

## Old Newspaper Clipping from Chicago

July 29, 2004

Dear Laurel Lee,

Over 25 years ago I read your story in the Chicago Tribune and was so inspired by the article that I cut it out and saved it in a folder.

I never knew what happened to you beyond the facts of that one article which explained that you had survived Hodgkin's disease, had a journal published, and thus were starting a career as a writer, able to provide for your children.

Fast forward to now. I moved to North Carolina from Chicago exactly a year ago, a single woman aged 60, and find myself in a struggle to support myself while living here in the beautiful mountains of rural western North Carolina. I've had some deep disappointments in the past year while working on some prospects for income.

I threw away much of my accumulated stuff before the move. But now I'm weeding out more stuff to toss out. This morning while going through an old folder, I discovered that yellowed article from the Tribune. Amazing it survived all these years. I had forgotten all about it. It has the strange texture of old newsprint, but I read it again, looked at your photo and the little drawing of a bed that was included in the article. I read the final words of the article, where you were quoted as saying, "I saw glimpses of heaven and they were pretty nice. I wouldn't have minded going on at all."

I wondered what had happened to you. So I went to Google, typed in your name, and waited to see what would come up. And there was much to see! I see that you did become a writer with a collection of published books, that you remarried, that you continued to grow in the faith you had—but I also see you are in your final days here on earth.

So I wanted to send my greetings to you. I know, as well as you, that the next life is waiting full of beauty and joys.

I'm inspired by what you have done with the extra years given to you. Thank you for your legacy of inspiration. I will pray for you and your family.

With respect,  
Lorrie Cooper  
Marshall, North Carolina