

Forward to " Miss T " on the Internet

With the modern day internet, news travels fast. I asked a few people to disseminate information on T's passing, and within a week or so, almost all the emails you see in this document came to me. Hence the title of this note: "Miss T on the Internet".

The emails are organized into three groups:

1. Emails from Jerry's company, Learning Tree International. Many of those who sent emails never met T, and only knew of her through Jerry's stories and the Learning Tree Grapevine. On the other hand, many knew her and related personal stories about her.
2. Family Emails
3. Emails from Friends and acquaintances

In some cases, several emails from the same person or family were cut and pasted into one longer email. And after each email, I have added a note to tell those of you reading this document something about the person or persons who sent the email.

Collectively, these emails paint a consistent, coherent picture of the one I loved the most. They say over and over again that T was compassionate, caring, charismatic with great faith, and had a genuine zest for life itself. That she loved nature and tried to help others less fortunate than she was.

I hope you enjoy reading the emails as much as I have collecting them. For me, they not only provide a method to grieve over our shared loss, but also a way to remember the good things that T taught us during her all too short life here with us. I have assembled this document to share all these wonderful qualities with our family and friends.

Thomas Jerry Scott
December, 2007

Part 1: Emails from Learning Tree Staff and Faculty

1. Subject: Jerry Scott

Jerry Scott has asked that I let his Learning Tree family know of the passing of his beloved wife T this past Saturday. He and his family has greatly appreciated your kind words, thoughts and prayers during her long illness. It's meant so much to Jerry to have the support of the company and his fellow Instructors.

I did not have the privilege of meeting T but I know that some of you did when she traveled with Jerry to his assignments. However, I feel I've known her from the many loving and wonderful stories he's told me over the years.

For those of you who wish to send Jerry a note, he's asked me to pass along his email address - tjscott007@comcast.net. Funeral arrangements are being finalized and it is expected that her funeral will be on Wednesday. Arrangements are being coordinated by the Radney Funeral Home, 3155 Dauphin Street. in Mobile, Alabama 36606. We will be sending an arrangement on behalf of the company.

Regards,

Veronica L. Freeman
Instructor Relations Manager
Learning Tree International
Baltimore, MD

Jerry's Note: Veronica is Jerry's manager at Learning Tree. She missed her one opportunity to have dinner with T and Jerry, but she has always listened to Jerry's stories about T with great interest. She always said she longed for a relationship like they had and how lucky Jerry was to have T. In 2006, T wrote Veronica a letter asking her to take care of Jerry after she was gone. Veronica says that every time she talked to T on the phone, she had a mixture of joy and Kleenexes, and that T had to be the most wonderful person she ever talked to, but never met.

2. Subject: T's passing

Jerry we all know she is finally free of that body that held her back for so long. She is feeling so great and happy where she is with no tears of sorrow or pain. We all long for the same thing, but must do our time here for now, but before we know it either our day will come or the trumpet of God will sound calling us all home in the rapture. Those of us who never taste the sting of death will sing, Oh Death where is thy sting, and those who have gone before us and tasted of physical death will sing, Oh Grave where is thy victory, for the resurrection power of Jesus has filled them and set them free from the grave.

Someday we will all be in Him as He is in us and we will all be one together. Praise God for that glorious day. Remember this and when tears come for our loss, remember not to cry as those who have no hope of the resurrection, for Jesus said, If you live and believe in me, though you were dead, yet shall you live and in John 11:25 "I am the Resurrection and the Life," said Jesus; "he who believes in me, even if he has died, he shall live;"

Be well and God Bless you Jerry
Let me know the flowers made it.

Steven Glenn
MCSE, CISSP, Author, Technical Instructor
Huntsville, AL

Jerry's Note: Steve was Jerry's first Learning Tree lab partner way back in 1997 and they have been close, and very good friends for over 10 years now. Steve loved being with T and several times Steve and his wife Barbara have had dinner with T and Jerry in some large city while they were traveling and teaching. It is impossible not to like Steve and his stories about his Nitrous running Camero muscle car are just interesting.

3. Subject: Our Sympathy

Jerry,

I learned of T's passing only yesterday. You know how highly I thought of her. I am so very sorry that you lost her -- that we all lost her -- but I also know, as you must, too, that she is in a much better place now, free of suffering, surrounded by love, and immensely happy.

As trite as the offer may sound, please let us know if there is anything we can do. I wish I could be there now to help you go through this, but I know you have many other friends and family members surrounding and supporting you. Once the flurry of activity settles down, I'll give you a call. I know you have too much on your mind right now for phone calls.

Cartha sends her condolences along with mine to you and your family. We continue to pray for you as you move forward.

Mike
Lubbock, TX

Jerry's Note: Mike Covington is one of Jerry's favorite instructors at Learning Tree. He also has a PHD and teaches some of the same courses as Jerry. Mike spent a lot of time together on the road with T and Jerry, so much so that T called Mike in her last year and told him to look after Jerry after she was gone. When Mike told me this story, tears welled up in both of our eyes. Mike has been a great friend over the years. He has also been an outstanding individual, as he has 9 children who call him "Daddy" when he only had two natural children with his wife Cartha. In 2006, they adopted four little girls whose family were in prison for drug addiction.

4. Subject: prayer for your family

Although I don't know you personally, I know of you and your precious wife through what Mike Covington has shared with our small group. We have been praying for you and will continue to do so. The faith you and your family have demonstrated has been a great testimony. I know you are dearly loved by many people like Mike. I know the past weeks and the coming weeks have contained and will contain much sorrow. I also know

that no words any human can say will ease the pain just now; only God can help you carry your burden.

My prayer is that He lift you up and wrap you in His peace that passes understanding. I will share with you what a friend shared with me when I wondered how many more gallons of tears I would shed. She said that the large volume of tears was due to the large amount of love that had been shared. From the little Mike has told us, I presume you and T had a relationship with each other and with Jesus that was a huge treasure. I thank God that T is with Jesus. I also thank Him for His promise to carry you through this.

In Him,
Rosanna McLain
Lubbock, Texas

Jerry's Note: Jerry does not know Rosanna, but Mike Covington is one of his best friends at Learning Tree. Mike has often said that he and his prayer group were praying for T and Rosanna's note is wonderful.

5. Subject: My Condolences

Hi Jerry,

Just received Veronica's email. I'm sorry to hear about your wife's passing. I know from my own experience that even though it was expected, it still comes as a shock when it finally happens. My thoughts are with you and if you ever feel like talking about it, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Yes, I look forward to hooking up again for more chats and meals. I read the obit you sent. It was very moving. Your wife sounds like a wonderful and courageous woman. I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Best regards,
Adam Greifer
Los Angeles, Ca

Jerry's Note: Adam is a Brit who lives in Beverly Hills, Ca. He used to work at a law firm that handled stars' problems. He lost his wife to cancer a few years ago and has been very helpful to Jerry in the last several years.

Adam is not your prototypical Harley driver; instead, he is a handsome Brit with a wonderful accent who is razor smart and funny.

6. Subject: Sorry to hear

Jerry,

Our thoughts were always with you now please accept our condolences in your loss.

Mike and Hazel Foster
Portland, Oregon

Jerry's Note: Mike is a Brit who came over and became a Yank. He is truly funny and has a wide range of experiences. Jerry always looks forward to weeks with Mike, as he keeps us in stitches with his clever anecdotes. He always admired that T would help me setup and once he found out that she was ill, was deeply troubled.

7. Jerry,

I was saddened to hear of T's passing. I know that you will miss her very much. Please allow me to express condolences on behalf of myself and my family. Please let us know if there's anything we can do.

Regards,
Ron Durban
Fort Walton, Florida

Jerry's Note: Ron is an ex Air Force officer who is very precise in his efforts. He is very articulate and always seems to know just the right thing to say and do.

8. Subject: May God be with you, Jerry

I sincerely wish you and yours all God's blessings during this difficult transition period, Jerry. Thank you for helping me.

Sincerely; Your Friend,
Ed Page -- Anthony, NM

Jerry's Note: Ed is one of those wily veterans who has a special down home charm and cracks jokes and tells stories that just slay you. He has a special gift for building a story to match his instructional goals. T liked being with Ed, but in the last two years, Ed has told me over and over again that he really looked forward to being with T and thought she was a great woman and wonderful wife to me. Ed was saddened to learn about T's illness and never forgot to come to my classroom and ask about her.

9. A series of emails from Steve Kalman, a former Learning Tree employee and one of Jerry's best teaching buddies. Two emails from Steve's wife, Gail, who knew about T, but never met her.

Dear T:

Jerry told me that your birthday is coming up and I wanted to be among the many to wish you all the best. I also want you to know that I think of you and Jerry quite often and miss your company.

When I was working with LTree, I thought I had many, many friends from among the other instructors, the staff and in a few cases, their families. As it turns out, that list was much shorter than I knew. Jerry is and always has been a good friend to me. He took my departure as a personal insult and he always kept in touch. Now that my career is going even better for me than it was, I know he's truly happy for me. I told him when we spoke the other night that you were a lucky woman to have him for a husband. He immediately corrected me, telling me that he was the lucky one to have you, that without your love and support he would never have had all the successes that he's had and, even more, that they'd be meaningless to him.

He and I keep promising to get together but it never seems to work out. I told him when we last spoke to be sure to tell me the next time he teaches in NYC. I'll make sure I find time to drive in and meet him for dinner. If you can make the trip with him, then perhaps we can find a way to turn it into a weekend visit. I know that you and Gail will become instant friends and I really want you to meet each other. Even if the timing for that doesn't work out, I'd still like to see you along with him.

Anyway, this is about you, not Jerry. I hope that you're reading this, and the dozens of other messages and cards, while surrounded by your family and friends and that you're having a truly wonderful day.

