



Patricia Thornton-Houser

October 15, 1959 - January 11, 2010

Mrs. Patricia Thornton-Houser, age 50, of Douglasville, Georgia passed away Monday, January 11, 2010 at her residence following a hard fought battle with breast cancer. She was born October 15, 1959 in Atlanta, Georgia the daughter of Mrs. Neva Sappington Thornton and the late Mr. Charles Thornton. She attended Emory University where she received her degree in Chemistry and Biology with a minor in Education. She received her Masters Degree from Georgia State University in Teaching English as a Second Language. She was enrolled in the PhD program at the University of Nottingham in England where she was studying computers for language education. For over 25 years she dedicated herself to her career as professor and teacher. She served as a professor at Kinjo Gakuin University in Japan where she taught English, Computers, and Bible Classes. While in Japan, she taught at four churches, to both Japanese and expatriates, as a devoted missionary for the Presbyterian Church. Her teaching career including teaching math in the Fulton County, GA School System, Science in the Gwinnett County, GA School System, English as a second language for the Rutherford County, TN School System, and the Rockdale County, GA school system. She was a member of the Meito Christ International Church in Japan and was active in serving at the Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Stone Mountain. Patricia loved Christmas and enjoyed her extensive travels collecting nativities from every corner of the world.

She is survived by her husband, Chris Houser of Douglasville, GA; her mother, Neva Sappington Thornton of Douglasville, GA; her sister and brother-in-law, Karon and James Wright of Lithia Springs, GA; her paternal grandmother, Grace Thornton of Conyers, GA; beloved nieces, Claire and Sarah; and nephew, Stephen.

Funeral Services for Patricia Thornton-Houser will be conducted Friday, January 15, 2010 at 2:00 PM from the Douglas Chapel of Jones-Wynn Funeral Home with the Reverends Frank and Mary Kay Sapp officiating. The family will receive friends at Jones-Wynn Funeral Home, Douglas Chapel, Thursday, January 14, 2010 from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Messages of condolences to the family may be sent from www.jones-wynn.com. Jones-Wynn Funeral Home, Douglas Chapel is in charge of arrangements. 770-942-2311

Events

JAN **Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

14

Jones-Wynn Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.

2189 Midway Road, Douglasville, GA, US, 30135

JAN **Service** 02:00PM

15

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Comments



“ been looking for patricia,patty, since i left waycross in the 60's. very sorry to find she has passed away. debbie white

deborah white greiner - September 01, 2010 at 08:16 AM



“ Tricia was a special person; quiet, but bright, well-informed and aware. She was part of my life in the singles ministry at Crossroads Presbyterian Church in the 1980s, and her calm strength and devotion were always an inspiration. Although I lost touch with her after I moved from Atlanta in 1987, it was wonderful to hear of her activities since then. Tricia had a great vision of life and of God, and it was wonderful to see where it took her.

Steve Gross - March 15, 2010 at 09:42 PM



“ I was blessed to have Patricia as a friend in High School. She had a profound influence on me. At times in my life, when I was faced with a difficult decision and wondered what the "right" thing to do was, I would think of what Patricia would do. She was a lovely caring Christian person. I'm so glad I was able to know her for even a little while. May God hold you in his hear until your family is reunited in your heavenly home.

Alice Griffin Vick - February 12, 2010 at 06:36 PM



“ Our love and deepest sympathy to you and Patricia's family. Chris, you're in our thoughts and prayers.

Love, Cousin Mike and Marlene

Mike and Marlene Lano - January 24, 2010 at 07:48 PM



“ I am so sorry. She was a lovely lady and a delight to be around. I'm fortunate to have met her. Love you Chris, Your cousin Lynne

Lynne Houser Reese - January 20, 2010 at 09:13 PM



“ Our heartfelt sympathy in Chris Jr. great sorrow, if there is anything I can do , please let me know. And take good care. Love, Ellen

Dr Luke & Ellen Liao - January 20, 2010 at 06:20 PM



“ It is too sad to hear, from your previous letter I knew that her condition is not good. She was too young to pass away.I send condolence to Chris , Junior and Chris and you.
This was the saddest news ever since I began E_mail with you.
In my memory, she was smiling with the glass at the party, when I met her for the first time.
I am sure she was happy there were Chris and her mother beside her.
It is too hard to express my feeling with my poor English though.
With my sincere sympathy.
Midori.

Midori Kodama - January 19, 2010 at 12:59 AM



“ I am so saddened by the news of Tricia's death. I knew her while we were in high school together and I can't think of a more intelligent, caring and sweet person than Tricia.

