



## CHELSEY LYNN LaFERNIER

June 26, 1985 - January 29, 2009

CHELSEY LYNN LaFERNIER, age 23, of Baraga was suddenly called to Heaven on Thursday, January 22, 2009. She was born in L'Anse on June 26, 1985 the daughter of Harry LaFERNIER and Roberta "Birdie" Sheldon. Chelsey attended Baraga area schools and graduated from L'Anse Alternate School. She worked at the Ojibwa Casino and attended Michigan Tech. Chelsey moved to Grand Rapids for a short time and worked for AAA of Michigan and attended college. She moved back to Baraga to be near her family and to further her education. Chelsey had worked at the Pines Gas Station and was currently employed as a secretary/receptionist at the Tribal Medical Center and was taking classes through Gogebic College. She was a member of Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Chelsey dearly loved her children, and they were always her #1 priority. She loved being with them and doing things with them. Chelsey enjoyed shopping, going to garage sales, camping and being with her family. Chelsey is survived by her loving family; children, Davohn A. LaFERNIER and Alexxus T. DeCota, mother, Roberta "Birdie" (Jim) Sheldon of Baraga, father, Harry LaFERNIER of Baraga, sisters, Lily Leinonen of Houghton, and Amber (Chris) Weigel of Spring Lake, NC, step brother, Jay Sheldon of Green Bay, WI., step-sister, Sara J. Sheldon of Green Bay, and step-grandparents, William and Barbara Sheldon of Ishpeming. Numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins also survive. She was preceded in death by her grandparents. Funeral services for Chelsey were held at 11 a.m. Thursday, January 29, 2009 at the Reid Funeral Service and Chapel, L'Anse with Father George Maki officiating. Spring interment will take place in the Pinery Cemetery. The family received friends on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 from 6 until 8 p.m. at the Reid Funeral Service and Chapel and for 1 hour prior to the service on Thursday. A parish prayer service was held in the funeral chapel Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Following the services on Thursday the family invited friends to join them for fellowship and a luncheon at the Baraga American Legion Post 444.

# Comments

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“ i hope that the fond memories of better times will see everyone through this sad time

bob keippela

**bob keippela** - February 05, 2009 at 12:59 PM

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“ Harry and Family,  
I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your daughter. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

**Arica Fassbender (Soeltner)** - February 04, 2009 at 08:02 AM

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“ Dear Harry and Family,  
We were so sorry to hear about the loss of your daughter, Chelsey. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We wish time spent with those we love could last forever and in our hearts it will. With sympathy in your loss.

**Mary (Edwards) Arceneaux and Tom and Tana LaFernier, Corinth, Texas** - January 31, 2009 at 02:41 PM

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“ Dear Harry and Family,  
We were so sorry to hear about the loss of your daughter, Chelsey. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We wish time spent with those we love could last forever and in our hearts it will. With sympathy in your loss.

Mary (Edwards) Arceneaux and Tom and Tana LaFernier, Corinth, Texas

**Mary (Edwards) Arceneaux and Tom and Tana LaFernier, Corinth, Texas** - January 31, 2009 at 02:41 PM

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“ Our condolences to you and your family on the tragic loss of Chelsea. Our thoughts are with you.

Love, Joe and Ann LaFernier (Denton, TX)

**Joseph and Ann LaFernier** - January 30, 2009 at 11:46 PM

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“ My mother and I send our deepest condolences to Chelsey's family. We are praying for you in this sad, sad time.

I would like to share this poem with you. It was meaningful to us when my little brother suddenly passed away.

“I'll lend you for a little while,  
A child of mine,” he said.  
“For you to love the while he lives  
And mourn when he is dead.  
It may be six or seven years, or 22 or 3,  
But will you until I call him back,  
Take care of him for me?  
He'll bring his charms to glad you,  
And should his days be brief,  
You'll have his lovely memories  
As solace for your grief.  
I cannot promise he will stay,  
Since all from earth return,  
But there are lessons taught down there,  
I want this child to learn.  
I've looked this wide world over  
In my search for teachers true  
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes,  
I have selected you.  
Now, will you give him all your love,  
Nor think the labor vain,  
Nor hate me when I come to call,  
To take him back again?”  
I fancy that I heard them say,  
“Dear Lord, thy will be done.  
For all the joy thy child shall bring,  
The risk of grief we'll run,  
We will love him while we may,  
And for the happiness we have known,  
Forever grateful stay.  
But should the angels call for him,  
Much sooner than we have planned,  
We will brave the bitter grief  
That comes and try to understand.