All the best,

Subject: DC Next week

Jerry,

Could you send me your address, please. Gail and I want to send a card.

I'll be in downtown DC next week and I see from your website that you'll be at an onsite nearby. What's a good day for dinner? I'm arriving Sunday and leaving Friday.

Steve Kalman
New York City, NY

Jerry's Note: Steve was one of two of Jerry's best friends at Learning Tree until he left the company. T and Jerry and Steve shared many, many dinners, phone calls, and advice seeking sessions together. Steve loved T very much and really looked forward to the weeks when all three of us could be together on the Learning Tree Road. He always said that we made his week great.

From: Gail Blau-Kalman, Steve's wife

Gail forwarded the "**T's passing**" note to her sisters and close friends, and then wrote a follow-up email to Jerry. These are condensed into one email here.

Jerry,

First email

Steve's friend Jerry worked at Learning Tree and they stayed friends via e-mail and phone calls.

J was a college professor for many years and then went into the seminar field like S. His wife - T - was a nurse who developed M.S. She had quit her

job and traveled with Jerry doing books on tape for the blind while he taught. S met her many times. Toward the end, J stopped working to be with her.

The way that J expresses himself and their love for each other is just beyond touching. We read novels about this kind of love, but see it too infrequently in real life. I pass this on to you, not just in her memory, for like you, I do not know her, but as inspiration and a model for us all. It begins with this letter then see the attachments.

With all of my nonsense e-mails, this one is just too special to let it go with just me. It gives us all much to think about.

Second email

I know that I never met your T. I am sorry about that. Many times S mentioned that we should get together because I would like her. I am sure that he is right about that. Although it is too late now, I feel that you have shown me her in spirit and for that I am grateful.

We all, I think, see ourselves as potential 007 heroes; people who would meet any challenge head on and with courage. When I first remember reading about the Holocaust I believed that I would have been a Resistance Agent. Thank God, I never got to know. When we moved to Pa full-time, S and I did, in fact, volunteer on the Fire and Rescue Squad for five years. That was our small heroism. We often send to charities and peoples in need. None of this even begins to equal your Miss T.

I cannot imagine how T kept up her sanity let alone her spirit. Even more so, I am amazed at how she left this world. There was no mention of her pain or what she felt she would be losing or missing. What she did was to prepare you and the family for being without her. She sent herself off with special spirit. Even in her last moments, she cared for others more than herself.

I am very touched by your notes and by T's grace and style. I know that she will live in your heart and thoughts forever. I hope that your pain is bearable and that you, like T, keep looking at the good things in life – forever.

Gail Blau-Kalman
New York City

10. Subject: T

Jerry,

At this time, words don't quite cut it. There is only one thing to do; mourn. Both Penny and I mourn with you the loss of T. A lovely woman who put up with all your craziness for all these years- - a true saint.

And may St. Peter's words be, when T approaches the Pearly Gates: Welcome.

Eddie and Penny

New York City, NY

Jerry's Note: Eddie Nadel is a New Yorker. He once took Jerry to the 2nd Avenue Deli, an authentic Jewish deli, and Jerry enjoyed that visit. He is one of the funniest men we ever met, and we had dinner with him at his NYC home. Eddie and Jerry have always challenged each other with puzzles and riddles. He is one swell guy who loved T and always came around her and hugged her and made her laugh.

11, Subject: My condolences

I was sorry to hear of the passing of your wife.

From what I bet she will be going to a place where John Rocker never will be..... and no I don't mean New York!

Be well

Holden Contrares
New York City

Jerry's Note: Holden never met T, and is an ex professional baseball player and the ultimate NY Yankees fan. He and Jerry always talk about the Yankees, but he rubs the Braves losses in all he can. He is fun to be with and just does not know what to do with Southern hospitality. I don't think he will ever become a Yankee moved south. To Holden, the City's the Thing! His short note was both unexpected and appreciated.

12. Subject: Jerry My Friend ...

All my love to you and your family ...

I know that "T" will live amongst us forever ...

Hope to see you soon

Brad B. Waller
Lima, Peru

Jerry's Note: T loved being with Brad, the world traveler, and ladies' man who knocks them off their feet. He charmed her with his poise and Latin flair, but in the end, he used to tell me how wonderful she was. Whenever we were with Brad, he would always seek us out, and come over and hug T. She even sent him some puzzles, as he is a genuine puzzle solver. T was always excited if she knew that we were going to be spending a week with Brad.

13. Subject: A Note about your wife, T

Hi Jerry,

The hardship you are going through is the Lord's blessing. Your wife is with the Lord and away from this un-godly earth, so really she is going to a better place and she will definitely be better off than we who are left behind. Of course you will miss her, but it is God's plan and it is perfect. If there is TV you could watch, I highly recommend the "Gospel of John" - we watch it over and over almost every day.

It will prepare her and see the suffering Jesus went through. Otherwise we really like Kay Arthur seminars. We have many of them on CDs and it is something your wife may appreciate listening to. Nothing is more important than to prepare yourself before you die, to make sure you really are with Christ, heart and soul to embark on your new adventure. By heart is with you all.

Boles Sykora
Toronto, Ca

Jerry's Note: Like Jerry, Boles has a PHD. Jerry teaches several courses Boles has written for Learning Tree and has worked with Boles to technically edit one of them in 2007. T never met Boles, but worked with Jerry many times to setup the labs for the Boles' courses that Jerry taught, most interestingly at the National Security Agency and at Sandia Labs in Albuquerque, NM. T loved going to Albuquerque. Boles never got to meet T, but learned of her through Jerry's stories. He has been a good friend, who possesses amazing technical knowledge and persistence in solving the hardest computer problems. Once Jerry told Boles about T's struggles, it opened the door for Boles to share his deep Christian faith. His note was a real blessing to Jerry, but sadly came too late to be shared with T, who would have loved it, for sure.

14. Subject: I'm sorry to hear

I was so sorry to hear of your loss. I wish I had some words or power to ease the pain. Nobody could understand without having experienced it. I hope for you all the comfort and healing you can have.

Kindest regards,
Andy Winkler
Bethlehem, PA

Jerry's Note: Andy has been at Learning Tree for some years and never met T. I told him about her struggle one day and he was always interested in how she was doing after that.

15. Subject: T

Jerry,

I'm so sorry!!! She was a wonderful and remarkable woman and I cherish my memories of her.

I can't begin to imagine how you must be feeling but please know that my heart and my prayers are with both of you!

I know you will do fine. The anguish will always be there, but you have the strength to hold onto her memory and move forward into the future.

See you on the road!

Dave Barkley, Ph.D.
Los Angeles, CA

Jerry's Note: Jerry and T were great friends with David and T even cooked Sheckla Mishie for David in New York City. David bought a number of meals for both T and Jerry over the years. David was an intellectual wunderkind, getting his PHD from Princeton at age 20. David and Jerry have had some really deep conversations. Jerry stopped David with, "What were the greatest words ever written?" Jerry's firm belief was the words Jesus wrote in the sand as the crowd was attempting to stone the adulteress was his answer, and David finally concluded that Jerry had the answer to this question.

16. Subject: with deepest sympathy

Dear Jerry,

I am sorry to hear of the loss of your beloved wife.

I am not very good at words sometime, but I know that somehow God will relieve the pain you feel now over time, and he has blessed you with all the wonderful memories you and your wife shared.

Kind Regards,
M. Ann N. Phillips
Reston, VA

Jerry's Note: Ann is the person who writes Jerry's checks for Learning Tree. She is always sweet, and she wrote this nice note even though she had never met T. Many of the IR staff had not met T, but her fame and Jerry's stories about their lifetime love affair endeared T to all of them.

17. Subject: so sorry

Jerry,

So sorry about your wife passing. We all know how much you love her. She is in a better place now my friend and all her pain is released.

Love Fuller Family.

Optimistically,

Patrick Fuller
Richmond, VA

Jerry's Note: Jerry and Patrick have had many discussions. Pat met T just once or twice, but he loved her right from the start. Since Pat's wife has been going to seminary, Jerry and Patrick shared a lot about the Bible, Jesus, and our place as Christians in the fast-paced world we live in.

18. Jerry,

Donna and I send our condolences and have you in our prayers during this time of grief. I was blessed to meet "T" and know she made a huge impact on all she met. She was a beautiful person and will be missed for many years to come.

If we can be of any assistance, during this time of need, please feel free to contact us.

Steve & Donna Stark
Charleston, SC

Jerry's Note: Steve is a real character and he loved T from the start. He only was with her one or two times, but always asked about her in the last few years. Steve is an ex Air Force man who can spin tall military yarns, and is blessed with a truly wonderful instructor style.

19. Subject: My condolences

I just want to add my condolences on your loss. I feel that no matter how prepared you thought you were for losing her, that it is a very sad time for you. My thoughts will be with you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,
Peggy Mitchell
Tampa, FL

Jerry's Note: Peggy is a Learning Tree instructor and former IBM'er who never met T. She lost her husband to cancer some years back and shared that with Jerry in 2006. She also knew of T through Jerry and the stories of other instructors.

20. Subject: Your Loss

Jerry,

May you find comfort in your memories of your beloved wife. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Regards,
Jacky Visnius
Product Manager, Product Development
Reston, VA

Jerry's Note: Jacky never met T, but heard of her from the Learning Tree grapevine as well as occasionally from me. Whenever Jerry went to an Ed Center, like Reston, VA, where Jacky works, the staff always knew about T and especially in the last two years as she was struggling with ALS.

21. Subject: thinking of you

Hi Jerry,

Just got the email about your wife's passing. So sorry to hear of it. Even though you knew it was coming, it must still be very difficult. Just letting you know that we are remembering you in thoughts and prayers. Hope to see you soon.

