STRAIGHTWAY

And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him [Mark 1:18].

CHRISTIAN PURITIES FELLOWSHIP

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A Tribute to a Mother in Israel

Dr. H. T. Spence

October 4, 2007, God's Sovereignty summoned my dear mother home to her eternal rest in Christ. Her life's providential appointment was to be a wife of a preacher, a mother of three children, a grandmother of ten, and great grandmother of seven. As a teacher and honorable leader among women she was affectionately known as Dr. Joye. She would have been 82 years old had she lived until October 31st.

Over eleven years ago she suffered a debilitating stroke, which necessitated retirement from an active life of service to her Lord. Subsequent strokes only deepened her physical infirmity. It became the privilege of my wife and me to oversee her care following the passing away of her husband Dr. O. Talmadge Spence after almost 53 years of marriage. She nobly carried her deep sufferings in the will of God without murmur or complaint. She was a grand lady of grace throughout her years; she has left us a legacy of *Christ, character*, and *culture* marked by the grace of her Lord. As she rested at our home, the Lord called her home early Thursday morning during our annual Congress of Christian Fundamentalists at Foundations.

Being the firstborn of a precious, godly couple, I took the responsibilities of care for my father in the last five months of his life and then of our dear mother for the past seven and one-half years. We counted it no inconvenience in our duty and

love for them both. Furthermore, the family is deeply indebted to her caregivers who continued faithfully over the years providing care during the day hours in order for my wife and me to continue ministering in the Foundations Ministries. We acknowledge these dear ladies who viewed this privilege as a ministry and calling upon their lives: Mrs. Susan Wilson, a registered nurse, was the chief caregiver for the majority of the years; she was assisted in the recent years and the final months by Mrs. Bettina Wilson, Mrs. Doris Nighswonger, Miss Mishal Macomber, and Mrs. Laurie Gaskins. We are also grateful for the Foundations families that daily support this ministry into which my dear father and mother poured their lives for Christ's glory. They also lovingly and respectfully assisted behind the scenes with invaluable support of strength and devotion during these years. Dr. Joye will be missed as her husband has been.

STRAIGHTWAY

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Appropriately, we have laid her body to rest in the Paracleft Cemetery on the Foundations' campus with the hope that her precious spiritual legacy will continue to live on in the hearts and lives of others whom she touched over the many years of her ministry. She truly was a "Mother in Israel." Such a title is rare in Scripture and should be carefully viewed in the light of its context and in the light of the times in which we live. A mother is a woman, but she is a woman of unique character that aids children. However, a "Mother in Israel" is one who is a protector and defender of a nation. Before we consider this title, let us first view the biblical view of womanhood.

A Woman Viewed at the Fall

In the scheme of creation, God's final work of natural creation was that of the woman. This unique creature of God was taken from within the man, his tender part, the bone and flesh of his body. When Adam saw this created entity, he immediately acknowledged that it was part of himself (Genesis 2:23). The Hebrew word for woman is ishshah; it is identified with the deeper word ish (the man). In contrast to "man," meaning "to be strong," ishshah means "to be soft," denoting that part of man's anatomy from whence she came. She was to give her life and existence to the man as a counterpart, to serve in helping the man. Adam, the man, was placed in the Garden of Eden

not only to dress or till the garden but also to "keep it" or to watch, guard, and look after it (Genesis 2:15). Adam was made outside the garden and placed within the garden (Genesis 2:8), but the woman was made within the garden (2:21).

We know the story well. A beast of the field entered that garden. Instead of watching, guarding, and looking after it, Adam permitted the serpent to enter the garden as well as permitted him to talk to his helpmeet. She became the active one in those moments and Adam became the passive one. As a result, she was fully deceived into partaking of the forbidden fruit while Adam was not deceived (First Timothy 2:14). He allowed the commandment of God to be broken and partook himself of that forbidden fruit and plunged the whole human race into sin and death.

God did a most precious thing in appointing the avenue through which the saving of humanity would come. Though salvation would be wrought through a man, the avenue through which he would come was the one who initiated the Fall—the soft one, the weak one, the WOMAN (Genesis 3:15). We are told in Jeremiah 31:22, "A woman shall compass a man." Before man left the garden we read, "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living." He believed that through her all life of the future humanity would come.