Edgar Guest



“ Harry,Birdie&Family-Very sorry to hear about the tragedy of chelsey.she will be greatly missed by friends and family.My thoughts and prayers will always be with your family.

**Tabitha Zakaouanou** - January 29, 2009 at 02:45 PM

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“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers during this time of loss. May happy memories warm your hearts during this time and always.

**Adam, Nicole, & Isaac Wentland** - January 28, 2009 at 09:36 PM

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“ Our deepest sympathy to Chelsey's family and friends. May the love of family, friends, and community give you the strenth needed to get through these difficult days.

**Dick & Mary (Storm) Tuisku** - January 28, 2009 at 08:43 PM

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“ Birdie, Harry, Jim and Family- I am very sorry for your loss of your beatiful Chelsea. She will be sadly missed by all that knew her. Her smile was enough to brighten the darkest of rooms. May god be with you and your famliy. May you find peace and comfort in your saddened hearts  
Sandy

**Sandy Cribbs** - January 28, 2009 at 05:57 PM

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“ We are so sorry to hear about your loss of Chelsey.Our hearts and prayes go out to you all.May God give you the strength you all need to go on.We all know the children will be well cared for.Peace be with you all during this hard time,god bless you all.

Phyllis Maki Patti Kelly Eric Tyler Trevor and Alexzander.

**BerdieHarryJim and family** - January 28, 2009 at 01:50 PM

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“ Birdie~ I am so, so sorry for your loss. It is such a tragedy. I am lost for words except to say, God's Peace be with you and your family. I pray for Chelsey, the children, you & Jim and Harry. May you find strength in our community and within yourself to carry on!

**Vicky Lynn Mleko** - January 28, 2009 at 01:07 PM

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“ Birdie, Jim and family, Our deepest sympathy goes out to you with your loss of Chelsey. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.  
Sue, Gary and family

**Gary and Sue Brown** - January 28, 2009 at 12:54 PM

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“ Our sincere and deepest sympathy are with all of your family at this time. I wanted to share this poem with you and and hope it brings you some peace.

"I am home in Heaven, dear ones;  
Oh, so happy and so bright!  
There is perfect joy and beauty  
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and suffering is over  
Every restless tossing passed;  
I am now at peace forever,  
Safely home in Heaven at last.

Did you wonder I so calmly  
Trode the valley of the shade?  
Oh! but Jesus' love illumined  
Every dark and fearful glade.

And he came Himself to meet me  
In that way so hard to tread  
And with Jesus' arm to lean on  
Could I have one doubt or dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,  
For I love you dearly still:  
Try to look beyond earth's shadows,  
Pray to trust our Father's will.

There is still work waiting for you,  
So you must not idly stand;  
Do it now, while life remaineth-  
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is completed,  
He will gently call you home;  
Oh, the rapture of that meeting,  
Oh, the joy to see you come!"

May God shine his ever present love on all you.



“ Harry,  
We were so sorry to hear about Chelsey. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.  
Love, Betty Lou and family.

**Betty Lou Perry & family** - January 28, 2009 at 09:34 AM

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“ Dear Uncle Harry,  
I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your daughter Chelsea. Our hearts and thoughts are with you and the family. Try to stay strong through these hard times and our prayers are with you.  
Love your niece Patti

**Patti Sippel (Wessman)** - January 27, 2009 at 10:11 PM

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“ Burdie, Jim, And Harry we are so sorry for your loss, our prayers are with you and the rest of your family. we are here if you need anything call. love Allyson, Davina And Melinda<sup>3/4</sup>

**Melinda Roberts, Allyson Denomie, And Davina Denomie** - January 27, 2009 at 09:45 PM

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“ Birdie, Jim, and Family--My sincere condolences and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time.

