

By GEORGE ROBERTSON, M.D.

We lost a mission superstar with the passing of Grace Farrar Friday, Jan. 11, 2013.

She has been a celebrity in the mission community for many years and spent much of her life in Nigeria supporting her husband's work at the Nigerian Christian Hospital. Besides caring for the family, which was a job-and-a-half itself, she spoke out for women's rights and championed the women's movement in the Church both at home and abroad.

Having trained as a nurse, a vocation which helped put Henry (her husband) through his surgery residency, the skills she learned were very necessary for her own family of five children in Africa.

She cared for her children with malaria, appendicitis, broken arms, a stingray barb infection, and her husband with malaria and hepatitis. She said somebody had to stay healthy and take care of the sick and it came down to the weaker sex to do it.

One of the duties of a missionary wife involved homeschooling her children which she did from pre-K through high school. Her success in this endeavor is documented by the advanced degrees held by all her children. She mastered the art of "camping out," as one of her friends called it, for 20 years that she cared for her family in primitive surroundings.

We were fortunate to have her and her husband in our community after they came home from their overseas work. Grace was very active in church work at College Hills and was soon to be honored at the Women of Hope conference in Murfreesboro. It was evident that a part of her heart remained in Africa just as it will be apparent that part of our heart will be missing with her passing.

Editor's Note: George Robertson is a physician with Family Medical Associates, PC, in Lebanon.