



Mother J.M. Taylor

FOOTNOTES FROM A LIFE OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

Mother Johnnie Mae Taylor

1925-2014

**Co-Founder, First Lady and General Mother
New Day Deliverance Holiness Churches, Inc.**

“...I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.” Genesis 17:16
Thus, it could be said of Mother Johnnie Mae Taylor...Handmaiden of the Lord, Beloved Wife, Partner and Co-Laborer in Ministry, Anointed Prophetess, Mother in Zion... as it was spoken by the Lord of Sara, the wife of Abraham, the “Father of Faith.” And though these words were written over four thousand years ago, the echo of their potency can be found in the fulfillment of the life of this phenomenal Woman of God, whose labor and legacy we celebrate today. For surely, she was richly blessed of the Lord, who made her a “Mother” of spiritual nations; and generations of “kings” who lead God’s people today as Shepherds and Overseers have been birthed from her spiritual womb. The impact of her life cannot be fully extolled in such an abridged accounting as we have been granted today. Nevertheless, let us glean from the footnotes that contain the rich truths of her story, and be blessed from the glorious light of Christ as it was reflected from the beauty of her life.

Living

It was a day pregnant with destiny’s potential, filled with the hope of generations yet unborn, when on Friday, April 17, 1925, “Little” Johnnie Mae Armstrong made her auspicious entrance into the world of God’s creation. In 1925, the year of her birth, Calvin Coolidge was presiding in the White House as the United States’ 30th President, and the hard, grueling days of the “Great Depression” had not yet fallen; in what could have been a portent of great things to come in the life of Miss Johnnie Mae, women made great strides in leadership that year, with the election of the first female governor in the nation, Nellie Taylor Ross of Wyoming, and also with Texas having its first ever female governor, Miriam Ferguson, and its first ever all-female State Supreme Court appointed later in the very same year. Little was it known that the Lord had raised up another female, destined for leadership in His Kingdom, and His plan for her would come to fruition in His own time. However, for most African Americans, those days were often difficult and daunting. Many faced, with unparalleled courage, the crushing onslaught of racism and “Jim Crow” segregation, even as many were lynched, beaten and discriminated against for no reason other than the color of their skin.

Yes, the era in which Mother Taylor was born was fraught with dangers and challenges, a time filled with both disappointments and glorious successes. Yet, her advent, though unheralded, was indeed joyfully expected and it brought light into an otherwise dark and dismal world. Her timely birth came as a sweet medley, which sang of hope for a brighter day and a better future; not only for her, but for the many others, whom she would impact during her 89 years of life, and to whom she would bring the light and love of Christ during the 50 years of her very fruitful ministry.

Learning

Born the youngest child of three daughters given in blessing to the holy union of the late Florine and Ted Armstrong in Daingerfield, Texas, Mother Taylor was reared in a warm and godly home that was filled with the nurturing of her strict, but devoted parents, and the joyful camaraderie of her siblings. Her mother, Florine Armstrong, was a very loving and caring person, not only to her own children, but to other family members as well. As Matriarch of the family, Mother Armstrong was the pillar of strength for the Armstrong household, and she built the spiritual foundation that kept the love and knowledge of God ever present in their home.

It was Mother Taylor’s beloved mother who introduced her to the Way of Holiness, and who taught her how to be a woman of virtue, how to fast and pray and the importance of studying and believing God’s Holy Word. She learned the essentialities of “Sanctified” womanhood and lady-like decorum from her mother, along with the art of good cooking, expert sewing, thorough cleaning, and sharp dressing, and how to preside over the domestic activities of a busy household as a helpmate to her husband. It was early in her life, during her formative years that Mother Taylor was taught by her mother to trust in the Lord and to wait in faith upon Him. Mother Armstrong taught her that you could depend on God, and that if you stood on His Word, He would never fail you; whether in sickness, tribulations, trials or troubles, the Lord would see you through.

The strong work ethic and leadership characteristics that Mother Taylor would later embody as she reached for and attained success in life and in her ministry, and which she would later instill in her own family and those under her spiritual oversight, were keenly honed in her by her dearly beloved mother. She and her sisters



You Told Me That You Loved Me

When you told me that you loved me, It was the best I'd ever heard. I told you that I loved you, You put your faith in my word. You showed me that you loved me, From that day until now; And I still love you and will miss you, But I will make it somehow. Yes, you told me in the good times That your love would remain, And you told me, in the bad times That your love would never change. You showed me that you loved me, In every single way; And that's why I'll always love you, You're in my heart every day. Yes, you told me that you loved me, That's what I heard you say; And forever, I will love you; Wait for me, we'll meet again, On that Resurrection Day.

Honey, I'll Love and Miss You Always,

Peppa



Come With Me

The Lord saw you getting tired And a cure was not to be, So He put his arms around you And whispered "Come to me." With tearful eyes we watched you go And saw you fade away. Although we loved you dearly, We could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, Your beautiful smile at rest. God broke our hearts to prove He always takes the best. It's lonesome here without you, We miss you so each day. Our lives just aren't the same Ever since you went away. When days are sad and lonely And everything goes wrong, We'll hear you gently whisper, "Cheer up and carry on." Each time we see your picture, You'll seem to smile and say, "Don't cry, I'm in God's keeping, We'll meet again someday."

Mom, We Love You So Much,

Doris & Jerome

learned as children that nothing worth having came without sacrifice, and that you had to have "true grit" and an unstoppable determination in order to achieve your goals. Mother Taylor understood early on, that if you set your goals, worked hard, and placed your faith in God and obeyed His Word, you could triumph over any obstacle in life.

As a little girl and young lady she received her formal education in the Daingerfield Public Schools; and although her dream was to continue on to college, Mother Taylor unselfishly placed her education on hold in order to care for her mother, who, by this time, had become a widow. In the year 1946 she moved from Daingerfield to Houston, Texas in hopes of finding a better living for her and her mother, and it was there that she became employed. Throughout the rest of her life, Mother Taylor was blessed to have had several occupations. At the age of 21, she began working at Bob Robertson Chevrolet Company, one of the oldest car dealerships in the Houston area. She was employed by that company for almost 30 years.

Laboring

Although Mother Taylor was reared in a praying home, and had been exposed to Pentecostal Holiness since her childhood, it was not until she was in her early 30's that her mother's prayers and witness of holiness bore fruit in her life. It was then, when hearing once again the convicting Gospel of Jesus Christ and the message of Holiness and deliverance from the bondage of sin, that she fully surrendered to the Lord and was sweetly and wonderfully saved while attending her mother's home church, Wiley

Temple Church of God in Christ in Houston, Texas. The Lord soon thereafter baptized her with the precious gift of the Holy Ghost and fire, as evidenced by her speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave utterance, according to Acts 2:4. This glorious experience began for her a new life in the Kingdom of God, and commenced the preparation for her destiny as an anointed Handmaiden of the Lord.

For the rest of her life Mother Taylor's entire being would be wholly given over to the praise and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and her fervency for God would never be abated nor diminished. Mother loved the Lord with all of her soul, might, mind and strength, and always sought to please Him, whom she worshipped with great passion and sincerity. She believed in true Holiness and never compromised her convictions from the Word of the Lord. During her years as a young Saint in Christ, Mother Taylor was a loyal member of two of the largest Pentecostal churches in Houston; first, Evangelist Temple Church of God in Christ, under the pastoral leadership of Superintendent Joe Edward Nelson, and later the Bible Days Revival Ministries, under the pastoral leadership of Apostle E. W. Wilcots. Mother Taylor did whatever was assigned to her hands to do, and much, much more; cooking for and participating in church dinners and bake sales, and cleaning and preparing the House of God for worship. She was a talented tailor and a seamstress and would often be called upon to create beautiful and elegant attire for various pastor's wives. She labored diligently and faithfully in each of the churches where she served, and grew in the work of the Lord.

Loving

At the age of 39, Mother Taylor was united in holy matrimony with the love of her life, Apostle Richard Taylor on April 11, 1959. For 55 years, they have been soulmates in love and partners in the Gospel. She has been his rock and the backbone of his life and ministry. Theirs was a love seldom seen except in movies or romance novels, with a bond that could only be broken by her untimely homegoing. Mother Taylor loved the Apostle deeply (whom she affectionately called "Papa") and committed herself fully to his vision and ministry. Together they built a strong family and household of faith, rearing their children in the fear of the Lord. She was a devoted wife, and a loving mother, and later, an adoring grandmother, who loved her family fiercely like a proud lioness.

God's hand was surely upon her life, for it was her "Sanctified Witness" along with her mother's prayers that helped bring conviction to her husband Richard, and soon he lifted up his hands in surrender to God and was saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. Now they were both ready to fulfill the glorious calling and purpose for which they had been ordained since before they were birthed from their mother's wombs. After his acknowledgement of his call to the Gospel ministry, Apostle Taylor launched out into the deep in the year of 1965 and, by the unction of the Holy Ghost, founded and organized New Day Temple Church of God in Christ. The first location was in a little store front building on Polk Street in Houston, Texas.

Standing and laboring right by his side was his beloved wife and companion, Mother Johnnie Mae Taylor, who founded and established the work along with him. The anointing of the Lord for deliverance rested greatly upon the ministry, even in those early days, and soon the little sanctuary was packed. Souls were saved, bodies were healed, demons were casted out and a mighty deliverance was unleashed in the earth as Apostle and Mother Taylor ministered long and hard in the harvest fields of the Kingdom.

Leading

She readily accepted the call as a Pastor's Wife and First Lady of the growing congregation and plunged into, what would become, the heart and soul of her very being...service to others, a passion to reach lost sinners for Christ and the upbuilding of the Body of Christ everywhere – but most of all – the growth, edification and well-being of the New Day Deliverance Holiness Church. New Day was her LIFE! More than any other person, with the exception of her own beloved husband, she labored long and hard to help establish and maintain the work at New Day. New Day would not exist today without the love, devotion, faithfulness and hard work of Mother Johnnie Mae Taylor.

Mother Taylor continued to pray and fast, leading the people of God in total consecration unto the Lord. Soon New Day had to move to a larger facility, a beautiful and spacious Jewish Synagogue and Temple, on Crawford Street. Although financial difficulties arose at that location, Mother Taylor stayed on her face before God in sack-cloth and ashes, and kept the faith. She never wavered, not in the least little bit, but remained strong by her husband's side, lifting him up and encouraging him through all the hard times and adversities until the victory came. The Lord blessed the ministry with a third location and the church moved to 3909 DeChaumes Street. Mother Taylor never stopped fasting or praying during this time, but stood on faith for an even larger house of worship. The congregation had increased massively and was in need of yet another edifice. Mother Taylor knew that nothing was impossible with God, and so she proclaimed that "by faith" it was done. On June 5, 1977, God magnificently answered her prayers, and New Day Deliverance Holiness Church (as it was now named) moved from DeChaumes Street to the splendid and majestic present location at 9001 Mesa Drive. To God Be the Glory!!!

Not long after the emergence of the local ministry, the Lord elevated her husband to the Bishopric and gave him to found and establish a fellowship of churches under his episcopal and apostolic oversight. Mother Taylor stood in perfect unity with the Man of God for the formation of this great and lofty vision, and together they birthed the New Day Deliverance Holiness Churches, Incorporated. Their work spans several states, from New York in the north to Alabama in the south and westward to Michigan, Louisiana and Texas. With a global and international vision, Dr. Richard Taylor presides over the fellowship as Founder, Chief Apostle and Senior Bishop, with Mother Taylor having faithfully served as his Co-Founder, First Lady and General Mother of the entire work. Many of today's leading Apostles, Bishops, Overseers, Superintendents, Pastors, Evangelists, Missionaries, Mothers and First Ladies were saved, filled with the Holy Ghost, prayed for, trained and taught by her at the New Day Church as new converts to Holiness. Nationally, Mother served on the Executive Board and the Council of Bishop's Wives; she also served as State President of the Minister's Wives for Texas.

