



Megan Sue Easterly

May 16, 2012 - May 12, 2012

Megan Sue Easterly, a 9 pound, 5 ounce bundle of joy, was born 1:29 AM in Springfield, MO, October 2, 1984 to Terry Easterly and Monika Mader Easterly. She passed away about 4:45 AM, May 12, 2012, in Fort Collins, CO at the age of 27 years, 222 days, after a well fought battle with brain cancer. She was the third of four sisters, Laura Easterly, age 33, of Colorado Springs, CO, Rachel Easterly, age 30, and Stephanie Easterly, age 19, both of Strafford, MO. She grew up near her paternal grandparents, Joe and Dorothy Easterly, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins, on the family farm near Fair Grove, MO. She attended Fair Grove School, grades K-12 where she graduated in 2003 as Salutatorian. Megan then enrolled at Harding University, Searcy, AR where she graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science degree. She excelled academically in her chosen field of chemistry and received various distinctions, awards and commendations. She participated in a joint Harding-NASA space research program, and was able to travel to and participate in various out of state scientific conferences. Harding also provided her with an excellent environment and opportunity to grow spiritually and relationally with the Lord. She excelled in this facet of her life as well. Megan also spent one summer of her Harding experience at the University of AR in Fayetteville engaged in work and research. Upon graduation from Harding, she was accepted into the Chemistry doctorate program at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO. She moved there and promptly undertook her studies, but at about this time began experiencing nerve pains in her arm.

After several months, Megan was finally diagnosed with spinal cord tumors in 2008 and then with cancer in 2009. Despite two major spinal cord surgeries, both from which she was up and walking within 24 hours, a later surgery to implant a shunt to alleviate the effects of radiation-induced hydrocephalus, multiple rounds of radiation treatments, regular chemo treatments, numerous trips down to Denver for MRIs, doctor visits and follow-ups, Megan refused to abandon her studies. She passed her orals in February 2011, and continued to work towards her dream of obtaining her Ph.D. There was never a time when Jesus and church was not an integral part of Megan's life. She grew up attending the Strafford Church of Christ, where at a young age she put on Christ in baptism. It was her strong desire for a Christian education that led her to follow in the steps of her older sisters and attend Harding University. Upon moving to Fort Collins she was blessed to find a new church family in the Meadowlark Church of Christ congregation which proved to be a true and mutual, "balm in Gilead." Megan was a bottle of sunshine, a breath of roses, a spring of fresh water, as well as a fountain of laughter, smiles, encouragement, helpfulness, concern, and enthusiasm. Spiritually her life was one that radiated love for God, family and friends, faith in Christ, and a walk in the Spirit. Her cancer blog, <http://meganeasterly.blogspot.com> has been an inspiration to an unknown number. She loved to stay in touch with family and friends via Facebook and often posted pictures of her most recent trip, family get together, etc. Her life exemplified Christ daily and her death has in no way silenced it. Megan was preceded in death by her paternal grandpa, Joe Easterly; maternal grandparents, Karl and Kathrine Mader, whom she was never privileged to meet; and foster grandparents, Donald and Mabel Hamm. She is survived by her paternal grandma, Dorothy Easterly of Strafford, Missouri; her parents; her sisters; 19 cousins, 3 nephews, 1 niece who carries her first name, Megan Sophia, several aunts and uncles, and a host of friends and prayer warriors, some of whom she never has met, scattered across America and throughout distant lands and continents. Megan's physical presence with us will be greatly missed but her absence in the flesh now only

Tribute Wall



“ *Dear Megan / Beloved Daughter
13 years ago today your physical presence left us. But you continue to live on in our hearts. Hardly a day goes by but what me or one of your sisters passes along a LYBY (love you beat you). You are the reason for that.*

Your mother now joins you and the ranks of those whose earthly lives ended as a result of cancer.

You are still loved and still missed. Perhaps some of us will manage to make it to Andy's today or this week in memory of you and to partake in a pleasure oft partaken in with you when earthly life we shared.