Chet Goins
Atlanta, GA

Jerry's note: Chet has been a good friend at Learning Tree for many years. Chet is a very avid golfer and Jerry gave him putting lessons in 2007. Chet only met T one time, but he always asked about her, especially during the weeks we shared together in 2006/2007.

22. Subject: Loving Thoughts

Hi Jerry,

I'm very sorry to hear about T's passing this past weekend. I know it's been a long and difficult few years for you both, and despite the inevitable sadness, I am glad that you had an opportunity to say your goodbyes. I hope also, Jerry, that you can take some comfort in knowing, as you told me last time I saw you, that she was ready to go.

I'm sure she's looking over you, your children and grandchildren and the rest of your extended family and friends in love and peace. I've always admired the love and respect you've had for one another and the way you cherished your marriage - a lesson in love for us all.

God bless you and your family. With deepest sympathy and loving thoughts from Bruce, me and the kids,

Erica Simms
Reston, VA

Jerry's Note: Jerry and Erica have been close friends for 10 years at Learning Tree. Erica teaches many of the same courses as Jerry and they have shared lots about their families together. Erica only met T twice. Jerry felt the baby kicks when Erica was pregnant with her last child and shared dinner with Erica and her precocious daughter Jordan, who could do math in her head at age 5. Erica always inquired about T, and always gave Jerry warm hugs as both their eyes filled with tears in discussing T's struggles.

23. Subject: My deepest sympathies

Jerry,

My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. It is my deepest hope that the loss you feel you now is filled someday soon with a lifetime of loving memories. Bless you and yours through this period.

Regards,
Kevin Rock, Reston, VA

Jerry's Note: Kevin never met T and is an on-site salesman for Learning Tree courses. Kevin has only worked at Learning Tree for a few years, but has booked Jerry on several on-site courses already.

24. Subject: T

Hi Jerry:

Dave O'Neal shared the news about T. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this difficult time. I know you have been overwhelmed with her declining health over the past few years but you can trust now that she is in God's hands.

Let the tears fall, Let your friends comfort you, and Let all the fond memories help you through this difficult time.

Best Regards,

David Saunders
Arlington, VA

Jerry's Note: Dave used to be the manager of the Learning Tree Reston, VA Education Center. Dave knew T because she used to travel with Jerry to Reston several times a year to setup classes there.

But Dave really knew T when her mother Vivian died. T came to Jerry's door with tears in her eyes on a Tuesday at 8:45AM, just before he was to begin teaching a 4-day class. Jerry instinctively knew that Vivian had died and knew what to do immediately: go find Dave and tell him to "take care of T for me." Dave dropped everything, immediately got in touch with the airlines and helped her get her new tickets, drove her to the hotel, helped her get packed up, and then drove her to Dulles International airport for the flight back. When Jerry broke from my class, Dave was taking her to the airport, and before lunch, he had put her on the plane.

Dave is a true friend, and helped T in one of her most urgent times of need. Being Dave, he just did what he had to do at that moment—that's the kind of guy he is.

25. Subject: T's last days

I am very sorry to hear about the passing of your wife. Thank you for letting LT email a notification. I enjoyed the stories you told of her and your lives together. I strongly urge you to write that book on marital bliss; and dedicate it to her loving memory. It will be a wonderful book.

Again, I am sorry for your loss.

Best Regards,
Julia Morgan
LT Instructor
Washington, DC

Jerry's Note: Julia never met T, but took a Learning Tree class with Jerry and later became an Instructor. She always asked about T, as I told her of T's struggles in the last year or so.

26. Subject: T and Jerry Scott

Jerry,

I am so very sorry to hear about your wife. My whole heart aches for you and your family. Having not seen you for some time, I called Learning Tree a few weeks back specifically to inquire about you and your wife. Seeing Veronica's email with your name in the subject line brought instant tears to my eyes. I so enjoyed listening to you speak of your wife while sharing marital tips and tricks (I think of you every time I see flannel pajamas--the greatest form of birth control). I look forward to other heart warming stories you have to share.

I pray for you, your family and the eventual healing of your hearts.

Love and hugs...

Delores Berry
Charlotte, NC

Jerry's Note: Jerry only spent two weeks with Dolores in 2007. They had a long time together at the Dulles International as they both awaited our flight to Charlotte and Jerry told her about T. She was always kind to Jerry and inquired about T in their second time together. Delores is a character for sure and T would have certainly loved her.

27. Subject: In Sympathy

Dear Jerry,

I was sorry to learn of your wife's recent passing. I imagine the days ahead will be difficult for you, but I'm glad that your wife was able to travel with you on many of your Learning Tree assignments. Please take care and stay well!

My condolences,
Jerry Fitzpatrick

Jerry's Note: Jerry F. never met T and only learned of her through Jerry's stories. This note was unexpected and thus is very much appreciated.

28. Subject: Condolences

Hi Jerry. I'm one of your fellow Learning Tree instructors and I'm really sorry to hear about your wife.

My prayers are with you.

Bobbie Townsend
Washington, DC

Jerry's Note: I have only seen Bobbie a few times and she did not know T. I remember that Bobbie is a sweet person.

29. Subject: My Condolences

You are in our prayers...
Todd Martin
Charleston, WVA

Jerry's Note:

Todd is a good friend of Jerry's who teaches some of the same classes as Jerry. Todd never met T.

30. Subject: My Best Wishes

Jerry, I am saddened to hear about your wife.....as I spoke to you several times about her, you were tough and enlightened about all the fond memories you both shared. I wish you the best.

Regards,

Roger A Vernier
Atlanta, GA

Jerry's Note: Roger works for Learning Tree in our Atlanta Ed Center. He is a very gracious person and T always liked talking to Roger while we were working in Atlanta. Once she could not travel with me, Roger always asked about her.

31. Subject: My condolences

Jerry,

I just heard of your wife's passing and wanted to share my sincere sympathies for your loss. As you know, my wife passed almost two years ago and I miss her every day. I wanted you to know that I am here for you, holding your hand across time and space, in this time of need. May God grant you serenity in the days and years to come.

Warm wishes,

Hal Kane
San Francisco, CA

Jerry's Note: Hal is one of the elder statesmen at Learning Tree; a funny and very interesting fellow. He had a racing heart in an NYC class, but is able to teach again now. Jerry shared T's situation with Hal in 2006, and he has continued to ask about her whenever we are together. That fact that he offered to help Jerry through this time is typical of his caring attitude.

**32. Subject: Jerry - so sorry to hear of your loss,
Teresa and I send our sincere condolences...Martin**

Hi Jerry,

We were so sorry to hear of your loss – I know how close you and T were. I have very pleasant memories of the last time we met together, and I still have the Japanese painting cards she made for me on my desk.

We hope T is happy in a better place, and send our sincere condolences...

Take care,

Martin and Teresa Shin
Los Angeles, CA

Jerry's Note: Out of 350 Learning Tree instructors, Martin Shin is a top instructor, who consistently scores higher than other instructors. He is astounding to watch work with his students. His reputation always precedes him to our ed centers, and we like to watch Martin always smile and draw his dynamic pictures as he teaches that look like book drawings.

Martin is hard to impress, but he loved T from the beginning, as she could draw like him. Eventually, T painted some of her sumii cards for Martin, whose father is an artist. T was worried that Martin would not like her paintings, but as you can see from above, he loved them.

Ever since T has gotten sick, Martin has always shown great affection for her and has been genuinely concerned for her.

33. Subject: Condolences

Sorry to hear about your wife's passing, Jerry. I never met her but from what I hear she was one heck of a lady. My condolences to you and your family.

Regards,
Juan Jimenez
Washington, DC

Jerry's Note: I never met Juan, and neither did T. But you can see how she was known and respected at Learning Tree.

34. Subject: Sorry to Hear the News

Jerry:

I know it was expected, but that never seems to lessen the blow. Please know that you are in my thoughts at this difficult time.

Regards
Steve Holden
London, England

Jerry's Note: Steve was a great friend for both T and Jerry, helping out several times when they had equipment problems in class lab setups. T always liked Steve, as she enjoyed his humor and genuine sincerity. After T quit traveling with Jerry, Steve always inquired about T.

35. Subject: Our condolences.

Jerry,

Peter and I are thinking of you at this time and we send you our condolences. I know this must be very hard for you and your family while at the same time there is some relief that T does not have to suffer any more.

Best wishes,
Lynda Whitley and Peter Schenck
Santa Barbara, CA

Jerry's Note: Jerry and T have some fine times with Linda Whitley, especially in New York City. Linda is about our age. After T's sickness, Linda has consistently asked about T's condition. Linda always says that T really impressed her in the few times they were together.

36. Subject: T

Hello Jerry:

My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. If, for any reason, you would like to talk, please feel free to call me. I will be out of the country until 12/5.

Best Wishes!

James H. Lehto

Lincoln City, OR 97367

Jerry's Note: Jim Lehto had his own tragedy a few years ago. He and his wife were returning from Montana, where Jim was raised, to their home in Colorado Springs. Jim's wife was driving and a blowout caused a wreck that killed her and left him in Intensive Care for about a month. Jim and T were great friends, often talking about the books they read. Jim was in tears when I told him that T had "Lew Gherig's" and he asked about her whenever we were together in the last two years.

37. Hello My Friend,

I was deeply saddened to learn about T. Jerry my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. I'll never forget visiting with T, as she waited for you at the Education Center, or talking to her on the phone a few times. She was such a wonderful lady with a sweet spirit and a lot of tenacity. I remember how impressed I was by her creativity, as the two of you refurbished and decorated your homes. I still have my cookbook and will cherish it always. Thank you for sharing.

