

Gerri Hickman was born 8 January 1953 in Torrance, California to Richard and Shirley Sprout

As early as third grade, she knew she wanted to be a teacher and told her then friend Joe Hickman of how she should teach children some day. Gerri graduated from Torrance High School in 1971 was active in the Future Teachers of America still intending to become a teacher. She also began dating Joe Hickman and went to the prom with him.

Gerri graduated Cum Laude with a BA in Home Economics from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) in 1975 and continued on to earn a Masters in Home Economics from CSULB.

Gerri married Joe Hickman on January 10, 1976 and started teaching in the Los Angeles Unified School system. J.R. Hickman was born on January 11, 1980, Alexis Hickman was born on April 6, 1980, and the family resided in Torrance, California.

The Hickmans moved to Asia in 1984 with stints in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Manila, Philippines, Hong Kong, & Singapore. They did return to the US in the early 90s to allow their kids to experience life in the states but ended up in an Asian neighbourhood renting from a Korean with neighbours from all over Asia. They moved back to Asia in 1996 and became permanent residents of Singapore.

Gerri continued teaching in California, Hong Kong, Nevada, and Singapore at the Singapore American School for the past 9 years in the middle school.

Gerri was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2001 but was absolutely committed to teaching and continued teaching even against her Doctor's advice. She taught right through 3 surgeries, 3 rounds of radiation, and more than 30 rounds of chemotherapy. She taught until February and continued to do the planning until a week before she died. Her tolerance for pain amazed doctors and she was always more concerned about others herself. She is an inspiration for all as she thought about all of us before herself.

With Gerri's passing we lose a little bit of light, a little bit of grace. We never heard about her problems, we heard about her passion for children and how much she cared about them. Her motto was "love them and lead them" and she walked the talk.

All of us marvelled at how she always seemed to bounced from each thing. Some of us may have thought "what makes her hold on, why doesn't she just let go?" Gerri held on because her strength of character wouldn't have it any other way. We need to go from this service and this hour of reflection with the inspiration of a new hope and earnest purpose. So what Gerri left undone, we must go about doing.

Survived by Joe Hickman, her husband and best friend
JR Hickman, her son
Alexis Hickman, her daughter

Kathlene Williams, her sister
Richard and Shirley Sprout, her parents
Jason and Matthew Williams, nephews

God saw you were getting tired,
And a cure was not to be...
So He put His arms around you,
And whispered, come with Me.

With tearful eye we watched you suffer
And saw you fade away,
Although we loved you dearly,
We could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating.
Working hands were put to rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

We will always miss you.....