Love you today and forever. 😊. Dad

Terry Easterly - May 12, 2025 at 10:20 AM

BR

“ *Brayton sent a virtual gift in memory of Megan Sue Easterly*



Brayton - March 04, 2024 at 01:00 AM

BR

“ *Brayton lit a candle in memory of Megan Sue Easterly*



Brayton - March 04, 2024 at 12:59 AM

BR

“ *My mother always says there is never a late response to let someone know your condolences. You never know when they may need to hear that someone is praying for them. I'm sorry it didn't come sooner but I am sorry for your loss. Megan was wonderful and always full of joy. We didn't know each other well but we did cross paths at Harding several times. May the Lord continue to comfort you. The loss of a child is not something that can be mended. God bless you.*

*In His Love,
Branson*

Branson - February 12, 2023 at 03:36 PM

TE

“ *Dearest Megan, I still have not been able to delete your 17 saved messages from my Verizon Voice Mailbox. I access and re-save them every couple weeks for another 21 days. Your birthday came a few days ago. It was bitter sweet. Debbie and I married July 5, 2013. I guess you never met her in person. Grandma passed away July 5, 2014. But for all I know or don't know, you may already know that. Life is good here but I know it is better there. See you soon. Love Always, Daddy*

Terry Easterly - October 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ Terry and family, My heart breaks as I think about the tremendous loss that you and your family are experiencing. I am sorry that I did not have the opportunity to meet Megan, but after reading her blog over the last year and a half, I knew that she was truly a remarkable young woman. Her faith in God was so evident and she was such an inspiration to others, many of whom she never knew, including me. Megan truly touched many people and she will be remembered for her labors in the Lord. My condolences to all of the family. Love, Elaine

Elaine Keller McMullin - June 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ Dad here.... "Love You" Megan, but I did not "Beat You" this time. You know your dad, give him an opportunity and space to write, and he will do so. These words are both for you and for all those who wrote in the guest book. So many nice things have been said about you and the 1000 characters I am allowed are not space enough to share them all with you or to express the THANKS to them they deserve for their kind remarks and encouragment. You touched so many lives in your brief time here. Truly it is not always the length of time we are granted, but how effectively we use what is given. In that category you get an A . Rest quitely for now Dear Child for we shall meet again soon and I will be expecting to see your biggest SMILE ever when we do!!! LOVE DADDY..... On behalf of the whole family, Thanks to all of you who wrote in the guest book or just read from it, THANKS for all you have done and continue to do. It means so much!!!! Terry Easterly

Terry - June 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ My Dear Sweet Megan, I am just now getting to this as it has been so hard to know just what to say to you and your family. I walked the Relay for Life last night 6/8/2012 and walked a Memory Lap for you. It was an emotional, yet inspirational time, as I thought about you and your battle. As I type this, I am listening to acappella music and so much of it reminds me of the songs that were at your Memorial. I know the phrase, "Love you, Beat you" was something said between you and your family, so I will close this in saying, "Love You, Miss You!" And to the family, I continue to pray for comfort and strength while you go through this difficult time. Knowing Megan is out of pain and shining down upon us is such a comfort. Love to you! Rhonda

Rhonda Cooper - June 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ I had the privilage of teaching Megan in my middle school science class. She was a wonderful student and we kept in touch even when she went to high school. Heaven has gained a great person.

Gail Alsup - May 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Terry, I just read the story of your beautiful daughter. I know that Heaven is now an even more beautiful place & I look forward to meeting her there someday. I will be praying for you & your family.
Barbara Jones Costello

Barbara Costello - May 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EK

“ Megan u have always been my secret support system. I love u and wish I could of said more often

Elizabeth King - May 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *Monika, There are no words that can express my sorrow. As you know Megan was very special to me. You and your family our in my thoughts. Marge Dockery*

Marge Dockery - May 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *I did not know Megan personally, but I taught Megan's nephew Triston this year in first grade, and have the privilege of knowing Megan's sister Rachel. From the photo of Megan I can tell that she looks very much like Rachel. Reading about her life, she sounds like a person whom I would have loved to have known. My husband and I were praying for Megan the last few weeks of her life as we became aware of her situation. I am so sorry for your loss, and so thankful at the same time that this is not the "end" of a beautiful life but only the beginning. God bless your family and may His presence guide you and comfort you at this time. Sincerely, Linda Fender*

linda fender - May 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *Megan was an amazing young woman. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of her family and friends.*

Jeanne Luzaich - May 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ *My sincere condolences to the Easterly family in your time of grief.*

Emily Huff - May 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ I only had the one chance to meet Megan face to face but what a sweet, wonderful, impressive girl she was. Infectious smile, energy and love..... She is so very missed. Heaven has gained another angel. Hugs to her family, know you are in our thoughts and only a phone call a way when you need it..... Lubs ya..... XOXOXO

Glen and Suzie Bragg - May 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ She was the nicest person. I wish I could have been close to her. I will be praying for her family. She shouldn't be gone but I am glad shes not suffering. Thank u Megan for being so wonderful u will be very missed.

