



## Frances Witt

April 21, 1939 - February 5, 2021

### An Incredible Journey

Frances Witt, affectionally known to many as “Toni,” was born in Atlanta, GA, to Emmitt and Annie Sue Lamar,

April 21, 1939. During her teen years, she moved to Detroit with her mother and stepfather, George Sanders.

Frances graduated from Detroit Central High, in 1957. Frances accepted Christ at an early age.

FUN FACT: Toni is not Frances’ middle name. She did not like her given name, so she created a nickname

she preferred to be called; it caught on and lasted with her friends and associates throughout her life.

Frances met Miller Settles and were joined in holy matrimony in Detroit, Michigan in 1960.

Frances became a

member of Detroit’s Messiah Missionary Baptist Church with Miller, where she was a devoted member for

greater than 40 Years. In 1962, the Settles’ Union, welcomed a son Darby. Frances married again in 1975 to

John Witt (James). They adopted a young son, John Jermaine in 1984 and remained married until his

untimely death in 1989.

Frances began employment at Henry Ford Hospital in the late 70’s, as a Data Processing Specialist.

She worked at Henry Ford Hospital for 25 years before deciding to take an early retirement to pursue other

interests. She attended college briefly but decided instead to invest in rental property. She eventually

purchased a 12-unit apartment building in Detroit. Toni was an outstanding landlord who won the affection of

anyone who became a tenant at the building she managed. She treated all tenants as though they were her

own children, and they responded with the same love and admiration for her. Toni spent several years as the Business Manager for The Israelites. The Israelites were a popular acapella gospel sextet, formed from members of the Messiah Baptist Church Male Chorus. They performed across the Midwest from the late 70's through the early 90's. Toni served faithfully as a Nurse for decades. She began her 30+ years as President of the Nurses under the Pastoral leadership of Rev. T. C. Simmons of Messiah Baptist Church, and continuing to serve as President under Pastor Orville K. Littlejohn in later years. She was an active and dedicated member of the Baptist Missionary & Education Convention of Nurses (BM&E) and the Michigan District of Nurses (MI District). She has also had the distinction of being honored by the BM&E, the MI District and Messiah Nurses for dedication and outstanding service. Even after stepping down as President, Toni continued to serve with Messiah's Nurses, in any capacity needed. Shortly after a brief stay in the hospital, Frances peacefully went home with her Lord on Friday, February 5, 2021. She was a loving caring person who spent her life giving and helping others. She leaves fond memories to cherish with her two sons, Dr. Darby Settles (Cassandra) of Brownstown, Michigan and John Jermaine Witt of Detroit, Michigan, 2 grandchildren Kayla of Woodhaven, Michigan and Mikell of Detroit Michigan, 1 st cousin Shelia Beadles of Atlanta, Georgia, Cassandra's mother, Elizabeth Knox, Sister-in-law, Marian Wright of Detroit, Michigan, and countless other family and friends whom she loved dearly. Frances' acts of kindness, generosity and love touched many lives and will be greatly missed.

# Events

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**FEB** **Strolling Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

**12**

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Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd, Southfield, MI, US, 48075

**FEB** **Family/Friends Time** 12:00PM - 12:30PM

**13**

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Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
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**FEB** **Funeral Service** 12:30PM

**13**

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Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
24585 Evergreen Rd, Southfield, MI, US, 48075

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Kemp Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - February 13, 2021 at 11:32 AM



“ I love you auntie Toni always have always will you was there for me when I was at my lowest point you have been a beautiful aunt to me and my children blood couldn't make us any closer you mean the world to me and will always be remembered and loved by me and mines may you rest in paradise in peace with the lord love your niece your beautiful girl is what you called me Kalynn

**kalynn gee** - February 13, 2021 at 02:02 PM

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“ It's been a little over a month Mom. I know you're having an amazing time with the Lord and your new body. No more pain ever again. I am so happy for you and I look forward to seeing you again.

**Darby Settles** - March 12, 2021 at 01:47 PM

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“ I love you auntie Toni always have always will you was there for me when I was at my lowest point you have been a beautiful aunt to me and my children blood couldn't make us any closer you mean the world to me and will always be remembered and loved by me and mines may you rest in paradise in peace with the lord love your niece your beautiful girl is what you called me love Kalynn

**kalynn gee** - February 13, 2021 at 02:05 PM

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“ Marquita L. Scott lit a candle in memory of Frances Witt



**Marquita L. Scott** - February 13, 2021 at 07:32 AM



“ You will be forever in my heart, Aunt Toni. Niece, Marquita

**Marquita L. Scott** - February 13, 2021 at 07:33 AM

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“ Hi Cousin Darby,  
I am very sorry to hear about Cousin Toni!!! My condolences are with you and family.  
You and the family are in my prayers!!! May God grant you love, peace, and joy,  
everyday of your life!!! Boy, I remember how both of our Moms would stay on the  
phone forever!!! know I love you and please give me a call. I sent my  
number via FB messenger.



**Tonya Trammell** - February 13, 2021 at 02:21 AM

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“ Darby & family,

A mother's love is unconditional and losing a mother is never easy. Your mother's kindness, love, and pleasant smile shall be a memory that will live on forever in your heart.

Please accept my deepest condolences that are extended to you and your family during this difficult time.

Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Sincerely,

Alma Westbrook-Nunlee



Alma - February 12, 2021 at 07:05 PM

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“ Cousin Darby.

Deepest condolences to you of passing of your Mom Francis.

