



## Kirsten Wren

September 9, 1973 - June 30, 2011

Kirsten was born Sept. 9, 1973, in San Diego, Calif., to Steven and Eileen Illum, the second of eight children. She was a graduate of Kickapoo High School in Springfield, Mo., and Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. She spent 18 months as a church missionary in Bilbao, Spain. She cherished her opportunity to raise her children and serve in her LDS faith. Kirsten was truly an example of great faith and was loved by many.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Shara Illum.

Kirsten is survived by her husband, Brian Wren; parents, Steven and Eileen Illum; children, Spencer, Sally and Sterling; siblings,

Thann Illum (Carrie), Maren Illum, Benjamin Illum (Christina),

Jon Illum, Nate Illum and Justin Illum; and extended family.

She will missed by all!

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ *I just remember her smile and happiness. She was always there and always kind. She was funny and fun. I loved her. What a warm good person. Will miss her.*

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**Challice Carsey** - July 24, 2011 at 11:04 AM

RP

“ *God called  
she answered  
wipe your tears  
she's off to a better place  
with a smile on her face  
her husband and kids will miss her so  
same can be said for her this fact I know  
they will all see each other one day  
only the Lord God knows why he did it that way  
we might not understand and agree  
Never question God he knows whats meant to be*

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**Racquel Powell-Joyner** - July 10, 2011 at 09:51 PM

BM

“ I met Kirsten he first Sunday in our ward when she moved here 3 or so years ago. I invited her to sit next to me and we became friends. She was sweet and had an infectious laugh. It was so her it always made me smile. When I found out she was pregnant with her daughter Sally I offered to throw her a shower and with a few others help we threw her a great shower and had a great time. I was sad when she moved but would still run into her at girl nights out and I will never forget driving her across the parking lot at the Cheesecake factory and just talking for an hour or so. I was thrilled when she moved back over here and deeply sorry to hear of her diagnosis with cancer. I had a baby in March and she was so sweet to bring over a present. I was asleep recovering and now realize that would have been my last chance to see her in this life. My heart is broken with her passing she is a beautiful sweet woman and I will miss her as will many. Until we meet again Kirsten.

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**Bleu Morris** - July 08, 2011 at 04:48 PM

EM

“ I will remember the love that your husband has for you.

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**Em** - July 08, 2011 at 02:09 PM

SF

“ So many memorable events in Utah, Florida and Texas, we are blessed to have known you and your awesome family.

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**Saunders Family** - July 08, 2011 at 12:02 PM

SO

“ *Kirsten was such an amazing and caring person. She was the best mother and adored her children so much. They meant everything to her. I will always remember our long talks and the good times we had. I remember when she first met Brian. I'm so glad she was not alone in all of this. She is loved by so many people. I remember all the special times we had together and so happy we got to share our lives together. No matter what happened she always had a way of making things okay. She was the strongest and kindest person. I admire her so much. She will be missed.*

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**Sophan** - July 07, 2011 at 11:50 PM

ST

“ *Brian, I am so sorry that Kirsten was called home this soon. She was a wonderful mother, wife and friend and will be missed deeply. May the Lord guide and bless you through this horrible trial. Love, Sheila (Rachel's mom)*

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**Sheila Towner** - July 06, 2011 at 04:57 PM

TO

“Kirsten and I became random roommates in college and then continued to room together for the next two years. We had so much in common with our childhoods and had a good connection right away. We had a lot of fun together. I can still hear her laughter. She loved to laugh. We moved to Salt Lake City together and had an apartment together before we both decided to be missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints. I got to be her "escort" when she went through the temple for the first time. She had so much faith. We ended up going into the Missionary Training Center at the same time to learn different languages. While she was in Spain and I was in Japan we wrote each other and supported each other as we both served the Lord. I know she was an amazing hard working missionary. She has always been a "go getter" type of person. She has always been a good example to me while still having SO much fun together. She was one of my bridesmaids in my wedding when I got married and was always so happy for me when things in my life were good. She cried (happy cry, of course) when she saw my oldest daughter for the first time. Although we haven't lived close since I got married we would still keep in touch and call each other a couple times a year and see each other every now and then and it was like nothing ever changed. Kirsten saw the good in everyone, didn't judge and forgave (including me) easily. When she finally met the man of her dreams, Brian she was SO happy and SO SO happy to become a mom. She was so patient and soft spoken to her children. I couldn't believe how much patience she had! WOW!!! She loved her three babies so much. She was really close to Spencer and let him sleep with her while Brian was out of town. He loved it! Kirsten was so proud her her kids and of how smart and cute they all were. She loved Sally's spunky personality. She bragged about how good of a baby Sterling was. He was!!! She was blessed with an "easy" baby when it came to him. She loved to snuggle that boy! I was impressed with her awesome mothering! It made me want to be a better mom. Kirsten had a strong testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Just three months ago she told me that she was "okay to die if that's the Lords plan" I will always remember her and her goodness and feel

*blessed that she was in my life. I will miss her.*

Tonja - July 04, 2011 at 04:29 PM

RP

“ *I met Kirsten in the Boca Raton Ward in 2007 and worked with her in Young Women's. I respected her and thought she was a wonderful person. She will be missed. I pray that the Spirit will be with her family to comfort them in this time and always.*

Racquel Powell-Joyner - July 04, 2011 at 01:37 AM

DS

“ :(

*That's so sad. I guess God wants His favorite ones back...*

David Souza - July 03, 2011 at 01:52 PM

LJ

“ *I met Kirsten in February at the Look Good, Feel Better class offered by the American Cancer Society at Baylor Grapevine. We sat next to each other and she was accompanied by a friend's mother. She was so young and beautiful and we shared our cancer stories as I was then going through radiation for stage 3 breast cancer.*

*I remember her telling me that she had three young children under age 5 and she had recently undergone a total hysterectomy. I have never forgotten about her since. I have prayed for her and her family daily and I just want you to know that. I will continue to pray for her family now and their loss. Thank you for letting me share this story about a beautiful woman that I met only once, but whose life touched mine. Lesli Johnson*

Lesli Johnson - July 02, 2011 at 05:57 PM

HL

“ i have not been as close to kirsten in recent years but do have fond memories of our childhood when she and her family live closer. we would play near their house in chico at a pond, also one christmas i remember having so much fun at their house in citrus heights. i am so blessed to know kirsten is in a beautiful place now with those who have gone before and that we will al be together again someday. families are forever!