Molly perrymiddleton - May 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Laura and family, I was so saddened to hear of Megan's passing. I remember when she came to visit Harding and stayed with Laura, myself, and our other roommates. She was such a warm, kind, and fun person to be around. She certainly lived an amazing life and I'm sure will be dearly, dearly, missed. Your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Rachael Meneer - May 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Dearest Easterly Family, The ache in my heart doesn't even compare to the ache in yours, but know that I thought the world of Megan, if only for the short time I knew her. She was special and I loved her dearly. Love and prayers for comfort in the days ahead.
Love, Rhonda

Rhonda Cooper - May 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ *Megan will surely be missed by those who knew her.*

Homer Howard - May 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WA

“ *Thinking of you all at this difficult time. I know that you have a guardian angel watching over you. Megan will be missed here on earth, but, she is rejoicing in Heaven with her Heavenly Father!!*

Wanda Allaby - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *Monika and Family, Our prayers and thought are with you on this day and the days that follow. I never had the opportunity to meet Megan, but followed her life in the years you and I have known each other in the cyber world. My God's grace be with you all as you celebrate Megan's life and as you move forward in your own life. With hugs. Pam C*

Pam Christensen - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers*

David Campbell - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.. HUGS In Christian Love*

Lila Wilson Nettell - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Heaven has another Angel. Megan will always be with the people that she loved and that loved her. Heart to Heart.....

Becky Carmack - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Monika and family, as you go through this dark valley after Megan passed from this life into the present of Jesus, please know you are much loved and we are praying fervently for you for God's grace, mercy, strength and peace. We may never experience what you are going through, however, we love you and weep Megan's loss, as well as rejoice with you for her present place in Heaven with our Heavenly Father! May God bless you richly and grant you the desires of your hearts.

Stephen & Carrie Mathis - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ Our hearts go out to you, we know that she will be greatly missed. God bless you, our prayers are with all of you.

Anita and Eurl Rabon - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ I wish I could have known her better.

Douglas Hamm - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I met Megan at Meadowlark Church of Christ and was so touched with her love for God and never letting her illness tear her away from the lord. Our family was blessed to have known her. Love in Christ, Meta Van Skiver

Meta Van Skiver - May 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ I am so sorry for your loss and my prayers are with all of you at this time. May the Lord comfort you. I would love to be able to be there for all of you and just reading this made me cry and I had not even met her only by knowing Laura on Church of Christ singles. I feel like I did know her and she truly is an inspiration to me to keep going back to school to get my degree. God bless and keep you all.
In Christian Love Pam

Pamela Woodrow - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ Even though I did not have the opportunity to meet Megan, I knew a great deal about her by being friends with her wonderful sister Laura. May God give all her family and friends peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Cindy Adkins - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Megan was one of the strongest Christians I have ever known. She lived with a compassion for others and a love for life that uplifted anyone who knew her. She handled her illness with grace and faith that passed the understanding of many of us. I know that God has great things planned for Megan, but she will be selfishly and sorely missed here. We love you Big Megan!

Brenda Carrell - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ So sorry for your loss Terry & Monica. Sounds like Megan had a great life which had to start with you. Luv Ya Slim York, College

Slim Burrows - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Megan's family. My family and I were blessed to know Megan and will see her in heaven someday. We love you Megan.

Susan Jones - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ We are so sorry for your loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Love Kathy, Karli, and Chandler

Kathy Hamm - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Megan was such an exceptional young woman! I was always amazed at how calm and joyful she seemed, even while enduring all her treatments. I truly believe that she brightened the life of everyone she met. I am so sad for all of the things she missed in life - marriage, children, obtaining her PhD and then a career. But I still believe that she lived a VERY FULL life in her short 27 years. I was so touched that Megan requested donations to the Humane Society of Pulaski County, where I volunteer and proudly serve on the Board. Her kindness and compassion live on. Thank you, Megan, for the person you became and the life you shared with us.

