



## Sonya Sunderland

June 10, 1959 - April 1, 2014

Dateline: Godfrey

Sonya Sunderland, 54, died Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at her home in Godfrey. Born June 10, 1959 in Nashville, TN, she was the daughter of Robert and Mary Alice (Welch) Biribin. She was a homemaker and also worked as a receptionist for All State for ten years. She was a member of the Abundant Life Community Church in Alton. On May 23, 1980 she married Steven Sunderland. He survives. Also surviving are five children, Erin Ware (Troy) of Alton, Zachary Sunderland (Taylor) of Godfrey, Joshua Sunderland (Courtney) of Alton, Benjamin Sunderland of Godfrey, and Victoria Sunderland of Godfrey, four grandchildren, Rachel Ware, Eli Ware, Ezekiel Sunderland, and Micah Sunderland, and a brother, Robert Biribin Jr. (Denise) of Ballwin, MO. Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday, April 3, 2014 at Abundant Life Community Church in Alton where funeral services will be at 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 4, 2014. Reverend Roy Rhodes will officiate. Burial will be at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, MO. Memorials may be made to the Abundant Life Community Church. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements.

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Sonya Sunderland*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Sonya Sunderland*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *HOW SWEET SHE WAS AS I KNEW HER FROM CHURCH. SUCH A SWEET SMILE I WILL NEVER FORGET HER AND I WAS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND HER LAST EVENT. WILL MISS HER TERRIBLY, BUT NOW SHE IS IN NO PAIN. SENDING MY SYMPATHY TO HER LOVELY FAMILY, ZACH AND ERIN ESPECIALLY. DELORES WESTFALL*

**Delores Westfall** - April 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *My heart is so heavy at the loss of my best friend and prayer partner; but my spirit rejoices that Sonya has made it all the way home and is resting in the arms of the One who loved her the most.*

*Steve and family, you will remain in my thoughts and prayers. I love you all.*

**Sarah Grace** - April 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

UE

“ May we all share fond memories of Sonya's smile, laughter, and enjoyment of life and rejoice in her new life without pain and suffering in the kingdom of God. Sonya, what a legacy...a beautiful family to carry on your work for God. May God bless all of you and give you comfort in the days ahead.

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**Uncle Re and Aunt Elaine** - April 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ Sending my love and hugs to you all. Sonya was a wonderful, beautiful person inside and out. I am praying for comfort for you all during this very sad time.  
With love  
Holly

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**Holly Hall** - April 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ So sorry for your loss. Sonya was so sweet. I can remember her babysitting me as a young girl. She always had a smile on her face, she will be forever remembered and missed.

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**Victoria Browning** - April 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ Im sorry for your loss. Words cant discribe what you are going through. Prayers for you and your family.

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**William Roe** - April 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Steve and family  
So sorry for your loss.  
I was shocked when I read this mornings paper.

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**Judy Shields** - April 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ Love and prayers to this sweet family...my friend is dancing with Jesus , the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.  
A life well lived!

Nicki Hausman - April 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Steve & Family,  
Deepest sympathy to you all. Lifting you up in prayer.

Monica Hoxsie - April 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ I just want you all to know that we are praying for your family that God will give you peace and comfort and strength during this time. We know that Sonya is safely home now where there is no more pain or sorrow. What a happy day that will be when we are all together again in the presence of our Savior!

Lisa Norooz - April 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Steve and family, So sorry that we won't be able to make it to the visitation. Sonya held a special place in our hearts. When we were waiting for our kids adoptions to take place Sonya prayed for both of them until they came home to us. She was a great prayer warrior. She will be missed. praying for comfort for the family. Our loss. Heavens gain.

Bill and Carol Hornsey and family - April 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HL

“ We are saddened by the physical death of a great and faithful woman of God. However, we rejoice and are glad that she is finally free from all sickness and singing and dancing in heaven with her loved ones, the angels and most of all, Jesus. We love you Sonya : see you later.

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**Hector and Miriam Lozano** - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ Steve and Family, Just wanted to let you know that I am praying for all of you through this hard time. Love to all.

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**Dede Owen** - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ We are so sorry for your family's great loss. Haven't seen you all in years but your mom was special. May your many memories help your hearts heal. May God bless her.

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**Donna & Bobby Aszman** - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Sonya Sunderland

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**KENNETH AND DAPHNE CARDEN** - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ Sonya was the firstborn Biribin of her generation. She grew into a beautiful woman of faith, a loving wife, a tender mother, a proud grandmother, and a compassionate friend. How grateful I am that in her last days I saw with my own eyes all that she had become. She has gone ahead to prepare a place for us, and we shall see her again in that great by and by.

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**Val Cummings** - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ My heart and prayers go out to Josh, Zach, and the Sunderland family.

Michelle Loggins - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ I had so much fun playing in the Riverbend handbell choir with her for about 6 years. She was such a sweet and fun lady. She will truly be missed. I'm praying for peace and comfort for you guys.

Billie Bowles - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ Kimberly Torres has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

Kimberly Torres - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ A Truly Classy, Gentle Southern Lady. You will be so missed.

Cece Hill - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ I knew Sonya through Alstate where she worked. She was a very sweet lady, always helpful and a Christian lady. Rest in peace.

Nancy L. green - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ I met Sonya about 20 years ago. She became very close to my sister Carmen Lydia Lozano Clark. I got to know Sonya for her gentle and caring spirit. Always caring and giving. I learned to love her a lot. I will miss her dearly. I love you Sonya. Thank you for being soo giving tomy sister Carmen.

Leonor Henry - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Our love & prayers for Steve & your family! We are in Texas taking care of our grandsons while Jill, Jay & Chloe are attending a seminar. We wish we could be there. I want you to know that it was a privilege to be your Pastor for so many years! Blessings & strength as you continue on in Jesus! Pastor Sam

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**Sam & Judy Henning** - April 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM