dear friend and my dearest friend has lost his companion of 23 years ... and I do not realize what God is doing! But His sweet and gentle voice speaks to me through this verse ... *later, Jim, you will understand*. I am grateful to know that this verse and many others like it which speak to us about God's Sovereignty were favorites to Kerry Trotter. Kerry was a woman who loved the truth and who knew the Truth. To Kerry, truth was more than words written on a page ... truth was Jesus. I remember fondly conversations we would have about truth and how sweet it was to just hear a truth spoken - Kerry could sit for hours and listen to truth. She also knew what was false and a strange voice and she would become very restless when she heard a voice other than the One she knew. Kerry was one who wanted to be obedient and responsive to what God revealed to her. Having a clear conscience before the Lord was a very important matter to Kerry. She loved her

Lord and wanted nothing more than to please Him. This took her into uncharted waters where trust and faith must rule. This trust and faith gave her and Mark 9 beautiful children, one who died after only 19 days of life, Laura Beth. Kerry leaves a legacy of this faith and trust to her children and to each one of us who knew her. My life is richer because of Kerry and I will miss her tremendously. When I look at Mark and those 8 beautiful children ... Kerry put something in my heart that says ... God will make a way ~ where there seems to be no way! One day ... I will understand.

Kerry

Trotter

June 29, 1954

July 24, 1998

Jim

Kerry Trotter

My first thoughts when I think of Kerry is that of a loving mother. From the beginning of our friendship, we spent a great deal of time discussing our childhood and the families we had come from. She was adamant that her family would be strong and that her children would have wonderful memories. She felt that great men/women were not great if they didn't take time to be a part of the family. In later years I watched her raise her family and it was evident that her children knew they were loved and that they were the very center of their mothers life.

The second thought has to be of Kerry as a "Godly Woman". She was never afraid to talk about her faith and push others to examine their thinking and the way they were living. She was ready with helpful suggestions and good books that would stimulate and teach. She refused to allow you to be in the middle of the road. She wanted a commitment to God to be just that, a commitment.

Her servant attitude was one of her most evident characteristics. She was always looking for ways to help others. Even when things were difficult for her, she would reach out to others. Her door was open to friends and strangers, she had time for young people, she was an encouragement to those struggling.....

It is with confidence that I picture Kerry safe in the arms of Jesus and watching with interest as the rest of us work to join her.

Jonathan and Kathryn,

When I think back and remember your mother, the first thing that comes to mind is the love she had for her children. She liked to talk about her children and always looked for the best of them. Your mother loved the excitement and anticipation of being pregnant. She also wanted others to experience it often. On more than one occasion she encouraged couples to have more children.

Kerry was a kind and gentle person. Unfortunately, I was not extremely close to her but she always made people feel welcomed and loved. I feel her gentleness today can be seen through your family. I see the kindness and caring you bestow on yourselves and others. I know your family has experienced devastating hardships yet you smile often and seem to have a peacefulness about you. Your mother has a special place in our hearts and we thank God for the time we spent with her.

We think of your family often and will continue to keep you in our prayers.

Love,

Bob, Cheryl, Carisa and Jonathan Hicks

Jim and Phyllis Holleman
2708 East Fifth Street
Tyler TX 75701-5021

December 29, 1998

Dear Jonathan and Kathryn,

Sorry I am late responding to your request regarding my memories of your Mom. Hope it is not too late. It gives me great pleasure to share my memories with you.

Please tell your siblings that their Mom was a very faithful and God-fearing lady. As closely as was possible, she always tried to comply with those things she believed to be pleasing to her Lord.

No person, that ever knew your Mom, was in doubt as to where she stood regarding those matters she strongly felt in her heart. This is a wonderful attribute in communicating with people around her. I loved her non-pretentiousness.

Your Mom, on several occasions, spurred me on to higher spiritual plains. Especially, when it came to encouraging me as an older Christian lady to teach the younger ladies in matters of rearing their children. I remember when your Mom and Dad chaperoned an Overland Park Church of Christ Senior High group to Harding's Senior Day. Our daughter Holli was in that group. On that trip Holli met a Harding student who later became her husband. Red carnations with white baby's breath were the flowers used at their wedding. This was the reason I sent red carnations with white baby's breath to your Mom's funeral (in memory and honor of her part in our daughter Holli's life.)

Hope these are the kinds of things that you were wanting to share with your younger siblings. I think this is a wonderful thing to do. Hope all is going OK for you all. I know that you surely missed you Mom terribly much during the Holiday Season. Thanks for carrying on you Mom's Christmas tradition of sending a picture of you kids.

