

Worship

FAITH & VALUES



Submitted
From left, Rochelle, Rita, Rhonda, Ronald, Ricardo and Reginald Moore pose for a photo at Rochelle’s 50th birthday.

Struggle, sisterhood and faith

New book shares local family’s story

BY BAILEY REED
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Elizabethtown born-and-raised Rochelle Moore Harden didn’t anticipate “author” becoming one of her many titles, but losing her older sister Rita to lupus in 2024 inspired her to put the pen on the page.

“My sister and I were both challenged with lupus. She had the more serious form,” Harden, 58, said. “She never complained. You didn’t know Rita was sick.”

Rita found out about her lupus in her early 20s, whereas Harden found out about her lupus in her 40s. Lupus is an incurable autoimmune disease where the body mistakenly attacks its own health tissue and cells, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

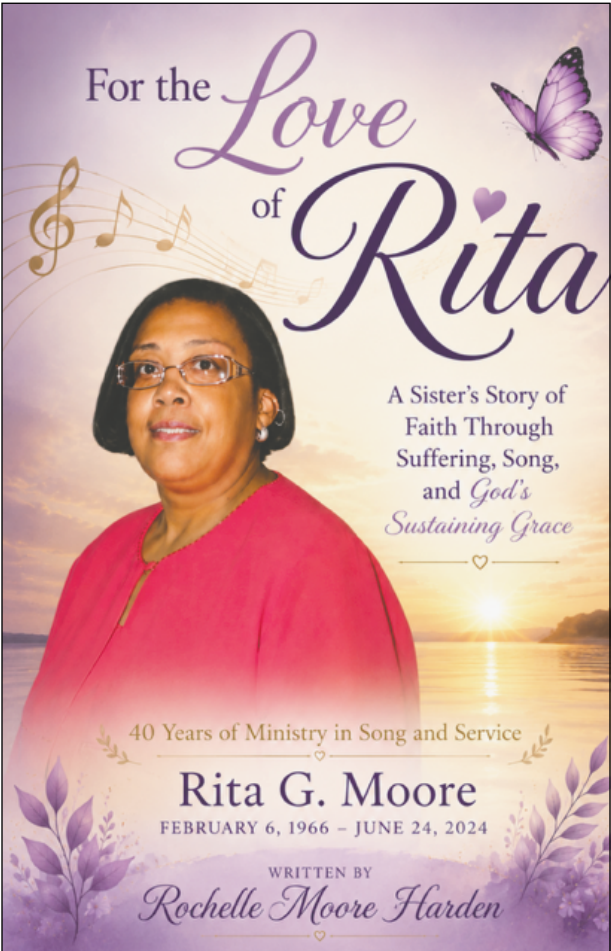
Harden and Rita had more than 40 years in faith ministry through music, something they got from their father Charlie Moore, who sang in a group called the Golden Tones at First Baptist Church on Bishop Lane.

When the sisters would minister through worship music, Rita was determined to do so through the pain.

“She’d say ‘there’s nothing wrong with my voice.’ In spite of everything that she was going through, she was a source of inspiration, and the thing that I admired about her the most was her faith,” Harden said.

Harden said Rita was confident in her faith despite her disease, and wasn’t afraid of life or death.

“She asked us, (her siblings), ‘will you be OK if I leave?’ She was concerned about us even though she was facing



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Rochelle Moore Harden recently published and released “For the Love of Rita: A Sister’s Story of Faith Through Suffering,” a book about her sister Rita’s battle with lupus and strength through faith.

death, and that struck me,” Harden said.

After Rita’s passing on June 24, 2024, Harden sat down one day and began writing Rita’s attributes. She then was encouraged to attach scripture to each quality.

What has developed out of that endeavor is the book “For the Love of Rita: A Sister’s Story of Faith Through Suffering,” Harden self-published her book through Amazon and Kindle.

“I hope when people (in Elizabethtown) hear the name ‘the Moore sisters,’ it brings a smile to their face,” Harden said. “I think people will connect with the book because they knew of Rita’s challenges, but they didn’t see the depth of Rita’s challenges and the faith.

Written about Rita’s struggle through Harden’s eyes, Harden hopes the book will help readers find faith when their own lives get diffi-

cult.

“The Bible tells us that we go through things. I tell people that that there’s a blessing on the other side of ‘through.’ We won’t be stuck in those situations forever,” Harden said.

Now married to her husband, Ken, and living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Harden serves as an assistant minister at New United Missionary Baptist Church where she continues to minister through both music and speaking, carrying Rita’s story with her.

“God is with us. Whatever we face, the good, the bad, the ugly, he’s right there with us,” Harden said. “I hope this exercises people’s faith muscles and builds their faith.”

Harden’s book, “For the Love of Rita: A Sister’s Story of Faith Through Suffering,” is available on Amazon for \$15.99 and on Kindle for \$9.99.



Submitted
Parkway Baptist Pastor Dewayne Gibson baptizes a paralyzed man in the creek with the aid of church members.

Paralysis doesn't hinder baptism of new believer

BY CHIP HUTCHESON
KENTUCKY TODAY

HODGENVILLE — “What hinders me from being baptized?” was the question the Ethiopian eunuch asked Philip in Acts 8. He was determined to be baptized after hearing the good news about Jesus.

That same desire was in evidence last Sunday in a creek baptism by Dewayne Gibson, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in LaRue County.

One of the 16 people baptized was a man paralyzed as the result of an accident a few years ago. Someone hit the trailer hitch on his vehicle, spinning him into a tree, resulting in paralysis.

“He met Jesus, and his life shows real growth and changing. He wanted to be baptized — and was not going to let anything

stand in the way,” Gibson said.

The obvious hindrance was paralysis. But that was remedied by four men carrying him into the creek, with a couple more on standby in the water to assist.

“He couldn’t go completely under the water for risk of infection, but the men were able to lift him and tilt him so his head and shoulders and as much full body as possible could go under water,” Gibson noted.

A video of that baptism was posted on the church’s Facebook page.

“That video captures the moment — so many were joyful. There’s something special when someone is not going to let anything keep them from doing what God called them to do.”

Another person baptized was one of Gibson’s

college football teammates. The baptism came two years after he had contacted Gibson and heard the gospel and was saved. Gibson said the next thing was baptism.

“He works a crazy shift — we’ve been working hard to get that (baptism) taken care of.”

Over the course of two weekends, Gibson said the church has baptized 39 people — and there are at least four more in the wings to be baptized. Now it is just a matter of scheduling.

The church conducts the baptisms in a creek on a private farm.

“It is immaculate. The man keeps the area excavated for baptisms, and it is always clean and nice and accessible,” Gibson said. “The water is 55 degrees, so it’s cold — but the people are filled with joy.”

KYDR feeding hundreds in town hit by floods

BY MARK MAYNARD
KENTUCKY TODAY

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief teams are feeding 300 hungry people – twice a day – in the flood-ravaged community of Ravenswood, Indiana.

Karen Smith, who is leading the team, said she expected even more mouths to feed. Smith said the team was initially asked to be ready to feed 1,000 people a day – 500 for lunch and 500 for dinner.

“We are down to 300 each meal, so we’re only doing 600 total. Three of us would be able to handle that.”

Smith and her team of 16 gold-shirted workers can routinely feed thousands of people a day and have done so on many occasions. And we’re not talking about peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches.

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief is feeding anyone in the community of Ravenswood who was

affected by the recent flooding, but the kitchen crew has been battling the sweltering heat wave. They get into air conditioning whenever possible, courtesy of Northside Baptist Church where the team is staying.

“But it’s been hot,” Smith said. “I told everybody weather like this makes it easier to tell people about heaven and hell.”

The feeding team loves to cook and serve, but more than that, they love to witness to those who come for a meal. Giving them a good helping of spiritual “food” is what they do best.

A lot goes into preparing 600 meals a day. Smith ordered only two days’ worth of meals from Gordon Food Service before coming to the Indianapolis area. When it appeared the community needed more help, the organization Feeding America put the team in touch with a food bank in

Indiana. Smith said she was able pick up food for the rest of the week.

“All I asked for was protein,” she said. “This place is incredible. It covers seven football fields. They said, ‘We could have gotten you everything.’ I told them I don’t want to be greedy.”

Send Relief also pitched in, sending gumbo mix, rice, chicken tortilla soup mix, chips, corn and fruit. It also sent macaroni and cheese that Smith said will be used as a side.

Smith, who is a good steward of the Cooperative Program dollars that help fund Disaster Relief, said the meals will cost between \$1.25 and \$1.50 per meal.

Ravenswood was hit with two rounds of flooding, causing massive damage to nearly 300 homes.

The feeding team likely will be in Ravenswood through lunch Saturday.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

SATURDAY
E’town Emmaus Gathering,
Time to connect 6:30 p.m.
followed by gathering at 7 p.m.,
710 College Street Road, E’town.

POC: Tammy Burba, 270-763-7242.

UPCOMING
Believer’s Meeting, 6:30-8:30

Sept. 11 and 10:30-noon and
1:30-3:30 p.m. Sept. 12, Abundant
Life Church, 1511 S. Dixie Blvd.,
Radcliff, POC: Register at
alcky.churchcenter.com/calendar/

event/230334009.
Fall Prayer School, 6:30-7:45
p.m. Sept. 14-18, Abundant Life
Church, 1511 S. Dixie Blvd.,
Radcliff. Real prayer principles

and time to practice praying.
Registration required by Sept. 13
atalcky.churchcenter.com/
calendar/event/227887885?utm_.
POC: 270-351-9990.