Sharon & David Morris - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ We are blessed to have known Megan, even for a short while. Her life has been an inspiration. We are praying for Monica and the family.

Phillip & Lucy Steyn - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ I will always remember the infectious smile, the love, the enthusiasm for life, the can-do spirit that I witnessed in Megan no matter the circumstance. She continues to be an inspiration to us all.

Barbara Ames - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ We were so sorry to hear of Megans passing. I know she fought a hard fight, and will be missed. May it help to know that she is now in the presence of our Lord, and someday you will see her again. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Arlen and Ruby Noble - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ We are saddened by your loss. We pray for God's comfort and blessings to be with the family.

Kathy Hamm - May 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ND

“ I was lucky enough to know Megan for the last 3 years. Megan ALWAYS had a smile on her face, even on the days she wasn't feeling well. She has touched my heart in so many ways. I will miss seeing her and talking to her. She always made me smile, both inside and out. She is a brave soul with a heart of sunshine. I'm sad that she's no longer here on Earth, but I know she's with God. Heaven is now that much brighter. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Nicole Dixon - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ We worked through many of your trials and tribulations, and I will never forget your gentle, sweet soul. My days were infinitely blessed and brightened when you were around. Rest in peace and keep the angels laughing!

Kerry Taylor - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ I will never forget your bright smile that never faded, although you suffered much. I will never forget your soft, pretty voice, that will never be silenced in our hearts. Most of all, I will never forget how you taught us to live boldly and die gracefully in the loving arms of our heavenly father. Thank you God, that I was blessed to know Megan Easterly.

Charlene Whitten - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ Our hearts are broken that Megan is gone...but we rejoice for her rewards in heaven & will see her soon

Roy & Lisa Nesbitt - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Megan's sweet spirit and deep faith is as inspiration to everyone who knew her. She will be greatly missed. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. May you be surrounded by God's love and comfort.

Jane Kyle - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LR

“ Tho your time was short...your memories will last a lifetime. God Speed Dear One!

lucia reid - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ We will miss your smile and the hugs but we know you are at peace and out of pain. I remember you sitting down in the floor at VBS and a little boy rubbing your head and you looked up and told him it was ok. The hugs you gave us that help with the Wednesday night meal.
Billie Harrison

Billie Harrison - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ I can not began to understand what your family is enduring. I pray for comfort and strength which God assures us as his children. May the Lord bless and keep you.

Terry allen - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ The family is in our prayers just as Megan has been through her battle with this cancer. May God bring comfort, as each mourn this precious loss in their own way. Bless each with strength and courage through thier faith as Megan leaned on her faith. What a blessing to know this child of yours is finally resting in your arms Father and well cared for. With Our Deepest Sympathy..The Olivas Family

Leana & Tom Olivas - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Even though I did not know you, I felt I knew you through so many wonderful emails from the Church. And knowing your wonderful sister has been a joy. Hopefully will be around her more in the future. We need the Christian bonding with our sisters and brothers in Christ, this is important. Anyway I know your family loved you dearly and will hopefully one day join you with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ....May our Good Lord Jesus Christ bless you and your family. God Bless, CJ Coston

CJ Coston - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Megan will always hold a special place in our hearts ... and always remembered as a pure picture of what a Christian woman should look like. What an example she has been! May God bless you and may you feel His comfort as you face the days ahead. - Bill and Anita

Bill & Anita Kritz - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ I am praying for all of you. I have never lost a sister, but my mom went on to meet the Lord in January breast cancer. I don't know your pain, but I do know loss. You will all grieve in your own ways. Go to God for strength and comfort, but remember that He has given us many who offer hugs freely. Cyber Hugs!! God bless.

Latina Watson - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VM

“ Megan's courage and strength are testaments to the peace she knew through the intervention of the Holy Spirit who dwelt in her since her baptism into Jesus and her belief that God will keep his promises.

Vannah Martin - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Joe and I miss you here on earth, but rejoice that we will join with you again in Heaven!

Jennifer Goldman - May 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ We share in your grief and our thoughts and prayers are with you. May God bless each of you with peace and comfort. We love you.

Blaine & Dee Anderson - May 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM