Christie Anderson's Most Memorable Days

"A Life Long Dream Fulfilled"

Our Florida Memory

Our wonderful memory started on the morning of February 28th. I was standing in the shower rinsing the shampoo off of my hair and all of a sudden the room started turning and I lost my balance and the only thing that went through my mind was that I was going to get sick and not be able to leave for Florida. What in fact was happening was an earthquake , it was a strong bump in the road. Our flight was to leave at midnight and I had the whole day planned full of diversions so the day would go fast, well don't you know the whole day was filled with reports on the earthquake. What a departure, so funny now when I look back on it.

Our trip started with a limo ride to the airport, it was a late flight and I thought it was good planning because we could sleep and be there sooner. We had never been to Florida and had no idea what to expect. It was awesome from the very beginning, I am still overwhelmed with all of it.

The first day we were there we went to "Disney's Animal Kingdom", what an experience, the workers are so attentive and courteous, our lst stop was a fun restaurant that had such atmosphere that I can't begin to tell you how great it was, animal sounds and such attention to detail. A great breakfast, there was so much to see and do that we had to just take our time and plan out the day. The tree that is all carved with different animals was so amazing, we went on the Safari Ride and I was told in advance about all the animals, however I was still shocked at the feeling that you are actually in Africa, the grounds are so realistic. After that we went to "The Lion King Musical" , it was a 45minute stage musical and they brought you right into the activities, they picked people out of the audience to participate and it was so fun. We then went on excursions throughout the park, we spent all day there, we bought souvenirs of coarse.

I will have to share a funny story here, we decided that I was going to get one of those electric carts to be able to deal with the fatigue I had from the 7 weeks of radiation, I was so tired. Well, I got the cart okay and that was all that was okay about it. The poor people that walked in front of me, I wasn't a very good driver and nipped their heels. When we went into the Lion King show I backed up over a character and caught his lion mane in the wheel. I decided that I needed lessons and a license to drive so we bagged the wheel chair and decided we would walk slow.

Our next day was a trip to Cape Canaveral and Daytona Beach. We went to the Nascar Museum and took a tour ride on the race track , so fun. What we didn't know was that it was "Harley Davidson's" bike week and there were 50,000 bikers there, what a fun experience. We then went on our way to the ocean and on the way to found a "Krispy Kreme" donut shop, those donuts are so delicious, they melt in your mouth and right onto my hips, I didn't care. If you ever get a chance to have one, do not pass it up. The ocean in Florida is so clean, pure white sand and green looking water and ocean as far as you can see. We had a walk on the beach like we have never had before, it is a feeling I won't soon forget, so beautiful.

Our next day was to MGM studios, I had no idea that so many movies were made there, we saw movie sets, we saw the house of "The Andy Griffith Show" and many others , while on the tour you are taken through the middle of the building where they are actually sewing costumes for a number of movies, the waterfall set was a bit scary , but fun. All this water is coming for you and you know in your head that it isn't going to get you, however you still swear it will. Lots of shops to look in and lots of history of the movies and again the workers are so attentive and everything was so clean.

Our next and most memorable day was "Epcot". There was a storm, I mean a torrential rain storm and a lot of people left thepark, I wasn't about to. We just bought poncho's and went on our way. We had breakfast with all the Disney characters and oh what fun, I felt just like a child, there were so many times that I forgot that I had Cancer. Well, the restaurant turns and it was an all you can eat breakfast, fresh squeezed orange juice and fresh cantaloupe, strawberries and watermelon, I filled up on the fruit, we immediately went on a water ride through the greenhouses where they were growing everything you could

imagine. The whole root system was in a small white bag and climbed up a pole, tomatoes and the vines were an average of 8 feet tall. They were growing cotton, and all sorts of vegetables, it was so interesting, a fun ride and a great beginning to a wonderful day, I can't go all through it, it would fill many pages, we took a boat ride over to the island of country's and they had expos of countries and all the native foods. Because of the weather being so bad, they had a lot of extra food, therefore when we would go into a country exhibit they were walking around with platters of foods for the guests to sample, we spent over 5 hours on this island and I tasted as much as I could hold, France has such wonderful decadent deserts, the pretzel in the German bakery was frosted and tasted so wonderful. Nacho's in Mexico, egg rolls in China, chocolate in a Danish shop, the clothes in the countries are all authentic, because of the weather we were unable to see a lot of the street shows that went on. We didn't have to wait in one line, it was so awesome, I was not the least bit afraid of getting wet, every ride you went on had the opportunity of being splashed anyway, so we didn't melt, we were there for over 9 hours, because of the storm they didn't have the light parade, oh well, another time. Epcot is something I am unable to describe to its fullest. I walked around with my mouth wide open so much. I was struck by the size of the park, I am sure we walked over 6 miles, slow, but when were done at the end of the day I looked back and couldn't believe what we saw.

The final day we spent at " The Magic Kingdom", I did become a child, we did all the things that parents were doing for their children. We loved "Pirates of the Caribbean", The Haunted Castle", Pinochio, Dumbo, the train ride, the monorail, on and on, this day was spent being a child, eating junk and buying more souvenirs. There is such a magical feeling in this park, I totally forgot my Cancer this day. I laughed, cried and felt so much emotion. The weather was perfect and the boat ride to the park was just magic. I was stunned at the huge resorts all around, I was amazed at the size of the crowds, I was a bit intimidated by all of it.

I look back on our experience and it is almost unbelievable. It was a fantasy that you can't imagine, I felt that I was led by the hand the whole way. This would have been a trip we could have never done on our own, The cost in itself I know was way beyond our budget. I was treated with such respect from Fran and Anna and the people at the travel bureau. I felt such a cloud of love around me the whole time. I am so lucky and I won't forget this wonderful memory.