Kathy McDade Jeffares and Rick Jeffares - January 18, 2010 at 12:22 AM



“ We certainly do miss Patricia here in Japan. Her having to leave her work here for health reasons was a big loss for us, and now that she has lost her courageous battle, we are all saddened. Yet we know where she is now and are comforted that she has gone to her eternal reward as someone to whom the Lord surely has said, "Well done, faithful servant." We pray for her family that they may receive comfort in their hour of grief.

Timothy D. Boyle - January 17, 2010 at 08:59 PM



“ We are so sad about our lovely daughter-in-law, Tricia, passing, but at the same time we are happy that she is in a better place of peace and serenity with no suffering. Tricia will always remain in our hearts as a delightful, happy and loving wife to our son, Chris Houser. Our family is blessed by having her in our lives for however a short time we had.

She touched the lives of hundreds, and received love and appreciation from all.

Chris and Diana Houser - January 17, 2010 at 02:49 PM



“ Dear Chris,
I was greatly shocked and distressed to hear of the passing of the passing of Tricia.
So were all of your/her former colleagues here at Kinjo.
Please accept my sicereest condolences.

Toshiyuki Suzuki

Toshiyuki Suzuki - January 15, 2010 at 11:19 PM



“ Chris,

Our hearts go out to you. Patricia was a fine woman and we will always be thankful for what she and you did for our congregation. I am sure that she is resting easy in God's loving arms and enjoying the reward of God's grace in heaven. We will keep you in our prayers, Don't forget you have friends in Nagoya.

Peace,

Byron, Kazumi and Ayumi Peterson

Byron Peterson - January 15, 2010 at 08:22 PM



“ Dear Chris,

We were colleagues with Patricia as missionaries with the PC (USA) in Japan and are so saddened to hear of her death. She was in Nagoya and we were in Kobe and then Tokyo, but we always enjoyed seeing her at the annual retreat. She was a vibrant and fun member of our missionary community in Japan. One of her students at Kinjo Gakuin came to Tokyo Union Theological Seminary where I taught, and she always spoke with great reverence for Patricia. She had attended a Bible study with Patricia, and I believe that Patricia's influence was a key factor in her sensing a call to ministry.

May you know the sustaining and comforting presence of the Lord Jesus as you mourn her loss.

With deep condolences and love,

Tom and Carol Hastings



“ Hi,I was a student of Mrs.Patricia at Kinjo-gakuin University.
I was so shocked to hear the news.
When I graduate this school,she came thank-you party for the teachers.
And she told me her physical condition,but I thought she got well.
I'm really sad to look around the past.
I went to her christmas party and her bible classes,too.
She taught me really many wonderful things,so I believe she is pleased with Jesus now.
I also decided to keep on going to the church and want to be a christian like her.
Thanks for giving me her love.

Midori Shibata - January 15, 2010 at 03:04 AM



“ How thankful I am to have known Patricia. How sad to know of her departure. This winter in Hokkaido will be a cold one. "Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est." Where there is charity and love, God is always there. Patricia walked this, setting it into action, every single day.

Thomas H. Goetz - January 15, 2010 at 12:31 AM



“ Dr. Houser, I wonder if you still remember me. We were working together at Kinjo Gakuin University. I was shocked to know the sad news when I saw the notice at our printing room. I fully understand your grief and pain, as I lost my husband due to cancer two years ago. Heartily hope you will take a very good care of yourself under your family members' and friends' help.

Midori Hino - January 14, 2010 at 10:51 PM



“ To the family of Patricia Thornton-Houser,

You are all in my thoughts and prayers during this time of personal loss. I was very blessed by knowing Patricia as a fellow missionary in Japan. Her vibrant faith shone in her lovely smile and I enjoyed getting to know her at annual fellowship retreats among the PCUSA mission community. I considered her a special sister in Christ. I am glad that Mary Kay and Frank Sapp are with your family in this time of sorrow.

Sarah McAliley Oba

Tokyo Japan

Sarah McAliley Oba - January 14, 2010 at 09:54 PM



“ Dear Houser and Thornton families - I am glad Tricia is no longer suffering but that is only a small bright light in the midst of your loss. May the brightness that she brought to so many be the things you remember as you move forward from these painful days. Our prayers are with you all - and especially tomorrow. Charlotte

Charlotte Miller - January 14, 2010 at 07:42 PM



“ We are coming Friday to the funeral. Our hearts are heavy. Love, Letty

Burt and Letty Harding - January 14, 2010 at 03:37 PM



“ I knew Patricia in her InterVarsity days, as well as her early years in Japan. I always admired her intelligence, her ready smile, and her commitment to Christ.