Sincerely,
Tomeiko Pollard

Los Angeles, CA

Jerry's Note: Tomeiko runs our Los Angeles Ed Center and T and Jerry spent many weeks with her. She always loved T and always gave Jerry the greatest hugs. T and Jerry both loved going to LA. While Jerry was teaching, T would be a tourist and visit Beverly Hills, Rodeo Drive, the

Ghetti, Pasadena, and other famous places in LA. Once T could not travel anymore, Tomeiko always asked about her. When I first told her of T's illness, big tears came into her eyes.

38. Hi Jerry,

I really appreciate your e-mail about T. After working with you for two years and hearing you speak with her every morning at the least, and listening to your stories of her and your relationship with her, I feel like I know her also and she is a beautiful woman in every meaning of the word. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Please let me know if you need anything.

Regards,

Amy Passos

Reston, Va

Jerry's Note: When I teach at Reston, I would see our receptionist, Amy, at least three or four times a day. Amy was considering marriage and our conversations gravitated to my wonderful marriage with T. Maybe I had an impact, as Amy married in early November, 2007.

39. Subject: Thinking of you during this difficult time.

Just wanted to let you know I was thinking of you. I will say a prayer for your family!

Lori Gambrell
Jackson, Ms

Jerry's Note: Lori is a Learning Tree instructor who specializes in building excellent Web pages. Lori and Jerry hit it off early, as she was Mississippi junior golf champion at age 15. Even though she never met T, I told her about T's struggles, and ever since, she has always looked me up when we are working together to find out how T is doing.

40. Hi Jerry,

I am so sorry to hear that T is gone. Debbie and I liked her so very much and enjoyed the times we had with you guys. I cannot possibly imagine the sense of loss you must feel. I know I would be devastated without Debbie.

If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know. If you would like to call and chat sometime, please feel free to call me at my cell or at home.

Debbie sends her sympathy - our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Greg Adams
San Francisco, CA

Jerry's Note: Greg is a long time Learning Tree instructor, and his wife travels with him, as T did with Jerry. T took Debbie on her own tours of New York City, going to the Metropolitan Museum and other places, as well as the normal shopping points. We were with the Adams' a number of times and it was always pleasant for T and Debbie, as they filled up their days with memorable times.

41. Sorry to Hear about T

Hello Jerry,

My thoughts are with you and I'll keep you and your family in my prayers.

Kathy Farinholt
Baltimore, MD

Jerry's Note: Kathy is a Learning Tree instructor whom Jerry has known for several years. We have eaten dinner a number of times as a group of instructors. When I told Kathy about T's problems, she was saddened, but after that day, she always looked me up to discuss T when we are together.

42. Several Emails from Elizabeth Flatten, Jerry's Learning Scheduler. Liz works for the Instructor Relations Department

Hi Jerry,

I hope you are doing well. How is T?

I cannot tell you how much my heart goes out to you and T. She sounds like an incredible person! The way you talk about her and the stories you have told me, inspires me to be as courageous, compassionate, and strong of a lady as she is.

I know you had mentioned to look for a possible backup Instructor for the week of 11/13/2007. If you would feel more comfortable, I can move you off this event and re-assign to Steve.

Please take care of yourself and know that you and T are in my thoughts and prayers!

IR has you, T and your family in our thoughts and prayers everyday!

Thank you for confirming! I do apologize for having to ask that at such a sensitive time, it made me feel very impersonal and insensitive but I really wanted to make sure you would be okay with me making any changes.

I really wish I had an opportunity to meet T. Like I said, she sounds like an incredible woman and although I have never met her...she has influenced the way I look at things in life now and how I deal with everyday events.

Please take care and know that you, T and your family are in my thoughts and prayers everyday.

I wish there was something I could do to help you and your family, it is heartbreaking to see people hurting.

Virtual Hugs for each and everyone in your family

How are you and your family holding up? I read T's obituary...it was very lovely and heart warming.

I really wished that I had gotten a chance to meet T personally, but through our conversations I feel like I got to know a small part of her. All I can say, is that to have someone talk so lovingly about another person only means she is truly a very special lady. So, I want to apologize if I sounded indifferent on the phone the other day....I was trying not to burst in tears during our phone conversation and I had been out on Monday with a cold (still trying to fight it off).

I know you wanted to work put on your calendar, and I want to get classes for you, at your request. I know that you have much more important things on your mind, so you can let me know when you a chance to breathe.

Regards,
Elizabeth Flatten
Reston, VA

Jerry's Note: Liz is my Learning Tree scheduler; i.e., she books the courses I teach. Even though Liz never met T, when I told stories about her, Liz was all eyes. She says that T became a role model for her. And as you can tell, she really wished she had met T in person.

43. Hi Jerry,

Thank you for sending this to me. I smile when ever I think of T. She was always there to help people including me, there were a few times when she was in the Ed center helping me clean up your class at the end of the week. T always made me feel special. Some people never find true love, and you were blessed with her for so many wonderful years. I just wanted to say a big "thank you" to you for being such a nice person to me from the time I have met you.

Have a nice night,
Your Friend,

Chris Noble
Reston, VA

Jerry's Note: Chris works at the Learning Tree Reston Ed Center, setting up the food and the classrooms. He is a great guy, and really liked T as his email says.

44. Dear Jerry:

I cried when I heard about T - even though I knew it was coming after talking to you in Charlotte - and I sit here crying now after reading your last letters to each other.

Over the 10 years we've known each other, I've questioned (to myself) how close you and T really were because you were on the road soooo much - and you were both OK with that - at least you said you were. I was skeptical because so many other Ltree instructors say that - and it turns out they have crappy marriages and are glad to be away from each other. You know the ones I'm talking about ;->

Also - your relationship was different than Wade's and mine - we absolutely want to be together every minute possible and are sometimes truly miserable when apart - so perhaps I just didn't "get it". I realize now that your relationship with T was like ours - as loving and close, probably more so - but much more mature. I married my best friend and it sounds like you did too.

You are lucky in so many ways to have had such a wonderful marriage for so long. On the other hand, I know that the hole that is left by her not being beside you physically anymore must be huge. I'm not sure I would survive losing Wade - for me there would be nothing left to go on for. But - I know that you are stronger than I am and I'm sure T is sitting on your shoulder helping you through.

You are in our thoughts - If there is anything we can do for you - just let us know.

Lori Sanders

Pikeville, TN

Jerry's Note: Lori Sanders was one of the first real friends Jerry had at Learning Tree. She and Jerry and Miss T went out at night many times in many occasions, and in many places. Her husband, Wade, also works for Learning Tree now, and if that is not enough, they raise horses in the hills of Tennessee. Lori had a stroke a few years back, and for those who have seen it, she is the one walking with me on 9/11 with our masks on. She has been a really good friend over the last 10+ years.

45. Hey There,

Thank you for the update on T's condition. I know these are long, VERY long and tough days for you. I know that you are surrounded by people who care for both of you, and are there to help, listen, and do whatever they can. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and T.

I have never met her, but I know by your stories and the love in your eyes when you talk about her, that she is indeed a very special, rare individual. I'm glad she has you to spend her final days or weeks with. I think of the two of you often. I am there in spirit with you.

At this time of Thanksgiving, reflect upon how lucky you both are to have met each other and to have spent a wonderful life with each other. It is much more than many have or will ever have. I'm here if you need a friend to email or talk to. I will see you down the road when your journey in life takes a new turn and your back in Reston. I wish you all the best.

I'll be here to talk to you when T passes. I hope you have some time off now... Get yourself some rest! It's always good to see you, I hope it won't be too long until we see you smiling in Reston again.

Take care of yourself!

Susan Wojciechowski

Reston, VA

Jerry's note: Susan is an attractive woman with a wonderful smile, who used to be a flight attendant. When I first met her, she was our student greeter at Learning Tree's Reston, VA, Education center. Now she is our receptionist there.

For awhile, her smile diminished and Jerry found out that her husband had died unexpectedly. Over the years at Reston, Jerry and Susan exchanged many hugs, with Jerry listening as she told the story of how she dealt with her grief over her loss. She has now remarried and is smiling big-time again. She has always been curious about T's illness and as her note says, she will be there to help Jerry in his grief. She has been a valuable friend for Jerry at Learning Tree.

Part 2: Family Emails

1. Dear Mom,

First of all, let me say Happy Mother's Day. I found this poem that I wrote for you when I was in high school. It was really strange because I had been trying to think of what to do for you and when I got to the storage room it was laying on top of a box like it was there waiting for me. I was not even looking for it – I had actually completely forgotten about it. I read it and realized all that I had written back then is still the same today.

I know this has been so hard for you since your "official" diagnosis. These past two years have been hard for those of us around you so I cannot even begin to imagine how you must feel. However, I have come to think of this time as a blessing. I would not trade the time I have gotten to spend with you for anything. I have learned so many things from you these last two years...

Without your guidance and skill I would have never learned to needlepoint. It is a hobby I have come to love. It is so soothing and calming – I will never pick up another canvas to work on without thinking of you. I treasure each piece that I have done and when I look at them I am reminded of you. So for that, let me say thank you.

Without your constant prodding I would not have learned to appreciate the beauty of bird watching. I will never truly admit to being a full blown "birder", but I really have come to enjoy trying to identify the different birds we have seen. Who knew we would get so many different ones in such a short period of time.

Without your enthusiasm for movies I would not have come to love the old classics. I used to secretly groan when you would turn on an old black and white movie, but soon came to look forward to our afternoons of Hitchcock, westerns and thrillers (although I will admit that the Hitchcocks are my favorites). I see your love of movies being passed down to Peyton and it makes me glad. Like you, she is content to watch any type of movie.

