

# Susan Hardman

January 6, 1957 – January 7, 2010

***Excerpt from a sermon at Meadow Park Church of God, Columbus, Ohio, by the Rev. David Shultz giving tribute to the life and memory of Susan Hardman.***

"Not long ago we were very saddened to learn that Susan Hardman, one of our living link missionaries, died of cancer. I have known her a long, long time and followed her career with interest. Susan grew up in Dayton, Ohio...as a young woman wanted to be a missionary. She fulfilled that dream...She wanted to go to China. Her love of photography, her zest for life, her sense of humor and deep commitment to God all combined together to create this incredible career in which she became fluent in Chinese, lived at the far borders of Thailand, near Kazakhstan, taught students, traveled around the world taking incredible photographs, inspired us with her love of God and then came down with breast cancer. And the question we all had was this, "Why her?" Isn't it? "Why not some sinner somewhere?" Because life is full of struggles. In life, pain is inevitable. And just because you're a Christian doesn't mean you're spared pain. She was healed - at least she went in to remission for a while. But then the cancer came back - it came back 20 times worse than it was and she died within a few months. She was 53. Now many of us will say "What a tragic life." No! It was a fabulous life! You say, "Well it ended too soon." How do you know? It isn't how long you live. I know some people who lived to the age of 99 and their lives were worth zip!



It isn't how long you live, how healthy you are - it's how WELL you live...how tightly you are connected to the things of life that are eternal. You are God's masterpiece. He has created you anew in Christ Jesus to accomplish the task that he planned for you long ago. How can we be upset with a future like that?

So look to God, remember who you are. Remember who He is. Look at life and realize we're all going to have problems. Life is full of pains and struggles but if you stop just trying to avoid the pain and start asking God to teach you the lessons, show you the open doors...stop complaining about not having any time - be sensitive and open to the time you have. Eternity can become part of your soul. And when you die like Susan did and leave this world, you find out the world you were really born for goes on forever."