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**heidi lange** - July 02, 2011 at 03:19 PM

JL

“Kirsten was always such a good friend to me. She has always been very talented. In high school she ran track and did very well. She had good friends through track and her membership in Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Although I am not an athlete, I would go with her sometimes just to be with her. She was always so much fun, and so outgoing. During our Senior year of High School, she help me more outgoing by getting me to go to almost all the school football games—not to watch the game, but to make more friends. Like many girls in High School, she was a little insecure but she had great courage.

*Kirsten also was a member of Concert Choir. She sang in other ensembles and we sang several musical numbers together in Young Women. For prom, both of our parents would not let us date someone who was not of our faith, so we decided to go out to and celebrate our prom night anyway by ourselves. Also, one year for Valentine’s Day we secretly sent each other flowers so that everyone would think that we had a boyfriend or admirer.*

*Kirsten always talked of her big brother Than. She put him up on a pedestal and was always so proud of him. She was also always very exceptionally sweet to her youngest brother.*

*One time Kirsten, Dee Dee Bryant, and I were dancing in Dee Dee’s bedroom to some 80’s music. Kirsten started doing what appeared to be some new dance move where she would repeatedly move her hands in and out over her neck. Dee Dee and I laughed and started copying her new move. It turned out the moves were not of her dancing but more of her choking on a piece of gum. I think Dee Dee saved her. Later at church dances, we would do the choking dance and bust up laughing.*

*One time, Kirsten’s parents went on a trip and Kirsten could not go because of commitments at high school. So I went to stay with her. It was at this time that I remember her making a delicious dinner, almost all vegetables. She has ALWAYS taken good care of her physical body through a great diet and exercise. She has been such*

*a good example and influence for good on how to take care of one's body. She was also very in fashion. Even though she did not have a lot of money for clothes growing up, she always knew how to put an outfit together to look very cool.*

*During our senior year of high school, we both applied to BYU. We were both put on "hold status." In the end we both did not get in. So Kirsten went to Ricks College (now BYU Idaho) and I went to school in California.*

*Kirsten is an awesome mother. She studied books, such as "Love and Logic." She has taught me a lot about sleep patterns and children, especially with Spencer, and about how to discipline in a positive way. I never saw her yell or get angry with her children. She loves her kids. I have seen her get down to her children's level to look them in the eyes and tell them the importance of sharing and then telling them she loved them.*

*She loves Brian. She was always careful to have the house clean and things taken care of with the kids and house. She tried to make life good for him, because she loved him. She always talked fondly of him and how luck she was to have him.*

*She always had a very neat, clean and organized home. She was great at money management and taught me about couponing and online deals. She was also very supportive and encouraged Brian to get his master's degree. She talked about her husband and kids with a twinkle in her eye. They are her treasures!*

*Kirsten has always had a testimony of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Even in high school she had strong faith and conviction. She was very careful to choose the right and was a good example of righteous living to her friends around her.*

*During her last six months she went through a lot of emotions. Almost every time we had a heart to heart chat she would talk of how much she was grateful for her Savior and the Atonement. I*

*know she believed that because she was sealed in the temple and she has a testimony that her family can be together forever*

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**Jan Lundell** - July 02, 2011 at 10:51 AM

CH

“ *My prayers go out to all of the family. Eileen, Steve and all I know you were truly blessed to have her in your lives. Love Cheryl Head*

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**Cheryl Head** - July 02, 2011 at 07:34 AM

HI

“ *Dear Kirsten  
I'm sad you had to leave Earth so soon, but I know you have gone to better places and have been reunited with loved ones.  
You will be greatly missed.  
Lots of love,  
Heidi*

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**Heidi Illum** - July 02, 2011 at 06:42 AM

AW

“ *Kirsten was a wonderful person. She made Brian be a better man. She will be missed.*

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**Austin Weaver** - July 02, 2011 at 12:13 AM

CW

“Kirsten will always be remembered in our family as one of Heavenly Fathers choice daughters who has great capacities to love, work hard and exemplify the teachings of Christ. She was always thoughtful and kind and looked forward to serving her family. Our son Brian was fortunate to have found her as an eternal mate. She remarked that she wished she had found Brian five years earlier than she did. We look forward to a fond reunion with Kirsten on the other side of the veil.

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**Carl Wren** - July 01, 2011 at 10:36 PM

SR

“Kirsten has been such a devoted mother. She loved her children so much! She knew that her family was the most important thing in her life and lived her life putting them first, serving, caring, and doing fun things with them: trips to Disney World, to visit family, to the park, the zoo, the pool. She was also a very dear friend. She was honest. She spoke from her heart. You could trust her. She was always open to meeting new people and smiling. Kirsten had a smile that lit up the room. Her voice also was so sweet and sang beautiful songs! She had a great laugh and sense of humor. I'll miss you dearly Kirsten. I'll try to live my life better because of your influence in my life. I will keep in touch with each of your children so that they will know what a wonderful daughter of God you are!!!  
You will be greatly missed.

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**Sarah Reed** - July 01, 2011 at 10:26 PM