It is interesting that this would be

the last time that Adam would name anything. In Genesis four Eve conceived two sons (possibly twins) to whom she gave their names. Later in chapter four she would likewise name Seth. The woman took the prominent role in the Fall, with the man pursuing in passivity yet with full consciousness of what he was doing. Adam should have stopped the process of the temptation in Genesis three in the conversation of his wife with the serpent, but he did not. As the serpent became the tempter to Eve, Eve became the temptress to Adam.

Women in the Bible

The study of womanhood in Scripture unfolds in a variety of ways, expressing excellency of character in a few women, nominal character in some, and evil character in most others. A brief list would enhance our understanding of the diversity of character found among them.

The historical presentation of women in Scripture reveals the sad contributions that a number of them gave to their husbands and families. Besides the first woman Eve, another wife the Bible includes is Lot's wife. Although the Scriptures do not reveal any details of her influence upon Lot's decision to move to Sodom, one wonders if Lot was not a more passive man dominated by his wife's desires. She was a woman who stayed behind her husband Lot in the exodus from Sodom. Luke's exhortation to "remember

Lot's wife" is in the context of leaving all possessions of materialism behind (Luke 17:31-33). This passage seems to reveal the key reason for her looking back although her husband and two daughters were out in front of her. When did Lot finally realize that she was not with him in the flight? There are those women for which materialism is the dominating control of their earthly existence.

Job's wife is another woman who was caught in the circumstances of losing everything she had of tangible worth including her children. Although we find her conspicuously silent in the first chapter of the book of Job, in the second chapter, when her husband was smitten physically, she cries out for him to curse God and die. Women must be careful in the sufferings and crises of life, that they do not lose hope and trust in God. To the contrary, they must become the encouragement of home and heart for a husband.

We also read of Rebekah, who became a deceptive woman influencing her son Jacob toward this family sin. Her acts of deception toward her husband kept her from ever seeing her son Jacob again. Then there was Rachel, the darling love of Jacob's life, who deceived her husband by hiding the idols that she had stolen from her father. Scripture also records Michal, David's wife, and her great disdain for his spirituality before God (Second Samuel 6:20-23). Solomon's wives

drew his heart away from the living God (First Kings 11); Jezebel "stirred up her husband to wickedness"; and Herodius hated the preaching of John the Baptist and stirred Herod to commit him to death by beheading.

Silly Women of the New Testament

The Bible prophesied in Second Timothy 3:6 that in the last days "silly women" would mark the institutional churches. Such a title is a title of contempt. We are told that "of this sort" (the men mentioned in the previous verses) come the ones who "creep" into the houses and "lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts." Apostate men prey on such women, coming into their homes (in real life or via the television) under false pretense, stealthily, to bring them under mind and emotional control. Proneness to be deceived is part of their being silly. They are women who have a craving and passionate desire for different things. They tend to rule the man by their wants and their beliefs. They even profess to be more spiritual than their husbands (3:7).

The Godly Woman

Despite such poor examples of women in Scripture, there have been godly women mentioned in the Scripture who found their divine appointment in life. Although Sarah convinced her husband to attempt the will of God through the flesh in marrying Hagar, we must see that her life triumphed later. Hebrews 11:11 states that "through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised." Also, First Peter 3:6 states, "Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement." She truly is an example of one who recovered from a failure with her husband.

Abigail is presented in First Samuel 25 as one who saved her husband's life through her wisdom, and yet God personally took her husband in death a few days later. Ruth is viewed as an obedient daughter-in-law whom God truly blessed. Judges 4 and 5 speak of Heber's wife Jael, a woman given to hospitality; nevertheless, she knew what to do with an enemy of God. It must also be acknowledged that Noah's wife was a woman who was willing to stay with her husband even in days when others did not believe him. And there is the mother of Jesus, who as a young woman told the angel, "Be it unto me according to thy Word" (Luke 1:38).

The book of Proverbs speaks of a number of women: the evil woman, the contentions woman, the odious woman, the harlot, the whore, the adulterous woman, and the strange woman. But Proverbs 31 becomes a chapter dedicated to the virtuous woman and concludes the

book with the characteristics that mark such a woman. Interesting to note, these characteristics are given by a woman who is warning her son about bad women. The mother of King Lemuel (meaning "devoted to God") is responding to the query "what": "What my son? And what, the son of my womb? And what the son of my vows?" Or "What shall I warn you of, the son of my womb and the son given in answer to prayer?" She then proceeds to warn him of those vices—licentiousness, wine, and strong drink—that would destroy kings. She pleads with him to act righteously, stand up for those who are appointed to destruction, and plead the cause of the poor and needy. She will conclude her words of warning against wrong women. This woman, perhaps Bathsheba, whose life earlier was a moral failure, now is crying for strength, and gives us the golden characteristics that mark a good woman, a woman blessed of God. The woman, the tender gender, is called to be strong in life: "Who can find a virtuous woman?"

A Mother in Israel

In days of great apostasy, God raised up a woman named Deborah (Judges 4-5). She called herself a "mother in Israel" (5:7) meaning that she played the role of "mother" to the nation of Israel at this time. In days when few men were found to lead and inspire others for God, this dear woman became the inspiration for the nation. She became

an honorable mother in leadership, giving the law and guidance of a mother. Although Barak will do the fighting, she will be the mother to inspire him to fight and do the will of the Lord. Apostasy has a way of making a people immature and childish; Israel clearly fit this description at this point in its history.

II Samuel 20:19 reveals that a city could be viewed as a "mother in Israel." When Sheba was out to destroy David, an unnamed woman made it clear to David that she and her city were not against him and were not in sympathy with Absalom's late rebellion. Often cities were called daughter cities of a mother city such as Jerusalem (Ezekiel 16:27 and 46). Thus there are some cities, some ministries, that become a "mother in Israel" in their influence, teaching, encouragement, and counsel to other ministries. Such a city is called a "mother in Israel."

Conclusion

In reflecting upon my dear mother's life and legacy, I truly believe she was appointed by providence as a mother in Israel. I have received letters and emails from a number of her students in recent weeks declaring how she was an inspiration to them for the battle against the apostasy and sin. Both young men and women told of classes she taught; and no matter the subject, she gave them the law of God for that subject. She was faithful in guiding and leading as only a

mother, a spiritual mother, could do. She had learned well the Word of God, both through her husband's preaching over many years and her own life's experiences that took her to both the bright and dark sides of providence. Although she was a strong woman in character, she was always under the headship of her husband. As an earthly mother and a spiritual mother, she has been a great inspiration to me throughout my life, especially in days of youthful waywardness. She was equally a great encouragement to me in my calling as a preacher. Her life of dignity as a woman, her gentle heart in love, her guiding words of inspiration and honorable exhortation came from a genuine heart that loved the Lord and the Truth. She saw the apostasy and especially how it was creeping into the music of conservative churches. She established a true foundation in the beginning years of the Fine Arts Department of Foundations Bible College and helped to make this modest ministry a "mother in Israel" among a number who looked to us for help and spiritual support. A woman of strong convictions, she equally knew her place as a woman.

We will miss her life among us; she was a final tangible link to the founding days of this good ministry. A good number among us knew her in her prime of life for the Lord; the next generation will not have that privilege. Therefore her life and teachings must continue in the hearts

and lives of those who knew her. They must perpetuate the principles to those whom God will raise up for the future. May God call others to pick up the mantle and forward the faith of Christ and His Word.

In a day when women are weak and given to sentimentality and subjective feelings, may God raise up a band of women who will rise above themselves, above the weakness of womanhood, and be a mother in Israel for their generation. May they know their place in honorable submission to their husband and yet in the appropriate appointment of influence step forward to be the woman for God.

The Christian Woman

Teaching Christ, Character, and Culture to Christian Women

The Christian Woman is a radio program with Dr. Joye Spence, past dean of the Fine Arts Department of Foundations Bible College. Recorded during the 1990s, *The Christian Woman* first aired on the college radio station. There are six 15-minute broadcasts per cassette for a total of 194 programs in all.

In contrast to the contemporary and feminist views of womanhood, Dr. Joye Spence presents a wide variety of topics for Christian ladies that encourage biblical nobility in the feminine gender. The tone of the programs ranges from serious presentations of biblical principles to very practical applications of those principles in the Christian lady's life. *The Christian Woman* will be appropriate for both the young Christian lady and the more seasoned Christian woman.

The set contains four volumes. \$30.00 per volume + s&h \$120.00 per set + s&h

The Christian Woman radio program can be heard regularly on www.fbcradio.org

(Saturday at 6:30 AM and 6:30 PM)

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

DR. JOYE SPINNEY SPENCE OCTOBER 31, 1925 - OCTOBER 4, 2007



A MOTHER IN ISRAEL

BUT A WOMAN THAT FEARETH THE LORD, SHE SHALL BE PRAISED.
PROVERBS 31:30B

WIFE OF DR. O. TALMADGE SPENCE
FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT
FOUNDATIONS BIBLE CHURCH, COLLEGE & MINISTRIES

FIRST DEAN OF THE FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Dr. Joye Spinney Spence

Dr. Joye Spinney Spence, the wife of the late Dr. O. Talmadge Spence (founder and first president of Foundations Bible College), passed away Thursday, October 4, 2007. Mrs. Spence was dean of the Fine Arts Department of Foundations Bible College from its inception in 1974 until 1996 when a stroke necessitated her retirement. She lived with her elder son, Dr. H. T. Spence in Dunn.

Born in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, "Dr. Joye" Spence began a lifelong love for music under the training of her mother, Mildred Marguerite Spinney. In her teen years she hosted a musical program on a local radio station. She attended Mt. Allison Music Conservatory in Canada and was the voice protégée of Kathryn McKensie and Iris Copcutt. Shortly before her mother's death, her mother requested that she attend Bob Jones College, where she met her husband, Dr. O. Talmadge Spence. They were married in 1947. Dr. Joye also studied at Furman University and later earned a Bachelor of Sacred Letters from Holmes Theological Seminary. In 1979 she received a Masters of Religious Education and in 1987 a Doctorate of Religious Education from Foundations Graduate School.

Along with the responsibilities of mother and pastor's wife, for thirtyfive years Dr. Joye taught music history, hymnology, the art of accompanying, vocal literature, speech, and other related fine arts courses, as well as private voice classes at Bible-institute, Christian-academy, Biblecollege, and seminary levels. As a gifted mezzo-soprano, she dedicated her talent to the Lord and to her husband's life-long Christian ministry. For the married ladies of Foundations Bible Collegiate Church she served untiringly as the president of the Katharina Society. For many years she was the dean of women of Foundations Bible College. As the hostess of the radio broadcast "The Christian Woman," Dr. Joye recorded approximately two hundred 15-minute lectures on pertinent topics for Christian women. These programs initially aired over the college's AM station and are still heard over several Christian radio stations throughout the United States as well as over the college's web radio station. At the prompting of her husband, Dr. Joye completed her book Artistry In Voice in 1995. The work is dedicated to not only the vocal technique but also the personal character of the Christian vocalist. Foundations Press published her work that same year, just five months before her stroke. She was also a member of the Betsy Johnson Hospital Auxiliary and the Dunn Woman's Club.

The Family of Dr. Joye Spinney Spence Gratefully Acknowledges Those Who Assisted In the Memorial Service of Their Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother

Rev. Michael Riley .	Pastor of Killian Hill Baptist Church
	(Lilburn, Georgia)
Dr. Lawrence Jackson	on Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church
	(Glen Burnie, Maryland)

Pallbearers

Garry Huff	Devon Miller	
Mark Wilson, Jr.	Martin Ausdenmoore	
Gary Dean	Patrick Nighswonger	
Mark Wilson, Sr.	Montgomery Ballard	
Mike Hannon		

Music By Dennis Lowry, Soloist Mishal Macomber, Soloist

Daniel Macomber, Harpist Jeanne Wilson, Flautist Robert Wilson, Pianist & Organist

Myra Lowry, Organist

Foyer Elders & Deacons

David Blackstock Alan Daughtry Melvin Love Ken House

Dr. Joye's Caregivers

Susan Michele Wilson Doris Nighswonger Laurie Gaskins Bettina Wilson Mishal Macomber

FAMILY MEMBERS

SONS, Dr. Hubert Talmadge Spence II, Dr. Paul Eric Spence
DAUGHTER, Sharman Spence Williams
SON-IN-LAW, Dr. Kenneth Williams
DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW, Joy Klepper Spence, Janine Keith Spence
SISTER, Isobel Bruce

