

Remembering Rachel

5/4/04 - 8/4/04

5/4/04 I am so sorry to find out about Rachel. I have been praying for her and your family daily as I check your web page. My daughter Shelby was lucky, she is a survivor. I continue to work tirelessly to raise money and awareness to rid this world of this horrible disease. I'm sorry it was not in time for your girl. Sincerely, Mollie Batley

5/4/04 I am sending this message now to the family and friends of Rachel . I learned of this situation and this web site about a month ago , I found myself checking this site about twice a day for updates. Yesterday I was so happy to read rachel was doing better everything seemed so much more hopeful. This morning I came into work early and like every other morning I checked the website first thing, I still can't believe she is gone. I know I didn't know her personally or the family but even still I prayed for her and the family as if I did. I know there is nothing probably that anyone can say or do , but I would like to say Rachel was a beautiful young women and I am sure an angel to everyone she meet. Please just try to keep your Faith and remember she is a TRUE GOD GIVEN Angel Now. God Bless, Shelley W.

5/4/04 Rachel we will miss you dearly!! We all know you are with God right now. You are looking down on us just laughing at how stupid we are being. You are with God right now! That is awesome!! I love you Rachel!! I Will ALWAYS LOVE YOU!!!! Love, Always and FOREVER, Andee ~*BFF*~

5/4/04 I love you guys. Our arms are around you all. Kim

5/4/04 I am overwhelmed with grief today...what a shock to open the website and see such sad news. But I know that Rachel is with Jesus now and she is not suffering or in pain anymore. She is truly in God's hands now and He will take care of her forever. Marla, Richard, Bubba and the rest of the family, I cannot even begin to imagine the sorrow and loss that you are feeling today. I can only believe that we serve a great and wonderful God and that His plans for Rachel, for all of us, are greater and better than we can possibly understand. I am praying for you all...and to Rachel, although I did not know you, I will miss you and I love you. God Bless You! Michelle Porter

5/4/04 We've checked everyday since we "met" Rachel. We've prayed for a miracle. We looked forward to the day to see her and tell her how we've been praying for her. And now we have to say goodbye. We are so sad that she is gone. It is obvious that she was a very loved young lady. That means that there are many hearts broken from friends and family that will miss her. We will continue to pray for you as you deal with each day. May God hold you tight and comfort you. I pray He'll send you friends to hold you and help you. I wish there was more I could do. We have met the best kids through Childhood Cancer. And today we lost one. She is with Jesus. We'll see her again. Praying for peace, Kelly Hicks

5/4/04 My greatest fear came through at noon today when I checked the web site. We have been following Rachels progress for the past two months and my sister has been a platlete donor for Rachel. I was happy this morning to see that she was off the vent and devastated to learn at noon that she had passed away. I know that she is out of pain and with our Lord but her loved ones are feeling a great loss. My family will continue to pray for yours. You lost a precious angel today but heaven grew by one more. Donna Stariha Practice Administrator

5/4/04 A friend of mine shared with me and a few others about Rachel a little while back. I prayed for her. Just now I saw the note from my friend that Rachel went to be with God today. Mr. and Mrs. Robey, I cried. My brother had leukemia and we were told he wouldn't make it. It was a long struggle and there was a lot of tossing around for the rest of us kids among relatives while my parents stayed at the hospital with him, but you know what? He made it. He's alive to this day, ten years later. I don't know why God brings some to him in heaven and why he leaves others on earth, but I do have faith that he's got a plan behind that. Many times I wondered why God had let this happen to my baby brother-- why couldn't he make a different boy sick? In hindsight, I can see why. We are still in contact with his Jewish oncologist and she is regularly asking about Christianity, God, and his love for us. My brother's sickness drew our relatives and staff members (we're missionaries) together in a way that nothing else could. We got letters and calls from people all over the world telling us they were praying. It strengthened our faith and brought others to trust in God and believe in him. My brother's sickness was a terrible thing-- yet a wonderful thing. Everyone was so sure he wouldn't live long-- doctors confirmed it. Throughout it all, my parents were able to tell doctors and nurses "Our God hears and answers prayer." My brother living through it prompted many of the medical staff to say it was a miracle. They began asking and questioning us about concerning salvation. I don't know why God wanted Rachel to be with him in heaven. I don't know why she couldn't have come through her leukemia like my brother did. But maybe, you'll begin to understand the intricacies of God's plan concerning her death. I talked to a pastor two years ago who lost his daughter to leukemia. Sometimes I hate talking about my brother's cancer because he survived when so many others didn't. It makes me feel guilty-- but so blessed. Mr. and Mrs. Robey, I don't know if any of this made sense or was comforting in any possible way. But I wanted to let you know that if I could, I would hug you and cry with you. I can't wrap my arms around you, but God can. And I can uplift you in prayer. I will. I am. May God be with you and may you know peace. Melanie "One of the secrets of life is to make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks." Jack Penn

5/4/04 Our thoughts and prayers are with you tonight and always as you face this difficult time. I can not imagine your pain and will not try to say that I do, but I am so sorry and wish that I had more that I could say or do to ease your pain. She was a beautiful girl and will be missed by all those whose lives she touched. May God hold you all and guide you. With many prayers and much love, Kim, Jim, Taylor and Logan Watts Thank you, Jim, Kim, Taylor & Logan

5/4/04 Dear Rachel, Why? I sit here in tears thinking of what we've been robbed of. I have prayed for you daily and was so sure you'd recover. God must have wanted you with Him more than we could possibly have wanted you here. I am envious that you get to feel God's love and feel His arms around you before we do. Please ask Him to comfort your family. In His love and peace, Pam Clark

5/4/04 Bubba & Family, Marla & Family: We cannot begin to know what you guys have gone through the past few months. Rachel and you guys have been in our thoughts and prayers everyday. We have kept up through the web site and with personal contact. The Lord works in ways that we don't always expect or understand. It is hard for us to accept. I can only imagine how it is for you. Leukemia is a wicked disease. My Dad died four years ago after two rounds of chemo. We have always thought of Rachel as one of the nicest and most considerate young ladies we have ever met. Always a smile on her face and a kind word for those around her. A strong family and support mechanism has had alot to do with the type of person she is. She will always have a

special place in our hearts as will each of you. It is an old cliché, but if there is anything we can ever do for you please don't hesitate to call on us. We love you guys and will be thinking of you and Rachel always! Kip, Karen and the Sitzler Family

5/5/04 Rachel I miss you so much baby!! I take comfort in knowing that you are with the Lord though now. I know you are having like the hugest party right now up in Heaven-dancing away like you always did. You aren't in any pain and are so happy. I heard about your 3 wishes and was crackin up. It was so you!! I am going to miss you outgoing personality and smiling face. Your love for Christ was so evident in everything you did. Now you are worshipping Him for all eternity and that is so awesome!! So many people were praying for you Rach and you touched so many lives. People around the world were praying for you!! Now we pray for your family. I pray that the Lord will give them solace in this time of anguish and grief and that they will rest in the providence of the Father's plan. That they will take rest in knowing that you are in His arms and aren't in any pain. I LOVE YOU SOOO MUCH RACH!!! I will always love you and I will never forget you!! Meredith