Without your gift for storytelling I would not have learned so many different things about our family and friends. It has been so neat to hear you recount stories...like days spent at your old family house on the bay, the time you

thought Dad was dead after he wrecked the car on the way to see The Sound of Music, hearing about the lovely picnic table and pine tree divider wall you let Dad put in the first house you two lived in and so many more. I only wish we had been able to record you for our children and grandchildren.

Most of all, without your courage and strength I would not have been able to bear your diagnosis. You have been a pillar of strength throughout this entire ordeal and when I start to get upset I really only have to look at you to feel comforted. There are not many people who have faced what you are going through with such conviction and peace. I know you do not see yourself like this, but know that all who are involved have been able to draw strength and comfort from you.

You have been all that I could have asked for as a mother, and more. I know you sometimes think you were not a good mother. Please know that is not true. Not only have you been an excellent mother, but also a great friend. I used to worry about my relationship with Peyton. I only wished that she and I could have the same bond that you and I share. I am comforted that as she grows older your “five star granddaughter” and I are indeed growing closer.

Taking care of you has been a privilege for me. People are constantly thanking me for caring for you and I always reply that I wouldn't have had it any other way. There was never any other option once you were diagnosed. I know I will never regret these past two years, but will treasure them.

So let me end this by saying how much I love you. I wish you peace and love on your next journey and am comforted by knowing that you will be surrounded by other loved ones who I know are there waiting for you. Please know that in the future every time I sit down to needlepoint, see a new type of bird or watch a good old Hitchcock movie, I will think of you and smile.

I love you –

Lanie

Jerry's Note: Our older daughter, Lanie, wrote this wonderful note for her mom on Mother's day, 2007. It speaks for itself.

2. To Mom:

When I look back at my 36 years with you, Mom, I realize just how blessed I have been. You were the perfect match for me and I am lucky to have called you Mom. I am so grateful to have been chosen for you and so fortunate to have been the recipient of your love. It was such a great gift and I thank you for giving it unconditionally for all of my years.

I find myself constantly wishing for more time with you. I miss your advice, your support and your comfort so much. But even though you are not here in body any longer, you will always be in my heart, Mom. You are my Rock and my only regret is that I didn't appreciate my dear Rock sooner. When I had my first child I finally understood just how much you loved us. Then after my second and later, third child, I truly understood how challenging we must have been for you. I respect you so much for keeping it all together and for doing so much good with your life.

I thank God for the woman you were and I only hope that I can be all that you would have wanted me to be. You were amazing, Mom, so amazing. I don't think you ever realized how much, especially in your last months, that you were able to touch people. Your faith in God and dedication to family has been such an inspiration to me. I want so much to be able to hug you one last time and tell you how wonderful you were... to tell you that in this race of life, you were truly victorious!

When I think of you now, I imagine you at total peace. Your legs are working and there are no machines to hold you back. You are walking along the most beautiful beach picking up shells and feeding the seagulls...you are finally home. I know that one day I'll be with you again...

I love you, Mom.

Gwen:

Jerry's Note: Gwen is our younger daughter. As you can see, she had a wonderful, loving relationship with her mom.

Not every mom has the full love and complete respect of her two daughters. "Miss T" got all that, plus she was admired by both Lanie and Gwen, and challenged them to very end to be the best they could be.

3. Jerry

My "big" sister was as good a sister as a sister could be....
As good a mentor as a mentor could be ...
As good an example of how to live as a person could be...

Theodora ...

Taught me to be an individual by introducing me to Ayn Rand
Taught me to live my life as I wanted,
By telling me my parents will always love me
Set standards for me throughout my school as my teachers
Expected me to live up to her standards,
Taught me to care for people in need as I watched
Her live a life always thinking of others' needs
Never thinking about herself.
Taught me how to deal with a chronic illness...
Don't give in ...ever!

She never stopped teaching
She taught me and all of us, how to die
I just hope that I can live up to all she taught me

T, I miss you and always will.

Will Ferniany, PhD
Jackson, Ms

Jerry's note: Will is Miss T's brother, who always loved and admired her. His letter is straight to the point and shows the effect T had on those closest to her.

4. To Jerry:

Jerry - It has been a little over a week since we symbolically "released" T from our earthly presence. Since then, I have realized even more just how much she touched our lives, in the thoughtful ways she related to all of us, in the Christ-like example she set she of always thinking of and acting for others, and in her wonderful way of really making the best of everything in her life.

T's sense of adventure and wonder in all the new situations she faced as she went through life was so admirable, her ability to do just about anything she really wanted to do was amazing, and the commitment she showed to all of her altruistic projects was unmatched. She was a true Renaissance Woman with the heart of a saint!

Jerry, I can't imagine how empty your life must be without your wonderful T there with you, but I have faith that you will find strength in the knowledge that T would want you to do just what she would do - discover the wonder of life in new ways and use your talents to help others.

We will all miss her so much, but I have so many reminders of her wonderful loving, generous spirit in all of her thoughtful gifts which are all over my house. I also think of her when I take a moment to do a little bird watching, because she and I shared that natural wonder and loved sharing our bird stories...

You and your whole family are constantly in my thoughts and prayers as I know you are all hurting and missing her. But I know T would want us all to just live life to the fullest and honor her memory with good works and good deeds. She was a great inspiration to us all of how to live - We are very lucky to have had her in our lives...

Love to you, Lanie, Thom, Gwen (and Aunt Yvonne) and all your families

Dana Hardy Ferniany
Jackson, Ms

Jerry's Note: Dana is Miss T and Jerry's sister-in-law, married for many years to Miss T's brother, Will. She and T always had a good time together in lots of places. Dana has been especially helpful in the last months of T's life and even stayed 7x24 with her in the hospital for three days in the spring. From what she writes in her letter, Dana truly got to know and love the real Miss T, and was inspired by her many good deeds.

5. Dear Jerry:

My memories of T are so long in their length. I don't remember not knowing her. But she and Jerry met about the time I was born.

I have some vivid memories of her like walking the golf course following Jerry and she looks at me and says "You know we know more about this game than most people ever will and neither of us play" But faithfully we would go follow Jerry.

The Christmas I was in the maternity home when no one came T and Jerry came and T hugged me and said I just wanted you to know we love you and could not let you have Christmas without a visit. They had only been married a little over a year then and it meant so much to me.

She was the sister I never had and always wanted. She was better though because she chose to be a sister to me. She did not have to - she chose to.

T married into our family and became the very heart of the family. David and I always could call and she kept in touch with us. Jerry might forget but T never did.

I am working hard to be happy she is in a better place but I miss knowing she is here when I just want to say hello or chat. She was one of the most intelligent women I knew so I could ask her about almost anything and she could talk about it well.

I loved T for being the best sister-in-law any person could ever had. She made a real home for Jerry and their family and I never worried about him because I knew he had T and she would always take care of him. To know that your brother is absolutely loved and cared for and has a warm wonderful home and a wife that adored him is just such a wonderful gift. T was truly Jerry's Pearl of Great Value. Because she was just the best person in every way to everyone she met she was everyone's Pearl of Great Value. I don't know but one other person I can say that about and she took care of T until the very end.

My mother once told me that when a person suffers on earth it means Little Jesus is making them an extra special place in Heaven. That is how I think

of T as having an extra special place in Heaven because she certainly deserves happiness there - she gave everyone here happiness.

I have thought about her so much these last few weeks and I have decided T's innate gift was that no matter what when you were with T you mattered to her and you felt that. She could make the hardest heart feel cared about. That is why she had so many friends she just cared about anyone and even though sometimes she was hurt she seemed to have this endless fountain of love. She listened with her heart and gave you a fair shot. Did everyone realize that? I don't know that they did but those of us who had her in our lives did. There are a multitude of people in this world who can talk and express their feelings but there are only a few who truly listen with an open heart. It is a gift and she and used that gift to help so many people.

Carroll Scott Jones
Houston, Tx

Jerry's Note: Carroll is Jerry's sister. She has always felt good for Jerry that he was married to T, as she saw first-hand the kind of home and family T had given him. In addition, she always said two more things about T: 1) T was the sister she never had, and 2) Marrying T was the best thing Jerry ever did in his whole life.

6. Jerry,

I am sorry this reply is so long getting to you. I have attempted to collect my thoughts and put them in words but the words just do not seem to express well enough how I feel about Theodora and her passing. Theodora's choice of funeral arrangements was an inspiration to me. It was exactly what you would expect from Theodora with her happy, optimistic, and joyful demeanor. I loved every thing about it, the feather boas, the balloons, the fiddler, and especially having her dog along side her. It was not easy to let T go but she wanted to make it as painless as possible. That was T, always thinking of others. Even at her funeral.

I want you and your family to know that I understand that you are going through a difficult period of sadness at the loss of Theodora. It is especially sad for me and for all of the Ferniany cousins that are of our generation. Theodora is the first cousin of our generation to pass to the

next phase of life with Christ and with all of our relatives and friends who have gone before.

My earliest memories are of my family, and my cousins, and of you too. We all lived across the street and down the block from each other as children in the 1950's. I remember when you and Theodora were starting to like one another, in high school I think it was. I remember how we were always together at holidays or any special occasion. Uncle Joe and Aunt Vivian's house was the grand central meeting place for friends, family, and neighbors. It seems there was always a full house.

Theodora was older than me, she was Josephine and your age so we were not that close when I was a young kid. I knew you better than Theodora when I was a little kid, I remember you and your friends rough-housing with each other and I remember you offering me a ride on your Vespa scooter as we called them in those days.