My condolences to her family.

John E Schmidt

John E Schmidt - January 14, 2010 at 02:28 PM



“ You and Yours are in my prayer, God Bless Janis Denman

Janis Keaton Denman - January 14, 2010 at 01:18 PM



“ I was so sad to hear of Patricia's passing. I did not really know her but her sister Karon is a good friend to me and I have long known what a light Patricia was in her life. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Karon, and my whole heart.

Kelly Padgett - January 14, 2010 at 11:51 AM



“ My condolences to the Houser and Thornton families. May God give you comfort in this time of sorrow.
Bill (Class of '77 LSHS)

William H (Bill) Boyd, Jr - January 14, 2010 at 11:48 AM



“ We were the best of friends for so long Tricia. I am going to miss knowing you here for a long time. Our trip to Thailand was great and all those Christmas you spent at our home. I wonder why you had to go through such hardships to become and Angle, but a great Angle you will be.
We all love you and will miss you,
Albert, Kazuko, Shanw & Hanna.

Albert Dudley - January 14, 2010 at 10:34 AM



“ To the Thornton/Houser families: I am so sorry to hear of Patricia's passing. I had not talked to her in years but we attended high school together. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Jan Jackson Hicks - January 14, 2010 at 09:13 AM



“ I just got an email about Tricia from a student here in Japan who was in our Bible class at Kinjo. I taught at Kinjo for only 2 years, but Tricia was a huge help and support to me while I was there. We taught a Bible class together for some of the students. I remember a wonderful farewell party Tricia hosted for me at her apartment on campus when I left. She was such a light for Jesus in Japan. I was so sad to hear the news. I know she is with our Lord where we will be when He calls us home. May you all know His intimate love, presence and comfort in these days. In Christ, Julie W. (In Kumamoto, Japan 1/14/10) julie_water@yahoo.com

Julie W. - January 14, 2010 at 08:28 AM



“ The 1977 class of Douglas County and Lithia Springs High Schools express their sorrow with the passing of our classmate, Patricia. Our prayers are with the Thornton and Houser families.

Judy Johnson - January 14, 2010 at 07:57 AM



“ Tricia you were always so sweet to me and I remember that above all else. It was a great pleasure reading about your many accomplishments and only regret that we lost touch after high school. You'll be sorely missed.

Mary Bowling Noutash - January 14, 2010 at 02:45 AM



“ Dear Chris,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of deep sadness for you. However, you can be thankful for the time our Lord Jesus Christ bestowed upon you and your loving wife Patricia to enjoy each other's company and be comforted in the fact that Patricia has gone on to a better place to be with our savior Jesus Christ. We pray that you will find strength in being surrounded by family and friends in this time of great sorrow.

Sanford & Emiko Taborn - January 14, 2010 at 02:04 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Gail Cone - January 13, 2010 at 09:02 PM



“ So sorry to hearing of Patricia's passing, while I have not spoke with her in years, we attended school together and I will always remember her to be very sweet and kind. May God Bless you and comfort you in the difficult days ahead! Rest in Peace sweet Patricia.

Denise Cole Bass - January 13, 2010 at 05:35 PM



“ Patricia was in many of my High School Classes and I was so proud to call her friend. She and I talked about what we wanted to be when we got out of school and I was so amazed she stepped out into the International World. It appears she made a great impact on the lives of many many people. To the family; always remember God's Grace is Sufficient. Sincerely, Alice DuBard Haynie

Alice DuBard Haynie - January 13, 2010 at 03:43 PM



“ I have very fond memories of Trisha from high school. My condolences to the Thornton-Houser families. May God give you comfort in your time of grief. May God bless and keep you all.

Tammy Harris Clements - January 13, 2010 at 03:39 PM



“ I was so very sorry to hear of Tricia's passing, please know my prayers and thoughts are with you at this sad time. c5rl

Bunnie Turner - January 13, 2010 at 02:17 PM



“ I have so many wonderful memories with all of the Thornton family...and I have to smile when I think of what a special and kindhearted person Tricia always was was me.

My condolences to all of the family...keeping you all in my thoughts during this very difficult time.

Nancy Bragg Schramm - January 13, 2010 at 10:02 AM



“ To the Thornton-Houser families,
Though we had not spoken to Tricia since high school, we were very saddened to hear of her passing. May our God of comfort wrap His loving arms around each of you and give you peace.
In deepest sympathy.

Alan & Linda Sewell - January 13, 2010 at 09:30 AM



“ Hello, Chris--I'm an old friend of Tricia's from Emory Christian Fellowship. Please know that I am praying God's love and comfort for you. I remember Tricia as one of the group of friends who helped contribute to my growth as a Christian while at Emory. God's blessings upon you.