5/5/04 Bubba & Rachelle, Marla & Richard, and families: Rachel has been in my thoughts since she was first diagnosed and even more so over the past several months. I cannot imagine the pain and loss you all feel right now. Rachel was a beautiful girl and very obviously loved. My son was 16 in March as well and the thought of losing him at such a young age is too unbearable. My prayers are with all of you now and in the days ahead. Dianne (Ramsey) Phillips

5/5/04 Rachel, I have lost a dear, sweet friend this week. I have so many fond memories of us spending time together as we were growing up. It doesn't seem possible that you have gone to heaven to be with Jesus. I have checked the website and prayed for a miracle for you daily. Selfishly, I wish that you were still here because I know that there are many people who miss you, but I know that it is better than anyone on earth can imagine in heaven. I'm at a loss for words to say. I love you, and I will always cherish the times that we spent together. Loving you always, Leslie Crocker

5/6/04 i wrote into your letters page around a month ago i have reguarly checked this web page and as i logged on to it today i couldnt believe when i saw the 'memorials' link. i have no 'real' connection with u guys, u are thousands of miles away, yet i am still in tears over the death of such a brave and beautiful person. i am so sorry for your loss, and my prayers will now be directed at rachels family and friends. God needed a beautiful angel by his side, Rachel was chosen. My prayers will be with u always.
susan

5/6/04 I am sending this message to the family and friends of Rachel . I learned of this situation thru Samantha's web site and even though I never posted, I found myself checking this site several times daily for updates. I was so happy on 5/3 to read Rachel was doing better everything seemed so much more hopeful. Tuesday morning I came into work early and like every other morning I checked the web site first thing, I was in shock and hoping that the web site had not been updated and that everything was still going good. I still can't believe she is gone. I know I didn't know her personally or the family but even still I prayed for her and the family as if I did. I know there is nothing that anyone can say or do. Please just try to keep your Faith and remember she is a TRUE Angel Now. I know Rachel has found a Garden of Angels in Heaven and that she has joined other Children who became Angels at a young age, I know she will

be surrounded by Love and Welcomed by them into their Garden, I hope Rachel finds my Grandson Kurtis and they surround each other with their loving arms. When the time is right there is a wonderful web site called Beyond Indigo that would welcome you to come and talk about your wonderful Rachel when you are ready. Again, I am sorry for your Loss and I will continue to pray for your family and friends to find peace. Linda Beavers, Houston, TX Loving Grandmother to Angel Kurtis.

5/6/04 Marla and Richard, Bubba and Rachelle: My heart broke when I read the news of Rachel's homegoing and I immediately began asking our God of all comfort to wrap His arms around you and your families. I will continue to do so knowing that our Father loves you more than we could even imagine and He alone can give you His peace. I pray you will also be encouraged by His Word from Isaiah 43: 1-3: But now, this is what the LORD says- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD , your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. In His Grip, Steve and Dawn Weeks and family

5/6/04 May God put his arms around you and comfort you in the way that only He can. We know there is nothing we can say that will make you feel better, but we wanted you to know that we are thinking about you and praying for you.
Love, Betsy and Jake Reep

5/6/04 To Rachel's family: Our love, thoughts and prayers are with you on this longest of days. May God's grace shower you and lift you up. And we also join you in walking through the days ahead because we all who have had children fight leukemia walk together as one, locked arm-in-arm, to continue the fight to beat this illness on their behalf. It is a badge we wear. Richard, Gail, Todd and Regan Stevens

5/6/04 Dear Marla and Richard, Our family is saddened by your loss. Rachel's beautiful life will always be remembered with fond memories of her childhood and friendship that we share with your family. Each day we checked Rachel's web site hoping for the best. We prayed and asked everyone we knew to keep her in their prayers so that God would heal her and take care of her. God's love is good and it showed through the witnessing and inspiration that your web site provided. Your faith you shared during this time gives us all hope, comfort, and peace. We will continue praying for you and your family. Please know that we love you and we are always here for you. Isaiah 40:29-31 "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Love, Larry, Phyllis, and Leslie Crocker

5/6/04 To Rachel's family and friends (and especially Bubba). We were all saddened to hear the news. If there is anything we can do to help in any way, in the legal community, or otherwise, please do not hesitate to call. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Candice Shockley, Jim Holliman, John Holliman, Tom Kelly

5/6/04 hey rachels family i am so sorry about rachel we know abby richburg and i love her i am so sorry thanks, savanna and tiffany

5/6/04 We have a prayer request site on our computer where I work. A few weeks someone put Rachel on it . They also put the web site. Since that time I have looked several times a day to keep up with Rachel. I feel like I have known her and the family. My thoughts and prayers go out to you. I wish there was more that I could do for you. Rachel and her family had touched my life in so many ways by reading the web site. She was a wonderful young girl with a wonderful family to surround her. Try to stay strong and know that many people you do not know have been and will continue to pray for you. Denise Smith

5/6/04 Richard, I was so sad to hear the news. I had no idea you were going through that with your daughter. You might not remember me. I'm Todd Barton, Scott Kimel's cousin from Kentucky. My prayers are with you and your family! I celebrate with you that Rachel's in the arms of our Lord Jesus! Todd Barton, Louisville, KY

5/6/04 I am a schoolmate of Lucy. When she told us that her cousin had been very sick immediately, we started to pray for her, individually, at school, and in our churches. When I found out about Rachel, my heart froze. I never knew Rachel, but of all the good things I heard about her through, Lucy and her family, I felt like I knew her. I know it's very hard, but things will get better, and you will get to see her in Heaven. God Bless you all, Mary-Louise, and Ann Trammell

5/6/04 May God be with you all. A beautiful angel watches over you all. With Love and Prayers Stephanie Mullins

5/6/04 Hello my name is Amber. I don't know Rachel or any of you but my friend Mallory told me about the web site. And I know that this probably doesn't mean much to you since you don't know me but it seems like she was truly loved not only by her family but also by her friends. I am around the same age as her and I can't even imagine what ya'll are going through. But just know that she is in a far greater place than here. But just reading what people said about her makes me wish that I could have known her. I will pray for for all the people she has left behind, but you will see each other again. May God Bless. Amber

5/7/04 We are deeply sorry for your loss from Bob Clayton (United Parcel Service of America) I met Rachel on the loading dock at her grandfathers (Gil Aycok) Company when she was helping out one summer.