I got to know T better, and as a friend, back during the time that Kathy and I first got married. That was in the 1980's and we were living in Josephine and Sal's house. We found that we had a lot of common interests like pets, and movies, and books. T is the one who told me about C.S. Lewis. What a life changing book Mere Christianity was. We owned a pet cockatiel that T had hand fed and raised from a tiny baby. His name was Habebe, which is Lebanese for "my heart". Habebe was great but he met his fate one night when I let him out of his cage and he flew into the window. Oops. My wife still won't let me forget that I wrapped him in tin foil and put him in the freezer (temporary morgue), because I was going to bury him the next morning. We also shared a love for movies. It was fun watching movies with you and T and on at least one occasion T and I went to the big screen together. I mostly remember her laughing through the entire movie, it was a Robin Williams movie, I forgot which one.

When T was diagnosed with Lew Gherig's disease, I didn't want to believe that it was really a terminal illness and I blocked it out hoping it was a mistake. Theodora came up with a plan to reunite all of her cousins by inviting us to her house for dinner on occasion. It was a wonderful way for us all to reunite and tell old stories and to feel a family connection again, like we did when Uncle Joe and Aunt Vivian were around. What a great idea that was! Theodora was full of great ideas.

Watching Theodora passing must have been extremely hard for you and your family. I admire the strength of your family and I hope that the pain of T's passing will eventually subside. We do still have our memories, and our hope that we will all be together in God's kingdom one day. We also still have each other as family. Theodora will continue to live in my heart and in my memory as one very special cousin.

God bless you,

George M. Ferniany
Fairhope, AL

Jerry's Note: George is Theodora's first cousin and grew up with her. George went through all substances in his teens and early 20's, but somehow and miraculously, was freed from his addictions. George and T were really close at the end. We both admired George for his life transformation and his eloquence in describing where he was and where he is not.

7. Good Morning, All

Like the email you composed - I'm sitting here remembering. The girls in your old van and the guys in our car heading to Gatlinberg. Us heading off Engineer Pass when storm/sleet/ and lightening all around and T having a fit. We made it.

Also Disney with Scott walking along side T in her wheelchair and they were on eye level. Renting a motorhome and going to Cape San Blas campground S of Panama City. Again T worried about the raccoons running around. What great times. Wouldn't trade them for anything.

She may have had a disease (MS) that stops most people, but not T. She did or tried to do it all. She was as adventuresome as we were and that's why we hit it off and had such good times. Loved to watch you both as you saw, loved and experienced the places we did. Y'all were so brave to rent those jeeps and go over the passes, even when the snow banks were over the top. And freeze together - IN THE SUMMERTIME!

Our sons, Scott and Herb still like to pull out the old movies and relive those fun times. Maybe we can get together soon and watch them again.

Let us know arrangement details.

Love and warm thoughts to you all.

Sidra and Gus Spies

Niceville, FL

Jerry's Note: Sidra and Gus are Jerry's cousins, and as their letter states, shared a lot of family vacations in the 1980's, when our kids were all growing up. What great memories. They introduced us to the Colorado Rockies, and we have been grateful ever since.

8. Subject: Re: T's death

Jerry: I was so sorry to receive this email. I've expected it, but didn't want to see it ever arrive. T was very courageous all her life and I know she had to have been strong at the end. I'm glad she was surrounded by those who truly loved her. God has truly blessed all that she was as His child and as your loving wife and mother. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family at this very difficult time. I regret I can't be there with you.

Love,

Frances Stoll

Lynchburg, VA

Jerry's Note: Frances is one of Jerry's older cousins. She has always been special to Jerry and she loved and admired T.

9. To Jerry,

Jerry, Carolyn and I both are saddened to hear of T passing. T had been struggling with both MS and Lew Gehrig's disease for many years knowing what the results would be. We know you and the family will miss her but the Good and Compassionated Lord spoke that Saturday evening and said enough is enough and called her home. May prayers and faith and knowing you did your best carry you through these difficult times and lead you to peace. **Larry Joe**

Jerry's Note: Larry Joe Betancourt and Frances Stoll, are the two oldest cousins Jerry has left in the Scott family. Their note says it all!

10. Jerry,

I cannot begin to express how much T meant to me. Everytime as a boy, teenager, young man, and as a adult, T always wanted to know how I was doing. She sometimes would sit me down just to chat; she helped me very much when my parents got a divorce. I talked with her frequently.

She was one of the most pure, sincere, real people I have ever known in this world. You both are one of a kind and very special people. One thing is for certain, you both belong together, God definitely planned it that way, I have always thought that and after reading the letters that transpired between you both, well I am certain. T's spirit and life were symbolic of a blessed angel, as grandma always said her life was blessed. Well I know you two were blessed and built a wonderful and incredible life together.

I am sorry for your loss and cannot begin to imagine how my life would be without my heart and soul Jennie. I am working on giving more hugs as you pointed out to me.

I think T's web site is very nice, and of all the people in this vast world, she deserves it. One should never hide true love. There is so little of it left in the world these days. When one sees and finds it, I say show and tell everyone, for it's a rare beautiful thing that most people never have or know. So we are all blessed for just knowing T. You of all had the miracle and gift of sharing your whole life with her.

I think your web site is great and would not change a thing! I enjoyed reviewing the letters and pictures. They all have such depth, just as the love you both shared for one another. You stay healthy and take care until I see you again!

Norm Harrington
Mobile, AL

Jerry's Note: Norman is Jerry's nephew, is the same age as Gwen, and has always been good buddies with Thom and Lanie. T was always a special aunt to Norman and he clearly appreciated it. His letter is very much appreciated.

11. Subject: Aunt T

Uncle Jerry,

I want to email you and tell you that my thoughts are with you. Aunt T and I always shared a kind of special connection, being the fantasy buffs of the family, and I will always remember her as my beautiful, charming, talented, creative aunt. She had such a sweet soul and was one of the most thoughtful people I knew.

I am sure the memorial will be a beautiful send off. You and all your family are in my prayers right now.

Love,

Glennie Ferniany
Atlanta, GA

Jerry's Note: Glennie Ferniany is T's niece, and as she says, they always had a special bond, both being avid readers and sharing other attitudes and dog types.

12. Subject: with deepest sympathy!

Hello Jerry.

This will be a short note, just because words could never convey what I truly want to say to you in this extremely difficult time.

I am so happy for "T" because **I KNOW** she is now with our Lord and at peace! Please let the image of our Heavenly Father holding your wife in his arms, give you peace now and throughout the rest of your life here on earth. I pray that this knowledge will fill your spirit and give you the strength you need to bear this cross.

"T" was and will always remain one of the most beautiful and faith-filled persons I have ever had the joy of meeting.

My prayers and deepest condolences are with you, as well as the entire Scott and Ferniany families.

May the Lord bless all of you with His peace and grace!

All my love,

Karin Gleason, Nashville, TN

Jerry's Note: Thom brought Karin to meet us after his divorce. We found her to be a very spiritual woman. Jerry really likes Karin, as she surely seems to have a Jesus focused life.

13. Jerry,

Sorry it has taken so long for ME to write. Just a brief note to say that Sally and I have been keeping apprised of things and my dear cousin has never been out of my prayers.

Unfortunately, in my business, I am all too familiar with ALS and sometimes I think, for the rest of the family, ignorance really IS bliss. I have seen so many patients like T that my heart genuinely goes out to her and all those who brave this immense challenge.

Having said that, she beat the odds on longevity and a lot of other stuff, so her character, stamina, faith and sheer determination should be an inspiration for us all.

When Theodora called and spoke with me after she received her diagnosis, I was amazed at her 'matter of fact' attitude and a spiritual outlook that is rare indeed. I honestly couldn't believe what she had told me, so I know how hard it must have been to receive the news first-hand. We didn't talk of love, old times, or even the fact that we had known each other since childhood. The conversation consisted of practical matters such as walkers, other disability issues, and the lethality of her disease. Even more amazing is the fact that she also called to give me suggestions to help with mom, even though she knew Annie would outlive her. Can you imagine?

What do you say to someone who tells you they have ALS? After I spoke with her, though, my heart was glad and I really didn't feel like it WAS

necessary to say anything.....she had said it all. I thought to myself that if she could accept this, then I would never worry, only pray.

For me, Jerry, her life was not in vain, for her journey and challenges gave me the same inspiration I got from my father who was bedridden for many years. I am a much enriched human being for having known and loved this remarkable lady. This is what you should carry with you for the rest of your life, not the love taken from you, but the inspiration given to you.

Give her my deepest love and thank her for being a part of my life for so many years.

Love,

Paul Tringas

Pensacola, Florida

Jerry's Note: Paul is T's first cousin, once removed. His mother, Annie Tringas was T's mother Vivian's age, and T and Annie and T's aunt Josephine always had a special relationship.

T called Paul to tell him that she had been diagnosed with ALS and told him not to worry that her faith would get her through it. She was right, but Paul was struck by her faith, which he had not often seen in his medical work.

Part 2: Emails from Friends

1. Dear Jerry, Lanie, Gwen and Thom,

You have been in our thoughts and prayers, both during these past few days and as you accompanied T through her illness. This is a time of sorrow for all of us who loved her. I feel that the world is a poorer place for the loss of such a person of kindness, humility and patience. Her time with us in Macomb was all too brief. We appreciated her warmth when she was with us and missed her deeply when you all moved back to Alabama. I know she loved her home in Alabama and especially being on Dauphin Island. It was great to be able to visit there and at your new home during Mobile's azalea time. Fond memories flow and during these days of acute loss, those memories are sustaining.

T's faith was so beautiful. Her love and generosity came from a sound confidence that she was- and is- a beloved child of God. May God's abiding love surround each of you and all you're family and friends during this time of loss and bring you peace and healing.

In memory and friendship,

Linda Jani
Macomb, IL

Jerry's Note: Linda Jani was one of the three great friends T had in her lifetime, outside of her family. T and Linda were soul-sisters, united in their passions for bringing Christ to the underprivileged, and to believing that being a Christian all the time is what really matters. Their friendship was so secure that Linda knew things about T that very few, including most in her family, knew. I was always pleased when T was with Linda, as I knew T would be richer for her experiences.

