

THE LEGACY OF MOTHER BETTYE L. TAYLOR

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are thy works;
and that my soul knoweth right well." Psalm 139:1

Dear Family and Friends:

It was God's marvelous work when six ordinary people were blessed to be birthed by an EXTRAORDINARY woman. Allow us to share with you the life story of our Mother, Bettye Lou Emma Jefferson Taylor.

Our Mother's immeasurable service to this world began humbly on August 1, 1931, in Greenwood, Mississippi. She was the only child born to the christian lineage of Elder Allen and Sallie Mae Jefferson. Our grandparents lavished our Mom with love and went to great lengths to provide her with all the advantages that life afforded; spiritually, culturally, mentally and physically.

This family was rooted and grounded in the Church of God in Christ, which is where Mother accepted the Lord as her savior and received the precious gift of the Holy Ghost. Early in life, Mother became a church worker in her youth. She learned the skills of kingdom building under the late Bishop B.S. Lyle in Clarksdale, Mississippi. It was also in Clarksdale that she received her primary education.

In 1940, the Jefferson family moved to Chicago, Illinois where Mother graduated from the Wendell Phillips High School. Mother completed her secondary education at the renowned Saints Junior College in Lexington, Mississippi, where she studied Administration and Leadership under Dr. Arenia Mallory.

On November 5, 1949, at Prayer Garden Church of God in Christ on 58th and State in Chicago, our Mom married our dad, Frank Taylor. All who witnessed this relationship will agree that their love was contagious...and that is how we became: Michael Leslie, Frank Lester, Romelle Diane, Jeffery Allen, Lisa Trinnette and Sherri Ruth Annette.

Our parents worked together to build a strong family and became entrepreneurs on the great westside of Chicago, leading in the Real Estate Industry. They were a true power couple before it became popular.

Our family worshiped at Victory Temple Church of God in Christ where Bishop James T. Markham was Pastor. Later, we moved our membership to the King of Glory Tabernacle Church of God in Christ under Bishop Shepard Little. Life at the King of Glory was historical!!

Our Mother was the golden voice of the King of Glory radio broadcast, serving as the announcer for as long as the radio broadcast was in existence. She sang in the Angelic Choir and daddy directed. Mother worked as Auxiliary Secretary and Financial Secretary and daddy Deaconed. Working effortlessly in building "KOG" from 351 S. Kilbourn Ave. to 2314 E. 83rd St. Mother was faithful.

Pastors often said every church needs a Bettye Taylor. She was anointed to administrate and organize people to carry out the vision of the leader. Who could chair a pastor's anniversary better than Bettye Taylor? Her work was not limited to just the local church, she worked as Administrator with then Supt. Little for the Goodwill District.

She became an intricate party in the office of the Bishop of the 1st Jurisdiction with Bishop Louis Henry Ford and with elevation of Bishop Little, doors were opened for her to lend her talents to the national church.

On July 23, 1973 life took a tragic turn for our family. Our dad's life was taken away. Through it all, our Mom kept us together and never missed a beat. We watched our Mom embrace a new lifestyle of traveling, become an avid reader and worked all variations of crossword puzzles.

Although her body was growing feeble, her zeal for kingdom building was intact. Mother joined with the House of Prayer Tabernacle Church of God in Christ led by her son, Dr. Frank Taylor.

Our Mother's love was truly inexpressible. It was a love like nothing else in the world, it was both strong and gentle, loud and quiet, unrelenting and yielding, protecting and releasing, demanding and unassuming. It was one thing in one moment, and another in the next moment. It changed with our needs, but it was always there. Unmoving. Oh but our Mother's love didn't stop with us. One of "Nana's" proudest moments was being active in the lives of her grand-children and receiving the gift of great grand-children and great-great grandchildren. Truly, our Mother's love was limitless and unconditional.

Mother, just as you sang in one of your many songs, "troubles, heartaches and pains will soon be over", that day came for you on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. God summoned you to Glory Land to "rise up and walk" – joining our dad, Deacon Frank Taylor, our brothers, Michael and Jeffrey, our sister, Romelle, your grandson, Jacob, granddaughter, Marshonna, great-granddaughter, Lauren, as well as our grandparents. We are so sure that you are shouting "hallelujah by and by"!

Mother, we will forever be thankful for who you were to so many and the memories that you left for us to cherish with our love and appreciation; one son, Dr. Frank (Cynthia) Taylor; two daughters, Lisa (Pastor David) Ballard, Sherri (John) Kennedy; bonus children, Vivian Taylor and Ralph Thomas. Twenty-Four grandchildren, forty-one great-grandchildren, four great-great grandchildren; your sister-cousin, Milverta, your golden girl sisters; Cora Lee Lewis, Ethola Holified, Florene Miller and Gloria Perry; god daughter, Margo Moore-Pritz, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to caretakers, Stephanie Thompson Harris and Vicki Clarke.

Psalm 91:16 - "With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." - Our Mother now has the ultimate and final victory! To God be the Glory for the Things He Has Done!