5/7/04 To Bubba-- Just heard the news from Steve Slade, I wanted you to know my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time--I am truly so sorry--Hopefully the love and support from your family and friends will help you get through this ordeal. Take Care- Rob Whittemore

5/7/04 Dear Greens and Robeys, I am here in tears, my heart breaking for you, praying that God will comfort you right now. I know I cannot comprehend your grief, but I have glimpsed it. One year ago on May 4, 2003, my grampa (he lived with us and was my brothers' and my best friend) died. It was a Sunday, and I remember riding in the car with Daddy when Mama called him and said she thought Grampa had died. I remember the sharp knot of grief at the base of your throat and the turmoil a death causes your stomach to go into. I remember screaming, and then finally giving him to Jesus. I know the questions without answers. Why this person? Why couldn't you have made them perfectly well? Why our family? Why? What do we do with the love we had for this person? What do we do with the time that was before

spent with this person but is now a blank page? I am praying for you. I am praying that you really just give God your grief. I am praying that you remember that He knows your grief. Last year, after grampa died, someone sent me a note, and it had Isaiah 53 written in it. I want to now give you that verse. I am so sorry, yet so glad. I am glad that now Rachel is healed, and that we know that she is in Heaven. Thank you for being such great examples to us all. We love you, and you have our prayers. In His Love, Sara Beth Melick

5/7/04 Our deepest sympathy to all of you..... continue to feel God's loving arms around you. sending you our love and and our strength. The Tim Busby Family (psalm 121)

5/7/04 I'm a 16 yr. old girl, brown hair, green eyes, born on March 22nd, 1988. My mama came upon Rachel's website while checkin up on Samantha Ross, (she goes to our church.) Everything that was said about her..was just like me. Though, I have never had cancer, I do have heart problems. Every day, after my mama came to her website, I would pray for Rachel, and check her updates. On May 4th, I cried...my heart goes out to your family. I can't imagine. But, I know you have a lot of people over here in Georgia keeping you in our prayers. Even though I never met Rachel...I felt like I knew her. I'm keepin you all in my prayers... With much sympathy, Dana Godwin

5/10/04 hey Rachel!! I know your in a better place and i want you to know how much we all miss you and love you!! I'm proud of you and how hard you fought but more importantly how much you loved God and lived how he would want you to despite hardship and troubles!! "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For i am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!!!" Romans 8:35 & 38-39. I'll love you and miss you always and cant wait to see you one day face to face!!! Bye-Peter Kniskern

5/10/04 Marla, Richard, and all of Rachel's family and friends---May you find some comfort and peace in the following words. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Kathy Phillips

From a Loved One in Heaven

I would not have you grieve for me today,
Nor weep beside my vacant chair.
Could you but know my daily portion here,
You would not, could not, wish me there.

I know now why He said, "Ear hath not heard."
I have no words, no alphabet.
Or even if I had, I dare not tell,
Because you could not bear it yet.

So, only this---I am the same, though changed,
Like Him! A joy more rich and strong
Than I had dreamed that any heart could hold,

And all my life is one glad song.

Sometimes when you are talking to our Lord,
He turns and speaks to me...Dear heart,
In that rare moment you and I are just
The distance of a word apart!

And so, my loved ones, do not grieve for me
Around the family board today;
Instead, rejoice, for we are one in Him,
And so I am not far away.

Written by Martha Snell Nicholson

5/10/04 Dear Family and friends of Rachel, I have not had a moment until now to write you, but I want you all to know how saddened I am that Rachel has gone to heaven. Starting in March I came to this website atleast twice a day to check on Rachel and her progress. I was so excited that she came off the ventilator on May 3rd, and then I was so shocked on the 4th to see the news. Through God, and the support of friends and family you can get through this tragedy. My dad died 10 years ago when I was 9, but through the love of others, my mom , brother and I were able to get through it even though we never thought we would. Surround yourself with those who love you and stay strong !! God Bless! Ashley Damato

5/10/04 Dear richard, and marla. My name is Joan Piggott and I was a member of St. Mathews until I moved to Colorado . Maurene has kept me informed on Rachel's progress, and she let me know that Rachel has passed on. Now she is a angel of God, and she is now with Him in peace - I never knew her but I prayed for her, but God wanted her and now she is with Him in all His glory. Please accept my sympathy. and know I am still praying for her. God is your comfort now and He will see you through this. May God be with you, and Rachel - Joan Piggott

5/10/04 Life is so unfair. Your beautiful child - I can't imagine your grief. I lost my mom to cancer in October - two months before my son was born (her first grandchild). She was only 55 and I've grieved over the unfairness of it ever since. But my heart just breaks for you. I know your pain is so sharp, it's almost physical, and I just can't understand the unfairness of what you must endure. Perhaps God can explain it to us one day. I am praying for your comfort and peace.

5/11/04 I am so terribly sorry to hear that Rachel has passed away. I've been checking this site often for updates on her and today when I checked and found out that she passed away, I was overcome with sadness. I never knew her, but her life and battle with leukemia has touched my heart. There truly is a void now in this world now that she has gone to the arms of her Heavenly Father. My thoughts and prayers are with all her family and friends as they grieve her passing. All my best. Paula Moore - Reno, NV

5/11/04 I watched the web site daily and Rachel and her families became a part of my life. It saddened me so to hear that she had passed away. It is a painful thing for the ones left behind, but we have joy in knowing that Rachel is finally healed in a way that we'll never be able to understand until we are there with her. I know these things because I lost my 12 year old son, Matt, four years ago to leukemia (ALL t-cell). I

wrote a poem shortly after Matt died to help with my grief and I hope it will bring just a glimmer of peace to those who miss Rachel. Ann D. Fox - "Remember to Treasure Life"

ON THAT DAY

In loving memory of Matt Likos and Rachel Green

There is a place not far away
where children run and play,
And wait for those they left behind
to join them on that day.

On that day we'll reunite
and join our hands together,
And all the days will be full of grace
and, oh, such sunny weather.

And on that day when I arrive
I know he'll turn and smile,
And ask if I want to join the game
or just watch them play awhile.

For those of us left on this earth
who have lost a child so dear,
We find our comfort knowing
on that day we'll hold them near.

5/11/04 I know there is nothing that can be said that will take away your grief, especially from someone like me who you don't even know. I just wanted to send this poem I found. I printed this poem out and framed it for my husband who lost his mother 2 years ago. I hope that this gives you some comfort knowing that Rachel is in a better place and one day we will all go to meet her and see her again. - Love and prayers for the Robey & Green families - Debbie Cook

There are some things I'd like to say,
but first of all I want to let you know that I arrived okay.
I'm writing this from Heaven where I dwell with God above,
where there's no more tears or sadness, there is just eternal love.

Please do not be unhappy just because I am out of sight.
Remember that I'm with you every morning, noon, and night.
A short time ago I had to leave you when my life on earth was through,
God picked me up and hugged me and He said, "I Welcome You!

When you think of my life on earth and all those loving years,
because you're only human they are bound to bring you tears.
Do not be afraid to cry, it does relieve the pain.
Remember there would be no flowers unless there was some rain.

When you are walking down the street, and I am on your mind,
I'm walking in your footsteps only half a step behind.
And when you feel that gentle breeze as the wind upon your face,
that's me giving you a great big hug, or just a soft embrace.

When it's time for you to go, from that body to be free,
remember you're not going, you are coming here to me.
I will always love you, from this land way up above;
I'll be in touch again soon.

Love, Rachel

P.S. - God sends His Love

Philippians 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

I met Rachel when I was visiting a friend in Birmingham. She had such a sweet spirit and to imagine her gone now is just so weird, but from the only minutes I talked with her. I know she is in a better place. My deepest regards and utmost sympathy to the Friends and Family of Rachel Green

5/11/04 We learned about Rachel in April when Rev. Salter came to Galleria Woods to preach one Sunday and asked us to keep Rachel in prayer as she was not doing well. Since that day we, and our prayer circle at Galleria Woods, have held Rachel up in prayer that God would be merciful to her and hold her in His loving arms each moment. We were saddened to hear this past week of her death but know she is safe and secure with God. It hurts us so much to lose a child (our son died of cancer in 1998) because we will miss their wonderful presence in our family and even though we know they are safe in God's arms we look for the day we shall see their beautiful faces and smiles once again. When our son died we found great comfort in a message given to us which said that dying was like stepping on a new shore and finding it is heaven - of taking hold of a hand and finding it is God's hand - of breathing a new air and finding it is celestial air - of waking, and knowing "I am Home" - I know Rachel is home now but she stays in your hearts always until you feel her hug around you once again. Our deepest sympathy and understanding go out to you and all the family and dear friends of Rachel. We have looked at her website this evening and listened to the service and know God was the center of her life and that we can rejoice for Rachel that she is with the Lord, her Savior....God bless you, Elfriede and Arthur Schlumpf - Galleria Woods GH#5

5/12/04 Dear Marla and family, I was led to your dear daughter's web page from Stephanie Nelson. She is a nurse at Children's Hospital. She said your daughter was so brave and she admired her so much. You are all an inspiration to me and others showing your strong faith in God that he knew best for your Rachel. I am sorry for your loss and would like to offer a prayer for you all. Thinking and praying for you, Sally Holley

5/12/04 About 2 years ago, Abby Richburg told me about this beautiful young girl at her school and how she was diagnosed with cancer, a girl I didn't even know. From the moment she told me, until the day she passed away, my family and I have been lifting

her up in prayer. Through this web site, we have been able to get to know her, picture what she and her family have been going through and benefit from the sweet testimony of a mother's strength by reading in the journal. Even though the outcome wasn't exactly the way we had hoped, we can rest assure that God is in control. His ways are not our ways nor His thoughts our thoughts. Right now, all He wants from us is just to lean on Him and He will give us the peace that passes all understanding. Blessings from the Moore family. Lake City, Florida

5/12/04 we are praying for u - roberts family

5/12/04 Dear Marla, Rich, and boys, Untold lives have been touched in ways you'll not know this side of heaven. Rachel was such a sweet, dear young woman and all who knew her feel as we do, I'm sure, that it was a great privilege to have known her. To hear how the Lord had prepared her to take that journey to be with Him was truly uplifting and something that I'll carry with me always. God is Perfect in His choices and decisions and as Scripture tells us, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Richard, Will and Luke: When President Bush was a little boy, his sister had leukemia and God called her to heaven just like Rachel. His mother says that when she was so very sad after her little girl left that he was especially thoughtful of her and looked after her. She feels that he is the man he is today because of ways the Lord prepared him throughout his life. Remember that God does all things well. We continue to pray for you all. God Bless you, Judy and Walter Brough

5/13/04 - Dear Rachel's family, I am very sorry that Rachel passed away. I am good friends with Abby Richburg, and when she told me about her I have been praying for her ever since. I just wanted you to know that I am still praying. Love, Jo Beth.

5/15/04 Dear Family, I still am very shocked and yet sadden by the loss of Rachel. I just would like you to know that she is in a whole lot better place....I'm praying for all of you!:) Claire Ann..

5/16/04 The day Rachel moved on I went to the web site (weloverachel) for the first time, even before I knew she was gone. I read everything on the website. I Felt closer to everyone after the fact, even closer to Rachel. I wish I had gone and visited her and The Robey's in the hospital. I have expressed my sorrow in my own way, But I can't even imagine the emotions of the family now. I miss her, but I know that she is in a better and less painful place right now. I love and miss you very much. -Michael Barrett

5/18/04 To the family of Rachel~ I am so sorry to hear about your loss. But more importantly, our loss as humans. Rachel was truly a gift to us from god, but it was time for her to keep him company once again. I'm sure she's smiling down on us at this very moment, happy to see how many people loved her. The world may seem unfair at times, but she would want us to move on. Rachel will always be remembered for her precious hours on Earth, and will live on in our hearts forever. God bless you, family and friends of Rachel. God bless you all. ~Nick DiRamio

5/20/04 PRAISE HIM...PRAISE HIM...PRAISE HIM!!!! :)

5/20/04 I will always cherish Rachel! When i think of her, i think straight to her smile! I know right now she is still smiling, even more then she ever has because she is with her Father! A part of my heart is jealuse that she can be with him and praising him all

the time. But i know that one day i will see her again, and that comforts my heart! I Love you, Rachel so much! I Miss You! I cant listen to "Hey Ya" the same anymore, it is bitter sweet! Our d-group meets every tuesday still, which is not the same anymore without you. You will always remain in our lives! Luv ya sista! Mo (Morgan Long)

5/22/04 Hey Mrs Robey, and the rest of the family. I just wanted to tell you i'm praying for y'all. Rachel meant more to me than anyone can ever know, she just about saved me last year when daddy died. i know its hard, but know that Rachel is still smiling down on us. She's with God now, and knows so much joy. That always brought me some peace knowing that. I hope to see you guys soon. Rachel, I love you so much. I Miss you. Mary

5/23/04 Dear Marla, I am a close friend of Christine Dow's and received a phone call from her back in February to pray for Rachel as she had become sick again. I've thought of you over and over again since that time and especially since Rachel died. Each time Christine called in tears I felt like Rachel was becoming more and more alive to me...and then she died. And I can't begin to explain why or comfort you and I won't try. You know now that grief is awful, as is death. I will just keep praying for you and won't forget, okay? In His grace, Becky Meredith, Dallas, TX

5/25/04 Like so many of the other people who have written, I did not know Rachel prior to someone forwarding her website, but once I read all about her I began praying for her, the family & the medical staff caring for her daily. I couldn't believe it when I checked the website & discovered she was gone. Tears of disbelief streamed down my face- I had so hoped for her recovery. I can't imagine what the family must be going through- I did not write until now because I didn't know what to say; then I ran across this poem this morning and immediately thought of Rachel and her mother, and wanted to share it with her somehow. May God comfort you & keep you. You all remain in my prayers. Stephanie Arnold

If Tomorrow Starts Without Me

If tomorrow starts without me,
And I'm not there to see;
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry
The way you did today,
While thinking of the many things,
We didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you,
And each time you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too;
But when tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name,
And took me by the hand,
And said my place was ready,
In heaven far above,

And that I'd have to leave behind
All those I dearly love.

But as I turned to walk away,
A tear fell from my eye,
For all my life, I'd always thought,
I didn't want to die.
I had so much to live for,
So much yet to do,
It seemed almost impossible,
That I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays,
The good ones and the bad,
I thought of all the love we shared,
And all the fun we had.
If I could relive yesterday,
Just even for a while,
I'd say good-bye and kiss you
And maybe see you smile.

But then I fully realized,
That this could never be,
For emptiness and memories,
Would take the place of me.
And when I thought of worldly things,
I might miss come tomorrow,
I thought of you and when I did,
My heart was filled with sorrow.
But when I walked through heaven's gates,
I felt so much at home.

When GOD looked down and smiled at me,
From His great golden throne.

He said "This is eternity,
And all I've promised you."
Today for life on earth is past,
But here it starts anew.
I promise no tomorrow,
But today will always last,
And since each day's the same way
There is no longing for the past.

But you have been so faithful,
So trusting and so true.
Though there were times you did some things,
You knew you shouldn't do.
But you have been forgiven,
And now at last you are free.
So won't you take my hand.
And share my life with me?

So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we are far apart,
For every time you think of me,
I'm right here, in your heart.