Over the many years of her tenure as First Lady of New Day, she founded, organized and served as President of several auxiliaries and departments of the church, and labored effectively in various leadership capacities with dedication, loyalty and faithfulness. Mother knew how to work well with and motivate others, and was an expert in planning and organizing in order to accomplish any task. She organized outreach programs and mission programs, both for home and in the foreign fields.

As the First Lady and President of the Missionary Board, Mother Taylor upheld the highest standards of virtue as a living role model for the Sisters of the church, and she prayerfully mentored multitudes of young women, who loved, honored and revered her as their "Mother in the Lord." With her warm smile, wise and seasoned counsel, personable manner and compassionate spirit, she transformed their lives with the love of Christ. She taught her spiritual daughters how to love and obey their husbands, how to nurture and train their children. She taught them to obey and follow spiritual leadership and to be faithful to Christ and His Church. Mother Taylor taught her daughters how to walk in the beauty of Holiness and to let the glory of the Lord shine through from the inside. She taught them to shun worldliness and the works of the flesh, and to dress as

THE NATIONAL RESOLUTIONEvangelist Gayle Johnson
New Day Deliverance Holiness Churches, Inc.
(All others will be acknowledged and presented to the family)
Acknowledgement of Cards and Condolences

THE NATIONAL TRIBUTESNDDHC, Inc. Departments & Auxiliaries
Executive Administration
Pastor James F. Taylor
National Treasurer – New Day Deliverance Holiness Churches, Inc.

National Women's Department & Bishop's Wives Council
Pastor Lucille Lane
First Lady - Harvest Time Holiness Church - Baytown, Texas

National Mother's Board
Elect Lady Musetta Hosey
Senior Pastor - New Day Word and Action Ministry - San Augustine, Texas

Council of Bishops & Pastors
Bishop Herbert Smith
Senior Pastor - God's Hospital Church - Dallas, Texas

THE MINISTRY OF MUSICNew Day Deliverance Holiness Church Adult Choir

THE TRIBUTARY REMARKS....."Reflections from the Life, Labor & Legacy of God's Servant"
Representing Mother Taylor's Spiritual Sons and Daughters
Overseer Marvin Brock
*Senior Pastor - New Start Deliverance Holiness Church
Dallas, Texas*

Representing Pastors and Ministers
Overseer W. B. O'Neal
*Senior Pastor - Mount Canaan Full Gospel Church
Birmingham, Alabama*

THE FOOTNOTES FROM A LIFE OF FAITHFUL SERVICE.....Read Silently to Soft Music

THE SERMONIC SELECTIONSPsalmist Helen Miller
National Recording Artist – West Palm Beach, Florida

THE MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR THE RESURRECTIONBishop Hosea Lane
Senior Pastor - Harvest Time Holiness Church - Baytown, Texas

THE BENEDICTORY PRAYER.....Elder Lorenzo Bonds
Senior Pastor – Temple of Deliverance in Christ - Gary, Indiana

† **THE RECESSIONAL OF THE FUNERAL CORTEGE**.....Clergy and Family

The National Celebration of Rejoicing for
Mother Johnnie Mae Taylor

Co-Founder and First Lady

New Day Deliverance Holiness Churches, Inc.