**Lauretta** - January 27, 2009 at 09:27 PM

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“ Harry, Birdie and Jim, I feel as if this whole community is in moaning for you and your family right now. Please know that we're praying for all of you to receive strength to get through this difficult patch in your lives. Her love and sunshine will remain in all of our hearts... Sincerely saddened, John and Greta Hebert

**Greta Hebert** - January 27, 2009 at 08:29 PM

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“ To the LaFernier family, I heart is heavy with your untimely loss. I had the great oppertunity of working with Chelsey at the Medical Clinic, I did not just think of her as a co-worker, even with the differences in our ages I considered her a friend. She talked alot about her goals and of coarse the kids, you could just hear the love in her for them. I never saw her in a bad mood, she was always smiling and willing to lend a hand in any way she could. She was a wonderful person and I am going to miss her so much

Monica Emery-Kohn - January 27, 2009 at 07:58 PM

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“ Dear Harry:

There are no words to express my sadness over the news of your daughter's death. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family---especially your grandchildren--during this time of pain and sorrow.

Christina Rencontre - January 27, 2009 at 07:54 PM

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“ Dear Uncle Harry I'am so sorry to hear about the loss of Chelsea. We both know there are many angels up above to greet her coming into heaven. Just so sad they have to do it so soon. Uncle Harry I will see you soon. Take care you have to stay strong for the grandchildren and your self. yes there is going to be hard times ahead.You have alot of family and friends there. Go to them when needed.They have lots of hugs for you. so untill we see each other again love and miss you. your neice anita and family

Anita Martin {wessman} - January 27, 2009 at 05:56 PM

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“ Harry and Birdie and Family,  
We are so sorry to hear of your loss, I know how much Chelsey meant to you Harry. Chelsey will forever live in her 2 beautiful children. It seems like yesterday we were laughing in the pines about the things the kids do, I have that memory of her. You are all in our prayers and if we can do anything at all please just call.

Renee and Robert Cadeau and family - January 27, 2009 at 04:37 PM

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“ Birdie, Jim, Harry little girl and little guy, and extended family, Our hearts and prayers go out to all of you at this time of such tragedy and heartache. We can say we know exactly what you all are going through. Please know you all will be in our thoughts and prayers forever. If there is anything you need a hug, a place to scream, a shoulder to cry on, what ever we are here. We still can't believe such a beautiful person with such great potencial was taken from you but please know God will be your strength. Trust in him and he will help you through this. Luv  
Jim,Sue,Kris,Jere,Amanda

**Jim,Sue,Kris,Jere,Amanda**, - January 27, 2009 at 03:18 PM

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“ Dear Bertie, Lily & Family,  
We were so saddened to learn that it was your daughter & sister who died so tragically. Our Thoughts and our prayers are with you. Blessings to the little children she left behind, although we know they will be taken care of, they will miss their mother. May you know that we care as do so many others in the family and community. Love, Mary & Bob

**Mary Tarvainen** - January 27, 2009 at 02:05 PM

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“ The college community is so very sorry to hear of the sudden and terrible loss you have experienced. May your wonderful memories of Chelsey grow stronger and brighten your days over time. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you as you struggle through the dark days of this tragedy.

**Steve Wesselhoft, Dean of Students, Gogebic Community College** - January 27, 2009 at 11:39 AM

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“ Harry, Birdie, Jim & family. The whole community was, and still is in shock over Chelsey's tragic death. My heart & thoughts go out to the whole family!! Deepest sympathy!! Love Jody

**Jody Curtis-Joki** - January 27, 2009 at 09:08 AM

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“ We are so very sad and sorry to hear about your loss. Our thoughts are with you at this time.

**Tony and Deb LaPlante** - January 26, 2009 at 08:04 PM

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“ Harrie and Birdie ,my deepest condolences on the loss of your daughter. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

**Marge Gasperich** - January 26, 2009 at 06:03 PM

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“ Harry, Birdie, and family- I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Chelsey. I will keep you in my thoughts and hope you can make it through this time. We will all have the special memories that we've shared with her throughout the years. She is going to be missed!  
-Jess

**Jessica (LaPlante) Black** - January 26, 2009 at 05:43 PM

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“ Harry, Birdie, and family...

