

## Ode to Cherie

A few years ago, about three or four,  
I met a girl named Cherie when I walked through the church door.

We were at a Bible Study listening to Pastor Bell,  
Cherie was just some lady who looked beautiful and well.

I didn't know right away, for at least a week or two,  
that Cherie was very ill, cancer in her head grew.

But this girl was smiling – the cancer can't be true!  
If I were in her shoes I'd be so sad and blue.

Such a young woman, so happy and so gay,  
Talking with Mary Ellen about exchanging hats that day.

I stopped going to Bible Study, I can't remember why,  
But I did hear about Cherie, off and on....by and by.

Fast forward to 2004, I'm at a new Bible Study  
And who comes through the door? Cherie – she Tricia's buddy!

Now, she looks a bit different, she moves a little slow,  
She's no that spritely girl – that tumor certainly did grow!

But wait a minute! Cherie's exactly the same!  
That smile is on her face and "laughter" is her name!

Although the ensuing years have sapped her strength and health.  
Cherie's spirit and her soul are still her greatest wealth!

And this time I didn't quit because the Bible Study's fun.  
So I get to know Cherie so much better – one on one.

This woman – this girl – AMAZES US ALL.  
Her condition is so "iffy" but her good spirits never fall!

She may not say much but when she choose to  
Her words have the power to ring strong and true.

We'll miss you, dear Cherie, we lift you in prayer,  
God's listening in Heaven, he's awaiting you there.

Cherie, thank you for sharing your joy and your faith-  
Now, God's loving arms will hold you and He'll keep you safe.

Please accept these words with all my love,  
Sandy Rosene

