



Rev. Audra Sowersby

January 25, 1931 - October 11, 2024

Rev. Audra Darlene Sowersby was born on Sunday, January 25th, 1931 in the community of Macomb, Missouri, the daughter of Dolphen and Mattie (Thompson) Sowersby. She passed from this life in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Friday, October 11, 2024. She was 93 years of age.

Audra was a 1949 graduate of Norwood, Missouri High School and a 1964 graduate of LIFE Bible College.

Audra was born on her grandparents Missouri farm when the great depression was just coming into full swing in January 1931. The second of five children born to Dolphen and Mattie Sowersby, her big sister, Wanda, had an instant life-long best friend. Brothers Joe and Jim and sister Mamie soon completed the family of five children.

In April of 1938, soon after Audra turned 7, both her grandfather (who lived with them) and her mother passed away. By July, Grandma Sowersby had moved to town and Audra's dad had married Blanche, whom he had dated in his teen years. Blanche's sons, Don and James, spent occasional weeks living with them.

Audra accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior in a church service at 9 yrs old and this began a life-long deep commitment to Jesus that was the foundation of all she was and did. At 15, she first felt called by God into Christian service. After graduating from Norwood High School in Missouri, Audra joined the rest of the family in Tulsa, OK. She and her sister, Wanda, were soon making a good life as Christian working girls who taught teen girls in Sunday School.

She worked at various places until she took a job, following her sister, to work at the headquarters for well-known Christian evangelists, TL and Daisy Osborn. In 1956, at age 25, the Osborns chose Audra to accompany them to help school their children during a three-month crusade tour that included Nigeria, Africa. While in Nigeria, the directors of a newly formed Bible School asked Audra to stay and help them... so she did, until her visa ran out in June 1957. Audra wanted to return and things worked out for her to do so. She sailed to Nigeria as a passenger on the African Glade freighter in January of 1958.

That Nigeria Bible School, where she served for about 13 years total, is still operating today as LIFE Theological Seminary. Audra poured everything she had into teaching and administration at this school.

Audra took a break from Nigeria and returned to the US to attend Life Bible College in California in 1961. During these years, she worked at Foursquare Denominational Headquarters. She graduated from California LIFE Bible College in 1964 and returned to the Bible School in Nigeria as Dean.

In 1972 Audra returned to the US for good.

She settled into the Foursquare community life at Headquarters and served in many capacities for the next 24 years.

One day, her boss couldn't fulfill a lunch commitment, so Audra decided to take Army Chaplain, Rick Mathis, to lunch herself. Rick became a dear friend whom Audra especially treasured for the rest of her life.

During these years she worked as clerical support staff for several administrators, and worked the Credentialing Desk. She served as dorm mom at LIFE Bible college for at least one year. She also oversaw Bible studies, taught Sunday School, was an elder at Angeles Temple church, had an annual Thanksgiving Dinner for 30+ people in her home, and managed the large Foursquare residence she lived in that was home to up to five ladies at a time.

At age 65, Audra retired and moved back to Tulsa to be close to family during her final years. She loved that she was able to be close to her step-mom,

Blanche, to help care for her in the last years of her life. She attended local Foursquare churches and served in several capacities, always being a valuable supporter of the pastors where she attended. She taught Sunday School until 2019. She also attended Carbondale Assembly of God in her final years.

She worked part time for Oral Roberts Ministries from 1997 to 2018, mostly in the mail room.

In 2018, her sister, Wanda, began staying with her most of the time. Audra shared her home and watched over Wanda for five years until Wanda's passing in 2023.

Audra loved to get local peaches and pecans each year and share them with others. She also delighted in sharing the flowers blooming in her yard, especially the peonies. She loved her back porch. Her favorite treats were See's Candy, orange chicken, Bluebell ice cream and Pepsi. She did some gardening and she also spent time quilting when she wasn't studying, caring for someone or communicating with her friends. She loved preparing and sharing meals and always wanted her guests to "have some more".

