



Rachel Christen

September 4, 1987 - May 22, 2008

Rachel Ann Christen, 20, of Fort Collins, Colorado died Thursday, May 22, 2008 as a result of a motor vehicle accident. Rachel Christen was born on September 4, 1987 to Steve and Julie Christen in Long Beach, California. She and her family moved to Fort Collins in 1992. As a student at Rocky Mountain High School, Rachel swam competitively, sang in multiple choirs, and developed her exceptional abilities as a sketch artist and painter. She graduated in 2005. She was a mentor and worship leader at her church, Immanuel Community, as a youth and college student. As a vocalist, guitarist and pianist, she led worship with deep love for God and a purity of heart. "Rachel was a passionate learner, always willing to serve," said College Pastor Jeff Feinberg. Loving and serving God were her priorities as she poured herself out to assist others in need, including nine mission trips to Mexico, two to Nicaragua, one to Peru, and twice to the Mississippi Gulf coast to aid Katrina victims. The Spanish language was quickly becoming her second language. Rachel was currently contemplating a seven month long mission training program in which she would later use more effectively after completing her nursing degree. Rachel held a full-time position at Poudre Valley Hospital as a unit assistant in pre-op and P.A.C.U. Part-time, she worked as a caregiver for her good friend, Matt Scott. Rachel was a weekly mentor at Wellington Jr. High School and was a volunteer reading-mentor at Dunn Elementary School. Rachel loved skiing, being outdoors, late night talks and laughing with her sister and kick boxing with her mom. She lived life with

a unique style all her own, not only in dress and humor, but in relationships, thought and faith. She kept her focus and found her strength in these words of Jesus: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). Rachel was preceded in death by her grandfather, Tullio Testa and her uncle, Jim Ennis. She is survived by her parents, Steve and Julie Christen; her brother, David, her sister, Carly; her maternal grandmother, Hazel Testa; and her paternal grandparents, Duane and Alphy Christen, all of Ft. Collins; aunts and uncles, Dayna Christen of Ft. Collins, Scott (and Jill) Christen of Menifee, CA, Dan (and Stephani) Christen of Ft. Collins, Mike Ennis of Las Vegas, NV, John (and Nancee) of Ft. Collins, Gina (and Byron) Waggoner of Arlington, WA; and numerous cousins, other family and many friends. "We grieve, but we do not grieve without hope," said Steve, Rachel's father. A graveside service will be held at 1:30 PM Wednesday, at Grandview Cemetery followed by a procession through Ft. Collins to Timberline Church where a celebration service will begin at 3:00 in the South Auditorium. The family requests that any memorial donations please be made to the Rachel Christen Mission Scholarship Fund (checks made to: Immanuel Community Church) and mailed to: ICC, 1725 West Mulberry, Ft. Collins, CO 80521. Or, please, simply leave your thoughts and memories on her Facebook "wall".

Tribute Wall



“ *Rachel Christen*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *I knew Rachel since junior highschool and always loved her cheerful attitude. I remember her beautiful voice and how we were in the talent show together. I got this news while in Japan, but am sending love and support from where I am. My thoughts are with her family and friends.*

Halley Trujillo - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *I didn't know or ever have the pleasure to meet Rachel, but I learned of her passing through being employed by PVHS. My heart, thoughts, and prayers go out to her loved ones and friends.*
We will never know "why", but I would like to say to you that she has moved, and inspired me to increase my faith, to keep doing more for others, and to diligently spread the word of our Lord and Saviour. She has left a lasting legacy behind....what a remarkable young woman! Stay strong for her.

Blessings to all,

Barry Lane

Barry Lane - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Julie, I just heard about your loss and I am so sorry.
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Jackie Hutchins - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Julie and Steve and your entire family, I want to express my deep sorrow for the loss of your daughter Rachel. I had the pleasure of meeting Rachel with Julie going to noon hour kick boxing classes....mothers are always so proud to introduce their daughters to our friends! I too have a daughter, and I know how we love our children. You will be in my prayers and thoughts from this day forward.