The Order of Celebration

BISHOP HERBERT SMITH

Senior Pastor – God’s Hospital Church

ELDER DARRELL E. MARTIN

Assistant Pastor – New Day Deliverance Holiness Church

CO-PRESIDERS

Please stand where indicated by †

THE PRELUDE.....Musicians

† **THE PROCESSIONAL OF THE FUNERAL CORTEGE**.....Clergy and Family

~ **The Processional Order** ~

Adjutants

Presiding Prelates

Bishops

Overseers

Superintendents

Pastors

First Ladies

The Taylor Family

Entrance of the Spouse – Apostle Richard Taylor

† **THE SEALING OF THE BIER**.....Allen Dave Funeral Directors

† **THE HYMN OF CELEBRATION**.....Choir and Congregation

† **THE PRAYER OF COMFORT**.....Bishop E. L. Usher

Senior Pastor - Greater Grace Outreach Church - Houston, Texas

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON - Proverbs 31: 10-31.....Elder Donald Coleman

Senior Pastor - Mount Carmel Holiness Church - Chicago, Illinois

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON - I Thessalonians 4:13-18.....Bishop Milton Woods

Senior Pastor - Bethel Deliverance Tabernacle International – Taylor, Michigan

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC.....New Day Deliverance Holiness Church Adult Choir

becometh Holiness, the way all true sanctified women should dress and adorn themselves. This was the standard that Mother Taylor maintained and practiced throughout her entire saved life, never changing or compromising her belief in the Word of God as she was taught it by her mother and other Mothers and Missionaries of the church; and it was this same standard of holiness that she, herself taught the many women who sat under her leadership and tutelage during the course of her ministry, and she never, ever changed, but was always a shining example of what a Woman in Christ should look and live like.

She organized the women of the church into an effective ministry, leading them in raising many, many thousands of dollars for the work of the Lord; and establishing outreach ministries, including: ministry to prisons and penal institutions, hospital and nursing home visitation, street evangelism, ministry to the residents of homeless shelters and missions, and foreign missionary support. She created many beautiful and elaborate services celebrating the role of holy women in the church, all of which were great successes and which greatly blessed and lifted the Saints. Apostle Taylor could always count on Mother to support the vision, work and mission of the church wholeheartedly. She didn’t complain or jabber about the work that needed to be done – she just did it – and did it well. Her record of sacrifice and service to New Day is unsurpassed and none shall see her like in this generation again.

Lifting

On November 29, 1977 Mother Taylor received her license as an Evangelist from the hands of her co-laborer and husband, Apostle Taylor. Although she had always been a gifted speaker for many years, and had traveled with her husband, assisting him in the evangelistic efforts of his ministry, she now stepped out on faith on her own and began to deliver the Word of God with a fresh and powerful anointing. She preached with power and conviction, and taught the Word of God with tremendous vision and spiritual insight. The Lord approved of her labor and gave her a great harvest of souls everywhere she went proclaiming the good news. Many were saved, filled with the Holy Ghost, healed, delivered and set free through her prayers and under her tremendous evangelistic ministry in her revivals, crusades and prayer meetings. Soon her personal ministry reached a national level and she implemented her vision to organize and host an Annual Women’s Conference which provided leadership training for women in ministry. Through the prophetic mantle which rested upon her, the Rhema Word of the Lord was proclaimed and accomplished in the lives of many, and their testimonies acclaim the conformation of His promises.

Mother Taylor was gifted with the ability to “lift” and “encourage” you, regardless of the situation; she was able to help you to look beyond your present pain, and through praise, see God’s promise. Her loving and compassionate manner was a blessing to all who knew her. Her humor was contagious and refreshing, and she loved clean fun, good food, sweet fellowship and a great time with others. Mother’s sage counsel and spiritual wisdom helped guide and nurture countless young people, both within the church and without. She was a powerful intercessor, who sought the Lord in fasting and prayer until the yokes of Satan’s bondage were destroyed, leading the Saints in shut-ins and all night prayer services. When difficult situations would arise, Mother Taylor’s words of wisdom were always “God will work it out.” In spite of the physical challenges that confronted her health in the evening of her long life, Mother Taylor never gave up, but grounded her faith in the God whom she had served, loved, worshiped and trusted all of her days. Our Mother was a priceless jewel, whose radiance, moral excellence and character was flawless; she served the people of God with honor, integrity, faithfulness and vision, and they loved her for it.

