

## **LIFE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GRACE LUCILLE KLADE BAKER-MORRIS**

**1936 -2005**

Grace was the sixth of seven children born to the union of J. D. Kwee Baker and Marguerite Klade Carter-Baker. She entered the world on August 8, 1936 in the City of Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia. According to her deceased father, the name "Grace" was specifically selected as a doxology to signify the end of their years of fertility, having produced three boys and three girls. However, a number of years later, to their amazement and gratitude, came a seventh child. This child they named "Marie", representing the mother of Jesus Christ. Most people know her by the name Yede.

Grace was a very active and congenial person who made her presence known wherever she was. She began her education in the Robertsport Community School founded by her father in Cape Mount. She later transferred to Bromley Episcopal School in Montserrado County where she completed the elementary division. She enrolled in the College of West Africa in Monrovia where she completed the secondary school level. After obtaining the Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Liberia, Grace was granted a scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.A from where she obtained the Master's of Arts Degree in Educational Measurement and Testing.

The Department of Public Instruction established a Testing Center in Monrovia in the 1960's was to coordinate the national examination system. Grace Morris, along with Mrs. Sade Deshield were appointed administrators. Liberia became closely associated with the West African Examinations Council with headquarters in Accra, Ghana, through the instrumentality of Mrs. Bertha Baker Azango, then Director of Guidance and Testing in the Ministry of Education. The Liberian Testing Center became autonomous from the Department of Public Instruction, and the name was changed to the West African Examinations Council. Grace Morris became its first Head of Office (Director). Under her leadership, the number of students taking the national examination increased by the thousands and the centers multiplied.

Morris served the West African Examinations Council for more than two decades and retired in 1996. Grace represented Liberia at many national and international conferences.

In 1999, she came to the United States to be with her children: Joecille and Junda Morris but her heart was always in Liberia. She had planned to return home before the end of the year but the Lord had a different plan. Her illness was very brief and while awaiting the final analysis of her problem, she left her family and friends in a shock on Tuesday morning, September 13, 2005. She leaves behind: two daughters, three grandchildren, five siblings, several cousins and a host of other relatives and friends.

Many still miss Grace. May her soul continue to rest with the Lord. Her legacy...her passion for education and serving the people of Liberia will continue through the creation of the Grace Morris Memorial library and Educational Center in the County of Paynesville.