

OBITUARY



On June 10th, 1927, in Chicago Illinois, Nathan Hudson and Nancy Carruth welcomed their only child, Frances Louise Hudson into the world. From an early age, Frances was lovingly reared by her biological Aunt Phyllis Ward and her husband William Ward in Chicago, Illinois where she attended the Shiloh Seventh-Day Adventist Church and, in 1944, graduated from Shiloh Adventist Academy. Frances was a precocious learner with a sharp intelligence and a thirst for knowledge. She matriculated at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama in the fall of 1943 at the tender age of 16. She graduated from Oakwood in 1948 with a B.A. degree in Secretarial Science and a minor in Elementary Education, but not before catching, and holding, the eye of Alfred Nelson Bliss, a WWII veteran and theology major at Oakwood College.

On August 28, 1949 they were happily married and she became Frances Hudson Bliss. Four children were born to their union: Alfred Nelson Jr., Andre , Darlene, and, a very welcome late surprise, Shana. During the early years of their marriage, Frances was a devoted wife, aide in ministry, mother, and elementary school teacher. As her husband's pastoral duties took the family to numerous cities and towns, Frances willingly and lovingly taught scores of children in Wichita Falls, TX, Washington DC, Millsboro, DE, Pittsburgh, PA, Columbus, OH, and Greensboro, NC, ultimately teaching each of grades 1 through 9. Whether in a one room school or large educational facility, Frances left lasting impressions of loving but firm expectations of excellence on her students. She also touched many souls while enhancing his ministry with her beautiful touch on the piano and organ. Ministering with her husband was one of the many memorable times in their marriage. Believing in the critical importance of continuing education for continual teacher improvement, Frances resumed her educational pursuits by earning a M.A. degree in Education, with a Specialization in Reading Education from North Carolina A&T State University in 1974. She joined the faculty of Oakwood College that same year. This was an exceptionally challenging time for Frances as her husband had died tragically of a heart attack the previous year, leaving her with two teenagers and a preschooler to raise. Frances never lost her faith in God, and, putting her trust in Him, she determinedly pursued and obtained her Ph.D in Education:

Curriculum and Instruction, with a concentration in Reading and a specialization in Linguistics and Elementary Education from Southern Illinois University, a rare accomplishment for an African -American woman at the time.

Frances loved Oakwood College (now University) and rose through the ranks to Full Professor and ultimately Education Department Chairperson. She also served in other capacities, including as Senior Class Sponsor, and the director of the Summer [] Program. Frances did not limit her gifts to Oakwood; she also served in other educational programs including as an instructor for several summers at the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine Graduate Studies. Frances loved to travel and took extensive trips to numerous locations.



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She also had a passion for Seventh-day Adventist Christian education and continued to work for the success of teachers and schools well past her formal retirement. In recent years she served on the school board of Decatur Adventist Junior Academy, participated in accreditation reviews, consulted on many aspects of curriculum development and school administration, and evaluated and encouraged scores of teachers and principals.

Loved by young and old, Frances, affectionately known as “Mimi,” had a special affinity for children and took great delight in her grandchildren, extended grandchildren, and especially her three great-grandsons. Her hours spent in daily devotion, prayer, and studying the Bible and Spirit of prophecy, led many to a deeper faith in God. Frances enjoyed her family time and could be found most Sabbaths surrounded by a host of family and friends in the home of her precious daughter Shana, who provided exceptionally loving and devoted care to Frances in her later years.

Frances Louise Hudson Bliss will be deeply missed and forever loved. She is survived by her children: Alfred Nelson Bliss, Jr., Darlene Elise Smith, Shana Bliss Taylor (Jeff);

grandchildren: Tiffany Bliss Watkins (David), Domonique Smith Walcott (Shane), Alphonso Andre Smith, Nelson Alexander Smith, Jeffrey Quinn Taylor II and Andrew Otis Taylor;

great-grandchildren: Stephen-Parker Hudson Walcott and Mason Cooper Haiden Walcott, and Miles Avery Watkins siblings: Nathan Hudson, Jr. (Mary), Barbara Hudson Buchanan, Diane Pondexter (Stanley), Charles Hudson (Theresa), Thomas Hudson (Thelma), Stella Hudson, Donald Hudson, Donna Brown (Frank), Rocky Hudson and a host of cherished nieces, nephews, “additional children, grandchildren” and friends.