2. Subject: T's passing

Dear Jerry & Family,

Thank you for sharing about T's final minutes on this earth. She had suffered so long and now she is in the arms of the Lord.

What a good and faithful servant she was! I don't know how many lessons she taught me in such a quiet, loving way.

Still it saddens us to know she has left and I can only imagine how difficult it will be for all of you to get used to her absence. I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the memorial mass for her but in spirit you know we will be.

Unfortunately we have our own family matters that consume us here and I must stay in Illinois. Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers. We thank God for T, may she rest in peace and love and joy.

Susan Lawhorn
Macomb, IL

Jerry's Note: Susan was another of T's three greatest friends outside of her family. That is quite an accomplishment, as T had hundreds and hundreds of friends over her 41 years of marriage to Jerry. Like Linda Jani, Susan knew T's innermost being like very few did. Susan also was an artist and potter, and she was gracious enough to make T's cremation urn. She was a wonderful, caring friend to T for the last 18 years, and Jerry always was happy for T when T and Susan were together.

3. To Jerry
Subject: T's Impact on Me

Thank you for your time this morning and our talk. Although it breaks my heart that I can not attend T's service, I am humbled by the opportunity of having this put in a book of emails for people to read. Thank you.

I am having a very difficult time finding the words to describe one of the most influential women to have ever entered my life. Obviously a gift from God, T. Scott not only came quietly into my life, but quickly became one of my best friends. Still is. This due entirely to the fact that her life is entwined with my life and she will always be with me ~ in my heart. I could spend hours writing about T. (She made me promise never to call her Theodora once she finally told me what the T. stood for!) but I would be telling you all something you already know.

What you don't know is how much I love her and how angry I was when she told me she had ALS. I tried to be my sensible self during our visit that day, but before I left, I broke into tears. She asked me not to "go there" and said she expected me, of all persons, to be strong about the situation. You see, she knew the relationship I have with God. Wiping away my tears, I explained that I was not lamenting her impending death but the fact she was going to heaven and I was going to be left here to deal the all the crap this world has to offer on a day to day basis! Please forgive my language but I actually cleaned that up! She and I got a good laugh in the end.

You know, because I was unable to be with her in her last months, it is somewhat difficult coming to grips that she had died to her worldly life. What I remember when I think of her is: kayaking;, letting the greyhounds off their leashes on the west end of the island, watching them disappear at 50 mph and wondering if they would come back; long visits in every house she and Jerry lived in on the island; etching glass for their home on Omega; sunsets from that porch over the marsh; long talks about God, family and crazy things we did growing up; how her cousin was my physical science teacher in Beaumont, TX and what a small world it is! Those times, and many, many more like them are what come to mind when I think of her. Not sick, not dying.....but a woman that had an incredible zest for life and impacted everyone she came into contact with. Thank you, God, for people like T. Scott.

And T., my dear friend, I anxiously await our reunion so that we can pick up where we left off. I love you.

Lynn Blessing
Boone, NC, formerly of Dauphin Island, AL

Jerry's Note: Lynn was a good friend of T's at the Island, as her note says. In her conversation with me the day before T's funeral, Lynn flat out told me that T was the strongest, most wonderful woman she had ever met, and that T became a roll model for her.

4. December 3, 2007

Hi Jerry,

Thank you so much for your wonderful e-mail. I'm sure you're not surprised that after reading T's eulogy and your letters to each other I was in tears. The tears were partly from sadness, but also happiness knowing that T was in such a good place spiritually and surrounded by her family when she died. Leave it to T to see her illness as a blessing. I only hope that I can have that much faith and positive attitude when I pass away.

I have bookmarked your website and will check it from time to time to look for the photos. It sounds like she planned a real celebration of her life. I loved her idea to have feather boas and balloons - and a fiddler! I'm so sorry I couldn't come. Jen was out of town and Chris had to be in the field, and there was just nobody else who could take care of those boys like I can!!! That's the problem with being a military family, there's not much chance to have any extended family in the same city and it takes a while to make friends like you and T were to us.

I will write an e-mail about T for you to include in her book. She certainly taught me so many things in the years that we spent so much time together in Milledgeville and really shaped the person I've become in the years since then. I can truly say I've never met anyone who was more interested and concerned about other people. Even at our last visit, she seemed more interested in how I was doing, rather than focusing on herself, but that's just how she was.

Thanks again for sharing a little of T's funeral with us. You and your family continue to be in our prayers.

Love, Joan Mead

Corpus Christi, TX

Jerry's Note: Dave and Joan Mead were great friends with the Scotts in Milledgeville, GA, and raised their kids together there until they were about 9 years old. Dave and Joan have stayed close friends to T and Jerry over the 35 years they have known each other. Jerry and Dave played golf and bridge together, while T and Joan had their own interests, besides, of course, raising the five kids the two of them had.

T taught Joan many things, including how to make Pita bread, as Joan says, "Like her Tita taught her how." Joan has since taught her girls to make Pita bread.

5. Dear Jerry:

Thank you for sharing the service, eulogies and letters with us. We have been blessed by having known "T". We will keep you in our prayers.

The following is for the book you are creating in memory of "T".

When we think of "T" we think of the passage in the Bible that tells Christians to be salt and light in the world. "T" was certainly salt and light. She seasoned the world with her love of beauty and her artistic flair. Her home and garden provided beauty for her family and guests. Her joy in life seasoned her words and relationships. Her life of serving others and the love she showed to others provided a light for people to see her love for the Lord.

"T" was a very special and much loved friend to us. Roger met and became friends with "T" and Jerry while he was a student at Georgia College in Milledgeville. They both showed him love and concern in their own special ways. Jerry pushed Roger to excel academically and try new things. "T" fed him home cooked meals, treated him like a member of the family, and gave him gentle words of advice and encouragement. Later when Roger married Susan, she was blessed to get to know "T" and become friends with her as well.

We were blessed to be invited to visit with "T" a few months before she passed away. As we drove to Mobile we thought it would be a sad and difficult visit. However, being with "T" was such a blessing and encouragement as she shared her faith and love for the Lord with us. Even when she was very weak she was a light showing the love of God.

"T" was an amazing woman who was salt and light in the world. We thank God that we could call her our friend.

Roger and Susan Hunter -- December 2007

Atlanta, GA

Jerry's Note: Roger Hunter was like an adopted son to the Scotts in Milledgeville. He would baby-sit the Scottlins while T and Jerry taught Bible Studies in the Woman's prison there. T would feed him lots of new things, and finally he would just try her wonderful food without asking. Roger always wanted a life partner, but he always said the the Lord would send him the true partner. He eventually married Susan, who in the truest sense of the word, completed him. They both believe their spouse was sent for them by God, and as a result, have a wonderfully strong, and compassionate marriage. Susan, in a wheelchair, told her parents one year a long time ago, that she was going to get married that year. They are a very inspirational couple, who prove beyond any doubt that "two can become one" and be stronger together.

6. Dear Jerry,

Thank you for the fitting experience of bidding farewell to T. Although it has been cold in Minnesota, the snow hasn't come to complicate driving. Enjoy Eden Prairie. Not far down the highway is the Minnesota Arboretum. One of our favorite places.

Now, be good to yourself. The kids still really need you.

St. Matthew's has prayed for T. We included T. in your prayers Sunday also. I told Dr. Jack Baylor that I'd share her eulogy with him. This was his response which I thought you'd appreciate from a fellow who only knew T. through my friendship. Love, Mary,

Thank you for your kind words. Yes, I would be very interested in your friend's eulogy. ~ God places people in our path, we only have to recognize this and share the path and listen, if we do we are sure to hear God. Jack B.

Mary Rodning

Mobile, AL

Jerry's Note: Mary Rodning came into T's life in the 80's. She was the one who resurrected T's art and taught her how to do the Japanese brush paintings she made for many of you. Mary is a devout Christian woman who remained a close friend to T since the 80's, and was one of the few who Jerry always encouraged to come visit at the end of T's life. T was

always very happy to see Mary, as they had shared so much together. We need a lot more Mary Rodnings in this world for sure.

7. Dear Jerry,

Again I send you a word of condolence on the loss of your beloved wife. I could tell from listening to you over the last few years that you and T had an exceptional relationship, and this is bound to increase your pain at the moment of farewell. But at the same time you are a man of faith, as she was a woman of faith, and I know your faith is sustaining you now. May our Lord be close to you in your time of mourning.

Blessings,

John Crosby

Steubenville, Ohio

Jerry's Note: John Crosby is one of Jerry's friends from high school. John has a Ph.D. in philosophy from Salzburg Austria, speaks several languages, has taught all over the world, has written several books on the human person, and was a personal advisor to Pope John Paul, the second. Over the years, Jerry and John have visited whenever they could and John knew T as well for many years. In the last few years, John admired T for her faith in the midst of her illness. He always said that her faith inspired him, and was especially impressed by T's own self-written eulogy.

8. To the Scott Family: November 27, 2007

We were so sorry to hear about T's passing. Our hearts go out to you Jerry, Thom, Elaine, Gwen and families. She will be missed by so many people, not just in AL, but by people she came in contact with for all walks of life, from many places.

For everyone who was lucky enough to have known "T", they understand what a truly remarkable, creative person she was. She touched many lives.

We were fortunate to have T and Jerry move in next door to us in Macomb, IL. T shared her love of animals with my youngest daughter, Lauren, who says T was the one responsible for her great love of animals now that she's

a grown woman herself. We have many wonderful memories of T, from sharing her favorite recipes with us to taking her sledding for the first time.

