

## **Obituary for 1975 Unification Church Missionary Merlinda Skow Fournier**

February 2015

On February 2, 2015 Merlinda Skow Fournier passed into the Spiritual World. Due to many unfortunate circumstances this was not discovered by her spiritual family until January 8, 2016.

Merlinda joined the Unification Church in the 1971 in California, having been witnessed to by Diana Weber. She was sent to pioneer in Alabama and then to Mankato, Minnesota. She was Blessed to Lou Fournier in 1975 as part of the 1800 Couples. They had one son, Coby.

In 1975 she was sent to Sri Lanka as part of the 1st missionaries sent to 120 countries from Korea, Europe and America. She stayed there for one year, but had to leave due to a take-over by communists when all missionaries were told to leave.

From Sri Lanka she went to India and stayed there for four years. While there she nearly lost her life twice due to cholera, but persisted in her work until she succeeded in meeting the Dalai Lama.

In 1980 she returned to America to join her husband in New York to begin their family life. From New York they went to Pennsylvania, and Washington DC. After this her path becomes unclear as rumors of a divorce were heard.

She then took her son to California to care for her aging parents and lived there with her son, now handicapped, after their passing.

Her obituary, found online, simply reads: "FOURNIER: Merlinda Sue Fournier, 66, of Magalia, California died Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, in Magalia." In addition to being survived by her sister, Teri and son, Coby; she is also survived by her spiritual family: mother -- Diana Weber, Mobile, Alabama; sons -- Clark Eberly, Arlington, Virginia; Gary Chidester, Orlando, Florida; and daughters -- Dr. Susan Schroeder, Baltimore, Maryland; Mary Jane Anderson, White Bear Lake, Minnesota and Iris Sardella, Concord, California. If there are more, we would be happy to hear from them, but these are all we know of. Of course, any in India are unknown to us.