GRANDCHILDREN, Othniel T. Spence II, Carrie Spence Lowry Jessica Kathryn Spence, Gareth John Williams, Stephen Paul Williams Alec Douglas Williams, Priscilla Abigail Spence, Julia Evangeline Spence Star Spence, Sky Spence

SEVEN GREAT GRANDCHILDREN

ORDER OF MEMORIAL SERVICE

for

Dr. Joye Spinney Spence

October 6, 2007

Procession of Family"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"
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Hymn – "Rock of Ages"
Personal Words from a Friend Dr. Lawrence Jackson
"Haven of Rest" Piano
Hymn – "Is Your All on the Altar"
Personal Words
"The Justice of God" Recording
Hymn – "Grace, Amazing Grace, My Song" Solo
Memorial Sermon Pastor Michael Riley
"It Is Well with My Soul" Solo
Closing Prayer Dr. Douglas Wilson
Hymn – "Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart"Congregation
Recessional to Grave Site

We cordially invite everyone to follow the walking procession to the Paracleft Cemetery for the graveside service.

The procession will exit the north door of Anvil House and follow the route around the parking lot and road to the Paracleft Cemetery.

For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. Isaiah 50:7

We acknowledge the behind-the-scenes assistance of the Cromartie, Miller & Lee Funeral Home.

And we express deep appreciation for you who have come to share in our loss and to rejoice in our mother's gain – In Heaven with Christ.

GRACE, AMAZING GRACE, MY SONG

Written in 1992 for Dr. Joye Spence by her son, Dr. H. T. Spence (The Testimony of Her Heart's Belief)

High on Heaven's throne Sits the God of my soul! Naked stands my life before Him: He knows—yes, He knows! Vile the plague of sin's pollution: Wretched shame my soul!

Born depraved by sin; Adam's curse on my soul. Fallen creature, nature's midnight! He knows, yes, He knows. My own sins increased the ruin: Wretched state my soul!

Night of nights, how dark!

Helpless state of my soul!

Blood pollution stained the guilty;

I know, yes, I know.

But God pitied me through Calv'ry;

Loved and saved my soul!

Joyfully I sing!
Grace has come to my soul!
Rich, how rich the Lord of Glory!
I know, yes, I know!
God's own Son has reconciled me.
Cry aloud, my soul!

Grace, Amazing Grace, my song! Grace, what wonder that to God I belong! Grace, the heartheat of His love. Because of Grace, Amazing Grace, I'm saved!

Tribute to a Gracious Lady, a Mother in Israel

Dr. Joye Spinney Spence October 31, 1925 - October 4, 2007

We dedicate this issue of "The Katharina Call" to our dear Dr. Joye Spinney Spence, wife of the founder of the Foundations Ministries, Dr. O. Talmadge Spence. As the first president of the Katharina Society (the married ladies of the ministry), she was a spiritual "mother in Israel," not only to those of the society but also to students and friends far and near who had the privilege of knowing her and of hearing her teach. Dr. Joye went to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, October 4.

As ladies of the Katharina Society, we believe it is fitting to acknowledge her life as a source of strength, wisdom, encouragement, direction, godly exhortation, and goad to holy tenacity in pursuit of our Savior. As a Christian lady, Dr. Joye set the example for us of true beauty and graciousness in character, dress, speech, and home. As wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and friend, she had the unfeigned faith of a truly virtuous woman.

In God's sovereign plan, He allowed the ladies of the Katharina Society to be the recipients of her last public words. It was to a group of them she was speaking on the evening eleven years ago when she suffered a debilitating stroke that brought an end to her vocal witness and active service for her Lord and Savior. Some of her last words delivered that evening of February 20, 1996, were recorded in the minutes, testifying of her faith and determination to apprehend the Christ who had apprehended her decades before. "Rejoice in the Lord," she said, "and be glad we are alive in Christ." And as was so typical of her perseverance to endure to the end, she asked and answered her own question: "How do we get through? We have God."

We thank God today for the gift of her life and ministry to us. May the words of Isaiah 50:7, one of her favorite verses, also be our resolve as Christian ladies:

For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed (Isaiah 50:7).

†The Katharina Call is a fortnightly newsletter to the ladies of the Foundations Bible Collegiate Church, Dunn, NC, Dr. H. T. Spence, pastor and editor.

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