It was a sad day when T left Macomb to return to her beloved AL. It's a sad day to have her gone because we'll all miss her so much. I'm sure there are many smiling faces up above saying "job well done T". For those of us here...we were blessed to have known T.

Nancy Mathewman-Lane

Macomb, IL

Jerry's Note: The Mathewman's were our next door neighbors in the town house we lived in from 1989 to 1997 in Macomb, IL. We watched the three girls grow up and spent lots of time with the family during our 8 years there. T always had fond memories of our time in Macomb and was always very helpful to the Mathewmans, especially Kelly.

9. To the Scott Family: November 28 and December 12, 2007

My most sincere sympathy to all of the family. I hadn't spoken with T in years, but I have thought of her often.

T had a way of making me laugh and smile when no one else could. I enjoyed hearing her stories, baking with her, and learning about so many things from her. She was always so kind and loving. I even remember once wrecking my car and going to tell her first to practice before telling my own mother.

I've spoken with my Mother and she said that T had planned out quite a bit of her funeral. She is such a strong woman. I always admired her calm and thoughtful demeanor. It may sound contrived, but I really did feel that she was one of the greatest women I've ever met. Although I haven't spoken with any of you for years I did think of you often, especially T. I've had cancer twice now and I would love to be able to go through with the grace T had. I'm terribly sorry for your loss.

I truly enjoyed knowing her, and she will be missed by everyone who has ever known her.

Kelly Mathewman-Smith

Champaign, IL

Jerry's Note: T watched and help Kelly grown up. Kelly would come over to our house (right next door) and stay with T for hours on end. Clearly, T taught Kelly many things and was her usual kind and loving self to Kelly.

10. To the Scott Family: November 27, 2007

My most sincere sympathy to Jerry and all of the family. "T" was such a loving and devoted person in all aspects of her life. I had the great pleasure of belonging to the extended family for a time and the joy that surrounded "T" in all that she did made her such a wonderful person to spend time with. She valued family so much and was so proud of her family.

"T" and Jerry made a family cookbook that not only gave recipes but stories that went along with the recipes about its origin. I still use that cookbook today and I think about her when I see it. I have pictures of a weekend at one of their beach houses and remember the great hospitality that she and Jerry extended to me and my children. They honestly loved seeing us have such a great time even though we turned their quiet beach house into a madhouse for a day. I bring this up only to point out the loving nature of "T" and Jerry and the memories I have of her.

I had not had the pleasure of seeing her in recent years but always tried to stay abreast of her condition through her sister Amelia. She remained in my thoughts and prayers throughout the years. I will always treasure the memories that she created and hold them dear.

Krista Harrington-Vaughn (Mobile, AL)

Jerry's Note: Krista was married for some years to Jerry and T's nephew, Norman Harrington. Even though she and Norman divorced several years ago, it was kind of her to write such a nice note, but Jerry remembers that day at the Island, which she enjoyed so much.

11. November 27, 2007

Hello Jerry:

I was so saddened by the news of T's passing. She will be so missed by all who loved her. I was always so impressed at her dedication to her

volunteer work and the love and devotion she expressed for her family. My thoughts and prayers are with them now. Rest in Peace dear friend, I shall never forget you.

Bob and I were honored to be with you, your family and other friends in celebrating the life of this amazing person. I will, of course, share this with Julia and Bob Willis.

I get tears in my eyes every time I read T's touching and beautiful eulogy – and I have read it many times. T and your family have been in my thoughts and prayers daily since we learned of her illness. She was the kind of person I have always wanted to be like.

I know how difficult it is to lose the ones we love, but I know they live forever in our memory, heart and dreams – you know she is never far away.

Please keep in touch and thanks again for sharing these beautiful and touching writings with us.

There is much love for your family here.

Faye Kerzic (Dauphin Island, AL)

Jerry's Note: Faye and Bob Kerzic were neighbors of the Scotts in their Audubon home at the Island. We shared meals with the Kerzic's and enjoyed their company. T always enjoyed feeding Bob, especially shrimp creole, which Bob said T made "just like my mother did."

12. Hi Everybody,

Bummer!!

Sorry to report that after a lengthy battle with Lou Gherig's disease Jerry Scott's wife "T" passed on Sat night 11/24/07. I have talked with Jerry and he wanted all the TAG folks to know he appreciates your calls, thoughts and prayers. Radney will be handling the arrangements (cremation) with the funeral expected on Wednesday or Friday.

Paul Burkholder
Mobile, AL

Jerry's Note: Paul Burkholder runs our TAG tour golf game on Thursdays. Paul and Jerry met competing in the golf tournaments when they were still teenagers. About a year and a half ago, Jerry joined the TAG tour guys and has enjoyed and looked forward to their Thursday weekly golf games. And of course, Jerry hopes his high golf shots and recently erratic putting will beat Paul's extremely low shot – squirrels have to duck when Paul hits it – and generally excellent putting.

Paul only knew T very casually, but has just been a great friend to Jerry all during T's ordeal. My whole family enjoyed the huge Dreamland spread Paul brought us right before T's funeral. The world would be a much better place if we had a lot of Paul's in it, but here in Mobile, we have to be content with the one and only Paul we have, who has been a friend in need to many, especially all those McGill boys he grew up with.

13. Dear Jerry,

Jerry, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Blessings,

James Brooks and wife
Mobile, AL

Jerry's Note: James is one of the Mobile Tag Tour golfers Jerry plays with. He never met T, but has always inquired about her.

14. With sympathy

Jerry,

My sympathy to your family at T's death. I will be out of town this week, so I will not be able to attend the funeral. I will offer a mass for T, please let me know if you would like it on a specific date, and I will arrange if there is no other intention that day (not Christmas or Holy Week).

When I think of T I think of her great love for the mentally handicapped and her participation in leading that program. She taught me a lot about loving the least of our brothers and sisters.

With love,

Jim Dane, Catholic Priest and Avid Golfer
Orange Beach, AL

Jerry's Note: Father Jim Dane met T when he worked with her in the Program for the Handicapped in the Mobile Diocese. After the funeral and after he had read Miss T's eulogy, Jim called me and asked if he could use it as his sermon. Of course, I said yes, and he did. T and Jim remained good friends, and nowadays Jerry and Dane play golf together. Jim is a fine golfer and Jerry and Jim duke it out when they play together.

15. Jerry,

Your wife accepted her last days on earth with great courage.

Your love and devotion was a great comfort to her.

You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Take Care

Ed Dahmer
Mobile, AL

Jerry's Note: Ed never met T, but is one of the McGill guys Jerry plays golf with on Thursdays. Ed lost a loved one recently and Jerry has enjoyed knowing him. Ed has always asked about T's condition and Jerry appreciated Ed's concern very much.

16. Subject: Prayers

Jerry,

We just got back from California and read a note from Paul that T passed on Saturday. We want you to know that our prayers are with you and your family as you go through this difficult time.

Have a fantastic day!

Jerry and Carol Hagmaier

Mobile, AL

Jerry's Note: Jerry Hagmaier is a Mobile man who plays golf with Jerry and the TAG tour bunch. Jerry S only met Jerry H this year and he never met T, except in my stories of her. He has always been very pleasant and likable, and has always shown an interest in T's condition. Even after such a short acquaintance, he came to T's funeral.

17. November 25 and November 30, 2007

Dear Jerry:

Linda and I send our regards and prayers on the passing to a 'better' place of your wife, T. Linda always spoke highly of getting to know your wife thru their work together at St. Paul's. We both will remember you, both, in our prayers.

Thanks very much for sharing the touching details of your touching relationship with T, and her lovely memorial service. I, too, have fine memories of our many golf games together, in particular, I fondly remember one of the few birdies, if not the only birdie, I had on 4, when we were playing together. As I said before, our prayers are with you and your family.

Chuck and Linda Oprian
Macomb, IL.

Jerry's Note: Jerry met Chuck on the golf course and often encouraged Chuck to play his best golf as his partner. T met Linda at St. Paul's church,

working with the programs there. We considered the Oprian's good friends in Macomb, IL.

18. Dear Jerry,

Jerry, I enjoyed our talk today. It was inspiring to hear some of the details of the past few years. I can only imagine the grief you are going through. The relationship that you and T had was one that most couples dream of having but only a few obtain. The only saving grace is knowing that she is with her Lord in heaven and that we will be reunited again one day.

The first thing that came to mind about T was a Seder supper you had at your home in Milledgeville. I was not even sure what that was but quickly realized the significance once it began. That was the beginning of several years of friendship with T doing Christmons, visiting, our prayer group and just generally enjoying being around her. She was one of the most gentle, compassionate souls I have ever known. That prayer group was there when I was searching for my own relationship with God and the times I saw T after you moved away, we would always reminisce about those beginnings.

At Dauphin Island T and I walked the beach talking. She was a blessing to me and I consider myself a better person for having known her.

As I told you on the phone, it took me 2 days to read only part of the web site because I had to get up frequently, dry my eyes and pace the floor for awhile. I'm still reading the e-mails and going back to the pictures and letters. What you have created is a beautiful tribute to T and I will go back again and again.

I pray that God will fill that void in your life with his peace and blessings for the year ahead.

Love in Christ,

Carol Cardoso

Milledgeville, GA

Jerry's Note: Dr. David and Carol Cardoso were good friends of the Scotts in Milledgeville. David was T's ob-gyn doctor and Jerry's frequent golf partner. David was always very enthusiastic on the golf course and frequently made long putts. Carol and T shared many things, including nursing, as they both were RN's. They also loved the charismatic prayer group, needle-pointing, cooking, and often discussed raising kids. Carol is a master needle-pointer and has won several judged contests. After we moved to Mobile, the Cardoso's visited us at Dauphin Island several times.