

## Melinda (Smith) Lane

Melinda valiantly fought cancer for two years, with multiple types of chemo and radical surgery. She was a beautiful, strong woman. She has been relieved of her pain and is now in the loving arms of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After a grueling battle, she passed away peacefully on February 24, 2016 at home in Colorado Springs, surrounded by loving family and friends. She was 56 years old.

Melinda was born on January 30, 1960 in Garden Grove, Iowa in Decatur County to Darus and Mary Jane (Angstead) Smith. She is their youngest child. After Melinda's father died, mom and the kids moved from their dairy farm to the town of Chariton, Iowa in Lucas county.

As a child, Melinda read encyclopedias, dictionaries, and phonebooks for fun, but she had difficulty with simple things like fitting a key in a lock. Melinda's first job was in Hawaii, and the family kept in contact via mail. She sent Melody's letters back with all of the spelling and grammar corrected.

Melinda married Jeff Lane on October 30, 1982. The couple honeymooned in Taos, New Mexico and revisited the area many times. Melinda also loved local Colorado Springs artists and collected art by Tina Riesterer. She had a special love for the aspen and Indian pottery paintings of her late mother in law, professional artist Norma Lane.

She is survived by her son, Nathaniel; husband, Jeff; and sisters Nancy Baldwin of Burleson Texas; Marsha Torres of Urbandale Iowa; Melody Wayne of Spring Hill Kansas; and her brother DeeDee Smith of Russell Center, Iowa.

Melinda was a faithful wife, loving mother, intellectual giant, and a charitable force to be reckoned with. Her family was her first priority, and she will be remembered for profound, genuine faith, the best home design sense in all of Colorado, great hugs, and family meals.

Her I.Q. was "above 180 but unmeasurable", so she may have been the most intelligent person on earth. Her peers say that she was a savant at editing and writing.

Melinda was wholeheartedly committed to alleviating the suffering of others. She supported Moise Mamy and his efforts in Guinea to help stop the spread of Ebola and was passionate about freeing women being sold into the global sex trade. She supported the Salvation Army, Pikes Peak Hospice, and Springs Rescue Mission.

Melinda had an inimitable wit about her—always funny, sometimes sarcastic, but never cruel. In this age of sloppy, indiscriminant blogging, one of her pet peeves was "lazy" writing. For Christmas one year, she presented her boss with a tee shirt that simply read, "Some people were born to write; others not get gift." She was a shining example of the former.

A coworker recounts, "I was the recipient of Melinda's love, grace, and mercy during a particularly stressful time. I had recently had cataract surgery and was scheduled for the other eye the following week. I was also on an *Alliance Life* writing deadline. While in the kitchen, I spilled lunch all over a favorite blouse. As I was walking back to my desk, Melinda pulled me into her office, put her arms around me and asked what was wrong. When I told her, she assured me there was no need to worry about my deadline and we could find someone else to finish the task. I felt tremendously relieved and cared for by Melinda."

Another coworker says, "We discussed images that came to mind during prayer. One in particular was her vision of the throne of God, an elevated slab of granite that she approached just to touch His foot. And that was her posture; a woman of great wisdom and skill with the word who knew the best place to be was worshipping at the feet of her King."

## Work Life

Most recently, Melinda was the managing editor for *Alliance Life*, the magazine of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. She edited articles from authors around the world. The Associated Church Press named *Alliance Life* the Best Denominational Magazine for two consecutive years.

Before that, she served Focus on the Family as assistant editor of *Physician*, authored articles, interviewed doctors for stories, and edited or rewrote most of the publication. A great example of Melinda's writing is "Wrestling a Killer," published in the February/March 1996 issue of *Breakaway* magazine. It was the national First Place Winner in the Evangelical Press Association's Personality Profile category.

Melinda also produced newsletters for the 13 scientific councils of the American Heart Association (AHA). She was copy editor for the book *Cardiology* and responsible for establishing editorial style and training copyeditors and copyreaders for five scientific journals—*Circulation*, *Circulation Research*, *Arteriosclerosis and Thrombosis*, *Hypertension*, and *Stroke*. She supervised the production of the AHA stylebook.

At Williamson Printing Corporation she proofread U.S. Supreme Court briefs and certioraris. In addition, she wrote, edited, and proofread for The Dallas Cowboys, Uccel, Fallon McElligott, The Southland Corporation, and Southwest Airlines.

Melinda began her career as copyeditor and assistant supervisor for religious books and music at Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City.

### **School Life**

Melinda graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary with a master of arts in biblical studies and theology and from MidAmerica Nazarene University with a Bachelor of Arts in literature/religion; she also took courses at the University of Texas at Dallas and Texas Woman's University.