Deborah McIntosh - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ You dont know me but my heart bleeds for the family left behind. I read about Rachel today and all i could say was wow, did that girl live! As tears run down my cheek at this moment thinking of how I could possibly feel what you're feeling at this time, it is impossible. I can however pray. Please accept my deepest sympathy. I'm truly sorry for your loss..Mary Cole

Mary Cole - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DC

Thank you for praying for my family Mary Cole and keep praying! The greatest gift !
We remember as if it were yesterday and think of her most days because she was Gods gift to us and many! God continues to use her life , art and writings to minister to many today. All Glory to God

Dayna Christen - May 23, 2023 at 03:08 PM

JS

“ RACHEL
YOU WERE A GREAT PERSON AND I KNOW YOU WILL BE
SITTING WITH THE LORD. KEEP WATCH OVER THE REST OF
US. YOU WILL BE MISSED

JANA LA SCALA - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Steve, I'm so sorry you & your family must endure this unbearable
loss. Dennis & I send you our thoughts and prayers.

Mary Sovick

Mary Sovick - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ I was saddened to hear of your daughters passing. You're in my
thoughts and prayers.

Cindy Gallegos - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Even though I work at PVH, I didn't know Rachel, but I can see
clearly from her obituary that she was such a wonderful example of
a fine person. What a loss we all have suffered because she was
doing great things and I'm sure would have continued to do more.
Still, there's lot to be learned from Rachel.
I'm so sorry to hear of her passing. I would like to extend my most
sincere condolences to the Christen family and to anyone who was
close to Rachel.

Susan

Susan Hall - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Our heartfelt thoughts are with you at this time.

Albert and Mary Joyce Fink - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ My heart is with the Christen family during this sad and difficult time. I am honored to work with Steve (Rachel's dad) and to know her mom, Julie. These are wonderful, dear people who have tremendous faith and love that will sustain them through this unbelievably painful time. My thoughts and prayers go with all of you.

Linda Deane - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Rachel was a very special person. I am so very saddened to hear of her passing. God must have a very special need for her in Heaven because she sure was needed on this earth. All my sympathies for her family.

Diane Hattel - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Julie, Steve, David, and Carly:
I was shocked and very saddened tonight to read about Rachel's passing from this life. I know she was a great source of blessing to all of you. My thoughts and prayers are with you. I don't know anything else to say that can bring comfort to you other than what Steve has already said, "We grieve, but we do not grieve without hope."
May you be able to feel the comfort from God and from the people around you.
My love to you, Mim

Mim Miller - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I just wanted to share my heart felt sympathies with Rachels family and friends. I worked with Rachel when she would bring patients to the floor and she always had such a caring heart and was very dedicated to her job. She will be missed by many but not forgotten. Her laughter and her zest on life will carry with us always. God bless all of her family and just know that she is now an angel in Heaven. God Bless.

May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Hi, You don't know us, but we saw Rachel's obituary on the PVHS website. Her and your story touched our hearts deeply and you will all be in our prayers. We have lost 2 family members under the age of 21, and know how tragic and how hard it is. It is awesome that you have faith and will have God's strength to help you through this time. I have no words that will help your hurt, I wish I did. God bless you all, and cling to Him. With love, the Sullivans PS I lost my brother-in-law a year ago today. Rachel goes with God now as he does also.

Sullivan Family - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Steve & Julie, Duane & Alphonse & family,
We are so sorry for your loss. We know that Jesus will walk with you during this time but we grieve with you. You are in our thoughts and our prayers.
Glenn & Teresa Strunk, Dave, Amy, & Carolyn

Glenn & Teresa Strunk - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *She was the light in a world with too much darkness, she was the wonder in a world with too much that is jaded. She was all that was good. There are no words that can fill the void, but so many of us were changed forever by her. There is a special place in heaven for this angel.*

Joseph Grim - May 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM