## The Impact of a Godly Heritage

I will teach you hidden will tell the next generation Lord, about His power and commanded our ancestors to the next generation might not yet born – and they, children. <u>So each generation</u>



lessons from [my] past ... [1] about the glorious deeds of the His mighty wonders ... He teach them to their children so know them – even the children in turn, will teach their own should set its hope anew on

<u>God</u>, not forgetting His glorious miracles and obeying His command. Then they will not be like their ancestors – stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God (Psalm 78:3-8 NLT).

## Grandma Lily Conrad – approximately 1850

Violetta heard her Grandma Conrad's voice in the kitchen and when she asked to whom she was speaking, Grandma Conrad said in her heavy accent, "I vas yust talking to Yesus!"

## Grandma Corrinne (Conrad) Wight – 1874-1925

While hospitalized at age 51, Grandma Wight noticed the wind blowing the curtain and said, "God is in that breeze," and then she passed away.

## Grandma Violetta (Wight) Morrison – 1895-1972

Our "Granny" Morrison loved the Lord all throughout her lifetime and influenced many using her words, both spoken and written in prose and poetry. When her 26-year-old husband was killed in a vehicle accident, Granny found herself with three children under the age of three to raise as a widow with very little means. She was so convinced that Jesus was going to return soon that she, perhaps unwisely, gave away much of the insurance money received from his death to help others who were needy.

## Grandma Maythel (Morrison) Johnson – 1925-2021

Our sweet mom also loved Jesus with her whole heart and stayed faithful to Him through many trials in her life. Even in her 90s, she visited several people in the Lyngblomsten Care Center so she could comfort them with Scripture, an encouraging word, and prayer. She was intentional about finding opportunities to "drop gospel seeds" into the lives of residents.`

"O God, You have taught me from my earliest childhood, and I constantly tell others about the wonderful things You do. Now that I am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God. Let me proclaim Your power to this new generation, Your mighty miracles to all who come after me" (Psalm 71:17-18 NLT). In Loving Memory of *Maythel C. Johnson* January 7, 1925 – December 1, 2021



The righteous will flourish like the date palm [long-lived, upright, and useful]; they will grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic and stable]. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. [Growing in grace,] they will still thrive and bear fruit and prosper in old age; they will flourish and be vital and fresh [rich in trust and love and contentment]; [they are living memorials] to declare that the Lord is upright and faithful [to His promises]. He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. — Psalm 92:12-15 AMP

> Monday, December 27, 2021 1:00 p.m. Rose Hill Alliance Church

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
Maythel C. Johnson
Prelude Discovery House Music "Songs of Reassurance"
Musical Selection Kings College Choir "God So Loved the World"* For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16 KJV).
Welcome & Invocation Rev. Nathanael Fawcett, grandson-in-law
Reflections on a Life Well-Lived Jeannie Squires/Judy Heckman, daughters
Musical Selection Julie Fawcett, granddaughter "In the Secret of His Presence"*/"Near to the Heart of God"
Grands' Reflections Chad Squires, grandson
Scripture Reading: I Thess. 4:13-18 Jeremy Squires, grandson
Meditation Rev. Nathanael Fawcett
Musical Selection Ten Two Six Music "It Is Well with My Soul"
Benediction Rev. Nathanael Fawcett <i>Please remain seated while the family is dismissed.</i>
Postlude Discovery House Music "Songs of Reassurance"
Congregation will be dismissed by rows.
Due to recent changes in COVID guidelines, no refreshments will be served. Memorial gifts may be designated to Rose Hill Alliance Church.
* Favorite musical selections of May Johnson

# LIFE LEGACY

Maythel ("May") C. Johnson was born January 7, 1925, in South Shore, South Dakota, to Charlie and Violetta Morrison. Following the tragic death of her father in a vehicle accident when she was nine months old, May and her siblings – Dorothy (3) and Donald (2) – were raised by their mom on a farm south of Watertown, along with an aunt, two uncles, and Grandpa Wight. The three Morrison children attended rural schools through the eighth grade and then May worked for her room and board in town so she could attend Watertown High School. After graduating in 1943, May worked at First Citizens National Bank where she advanced rapidly; her last promotion resulted in a position as secretary to the president of the bank.
The Morrison family was active at Gospel Tabernacle where in her early years, May received Jesus as her Savior. This was the beginning of a life- long, intimate relationship with Jesus Who became her Best Friend through all the joys and challenges of life.
After corresponding over two years with Clinton Johnson while he was stationed in Europe during World War II, he and May were married March 6, 1946, before his second three-year "hitch" in the military. Following moves to Army bases in Virginia and Indiana, they spent a couple of years at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, during which time Jeannie and Judy were born in 1947 and 1948. After Clint's second honorable discharge, they relo- cated in the Twin Cities where he pursued pastoral ministry studies at St. Paul Bible Institute while May worked as a bookkeeper in a St. Paul bank.
During a Minnesota pastorate in the late '50s, the family grew to six with the birth of Phyllis in 1957 and Terry in 1959. Throughout their pastoral ministries, May's quiet, gentle spirit encouraged many as she served in various capacities. Her gifts of music (piano and vibraharp), teaching Sunday School/Bible studies, and hospitality were assets in advancing God's Kingdom.
Following retirement from fulltime ministry in 1987, Clinton and May eventually moved to Lyngblomsten Apartments in St. Paul until Clint's death in 2015. May's lifetime passion of reading continued throughout her remaining years. In November 2019, she transitioned to the Lyngblomsten Care Center where she resided for two years until she passed into the presence of Jesus on December 1, 2021. The Johnson children would like to express gratitude to the LCC staff for the compassionate care shown to their mother during her final years.
May was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Clinton Johnson; her par- ents, Charlie and Violetta Morrison; son-in-law, Fred Squires; sister, Doro- thy Hay; and brother, Donald Morrison. She will be missed by her children, Jeannie Squires, Judy Heckman, Phyllis (Mark) Helzer, and Terry Johnson; grandchildren, Chad (Lucinda) Squires, Jeremy (Dita) Squires, Kristina (Russell) Brock, Julie (Nathanael) Fawcett, Kelley (John) Savage, Chelsey (Dan) Huber and Megan (Ro) Higgins; 13 great-grandchildren, Cory, Kayla, Caleb, Chloe, Brooklynn, Kaelynn, Kory, Ethan, Micah, Kaden, Noah, Derek, and Hailey (plus one on the way!); sister-in-law, Ellen Morrison; and other friends and extended family.

## MEMORIES: THE WAY SHE WAS

#### Jeannie remembers -

... the joy of Christmastime in our home – Mom helping us memorize our recitations for the church Christmas program; the little brown sacks of goodies from the church after the program; Dad reading the Christmas story from the Bible and praying before opening gifts on Christmas Eve. Our parents sacrificed to give us gifts – gifts like walking-doll Betty, the mini-washing machine, the toy cash register, the bride doll, the cream-colored suitcase, and others. And then, after the early morning Julotta worship service at church, we returned home to a candlelight breakfast prepared and served by Mom, including a fruit cup, her homemade Swedish tea ring, and Canadian bacon before we opened Christmas stockings. Such a special Christmas celebration!

... Mom's steady, even temperament that made us feel secure and calm in times of stress.

... Mom teaching us how to harmonize in order to sing duets in church.

... the loving care Mom gave Granny Morrison. Granny had a hard life and appreciated living with our family in her later years.

... Mom's willingness to go to work in Twin Cities banks because the money didn't stretch far enough. She was likely a dream employee!

... the physical, emotional, and spiritual nurturing Mom provided for her children. She understood each of us with our particular bent and supported us with unconditional love.

... that Mom accepted challenges in life as opportunities to depend on Jesus for whatever needs arose. She trusted in God's goodness even when life was difficult and His ways not fully understood.

... Mom loved the Word of God and always desired to deepen her walk with Jesus. She read, listened, and studied all through her adult life, acquiring much useful godly wisdom in working out everyday challenges.

... the opportunity to learn joy in giving when she overheard Mom tell Dad that we didn't have quite enough chicken for company that was invited for Sunday dinner. Jeannie raced to the store on her bike and used her own money to buy a chicken for \$1.32! Mom received that surprise from Jeannie, allowing her to experience firsthand the special joy of giving.

## Judy remembers -

... our little black dog (renamed "Satan!") who nipped at Mom's heels as she rushed to our bedroom to calm us when we were afraid in the night. Even "Satan" couldn't stop her from loving us!

... Mom reading Bible stories and the Danny Orlis series to us at bedtime. Such special times with Mom!

... learning to improvise in playing the piano from watching and listening to Mom's original piano arrangements. "Master, the Tempest Is Raging" was a favorite as Mom's fingers flew across the keys. We had so much fun playing impromptu piano duets, but Judy's fingers were never as nimble as Mom's. Unbelievably, Mom never had the privilege of having piano lessons; she played everything "by ear."

... playing games — like Scrabble, Monopoly, Bible authors, and Old Maid - with Mom and Granny Morrison. Granny usually let us win, but Mom gave us a run for our money!

... one of the happiest times while living on Chelton in St. Paul when  $\rightarrow$ 

Mom and Dad were planning a business trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, and she purchased three new outfits. Mom rarely got new clothes, so she was a little overwhelmed with it all, but we were so happy and excited for her.

... the Good Friday community service in Onamia High School. Mom didn't want us to wear our new dresses on Easter Sunday, deciding we should wear them to the Good Friday service. She probably knew Judy would be prancing around on Easter in her new finery and figured she wouldn't dare show off on Good Friday while everyone was honoring Jesus for dying on the cross!

... that Mom loved to read; she read hundreds of books over the years including challenging tomes like Metaxas' "Bonhoeffer." She often took notes of ideas and statements that impacted her from her reading sources. How many 90-year-olds do that?!? Our Mom did!

## Phyllis remembers -

... that she and Terry had fun sliding in their stocking feet on Mom's newlywaxed floors. Mom always kept our house neat and clean.

 $\ldots$  watching the Lawrence Welk Show together on Saturday evenings. Our home was filled with music!

 $\ldots$  Mom working with her girls' trio in Sibley and teaching Phyllis to sing harmony.

... the Sunday morning cinnamon rolls that Mom made every weekend. Don't know how Mom kept that chore up all of those years, but we sure loved 'em!

... arriving home from school to find Mom making fresh donuts sprinkled with cinnamon-sugar. Yum!! What a treat they were!

... that Mom arranged for her to take piano lessons in three different places where they lived while growing up! Now, she herself teaches piano lessons!!

... seeing Mom kneeling by her bed and praying. We all benefitted from those prayers!

... Mom entertaining people in our home – missionaries, church members, and others. She set a good example in showing hospitality.

... that Mom taught her about Jesus and prayed with her when she was ready to begin her own personal relationship with Jesus.

## Terry remembers -

... Mom training his dog, Andy, to let her wipe off his feet when he would come in from outside; he lifted up his paws one at a time.

... that, as a preschooler, he went around the neighborhood, door-to-door, asking people to give him old pots and pans so he could give them to Mom for a Mother's Day gift.

... that Mom would sometimes make him give up his Saturday morning cartoons to listen to a Christian kids' program on the radio.

... when he had a morning paper route, getting up very early to deliver the Sunday papers on time. After delivering those papers, he would go home to Mom's breakfast of homemade cinnamon rolls with orange juice so cold he could feel its icy goodness going all the way down. M'm, good!! Mom got up early to prepare breakfast just for him because no one else was up that early.

... that we always had a nice, clean home because Mom kept up with housework and laundry as well as preparing good, home-cooked meals. It was a blessing to have a Mom who cared about us and put so much effort into keeping us well-fed and clothed.