Words cannot express how sorry I feel for all of you. I hope your making it through this, you will always be like another family to me even after all the years that have gone by and you will always have that place in my heart. It hurts me that you have to go though this. I am still shocked and dumbfounded by this. I had just saw her and we were planning to re connect since we both have moved back home now. She will always have a place in my heart as will you's that no one could ever replace. I hope your doing okay and wish you all strength in the world!

**Vikki Santti** - January 26, 2009 at 04:07 PM

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“ Bertie and family-We're so sorry for the loss of your daughter. Treasure your memories. You're in our thoughts and prayers.

**Roxanne & Charlie** - January 26, 2009 at 04:03 PM

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“ Harry and family,  
I am so sorry about the loss of Chelsea. We are going to miss her at the Medical Clinic as she was such a joy to have around. She gave the room light just by her presence. I have never met anyone as kind and giving as her. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

**Zena Pittsley** - January 26, 2009 at 03:21 PM

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“ Harry And Birdie, I am sorry about Chelsey You are in my thoughts. Linda Dault

**Linda Dault** - January 26, 2009 at 03:00 PM

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“ dear family and freinds im very sorry to hear about your loss.i know shell be sadly missed by everyone.may god give u the strenght to help u get threw this rough time.u are in my thoughts and prayers.nobody should have to go through this. may god bless u lisa and family.

**lisa tolonen** - January 26, 2009 at 12:33 PM

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“ Harry, Birdie and family, You have my deepest sympathy in this time of sorrow. You and your family will be my thoughts and prayers.

**Scott Dault** - January 26, 2009 at 12:32 PM

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“ Harry~  
I am so sorry to hear about Chelsea. I know she was a very important part of life. My thoughts are with you. keeping you in my prayers.  
~Michelle C

**Michelle Christunas** - January 26, 2009 at 12:09 PM

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“ Dear Harry & Birdie and Family,

So sorry to hear of Chelsea's tragic death. You have our deepest sympathy.

Peggy, Sharon & Karen

**Salo Family** - January 26, 2009 at 11:49 AM

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“ I'm so sorry about everything that happened Chelsea is going to be greatly missed. I've been upset ever since i heard the news and can only imagine what the rest of the family is feeling.

**jeremie manninen** - January 25, 2009 at 10:10 PM

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“ Uncle Harry- Im so sorry to hear about your daughter. I knew how much she meant the world to you and always will. your in my thoughts and prayers. Im sending a hug for you stay strong for your grandchildren.love your niece Tina

**tina mello (wessman)** - January 25, 2009 at 09:43 PM

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“ Dear Harry and Family - I can't believe to hear the tragic news and am deeply saddened. There is so much I would like to say and don't know where to begin. I've always thought about reconnecting with Chelsea and never got the chance. I know it's not physically possible now but one day I will meet up with her again in heaven. One memory I would like to share is when we worked so hard to make up this silly little dance and perform in your (Harry) kitchen. As I was driving back downstate today from Gwinn, I listened to that song on one of my old cd's. Chelsea and I did all kinds of "activities" playing sonic the hedge hog, picking flowers to make perfume, and playing under the big willow tree....I'm fortunate to have so many memories of our childhood friendship. My thoughts and prayers are with all of Chelsea's family and friends may god be there to comfort you in this time of need. Love~Rosalie

**Rosalie Oakland** - January 25, 2009 at 08:34 PM

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“ Harry and Bertie I am so sorry for all that you are going through. Love Beth , Donny and Trevor

**Beth Koski** - January 25, 2009 at 07:52 PM

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“ birdie there are no words to say that can take away this hurt i pray that u can get through this and that chelsea's children will get through this with u. if u need anything i am here.

**mary niemi simon** - January 25, 2009 at 03:51 PM

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“ to the family - When me and my mom(mary Niemi)got the news in Marquette we couldn't believe it, I'm so sorry for your loss. She's going to be missed. May god be with you's, and her precious babies at home. noone should have to go threw this. you's are in my thought's and prayers. I am so sorry.