Cousin Francis was a regular to our family house, my Mom Essie Mae was like a Mother to your mom. Your mom and her love will live forever in your heart.

Cousin Cassandra



Cassandra Kelley - February 12, 2021 at 03:20 PM

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“ Catherine Papillon lit a candle in memory of Frances Witt



Catherine Papillon - February 12, 2021 at 02:25 PM

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“ Darby,

I was so sorry to hear about the loss of your Mom. I will keep you and your family in my prayers. Tony was a good person with a beautiful spirit.

I remember the last time I saw you both...

Darby and Toni came by Joyce's house, my Mom, to see my sister Lanette who was there visiting from Nashville. She had baked a cake and it was sooo good. So while we all were eating, humming talking and laughing about how good it was...Toni said, "now you know we don't need all this cake but it's sooo good. Net, I want you to make one for me." Lanette agreed but then everyone else wanted a cake too..lol...so she said that she would make two cakes...German Chocolate and Coconut...all the while we never put our forks down. We laughed, reminisced about the old days of getting together for family cookouts, playing cards, dancing and having a good time. She will be missed.

May God, who sees your grieving heart and hears each tender prayer, be ever near to give you peace and keep you in HIS care. In this time of sadness, may the Lord lead you to a place of peace.

With deepest sympathy for your Loss.

Love,

Vette, Joyce, Lanette(the Baker)& The Reynolds Family

Yvette Scales - February 12, 2021 at 10:38 AM

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“ Arletha Hunter lit a candle in memory of Frances Witt



**Arletha Hunter** - February 12, 2021 at 07:03 AM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frances Witt.



February 12, 2021 at 05:53 AM

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“ Dear family.  
My heart goes out to all of you at this time. Thank god for being touch by an angel. I had the pleasure of being her tenant for the last few years, and she still made darby drive her down to the city to see her building and talk with us. Darby you did a great job of taking care of your mom, and overseeing the apartments at the same time. God said to "whom much is given, much is required". A soldiers soldier. I will pray that you and your family find peace at this trying time. And that god continues to wrap his loving arms around you all.  
Gid bless.  
Jazz #12

**Jazz** - February 11, 2021 at 07:28 PM



“ Toni will be missed. She was such a giving and truthful person. As a Messiah Baptist church nurse you was the best because of her I am a nurse now. My God's grace and Mercy be with her family

**Ruth Smith** - February 11, 2021 at 08:18 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Frances Witt.



February 11, 2021 at 10:51 AM

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“ Toni, you will truly be missed. You were a loving Godmother to my daughter Jamila Smith. Love you forever. Prayers to the family. From Andrea Smith and family!

**Andrea Smith** - February 11, 2021 at 09:01 AM



“ My prayers and condolences goes out to Darby and family i shall and continue on praying for you and with you at this time .

**Michele Terry Moore** - February 11, 2021 at 10:03 PM

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“ Toni was so sweet & caring! I always loved when they came to visit family in WV! She had a smile that warmed your heart! Praying for Darby & the family! May God give you peace that passes all understanding. Love you, Rose.

**Rose Cunningjam** - February 10, 2021 at 11:53 PM



“ I'm going to miss Toni. I remember when Toni and Darby came over to Joyce's house, my Mom, so that they could see my sister Lanette while she was in Detroit visiting from Nashville. My sister made a cake and it was soooo good. All of us were humming, smiling and eating all while saying how good it was and trying to decide what kind of cake we wanted her to make each one of us..lol..

We couldn't decide on one, so she said she would make two cakes: German Chocolate and Coconut. Toni said, "now you we don't need all these sweets, but it sure is good."

We never put our forks down and enjoyed every last bite.

May God bless you and keep you close. There is no emptiness God can't fill, no loneliness He can't see us through...to comfort those he loves so much, there's nothing God won't do. In this time of sadness, may the Lord lead you to a place of peace. You have my deepest condolences in the loss of your Mother.

She will be missed.

Love you, Vette

**Yvette Scales** - February 11, 2021 at 07:45 PM

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“ sending love and prayers to the family I am so bless and thankful to have had a Godmom like Ms.Toni in my life I will truly miss her  
Love you guys from Jamila

jamila - February 10, 2021 at 05:27 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frances Witt.



February 10, 2021 at 05:23 PM

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“ Darby and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and family at this time and in the future. God Bless!  
Joe & Gwendolyn Howze  
Fort Washington, Maryland



**Joe & Gwendolyn Howze** - February 10, 2021 at 09:15 AM



“ Darby you have deepest sympathy. I love you and your mother dearly. I will miss her. Your sister Mary

**Mary Walker** - February 10, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ Darby my deepest condolences go out to you and family. Toni was indeed a Jewel that will be truly missed. R.I.P. Toni. Earvin Davis

**Earvin Davis** - February 10, 2021 at 02:07 PM



“ Darby you and family have my deepest condolences. Toni will be truly missed she definitely was a Jewel and dear friend.

**Earvin Davis** - February 10, 2021 at 02:08 PM



“ Darby and family, it may comfort you to know that my prayers are with you. Toni will truly be missed. She and my mom were good friends. Love Deborah Broojerdi

**Deborah Broojerdi** - February 10, 2021 at 04:32 PM



“ Sending Much Love to Darby and Family. May GOD Bless you all with Strength and Peace to take this Walk. Love Always, Cousin Terry and Family

**TERRY Pollard** - February 10, 2021 at 09:54 PM