~Author Unknown

5/26/04 dear family, you dont know how much rachel meant to me. i knew her for a few years and yet it seemed like forever. it is so hard for me look at pictures and think when i get to school or youth group she wont ever be there again. i just want to say how much i was blessed with rachel, and that i will miss her very much!! there are too many favorite moments to put in one letter. i loved her wonderful personality her beautiful face, and how when she walked in the room she made my day soo much better. she was my best friend and i know will be missed by everyone. thank you soo much for letting me be apart of her life. Frances ~Philppians 1:3-8

6/1/04 Dearest Marla - I cannot even claim to know the smallest portion of your pain....I do know; however, that God has burdened my heart, for you, sweet Christian sister, and fellow Mother. The Holy Spirit will not allow you to be removed from the place He dwells within me. I am still awakened at night to cry out for you...and He urges me to intercede for you at the most unlikely times during the day. May you take some small measure of comfort in the fact, that though I know you - I don't know you well - and though I knew Rachel I didn't know her well either...dear, beloved sister...surely this is testimony that He is summoning every available source to place you - daily, hourly, in His presence. That is how I pray for you...to be enveloped in His Heavenly arms... enclosed in the very folds of His royal robe...that He may catch each tear....erase each fear...and restore you with His peace, as He renews you, and reveals His purposes, for you once again. Until then, precious one...it's o.k. to remain right there in His arms. That's all He asks of you. As for what He asks of me, my sister...I will not ignore the groaning of Holy Spirit for you within me ..nor will I cease praying....

6/2/04 I came to my computer on May 4 to check on Samantha and Rachel and was so sad to hear that Rachel had lost her battle. My heart just ached for the family and friends. There is no way that I could even begin to understand what you all are going through. I feel so guilty to have just celebrated our daughter's wedding and you all are experiencing such a loss. I'm sorry that I have been so busy and have not sent a message expressing my sympathy. You all have been in my thoughts and prayers though. I know you all are going through some horribly tough times. I cannot even imagine. I do know that God has promised to never leave us. Even though the road may not be easy, He is there by our side all the time. May He give you strength to carry on each and every day. My thoughts and prayers are with you all in this most difficult time. Johnna Story, Sycamore, GA

6/2/04 I can't express enough how much I loved Rachel. I will never forget the memories I had with her. I could talk to her forever about anything. I will never forget her beautiful smile and her unselfish and loving personality. She was one of the best friends I ever had. Not a minute goes by that I don't think about her. But I KNOW she's in Heaven right now, and that makes me feel so much better. Gosh I can't WAIT til the day that I get to see her again!! To Rachel's family....I love you and pray for you every single day. I pray that God will comfort you. I LOVE YOU RACH! - Cia

6/2/04 To all the Family and Friends of Rachel, I must say my heart is so full and heavy at the same time when I think of sweet Rachel's face. It is hard to accept that we must say goodbye for a while.... For a while is God's promise to us. You will see her again in Heaven, and that is where I have always found my peace. This life on earth is all we really can touch and see, but what an awesome God we serve, and He has so much plan for us now and later. I pray that He will guide your paths and hold you close during the dark and sorrowful time of dealing with the loss of Rachel. I pray that the sun is not to long in rising again on all of your hearts. Let Jesus fill the void, and know that the pain will ease. I only know of Rachel through the website which was sent to me by my childhood friend, Tonya D'Hollosy, who also has leukemia. She held a fundraiser for Rachel a few months ago, and I have been praying for Rachel and all of you ever since. I think about my Tonya so much and cannot imagine what it really feels like to lose a friend so young and beautiful. I also think of my little 2 1/2 year old Anna when I look at the picture of Rachel as at 2 1/2 years and I prayed and cried for you Marla. Little girls are Gods gift to us mothers, aren't they? But let your heart find peace I pray, for who is better to watch over Rachel than Jesus until you can hold you little girl again? Think of what is ahead and know Rachel isn't too far away. Know that someone in Georgia is praying for you and will always remember your beautiful daughter and friend. Stephanie Savage, Woodstock GA.

6/4/04 I never personally knew Rachel, I only knew of her through a friend. I started checking on Rachel daily at work on the website, and praying for her at night. I was at a total loss of words the day I found out she had went to be with Jesus. I can only imagine the hurt you all must feel. My step-brother passed four years ago at 12 years old from leukemia. It was a very heartbreaking part of my life. It is still hard to see my step-dad hurt over his loss. I am a mother of two children and I could not even imagine the heartache you all are feeling. I will never forget meeting Marla at my work(I work at Monkey Toes where she gets her children's shoes) she is beautiful. And Rachel's brothers are so handsome. I was overwhelmed with emotion after talking to her. I just couldn't imagine me being as strong as God has given her the strength to be at this time. Marla, from one mother to another I love you and God bless you and your family. Rachel will always be remembered in everyone's heart who knew of her. And she is Okay now. She hurts no more..... and she is an Angel on your shoulder laughing at all of your jokes and wiping all of your tears... she is still here. I hope to see you again Marla. If there's anything I could do for you..... anything please let me know. We are all here for you and praying for you here at Monkey Toes. God Bless You, Holli McClain - It is now when you need him most that he is carrying you.

6/7/04 When peace like a river attendeth my way. When sorrows like sea billows roll. Whatever my lot thou has taught me to say. It is well it is well with my soul.

6/12/04 I know how it feels. I know what the pain feels like. My best friend, my grampa, died Sunday morning, May 4, 2003. The aching pain, the knot of glass in the base of one's throat, the turmoil of one's stomach, this is what grief does to the body. What it does to the soul is much worse! Oh! One feels remembers all they should have done, all that they had planned to do. My grampa and I had planned to travel together. Then there is the shock that the world is still turning. Don't these people understand? I just lost something that was indescribably precious to me!!! How can they keep pumping gas and buying groceries and winning baseball games?!?! But thank God for the hope! Thank God for when someone dies and one knows they are Christian! Thank God that then you have the assurance that you'll met again! -A Friend-

6/12/04 hey, i am so sorry to have heard about rachel. my name is natasha and i live in west virginia. i heard about rachel through a friend from cleveland, alabama and we have both been praying for rachel and her families ever since. my grandmother has lukeimia and they do not know if she is going to make it...even though i never knew rachel, i can tell that she was a caring and loving person and always put others before herself. if only there were more people like rachel... our prayers will always be with you....~natasha~

6/12/04 "Don't let your hearts be troubled...In my Father's house are many rooms;...I am going to prepare a place for you...I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:1-3)

6/13/04 I don't know if you remember me, that is not important at this time in your life... I want you to know I discovered Rachel's site and followed 3-4 times daily hoping things would get better for her, she is such, and always will be a beautiful young woman. Just when things got worse for all of you, my own son relapsed with cancer after an unrelated bone marrow transplant, and I was not able to keep up with Rachel's progress, I have been home 3 times since Christopher was re-diagnosed (May 30) and just tonight caught up with the kids I've been following. I am devastated at your loss... there are no words to make you feel any better, just know that she touched many lives, there is and always will be something special about Rachel. With Love Leslie <http://www.caringbridge.org/ca/christophersfight>

6/13/04 Rachel I know you cant read this but I just wanted to know that I prayed for you and that you are very special! I LOVE YOU!!!!!! Clay Loveless!!!!!! P.S. God said ALL things work together for good!!!!!!

6/15/04 It is amazing how God works through prayer. I did not know Rachel personally but I prayed for her everyday. when I found out she went on it felt like a chunk of my heart was taken out. It was like I knew her all along. I learned about her from friends and OMPC buddies. I want to let her family know that I am praying for them and I love them. God is Awesome and we will see her soon. Love, Andy Entrekin. Phil 1:21

5/16/04 hi, my name is kristi. i am a breast cancer survivor (dx at 31) now 33. i read a lot of cancer stories on the internet and found your daughter's site. I checked everyday hoping that she would pull through. I was so sad to read that she died. she is so beautiful. i love that picture that you put on the site of her close up to her face. how can someone just be here and then be gone? so hard to comprehend. i can't image how you feel. I do know how my mom is a basket case about me getting cancer and i'm not even THAT young but am still her baby. Its just not fair. she seemed like a beautiful person inside too.. you can tell that just from the pictures. i just wanted to write to say that i think about you, Rachel and your family often even though i don't know you.

5/16/04 Hi, my name is Kaitlyn. I never knew Rachel personally, but I prayed for her all the time & I felt like I knew her. I really thought the Lord was going to let a miracle happen for all of us and for the many people who would have become a christian through all this, but now I realized, that is exactly what happened! Rachel is in heaven with the Lord and having a much better time than she ever could down here on earth. Tons of people were lead to the Lord through this and it was GOD'S PERFECT PLAN FOR RACHEL!!!!!! I'm very sorry and I'm praying for you! I LOVE YOU RACHEL!!!! In Him

~Kaitlyn Basik

6/22/04 Dear Marla, Richard and Boys, We think of you often. I know you have been told that time will help your empty heart, but I also know that is not a comforting thought. This is just a period a person has to deal with, and to know that the Lord has His arms around you everyday. I have found the thing that gives the most comfort is to remember the good times, the sweet memories, and how blessed I was to have that person in my life. There is a little book, "When bad things happen to good people", written by a rabbi that had lost a son. I heard him speak one time. The thought I remember the most was, "God may not answer prayer the way we want, we may be hurting so much, and question, where is God?? He followed this statement with, "think about the events, and people around you. They have been sent by God to help answer your prayers." That is a lot to think about. I know God is with your family everyday, helping you to get through one day at a time. Please know we all think of you, pray for you, and send you our love. Love, Jo Recio, (Kathy's Mom)

6/22/04 Lord, enable me to see beyond this day... this life. Help me to live in the light of heaven's reality. Thank you that, though the one I love can't return to me, someday we will be together again. EC

6/22/04 "Time does not allow us to forget..... it makes remembering easier." with much love.

6/26/04 Marla and Richard - I think of you often, and check the website periodically to say a silent prayer for Rachel. The new pictures on the site of Marla and Rachel, and the B&W of Rachel, are so loving and beautiful. I know that everyday is a struggle for you Marla, and for Richard and the boys as well. Just know that you are in my thoughts as you move through this difficult period. And, as difficult as it is, the only way "out" is "through". You know, when I think of Rachel, I think of seeing her during our old church days together, and how she always responded to me with "yes ma'am" and "no ma'am". She was such a pleasant and polite young lady. I also think of her when I put my watch on every morning, because she always loved all of the crazy wristwatches that I wear! There was one in particular she especially liked that has a furry leopard-skin band on it, and I hold her close in my heart every time I wear it. If I had to describe Rachel, it would be as a caring human being with no hidden agenda. She was simply a loving, caring, nurturing young woman who exuded those traits to anyone that she met. Please take some comfort in knowing that you and Richard raised such a lovely spirit! I hope to see you soon. Tami Johnson

6/28/04 Marla -dearest sister in Christ, fellow mother, and weary traveler of this life.... it is 11:00 p.m. - and I find myself awake, once again with you heavy upon my heart... I leave the warmth of my bed, and arrive at my computer, to find your latest post... and now I know why I'm here. Tears flow freely - first from my heart, then my eyes,, So I begin, again, to pray - no, plead, for you. I tell you this only with the hope that you may know God's family - your family - is grieving with you, and seeking His comfort, on your behalf - still. You are not alone - though I can only imagine it must feel that way - you are not alone, dear one.....

6/29/04 I think of Rachel every day. When I drive or walk by your former home in Willow Brook, I see Rachel in the driveway shooting baskets and smiling, or jumping on the trampoline with the boys in the back yard. I cannot imagine your heartache; I

know you are in the thoughts and prayers of many people, more than you even know. We love you, Georgia Ann, David, Jennifer and Alan

6/30/04 Marla, Oh how my heart aches for you. I check Rachel's website everyday...several times a day, I cannot even begin to imagine the unbelievable pain you feel. I do hope you find a tiny bit of comfort in reading the messages from everyone and how loved Rachel, You and your family are. You have so many friends that are there with open arms... You are in my family's daily prayers.

7/1/04 "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18 Marla, I just wanted to let you know that I'm thinking about you and continuing to pray for healing everyday. EM

7/2/04 Strong, sweet Marla - may you know that through the most painful of trials, imaginable to most of us, you have allowed our Father's hand to mold your life into the greatest masterpiece that I have ever beheld...As I read your post this morning, a full portrait of His nature, and our eternal home, was engraved upon my heart... just as I have ached with your agony, I now feel the power of his peace - and the HOPE of Heaven exhibited in you. Where there is hope..there is LIFE. Bless you, precious sister, for filling all of us, once again - with the hope of Heaven and the promise of His presence. Surely, if you can be a reflection of the light of Heaven, in your darkest hour - the flame of hope, and life, shall burn brightly, for all His children, eternally.... He has been unveiled in the most magnificent way - through you - bless you....dearest one, bless you...

7/6/04 Sorrow has its season. Mourn not with a broken heart when friends and dear ones go. For you, the night of loneliness. For them the morning glow. For you the daily burden of the years that are to be. For them a new adventure in a world you cannot see. Sorrow has its season. Nothing lasts, not even grief. Every winter has its ending...then the greening leaf... One day you will wake and say that Time has eased the pain. That is how God's mercy works. Spring always comes again.

7/6/04 Dear Marla, I became introduced to your family when a friend e-mailed me a concern for A negative blood. I became a daily participant in Rachel's support system. I prayed for her and cheered at every victory medically. As she progressed, I knew in my plan she would be fine. The morning I went to her website and discovered the dates of her life posted, I was stunned. That was not the way I had planned it out. Tonight, I am a facilitator for a Bible study called Discovering God's Will for Your Life. We are to share a person who has had a profound effect on our faith. I tried to decide who I would mention. Then, I thought of Rachel. I became a more concerned Christian because of her. I became more devout in my prayer life and my Bible study. Though I never met her, never even saw her in person, I have a meaningful relationship with her. That relationship continues even though Rachel is no longer on this earth physically. The point of the Chapter I am responsible for is that Christianity is not so much a "religion" as it is a "relationship" with a spirit we have not met in person or seen. My "relationship" with Rachel helps me understand my "relationship" with God. I will share the profound effect her life and death have had on my life at the meeting tonight. I grieve with you for our loss of Rachel physically. We will always have her in our hearts. My prayers are with you and your family as we live out God's plan. Jan Winston

7/11/04 Marla, I'm glad you continue to write in your journal. It helps us to know how

to pray for you and your family ---we can't begin to imagine your pain. People are praying and we can't understand why things happen; we may not know until in Heaven . We'll pray for strength to face each day.

