

Sandy's Homecoming

On June 18, 2007 at 12:30pm, my loving wife and companion of over 44 years left her earthly home for her eternal home with our Lord. On June 4, Sandy's doctor requested a meeting with the family. Myself and most of the married children met with him that evening at the hospital. He told us that Mom only had 4-6 weeks to live and that they would do what they could to make her last days comfortable and pain free. The past couple weeks before this, she had considerable pain. This was on a Monday. That Friday, June 8th, he told us that her condition had deteriorated and she had, at the most, one week to live. In the past 26 months, she had been in the hospital more than at home. This year she had only been home a total of 31 days. The pain medication she was on was very powerful, ten times stronger than morphine which kept her knocked out. On Monday, June 18th, at 4am, I received a call to come to the hospital immediately. I called the married children and by 9am we all had assembled in her room to be with her during her final hours. A few weeks ago she had told me that she did not want to die alone, but wanted everyone at her bedside. There were 35 of us in her room when she passed away. It was a very peaceful and beautiful homecoming as her spirit ascended from that room. She fought with the heart of a lion as she wanted to stay and finish her mission here on earth. But it was not to be and she won the final battle. Approximately 1500 people attended her viewing here at the Home and about 800 attended her funeral.

Years ago we had talked about when one of us would leave first, that the ministry would continue as it always has. This was a vow we made to each other. I never thought she would be the first. I, along with Becky, Jessica, and the older boys will continue on with Mom's vision and dream just as she wanted. We know she will be keeping a sharp eye on us all the time. Around the middle of August, I will be going to Honduras again as I have for nearly 20 years. I have been to Honduras 60 times but have not gone in over two years due to Mom's illness. Mom and I talked about continuing the course we had set and by the grace of God that is what I and the children intend to do. We appreciate all the love shown to us during Sandy's struggle. Please help us to fulfill Sandy's vision by continuing your prayers and support. We cherish every bit of it.

We Love You All,
—Jerry & the Children

GALILEAN CHILDREN'S HOME
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Galilean Home Ministries, Inc.
PO Box 880 Liberty, KY 42539
galileanhome.org

606-787-5120
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712 South Fork Church Road
Liberty, KY 42539

It is Finished, the Battle is Over

Below is an excerpt from the eulogy spoken at the service on Monday, June 25, 2007, by Sandy's brother, Perry Burda.

SHE IS GONE

You can shed tears that she is gone, or you can smile because she has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back, or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her, or you can be full of the love you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember her and only that she's gone, or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back, or you can do what she'd want:

Smile, open your eyes, love and carry on.

"I have never seen any thing like it. Who is this woman? Where did she come from?" These were the words of the doctors at St. Joseph Hospital, doctors that never knew or even met Sandy. These were words spoken at their regular staff meetings. She was the buzz of the hospital. The doctors just had to go to her room to meet her, to see who this person was that was such a fighter. Sandy, she was an ordinary person just like you and me, but with one very different trait, she was an ordinary person with extraordinary abilities.



Sandra Kay Tucker

Sandra is short for Cassandra. The Greek meaning of the name Sandra is "the epitome of greatness, kindness and beauty." Sandra also meant "the

defender and helper of humanity." Her name is a testament to her legacy.

YOU CREATED A HOME, SANDY. You experienced the urge to create your own space where you spent most of your time, where you belonged, where you experienced roots. It was in this place you called your own. You shared your home with those closest to you. You made it a home with your love, laughter, and special personality.

YOU WORKED HARD. You were inclined to provide a service for which you received very little monetary compensation. Your

work earned you the food and shelter you needed to survive and less essential things for your enjoyment. You worked many long hours each day, espe-

cially marking clothes for the Trading Post. But, of course, you called that "therapy". Your work and mission was an important component of your life's work, as well as for the children of the world that needed your help. Your work ensured your physical survival and comfort, allowing you to fulfill the tasks you came here to do.

YOU RISKED YOUR SAFETY. You did this by traveling throughout the globe in search of saving the children in places such as Haiti, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. You went on missions wherever you thought you were needed to help the poor and feeble.

YOU FAILED. Not very often but, in some activities, you did not reach the goal you desired. You felt pain at your failure. At times, the pain became very severe. But, Sandy, I'll tell you what, you never gave up and you learned from those failures. For it is not how or why we fail, but how we recover from those failures that made you who you were. You were a fine example of that, Sandy. I am sure most would agree.

YOU TOUCHED. You touched many hearts, you touched many souls, you touched many minds, and you touched many little hands.

YOU ACCEPTED OTHERS. You became comfortable with the diversity among other people. You experienced accepting other people, especially children from all parts of the world. Exactly as they were, all nationalities, all colors, all sizes, all physical conditions, all mental conditions, in their own unique perfection, from all different backgrounds, exactly as you would like them to accept you as you are. As you used to say, there was always room for one more at the Galilean Home and, "Don't feel sorry for the children here, feel sorry for the children that did not make it to the Galilean Home."

YOU OPENED TO NEW DEPTHS. The limits of your experience expanded to include intuition or a transcending of this realm or a oneness with something much greater than yourself. Knowing things before they could occur, you had that certain intuition; maybe it was the mother instinct in you. You lost your sense of yourself as an independent being and experienced yourself as one with the infinite wholeness of the universe. Your visions, Sandy, well... They were legendary. Those closest to you know what I mean by that.