Legacy

A true “Matriarch” in every sense of the word, Mother Taylor’s insightful wisdom, generosity of spirit and indomitable strength served as the cornerstone of her family, whom she loved, nurtured and sustained all the days of her life. Quietly and without fanfare or the spotlight she gave generously to others, taking delight in seeing them happy and making sure they always had what they needed. She loved and was loved by her sisters, and built lifelong relationships with her friends. Yes, Mother Taylor was an exemplary woman, beautifully unique, who lived life with classic style, stately elegance and queenly grace. Renowned as a sharp and fashionable dresser with a keen eye for color and clothes, she was the epitome of confident, competent and capable womanhood, the quintessential “Proverbs 31 Woman.” She was a deeply committed wife and dedicated mother, with an unyielding love and devotion for her husband, her family and her church. During the course of her professional, religious life she received many awards and recognitions for outstanding service, far too numerous to list here.

Indeed, time and space does not allow today for a thorough recital of Mother Taylor’s many milestones and achievements in this brief narrative; neither could it be possible to tell of all the many joys and wonders of her blessed and eventful life. Simply let it suffice to be said of our precious Mother, that she was the heart and soul of our family and our church, our standard bearer, the keeper of our flame. She loved her family, the Saints, and all of her dear and lifelong friends with a deep and unbroken passion. She adored her husband, and always stood ready to generously help those in need.

Mother Taylor leaves a tremendous legacy as a devoted family and church Matriarch. But most of all, she leaves a spiritual legacy of true Holiness, unequaled and irreplaceable, as an anointed "Woman of God" and as a praying, sanctified, Pentecostal "Mother in Zion." Her contribution to the Body of Christ and the work of the Lord's Kingdom is so vast and encompassing that it is difficult to adequately articulate. Both the tangible and intangible effects of her influence and her indelible touch upon the lives of others transcends time and spans generations. Her life's impact cannot be measured in physical concepts nor assessed in numerical terms. And though she will no longer dwell with us in body, her spirit yet remains alive. And while it breaks our hearts to let her go, the fragrance of her memories will abide with us forever. Sleep now, our beloved and precious Mothertake your rest. Lay down your sword and shield, to study war no more. It's been a long day and we must say farewell.... but we will see you again in the morning.

Leaving

Mother Taylor was preceded in death by her parents; her two sisters, Ellen Marie Perry, Vivian Hastine Johnson; and one son, Wayne Carlton Taylor. She leaves to rejoice in her homegoing and await her resurrection, her beloved husband: Apostle Richard Taylor; children: Doris Jean Taylor, Richard Taylor, Jr. and Hazel Jean Taylor; grandchildren: Jerome Russo, Trovojye Taylor, Marcus Taylor, Gwenette Shanae Taylor, LaShawn Bryant and Tarik Bryant; great-grandchildren: Trovojye Taylor II, D'Andre Taylor, Dionne Taylor, Christopher Osborne, Tyzhanie Sims, Romarcus Warren, Marcella Warren, Marchael Bryant, Myecia Bryant, Chasse Semien, Ra'quan Bryant and Nicholas Taylor; God-daughters: Vanessa Nelson, Sherry Thomas and Brenda Johnson; other relatives and friends; her Sons and Daughters in the ministry; and her New Day Deliverance Holiness Church Family



In Tribute to Our Beloved First Lady

She was the Founder of our Church, The First Lady of our flock; She led us to the One above, The safe and solid Rock. She taught with power and conviction, With prayer she bore the heavy load; She blazed the trail and paved the way, And shined the light along life's road. A Friend and Mother to us all, She reached out to those in need; She served the poor and healed the hurting, And the hungry she did feed. Our Mother taught us to live Holy, To walk by faith and never doubt; She lived the Sanctified life before us, And showed us what it's all about. Her heart was filled with great compassion, For the sinner, bound and chained; She labored long in God's vineyard, 'Til many souls she had gained. So we salute our precious First Lady, For all the work God had her do; We'll remember what she taught us, To God's Word we will be true. Rest now, Mother. We will see you in the morning. With our unfailing love,

Your New Day Church Family