Renata Dennis - January 13, 2010 at 09:04 AM



“ Dear Patricia:

Thank you for your everything, Patricia. What a helpful and kind colleague you were at Kinjo Gakuin University in Japan where I worked 15 years ago!

I am terribly sorry to hear about your passing away. But I do believe that you lived a life of no regrets.

I am sorry that I could not afford to write nor call you for these fourteen years, but I have been so busy. However I 've never forgotten about your warm smile and other beautiful memories you gave me.

You were always willing to help people with insight and understanding. You are a rare mixture of intelligence and natural love toward people!

Thank you again, Patricia.

Sincerely Yours,
Kayoko Fujimori

Kayoko Fujimori - January 13, 2010 at 08:54 AM



“ It was with the most profound sorrow that I received the sad news. Although I cannot be with you at this time of mourning, my prayers are with you.

Toru Takahashi (Kinjo Gakuin University, Nagoya, Japan) - January 13, 2010 at 07:57 AM



“ I know there are no words of comfort on a time like this but still wish to offer you our condolences from this side of the world.

I feel privileged to have met Tricia, through her husband while they lived in Japan, and even though I didn't get to know her very well she always seemed the kind of person you could turn to for advice or when facing a tough time.

I guess God also thought likewise and decided he needed her more than us. She will be remembered.

Our thoughts are with you.

Esther and family

Esther Carrillo - January 13, 2010 at 07:21 AM



“ Chris, Neva, and family, we are diminished by Tricia's death, and, in a very real sense, feel her absence all the way to Texas. Yet we are also heartened by Tricia's life, and are grateful to have shared a part in that "long obedience in the same direction" that was her faith journey of joyful service and witness. May God sustain you through the work of embrace and surrender of one so cherished.
Paul

Paul Escamilla (and Liz) - January 13, 2010 at 01:07 AM



“ Patricia is affectionately remembered by many English teachers here in Nagoya as a trusty and exemplary colleague who always worked to the highest standards. She is sorely missed. Our deepest condolences go out to Chris and Patricia's family.

Daniel Dunkley - January 12, 2010 at 11:04 PM



“ Patricia is affectionately remembered by many English teachers here in Nagoyas as a trusty adn exemplary colleague who always worked to the highest standards. She is sorely missed. Our deepest condolences go out to Chris and Patricia's family.

Daniel Dunkley - January 12, 2010 at 11:02 PM



“ Dear Thornton and Houser Families,
We will miss Tricia so much. She was such a wonderful young woman...such an example to me over the years in her faith. She always had a laugh or a smile to share with those around her. Whether a joke was good or bad, she'd laugh along with you. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Thank the Lord that she is home at last! Jane McGreevy

Jane McGreevy - January 12, 2010 at 10:58 PM



“ I was sorry to read of Patrica's passing; however, after hearing of her struggles over the years I am confident she is at peace with the Father.

I enjoyed hearing about her experiences in Japan when she visited Crossroads. I will include your family in my prayers.

Bruce Lewis - January 12, 2010 at 09:50 PM



“ We loved you so much, Tricia; all our memories of you are full of joy and thanksgiving.

Mary Kay and Frank Sapp - January 12, 2010 at 09:36 PM



“ I'm deeply saddened by Tricia's death. With new advances in fighting cancer, I thought that she could overcome this dreaded disease. However, God's promises are so much stronger than any disease, and she will indeed be in Heaven where there will be no pain or suffering.

William Geppert - January 12, 2010 at 09:22 PM



“ Chris, we can be comforted by the words of Rev. 14:13: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."
We have the hope of meeting Patricia again if we too embrace the salvation which Jesus offers to us.
May He be especially near to you at this time.
Rowane Lemmon

Rowane Lemmon - January 12, 2010 at 08:05 PM



“ Chris, I am so sorry to hear of Patricia's passing. Charles and I will always be grateful for the short time we overlapped with you both here in Nagoya, and for how much you and Patricia welcomed and helped us those first several months. We will keep you in our prayers as you mourn the loss of Patricia.

Beth Borstad - January 12, 2010 at 07:15 PM



“ Chris,
We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. Patricia fought a hard battle, as did you, no doubt. We're sorry it ended this way. She touched many lives, including ours. I remember drying dishes with her in the Meito kitchen like it was yesterday. We had many uplifting conversations during that time. She was truly a lovely person inside and out.

May God grant you and her family some peace at this time.

Our love,
The Sakakibaras