Woven into Audra's story is the fact that along the way, she deeply impacted hundreds of people with her one-on-one relationships through the years. She simply loved everyone she came into contact with and showed this love through listening, counsel, kindness and smiles. She prayed daily that Jesus would shine through her and that she would be able to bless at least one person each day. Her generous spirit was always looking for ways to bless people.

Her life motto was "Bloom where you are planted."

Her faith was deep and her prayer life strong. She listened for that still small voice of God and it brought her reassurance of divine protection, comfort and guidance as she took big leaps of faith to fulfill the tasks ahead of her.

She lived frugally with little excess, but gave generously and truly felt she had everything she needed or wanted as she looked to God as her Source. She

counted her relationships as wealth and would always say that she was rich. One of her life scriptures was Isaiah 58:11 “The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” This was so true for our Audra and it can be true to each of us.

If you have not yet known this Jesus that I am speaking of that guided Audra’s life, as well as so many of us celebrating her, please consider asking Him to come into your heart and walk alongside you, not only now, but in eternity.

In lieu of flowers, her family requests memorial gifts be made to Tulsa First Foursquare Church at

<https://tulsafoursquare.com/give> or to Foursquare Missions Press at www.foursquaremissionspress.org/give

She is survived by:

Brothers: Joe Sowersby–Mannford, OK, Jim (Barbara) Sowersby–Branson, MO

Nieces: Micki (Russell) Rice–Cleveland, OK, Terry (Charlie) Underwood–Wetumka,

OK, Kathy Inglett–Broken Arrow, OK, Joy (Peter) Kovaleski–Tulsa, OK, Judy Garner Clark–

Siloam Springs, AR

Nephews: Joe Lee Sowersby–Mannford, OK, Roger (Carolyn) Garner–Broken Arrow, OK, Allen Reece (Paula) Garner–Broken Arrow, OK, Ron (Staci) Garner–Lufkin, TX

Many great nieces and nephews and great–great nieces and nephews and a host of beloved friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents—Dolphen and Mattie Sowersby, step-mother—Blanche Sowersby, sister—Wanda Lee Garner-Austin, sister-in-law—Lu Sowersby, nephew—Tommy Garner and niece—Brenda Goumaz.

Watch service here: <https://vimeo.com/1022150374>

Cemetery Details

Macomb Cemetery

Wright County
Macomb, MO

Previous Events

Viewing

OCT **22**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Funeral Service

OCT **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Graveside Service

OCT **23**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Macomb Cemetery

Wright County

Macomb, MO

Tribute Wall



“ Hayhurst Funeral Home created a Funeral Service in memory of
Rev. Audra Sowersby



Hayhurst Funeral Home - October 22, 2024 at 02:45 PM

“ OBITUARY REMARKS ON REV. AUDRA SOWERSBY

Audra Sowersby first came to Nigeria in 1956 with the Evangelistic Team of T. L. Osborn and his wife, as the tutor for their children, The Crusade drew a great crowd averaging between 20,000 and 30,000 every night. The attendance increased to about 45,000 at a particular night. It was said to have been the largest type of gathering in the history of Nigeria.

She was among the full-fledged teachers of the Foursquare Vocational Open Air Bible School led by Rev. Harold Curtis. Other lecturers were Mrs. Faye Curtis, and Sister Margaret Season. The students-teachers were Pastor S. O. Odunaike, Rev. F. C. Osuwa and Pastor J. A. Boyejo.

July 1961 witnessed the return of Miss Audra Sowersby to the U.S.A to complete her ministerial studies at LIFE Bible College, Los Angeles. In between Miss Audra's stay and her departure in 1961, another missionary lady Miss Elizabeth Wood came to Nigeria as Foursquare Missionary. Miss Sowersby's return to the U.S.A was an epoch-making event. She had put along with the Curtis' a five year fruitful ministry. The work in 1961 as she was leaving was already yielding its early fruits, while the Curtis' still remained on the mission field.

Rev. Sister Audra Sowersby was around in 1967, she ministered at our Youth Camp and it was during her ministration that I decided to enroll for the Bible College. This I did in 1968.

She was at our 40th National Convention in 1995. She ministered on the second day of the Convention, Monday 13th November. The Convention Service started at about 5:00 p.m. It was the evening set aside for Missions hence the sub-theme from Glory to Glory through Macedonian Call.

Sister Audra Sowersby's name rings bell as one of our Missionaries since the beginning of our journey of forty years of Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria. To those Foursquare Gospel Church members who had been in the organization since the sixties, the presence of Sister Audra meant much. As she stood ministering in her characteristic traits, it was a reminiscence of some 35 years of Foursquare Gospel Church history. Her ministration was very fruitful

as some people gave their lives to Christ and a great number came out to go into ministerial training and mission work. The anointing on her was still there.

My wife and I saw her last in 2017 at the International Convention held in Dallas, Texas. We have fond memories of her. She remains evergreen in our hearts. "The memory of the righteous is blessed" (Prov.10:7)

*Rev. Prof. Ebenezer & Rev. (Mrs.) Dorcas Adeogun
Foursquare Nigeria*

Rev. Prof. Ebenezer & Rev. Mrs Dorcas Ad - October 22, 2024 at 07:21 PM

CT

I attended LIFE Bible College with Audra. She was a dear friend and beautiful example of God's love to young students! 🙏🙏❤️

Connie Teffeteller - October 22, 2024 at 08:05 PM

FC

My husband and I were privileged to know Audra. At Hoise on the Hill .ministry. we also visited her in Oklahoma. What an awesome woman of God. Our Foursquare world has lost a saint- heavens gain.

Frank & Harriet Chavez - November 15, 2024 at 12:01 PM

JF

“ Will miss you dear Audra! Thank you for being a pioneer in women in leadership. You not only ministered to our brothers and sisters in Nigeria but was a shining example to be personally of a woman who served in ministry. See you on the other side dear one! I loved you so very much!

Jackie Fernandez-Murray - October 22, 2024 at 06:29 PM

RN

“ **REV. AUDRA SOWERSBY - RESTING IN THE BOSSOM OF HER LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

*On behalf of the National Board of Directors, the leadership, members and worshippers of the Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria, we offer our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers to the family, loved ones and all who are impacted by the transition to eternal glory of one of our pioneer missionaries, *Rev. Audra Sowersby,* who went to be with the Lord on Friday October 11, 2024 at a fulfilled age of 93years.*

Sister Audra served as a missionary in Nigeria when she came in 1956 as a member of T.L Osborne's Evangelical Crusade Team. Upon the completion of a highly successful outreach in Lagos with great harvest, Sister Audra Sowersby, who was the traveling tutor of the Osborn's children, remained in Nigeria to assist the Curtis' in the Bible institute. As a result, churches began to multiply, pioneered and led by those dedicated students whom she impacted knowledge into at the Bible College. She served many years with Rev. Harold Curtis and Rev. Joseph Babcock who took over from the Curtis'.

As a church, we pay glowing tribute to the memory of this outstanding and selfless missionary and gallant soldier of Christ, even as she lays her sword at the Master's feet.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

**Rev. (Dr.) Sam Aboyeji*
National Leader
Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria*

Rev. Dr. Sam Aboyeji. Nigeria Nat.Leader - October 22, 2024 at 12:30 PM

RN

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**Rev. (Dr.) Sam Aboyeji*
National Leader
Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria*

Rev. Dr. Sam Aboyeji. Nigeria Nat.Leader - October 22, 2024 at 12:28 PM

RO

“ FROM:

*Rev. Mrs. Rachel F. Odunaike
Widow of the first indigenous Supervisor in Nigeria.
Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria.*

*With a heart of joy, we announce the passing to glory of one of the missionaries who worked with Rev. Harold Curtis, and taught at LIFE Seminary at Ikorodu for many years. She's married to the Lord and has many children in and outside Foursquare. She's 94years.
"...blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth, years saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours and their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:13).
.By Rev. Mrs. Rachel F. Odunaike.*

Rev. Mrs. Rachel F. Odunaike - October 22, 2024 at 10:37 AM

RM

“ FROM:

*NIGERIA FOURSQUARE FAMILY IN DIASPORA (NiFFiD).
With gratitude to God for a real life well spent in Jesus Christ and His services, NiFFiD, the entire Foursquare Nigeria at home and abroad, and the whole Foursquare Family celebrates the legacies of a sold-out woman of God, Rev. Audra Sowersby, Mama Foursquare Nigeria, being the longest served Missionary to Foursquare Nigeria. She was welcome to her rest by her Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, on Friday, October 11, 2024. Like someone rightly said, Foursquare Nigeria was her husband and children. She served and deserved her rest. May we all finish strong and well in Jesus' name.Amen
Please take time to read the obituary remarks. Thank you.
Regina M.Kehinde,
NiFFiD Global Coordinator.*

Rev. Dr. Regina M.Kehinde - October 22, 2024 at 10:33 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Pictorial Video Tribute*



Hayhurst Funeral Home - October 22, 2024 at 10:19 AM



“ Kent and Lesley Squire Jones purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Rev. Audra Sowersby.



Kent and Lesley Squire Jones - October 21, 2024 at 03:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lesley Squire Jones - October 21, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Rev. & Mrs Farombi*



Hayhurst Funeral Home - October 21, 2024 at 12:29 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Rev. Dan & Ginger Hedges



Hayhurst Funeral Home - October 21, 2024 at 12:29 PM



“ Foursquare Forerunners. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Audra Sowersby.

Foursquare Forerunners. - October 21, 2024 at 09:51 AM



“ Foursquare Forerunners. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Rev. Audra Sowersby.



Foursquare Forerunners. - October 21, 2024 at 09:51 AM

LJ

“ I first met Audra in the fall of 1975 when a mission-minded fellow student at LIFE Bible College urged me to go meet a missionary lady who loved to spend time with students. Since missions was on my heart, I gladly went and began a friendship that has lasted almost 50 years. My first impression, based on Audra's white hair, was that she was a delightful, vibrant older lady. Later I learned that Audra was still in her forties but that the stresses she had experienced in Africa had affected her health and caused her hair to turn white prematurely.

A year after we met, I moved across the street from Audra into a school apartment, and two years after that I became her housemate and fellow worker at Foursquare headquarters. Audra was a mentor to me, demonstrating domestic skills, love for others, hospitality, wisdom, and most of all unwavering trust in and love for her Savior. Her ministry was not only teaching an adult Sunday school class and serving at headquarters, but sharing relaxed friendship with those around her. She had the ability to make just about anyone feel at home.

Our paths went different directions, but we stayed in touch and enjoyed occasional phone conversations. I was so happy for Audra that she was able to move back near family and have so many years of semi-retired life and ministry! It was a joy to be able to visit her in 2021.

The tears I'm shedding are not from sorrow, but from tender love and thankfulness for the life of one of the dearest people I have known.

- Lesley Squire Jones

Lesley Squire Jones - October 21, 2024 at 12:14 AM

KD

“ Audra and I worked together and became friends. Her and Wanda were such a blessing to me and the other workers. When I visited her at the hospital she couldn't believe I had come, I told her remember when you were the only one who went to visit one of our coworkers who was in the hospital, she laughed. She laughed a lot, brought wonderful food for us, always listened and prayed for us. I will miss her but know where she is, I will see her again some day. Thank you Joy and Peter for the way you took care of her, and the rest of the family. She blessed you and you blessed her. Kathy Daniels

Kathy Daniels - October 19, 2024 at 12:21 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Joy Kovalski's Tribute of Audra



Hayhurst Funeral Home - October 16, 2024 at 10:23 AM

MA

May her gentle humble soul continues to rest at the bosom of the our Lord.