Elizabeth & Christian Schjoth

**Elizabeth Schjoth** - January 25, 2009 at 03:39 PM

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“ Bertie, Harry and Alexxus, Devon and family, I'm so sorry that you are having to face this tragedy. No one should have to face this and I pray that you all are able to lean on each other and the community that supports you in your time of need, now and when you face it in the future. Take care. Amanda

**amanda mcmahon** - January 25, 2009 at 11:29 AM

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“ DEAR HARRY AND FAMILY WE BOTH ARE SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS YOU ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS DANNY AND WANDA DAVIS

**danny@wanda davis** - January 25, 2009 at 10:33 AM

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“ Bertie & Harry so sorry to hear about Chelsea`s your in our thoughts and prayers  
Georgia Auge Brady

Georgia Auge Brady - January 25, 2009 at 10:10 AM

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“ Dear Harry and Family, I pray God to give you the strength to carry on through this  
tragic loss of Chelsey! My Thoughts and Prayers are with You. Love, Anita

Anita Oakland - January 25, 2009 at 12:22 AM

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“ Harry & Bertie: Your family is in our thoughts and prayers, if there is anything we can  
do, we are there, Chelsey was a good friend! She will be missed by many!

Juliet K. Loonsfoot-Ellenich - January 24, 2009 at 07:53 PM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
From the Deslatte's and Morin's. (Louisiana)

Friends of Rose and Chris.

Anna  
&  
Jerry!

Anna - January 24, 2009 at 07:29 PM

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“ Birdie, Harry and Jim and family,just to let you all know that you are in my prayers  
please let me know if you need anything. Sam Blamer

Sam Blamer - January 24, 2009 at 06:54 PM

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“ Bertie, Harry, And Jim, Our condolences to you guys. We are so sorry for your loss, and pray that God comfort and strengthen you all. Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Ephesian 6:10 Alexxus and Davohn may God heal all your pain. We love you, Deneen, William, Ashley, Ashton, Shirley, Aaron, Ambra and Dasharay.

**The Mason Family** - January 24, 2009 at 06:25 PM

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“ Bertie Jim & Harry  
Our Condolences to you. You are in our thought's and prayers.

**Wendell & Judy Dompier** - January 24, 2009 at 05:07 PM

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“ Harry and Birdie i am so so sorry for the loss chelsey. My thoughts are with you's, my prays go out to Alexxus and Davohn. We have all been thourgh so much lately. I want you to know that I miss her dearly my heart cries out to her. i just want to say again god be with yous love you guys.

**Ashley Mason** - January 24, 2009 at 10:11 AM

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“ Dear Harry and Family,  
We are so sorry to hear of Chelsea's tragic death. We pray that God will bring you comfort and peace through these difficult days. You are in our hearts and prayers.  
Love, Jim and Jean

**Jim and Jean Rencontre** - January 23, 2009 at 08:12 PM

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“ Dear Harry and family & Bertie and family ~ We can't even begin to express our sympathy to you on the loss of your daughter! Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers, as are your grandchildren also in our prayers! May God give you all the strength and the courage to make it through the next few days... and also the future.

**Mark & Laurie Irwin** - January 23, 2009 at 07:02 PM

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“ Harry and Bertie - We are very sorry about your tragic loss of Chelsey. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Noreen and Jim

**Jim Abercrombie** - January 23, 2009 at 06:32 PM

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“ Harry and Bertie,

I was so shocked to hear the horrible news about Chelsea. Your families are in our thoughts and prayers. If there is anything that Kerry and I can do, please don't hesitate to call.

Love,  
Robin, Kerry, Logan, Mabs and Grayson

**Robin (Swartz) Roe** - January 23, 2009 at 04:41 PM

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“ Harry ~ I can't tell you how sorry I am to hear about your daughter. I know that she was a huge part of your life as are her beautiful children. Please know that you are in my prayers and definately in my thoughts. Love, Kori

**Kori Perrault** - January 23, 2009 at 03:05 PM

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“ Dear Harry and family - We are so very sad to hear of Chelsea's tragic death. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love, Tim, Kelli Marie, and Gabby

**Kelli Sample** - January 23, 2009 at 03:01 PM