

## Linda Jean Baker, 53

*March 5, 1948 – Dec. 23, 2001*

**HARLAN** – Linda Jean Baker was born to Shirley Jean (Sorick) and Thaddious LeRoy (Jim) Gillespie March 5, 1948, at Missouri Valley. She was a graduate of Missouri Valley High School where she excelled as a student. Following her high school graduation, she attended Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, where she received a Certificate of Achievement in Medical Secretary. She furthered her education at the University of Hawaii in Hilo, HI and W.C.C. in Aurora, CO. Linda spent her early years learning about Christ through the Baptist Church in Missouri Valley. On a mission trip to Alaska, she rededicated her life to Christ, and moved to Alaska. Her spiritual road took her to Hawaii, South Carolina, South Dakota and Colorado. To be with her family, she moved to Harlan, Nov. 29, 2001. Linda died Dec. 23, 2001, at her residence in Harlan, at age 53 years; nine months and 18 days.

She is survived by her children, Laura Baker of Harlan; Lauren Baker (Vickie) of Topeka, KS and his children, Alexzandrea, Alayna, Ashley, Chris, Jackie and a new baby due in March; Lynnette Kumm (Greg), daughter, Aleia of Osmond, NE; father, Thaddious (Jim) Gillespie (Marylyn) of Lake City; mother, Shirley Gillespie of Harlan; sister, Vicki Rodgers (Ramon) of Henderson; brother, Jimmy Gillespie (Vickie) of Harlan; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 28, 2001, at the Assembly of God Church in Harlan, with Rev. Al Hazelton officiating. Honorary casket bearers were Lauren Baker, Mark Kirlin, Jimmy Gillespie and Ray McCorkell. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.