YOU HAD A VISION. You had a vision like no other, a vision of hope, a hope for a better life for the

children of the world that were in desperate need of love and care. A vision of happiness and comfort for those that were discarded by dysfunctional families and environments, who were starving for love and emotional feeding. A vision that babies can be saved from despair and being taken away from their mothers, taking them in and giving them the love, cuddles, hugs, and kisses when their mothers were unable to. Saving them from falling through the cracks of the system and reuniting them with their mothers when they were once again mentally healthy and spiritually healed. A vision for the helpless children who were stretching their arms out to you for you to rescue them from the pain and sadness and to be there to help them exist in a world that was made better by coming here to the Galilean Children's Home. These were visions that you were able to see, act upon like no other, and without hesitation nor reservation. For that, the world is a better place. The children could always depend on you to rescue them from the pain and sorrow they were suffering. You had a vision that, when you met a child in need for the first time and you saw that despair and sadness in their face, you would bring a smile to them. You did, and when you did, it was truly a magical moment. You had a vision of mending hearts that were broken by the ills of the world. You had a vision in which you chose not to overtax the governmental system for support and strictly went by your faith to support this ministry on donations alone. Your faith was just remarkable and unyielding. There were those that have said that it could not be done. But just hearing those words always made you fight that much harder. This would be the one and only time I believe cloning would benefit the world, and that is to have more of you. As Mother Theresa was quoted as saying: "For in this life we cannot do great things, we can only do small things with great love."

YOU WROTE YOUR STORY. You experienced the urge to pass on the tale of your lifetime. You told your story to those most likely to remember it and you transmitted it in some other artistic forms such as books, newsletters, and articles you wrote about the Home.

YOU FOUND A MATE. You were drawn to bond strongly with a partner, Jerry. Like friends, mates remain for long periods of time. Jerry was your closest, special, and dearest friend. A friend with whom you shared a lot of experiences, all the good times

as well as the rough and tough times. I thank you, Jerry, for sticking by her side and taking good care of Sandy for all of those many years. Thank you for living up to the promise in your vows to each other in front of God and all of the witnesses some 44 years ago, in loving her, honoring her, cherishing her, trusting in her, believing in her and her visions, having faith in her, and respecting her. Without your undying love and support, she would not have accomplished as much as she did, you were a great team. Sandy, you have had one mate for your lifetime and for this you were blessed.

YOU DIED. You left your body. Your loved ones experienced your body becoming lifeless as you began to ascend. You are no longer present in your physical form, but a great many aspects of your emotional, mental, and spiritual modes will continue, to be experienced by others.

LAST OF ALL, SANDY, YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED. Those who knew you, Sis, will recall who you are, what you stood for, what you did, what you gave, who you loved, what you have accomplished in your short time here on earth, who you have touched, where your travels took you on your missions of mercy. Why you did the things you did, what your visions were, and all of the qualities you manifested and possessed. You were truly a pioneer, a genuine leader, and a lover of life, family, children, and the Lord. By physically parenting others, your genetic material will continue within them as well. Others remembering you will continue to affect them directly and the whole world indirectly in subtle and not so subtle ways. Yes, as those doctors have said, "We have never seen anything like it. Who was this person?" But we know, we have known for quite some time, because we were the fortunate ones who have known who that person was. Sandy Tucker, defender and helper of humanity. I'm the luckiest person on earth. God gave me 54 glorious years to be with you. Yes, Sandy, we thank our Lord for the gift of Sandra Kay Tucker and we thank Him for the beautiful gift of heaven where our faith tells us that we will see your smiling face again. We are not only here to mourn your passing but, most important of all, to celebrate your life here on earth with us. And in closing, Sandy, as you were quoted as saying, "If I live and survive this ordeal I will win and if by chance I don't survive, I still win." Now you are in a place that is glorious and at the right hand of God. I only hope that the time I have left on this earth I can accomplish a fraction of what you have accomplished. Sandy, I can sum up

your whole life here on earth in four words: **YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE.** The many lives you have touched and the hundreds of children you have loved and nurtured are very thankful and blessed because of your love and dedication.

I will truly miss you and love you for eternity for your dedication and love for humanity. Sandy, what you have said in your last days is what you wanted the most was for the Home to continue its work. It has to, it must, and it will. I promise, we all promise, for the sake of the children. Though, we will be looking to you for your guidance, because you had a vision that we all can see clearer than ever now. God bless you, Sis, may you rest in peace for ever and ever. This I pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



Galilean Children's Home 18th Annual QUILT AUCTION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2007
—One Day Only!—

- Featuring handmade Amish/Mennonite Quilts
- Crafts and Furniture from all over the United States
- Homemade Fudge, Concessions, and Unique Gift Items.
- Tours of the Home will be given throughout the day.

For more information call: 606-787-5120

Friday, 7AM (ET)

*Pancake breakfast at the Children's Home,
followed by the auction at 10 a.m. (ET)*

The Galilean Children's Home, located in Liberty, Kentucky, is a non-profit organization that cares for children from all over the world that have been abused, neglected, rejected, are in need of medical treatment, or are placed here for a Christian education. The Home relies on donations from the public and fundraisers for their support.

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHILDREN

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NEEDS LIST

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- ✓ Infant Gas Drops
- ✓ Infant & Children's Cold Medicine
- ✓ Batteries AA & AAA

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