My name is Olanrewaju Ajibola - October 17, 2024 at 09:36 AM

HH

“ It is our honor and privilege to serve the Sowersby family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of Audra.



Hayhurst Funeral Home - October 12, 2024 at 10:26 AM

JA

Our dear Audra has led us as a church family for many years. She taught our adult Sunday School class for a season, she brought wonderful insight into the Foursquare Missions and Missions Press, always had a smile and was ready to make you her next friend. She was Jesus light and salt and gave our church family a wonderful gift as she loved as Jesus did in our midst. Now in her completion of life on this side of heaven she continued to show his grace and love. Thank you Audra for touching so many lives for Jesus! Pastor John & Kathy Arthur

John Arthur - October 14, 2024 at 09:39 AM

RA

The day I met Audra will forever be engrained on my spirit. I fondly call her Miss Audra. She was attending the Woodland Hills Foursquare Church at the time. I was introduced to her. We spoke for a little while and she asked me to see her after that Sunday morning service. She took me to lunch at a restaurant near the church and she shared some of her life's journey with me. I talked to her about going on the mission field. She just looked at me and said: "Jesus will be delighted with you on the field, more than you can imagine." I had no idea at the time of how my life was about to change. Later, she took me back to Pastor Dan (Hedges) and told him: "Let's see how we can get this little lady to the Foursquare Convention in Dallas. Between the two of them I ended up at my first Foursquare Convention. It seemed to me that she knew everybody there. She introduced me to so many people I got a bit dizzy. She was having the time of her life! The last thing she said was: "Well, now you'd better be introduced to the people at Headquarters." And, that was it. In a very short time after that whirlwind tour, I found myself making preparations to move Los Angeles where I was made ready to enter the mission field. Audra became a spiritual life source sent to me directly from Jesus. She watched over me, she mentored me, prayed for and with me. She encouraged me through challenging times on the field and told me of her journeys on the field. She introduced me to her family and made sure I was always well taken care of. I spent a lot of time with her at her home whenever I would go to the US. We would watch the Road Show on TV and she would bring a huge bowl of Blue Bells ice cream and just plunk it down in my lap and made sure I ate all of it. I had to feign sleep to get out of round 2. When I had the cataracts removed from my eyes, it was Audra who took me by the hand to the doctors. She patiently sat in the little room and waited for me, then took me home and cared for me. She did not even let me pick up a cup after the surgery until she was sure I was healed enough--she was more than family to me. I also was blessed to spend time with her and Wanda at her home and sometime after Wanda passed, one day on the phone she says to me: "You know, your bedroom is always waiting for you." I loved and feared her at the same time. If you did not know this, one just did not say 'no' to Audra. When we got to praying and she called JEEESSUSS like this, it felt as though He just showed up and was right there. What a powerful pray-er Miss Audra was and I learned much from her. Finally, a funny thing with me and Miss Audra. I dreaded weekends with Audra only because every Friday night she would say: "No point sleeping late tomorrow, you know we have to go see Pah (Joe) and get us a few bushels of apple or whatever is in season." The first time we did it she caught me because I did not know what she was up to. Then came the peeling, the washing of the bottles, the storage...all of it became parts of my deepest joy and my deepest fear because my reward was more ice cream. She would leave me peeling and whatever and head across the road to Braum's and, yes, the ice cream fest came that night.

What's not to love about Miss Audra. I watched how she loved on everyone she met. She would drive out of her to pick up people and take them to church with us. I learned the art of being a good Sunday School Bible teacher. She would give me all her notes afterwards. When she could not hike it over to Pastor John's church we went to Carbondale. Listen! Miss Audra loved life. She loved Jesus and always had a smile and a kind word to give. We talked more often as she began to get weaker and when her hearing was not so good anymore she would tell me to pray so Jesus will tell her what was said. I could go on and on about our times together, but I will stop here. I miss her every day and can't wait to see her in glory. Thanks to her family for sharing her life with me.

Rev. Jacqueline Antoine - October 24, 2024 at 02:18 PM