7/14/04 I didn't know Rachel personally, only through this site and some friends, but it felt as if I had known her forever. I am not much younger than her, so that is a bit scary, but at least we all know where she is at and that she is in God's arms and not sick anymore. I know it hurts more and more everyday, but she loves ya'll and she is watching over everyone. Rachel would want everyone to be happy, that is how she always seemed even in the roughest times. A great friend of mine once told me that, "Life is hard, BUT God is BIGGER!" We all love Rachel and your family and will continue to pray for you. Remember all the good memories. Thanks for letting me know of her. She was a beautiful young lady & ya'll are one supportive and strong family.

7/20/04 Dear friends and Family of Rachel, She is gone to a better place . Praise god . Give God the glory. i love ya guys. And my small group is still praying for yall. Love Ya, Jeffery Rice Jr.

7/21/04 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all. (Psalm 34:17-19).

7/22/04 Dear, dear, Marla...You are surely in the darkest of valley's right now. Please know that your steps are not paralyzed, and you are not stuck, though I can only imagine that you must feel that way. Our Father has you firmly by the hand, and is directing you step, by painful step, to the top of the mountain. In His time, you WILL feel the sun on your face, inhale the sweet aroma of life, and behold the beauty of His earth, once again. The view from the top will not be as limited as it was before...for you will see farther, and with more clarity. Sweet sister of mine - your journey is - with out question - long, and arduous...but; your guide has everything you need, and will not falter. He will navigate you through - this darkness, and deliver you to - His mountain top. He will provide your necessary nourishment, and tend your wounds... During this time - which could be nothing less than draining, and grueling,, .we (your Christian brothers & sisters) are here to prayerfully, and practically, provide you with whatever you need to survive the trip through this valley. We too, are dedicated to your deliverance. When even one part of Christ's body is broken, the rest can not function normally without focusing on the injured part. So are we to you, precious one. As for Luke, he too, will be fine...for just as our Father has His protective arms firmly around Rachel...and you...those same arms are firmly around him . We will faithfully continue to bathe you with our prayers - pleading daily, that our powerful God, in His goodness, and grace, will wash your pain away...as He leads your every step... We love you, and ache for you. Godspeed.

7/23/04 Dear Marla and Richard and family, I have just read your web site for Racheal. I cannot imagine the grief you have gone through. My mind will not allow me to even imagine the kind of pain you must feel. It is too painful! I don't know you, but my heart goes out to you and your family. I will say a special prayer for you and your family. I pray that God will fill the void you must feel in your heart and to fill you with happiness and joy. I pray God will remove all pain from your heart and mind. May God bless you. Anita Norris

7/23/04 Marla... I don't know you personally, but I have been following Rachel's story since March and your family has been in my prayers ever since. I just wanted to tell you to hang on, just hang on to whatever you can. It's okay to be devastated, its okay to be angry. God wants to know (and already does, of course) every feeling you have, not just the ones you think are appropriate. He made you human and He more than anyone knows all the glory and limitations that that encompasses. His love for you and your family is immeasurable and that love will pull you through this, even if you doubt that at times. Rachel has touched my life and I don't think a day goes by that you and she are not in my thoughts. I know nothing I write will change anything for you, but I am sending you my love and my prayers. Remember Psalm 30:5..."Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning." Morning will come, Marla. Love, Jana Younger

7/26/04 Marla, once again our Father would not allow sleep to come for me....as you saturate my thoughts. I found myself, drawn once again to this screen, reading your 23 July, post. Your brokenness fills me...words fail me. In His grace, my prayers do not. Oh, that you may feel even the smallest portion of comfort, that others are crying out for you, in this dark hour of night, and your darkest hour of life... I am praying, with passion, for the light of morning to come quickly for you.

7/26/04

How can I pray
while my heart cries,
"You killed my child"?
What can I say?
How look for comfort from the
One Who willed it done?
Omnipotent, He could
have stopped it if He would;
my child... my child...
numb with grief,
my soul is one vast "why?"
her life was all too brief;
she was so young to die.
Where were You, Lord?
Where were You?
Gently He replied,
"Just where I was,
dearly, dearly loved,
when Mine was crucified."

Perhaps she will land
upon that Shore,
not in full sail,
but rather, a bit of broken wreckage
for Him to gather.
Perhaps He walks Those Shores seeking such,
who believed a little,
suffered much and so,

been washed Ashore.
Perhaps of all the souls redeemed
they most adore.

7/31/04 In Prayer for You. Connie Brown

8/2/04 Hello, Mrs. Robey. I have been reading your journal tonight. I am moved to tears now, about Rachel. I can not imagine the depth of your grief right now. At Winn-Dixie, where I work there is a girl, named sarah whose father died several weeks ago, he had brain cancer and it had moved to his other organs. Her mother is suffering a great deal and Sarah has had to quit work to be with her mom. I don't know what has led me to write this at one in the morning, or what made me want to come to this website at Midnight, all I know is that I am led to write this to you and tell you about Sarah's situation, and to ask you to pray for her family. The youth group is not the same without Rachel, she added a flair that is similar to my own, outgoing, kind (generally in my case), funny, and optimistic. I am cautiously optimistic, whereas she threw caution to the wind. I know I probably can't say anything to console you, but I would just like to say stay optimistic, I know everyday must be difficult, just based on what I have been reading in your journal, But when God closes a window God opens a door. I think I am just babbling on redundantly so now I will leave you. -In Him- Michael Barrett

P.S. Rachel was a special person who made a tremendous impact on our community. We can all only hope that our impact on the world is as great as her's has been and is still in the act of being through all of us. We can even make an impact by using the amazing story that is Rachel Greens life.

8/4/04 Marla - I continue to pray, with a heavy, hurting heart, for you, dear sweet sister. Which is less sensitive, to talk of hope in the midst of your overwhelming grief, or not speak of the certainty of it?... I do not know... How can we even pretend to know what you're going through - yet, how can we not try and claim God's grace, for you either... As I sit here praying, for what to say to you - I am struck by the vastness of love, poured out to you by our Christian family - young, and old - near, and far - and we still have the affliction of imperfection, and sin, among us. So I am only led to close with this thought, in what I can only describe as a humble feeling of helplessness: Your precious Rachel is the eternal recipient of this same love, only in its perfect form. We love you - and will not abandon you in our prayers.

8/4/04 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge.
Psalm 91:4

8/8/04 I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I pray for you everyday. I didn't know Rachel but I am a friend of Frances. I went onto her website and. I felt like I knew her. She must have been a wonderful person. I am happy to hear she is home with her father now. God bless! ~Summer Virginia Beach, VA

8/9/04 I have spent several days reading about the love of Rachel... what an awesome child and a sure example of one of God's gifts... she has inspired so many in life and even more after death. GG

8/12/04 I didn't get to spend as much time with Rachel as I would have hoped, but I am extremely thankful for the time I did have with her. In the time I did know her she

impacted my life sooo much!! From the first time I met her I could see what a awesome girl she was! Always cared for others over herself, and she always led others to Christ, and she had a beautiful smile that could light up the world, and warm your heart! She had so much joy! And she truly trusted the Lord, it still amazes me to think of the tremendous peace she had with everything happening in her life, she always trusted her Father, and I think she touched the lives of sooo many people, and she still continues to do that, she was absolutely wonderful, sweet, beautiful, loving, caring, kind, generous, and full of Christ! And she will always be remembered in my heart! I love you Rachel! <3 Love ya! Miss ya! Can't wait to see ya! God bless! ~Tara

8/16/04 I am still praying, and pleading, for you. Your pain has not been forgotten by those who loved Rachel, love you, and love our Father. Please keep crying out to us, and to Him. I don't know how, or when, peace will come to you precious one; but, I can promise, that it will come...because that is His promise. I don't know how you can make your heart hold onto that right now...maybe you can make your head do it, one day at a time. As I reread my words, I feel like I am offering a band-aid to my sister who has a dangling limb... and instructions for winning a war, when I've never even been in a battle that approaches the one you're in now...yet, I have to keep trying, and I refuse to quit praying - no matter how long it takes...We can't feel the hurt as you do, we can only see it; maybe you can't feel our love right now, either; but, maybe you can see it...we do love you so.

8/16/04 God is the great designer and the one who has all the tomorrows under control. Trust him for the architect that he will be - the only one capable of creating something beautiful out of that which is broken. How carefully and how wonderful God made Rachel. No one will ever fill the place of her. We all enjoyed and loved Rachel. How priceless was the gift of Rachel to all of us. Some day we will be reunited with Rachel, never to part again. At this time, we can only hope in God and believe in his words: "He has also set eternity in the hearts of men...the dust returns to the grounds it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 3:11; 12:7)" MC

8/16/04 I was referred to your site from Janie Sims'. I and my church have been praying for Rachel and your family. Your strength and trust in God throughout has been an inspiration to me, and I pray that you will remember his unending and all-encompassing love. A beautiful young woman has left this earth, but judging by the messages to her, she has left it a better place. Try to take comfort in that. Love in Christ, Courtney Hodges, Auburn, AL

8/16/04 Marla, I didn't have the honor of knowing Rachel, but I know she must have been a special girl. Her picture is beautiful. I pray God will ease your pain & give you comfort as only He can do. Brenda Lewis

8/17/04 Dear Marla, Just to let you know we still think about you and pray for you often. Several weeks ago we were driving home from the beach & I stopped to get gas. When I got back into my car Katy was sobbing like a baby. I grabbed her and asked her what was wrong, and when she could speak she told me that she missed Rachel so much, and was so sad that she wasn't able to tell her goodbye. All of my children have said that they think Rachel was some sort of an angel. She was so special, so kind, so full of life and fun. It does not surprise me that you miss her so much, I only pray that the pain will diminish over time. Give it time though, and don't feel guilty about grieving. Yours was a great love, and it was an incredible loss. Thanks for sharing

Rachel with us. You (and your family) are in our hearts. We love you. God bless, Becky R.

Dear Marla, Though I believe we have never met, please accept that we have prayed several times for Rachael and all of her family in months past at Presbyterian Church of the Hills.

I am writing to you because of my daughter who was moved to tears today over your continuing grief. She explained that I may have some words of comfort for you.

I'm not sure how to go about it, but I want to share some thoughts with you if I may.

My mother, who was 92 years old, passed away just two months ago and with tears I was missing her terribly today. You see by myself I am altogether inadequate to help myself or to help anyone else.

But I am confident that we have the words of Jesus (in writing) from Holy Scripture, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Marla, your faith and mine is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. As you know, my mother and your Rachel were bought with a price. They both belong to God in Christ. You might agree, that we are but stewards of our family but for a brief time.

As you and I have a right standing before God in Jesus how much more hope can we have than that they too had been clothed with His righteousness? God the Holy Spirit testifies with our spirit! Yes we grieve, but not as those who have no hope.

Our hope is in Him! Rachel and Anna (my mother) are owned by our Lord. As He will not withhold any good thing from them, He will not withhold any good thing from us. Jesus does not disappoint!

You and I, Marla, ought to be of comfort to those who are going through similar struggles. We can and should be 'witnesses' as those who walk by faith and not by sight.

I think that you and I have been given a ministry to others.

It is in that ministry we will meet Jesus and 'see' that our joy will be full. He will manifest His love to us as we 'freely give' that love to others who need it so much. And they do need it.

I'm sorry for your temporary loss. It will be for only a season. Though a battle appeared to be lost, the victory is already won! We have the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who not only redeemed us but sustains and strengthens us. That's your King and that's my King.

Most importantly, we are confident that love never dies. Love never dies! Your love for Rachel and her love for you does not die. Holy Scripture explains that faith and

hope will one day be gone when we meet Jesus and see our loved ones again. But be assured, love never dies.

We love you and your family. We continue to pray for you. Your friend in Jesus Christ.
M. O. 'Buzz' Williams

9/3/04 Marla, Just needed to let you know that I was thinking about you on your birthday. Reading your entries breaks my heart. I did draw one conclusion from an entry you made about Rachel being at peace on her last day. I have to believe that Rachel was at peace because she knew how much you and everyone else truly loved her. In the end I can't think of anything else that I would rather be certain of than I am loved by my family, friends, and our Lord. I hope and pray that you have a good birthday. May God bless you, Chris

9/3/04 This is Summer again. I really do feel like I knew Rachel, even though I never met her. I still pray for you everyday and wish I didn't miss out on meeting such an incredible human being. God Bless. Summer

9/3/04 Everyday without Rachel feels like a bad dream. She was the light in so many lives - the sparkle in her eyes and the beautiful smile is still so vivid in my mind... I look forward to the day that I see her again!

9/13/04 Marla and Richard - This evening I happened to fall upon Rachel's web site.. Actually looking for information on Rachel Green, Keith Green's daughter (Keith a very famous christian musician who died in a plane accident in 1982 had a daughter named Rachel). But instead I found your Rachel's web site, which I don't believe was by chance. In 1988 we lost our daughter Christin Evangel to cancer. When I read your journal I was again reminded of my journaling of losing a daughter. She died November 7 1988. The year your dear daughter was born. I was blessed to see that you have put your trust and hope in God. That He truly is our hope and our help. God is faithful and He will prove His faithfulness to you. Our daughters are now in the presence of the Lord rejoicing. My husband and I have two sons... Isaac and Timothy. They are now 27 and 18. It has now been 16 yrs. She would now be 31. They are the most wonderful boys. The suffering has made our family so very close. God has a special plan for your boys. Stay close as a couple. Pray together, grieve together but do understand that your grief will be different. Christin loved shoes like Rachel. Hundreds of them.. Like your laughter, she loved people and most of all she loved Jesus. What a powerful witness she was and still is. God has used her life and her death to glorify Him. God will use these precious ones to bring many to Him.. May you patiently see and be amazed at His grace and power in your lives. If you ever have need to share or talk to ones who have gone through this we are here. Phil. 3:10 We will pray for you and you family.. Greg and Barbara Meeks - Solvang, Ca.

9/16/04 omg I love the site. its sooo precious. especially the heartfelt face on the home page. she was the most adorable person I've ever heard of and she's now in God's lap being rocked to sleep, listening to awesome music, dancing like a cheerful maniac, or anything she wants! I loved rachel. Amy B.