



Thelma Bowser Holt

Thelma Bowser Holt was born in Nashville, TN, in 1902 to G.P. and Fannie Bowser. Her school years were spent in Nashville and in Silver Point, TN. She was baptized in Silver Point, TN. She recalled it being so cold that Brother Harrison Ramsey had to break the ice to baptize her.

As a young woman, Thelma accompanied her dad as he held gospel meetings and later assisted him in the production of the Christian Echo. A woman of deep faith, she always attributed her love for God to the humility and Christian examples of her parents.

Thelma attended Tennessee A and I State University for two sessions. At the age of sixteen she met and became engaged to a young preacher, Marion Holt, and they married on January 11, 1902. They were the parents of six children. Two of their sons, G.P. and Marion, became gospel preachers.

Sister Holt served as a fund raiser for Southwestern Christian College from the time it was founded until her death. Wherever she lived she organized groups of women in support of the college. She was an avid reader and loved to travel. She taught Bible classes and wrote study materials for women and young people. Sister Holt was the author of three books: "My Task", "The Best From the Pen of Thelma Holt", and "Reach Out and Touch."

In speaking of her mother-in-law, Olivia Holt said, "Her encouragement to young women will keep her memory alive." Her daughter, Charlotte Fuller, described her as a woman of eloquence, able to share words seasoned with rich experiences. Carlton Holt, one of her grandsons, said he could never recall her saying an unkind word about anyone. Instead, she chose to speak that which would encourage and build up others.

In 1987, Thelma Holt died in Los Angeles, CA, where she had resided during the final years of her life, being lovingly cared for by her daughter, Geraldine, and her grandchildren.

By Phyllis Davis