Love in Him,



Phyllis

This is what the picture says

Lord Jesus, in the quiet anguish of my conscious thought, *I have decided to give you my heart.*

I come in humility, aware of my unworthiness to be in your presence, You are the essence of strength & holiness, but I am flawed with weakness and vice. It is not because you have not faced what I face that you are pure, for you were human. When you were here, you did not sin, but I am something else.

Perhaps compared with my contemporaries I am of average virtue; but in your presence, all of my goodness is trivial. My attitudes and ethics are outrageously rotten beside you honor. Like the publican at the temple, I hesitate to draw near or even to look up.

And yet I come, in hunger; fearing to defile you with my very presence, but compelled to come by my longing for a new chance. After all my searching it has come down to this; that you alone are able to remove my crushing guilt.

I am drawn by your promise that if I seek you with diligence, you will forgive, washing my sins as they occur; as a flowing fountain, that you can make me into an earnest, compassionate person like yourself, committed to justice and mercy, full of grace and truth.

I come too, in the scintillating hope that my death shall be a birth to a transcendent, celestial life. To live forever in the companionship of God, to be surgingly free from sadness and pain, is the pledge gleaming through your open door.

And so, Lord Jesus, I come with my heart. My reputation, my character, my weakness, my strength, my tragedies, my triumphs: All that I am and have I lay at your feet.

As the modest water blushed into wine in your presence, I too would be transformed and redeemed, because through all the remaining days of my life *I shall be a Christian.*

Gayle E. Oler

One of my clearest memories of Kerry is sitting in her room in Stephens at Harding talking about guys. She talked about Mark and I talked about Terry. I remember her being surprised when I told her I didn't think I would marry Terry. I remember her talking about Kirk who was about 5 at the time, and she absolutely adored him in every way. And I remember we laughed a lot and I enjoyed being in her company.

I remember sitting in Patty Cobb when it was a cafeteria and passing pleasant times with Mark and Kerry, and I remember Kerry was almost never without a cup of coffee.

I remember a hike up Sugar Loaf mountain with Mark , Kerry and Felix Morris. We had a great time.

I remember Kerry talking with a slight lisp when I first knew her. It was not distracting at all but rather endearing. I noticed years later that the lisp was gone, and I asked her about it one day but I sensed I had mentioned something that embarrassed her, so I never brought it up again.

I loved talking to Kerry even more after we both had kids. We had a lot in common, and she taught me a lot. One common battle we fought with our first kids was getting them to bed. At around 22 months, Tressa started screaming when we left her in her bed to go to sleep. We had never let her sleep with us because all the books said you should never let your kids sleep with you. Kerry told me about a book called "The Family Bed" (which had also been on our reading list from the nurse mid-wives who delivered Tressa, but we had never gotten around to reading it). Kerry made a statement regarding that book which made a world of sense to me. The statement went something like this, " The most secure members of the family {parents} get to sleep together. Why should we expect the most insecure members to sleep alone?" Tressa got a lot more understanding from us after that .

Kerry had a way of asking hard and intense questions. She had a way of asking the question, or making the statement, and then cutting her eyes to the side for just a second and then back, cock her head to the side a little, or end her sentence with a quick laugh burst. It was always fun to talk to Kerry. She was always reading something, learning something, and sharing something.

(Donna Wallis)

I know that my mother is a wonderful woman. I love her very much & am grateful to her for all that she has given me. With that said, Kerry affected my life in many ways. I was never terribly close to her, we never really had any heart to hearts. But she always represented something to me... Motherhood. Everytime I saw Kerry it seemed like she was pregnant, with at least one child attached to her. She always has children around her. I used to wonder why she would keep having children, the Trotter family was growing at a rapid pace! When I had my first child, the moment he came into the world, I understood. Kerry never pulled the wool over anyone's eyes, she was always totally honest about things. It was a very refreshing way to be. You could always trust that she meant what she said. She was human like the rest of us, But I will always remember her as my inspiration for motherhood.

Beverly M.  Beverly McAulay

Since my mother, Ruth, and your grandmother, Lois, were the only siblings in the Benson family, their children were the only cousins on the Benson side of the family. Your children and five children were pretty large families.

I am also including a group family picture taken September 1998 at the 50th anniversary celebration of Ruth & Numa Crowder. So there are a bunch of your second cousins — with a few significant others thrown in.

Thank you for the Christmas card I received from you. What a beautiful family! I know there will be ups and downs, but hang in there. My thoughts and best wishes are with you. I know you were very important to your mother, and she wanted to make your home a warm family place. I visited your home in the summer of 1990 and she had certainly succeeded.

Sincerely,
Elaine Crowder Kushmaul