

An Unusual Calling

On June 23, 1982, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* published an intriguing story. It concerned a humble black woman, Dessaymore Scott.

According to the report, she had no family, and she did not remember her parents. Although never married, she raised six children who had been abandoned by their parents. "I was given them," she said, "the family I didn't have."

All of her adopted children had gone through high school, and four through college and business schools.

At the time of the story, Miss Scott was 68 years old and had been the fulltime sexton for Fourth Baptist Church in Richmond for 20 years. The newspaper said that she arrived at 7:30 in the morning and often remained at church until 9 o'clock at night. She was described by friends as a flower:

*There is a garden in her face,
Where roses and white lilies grow ...
There is a song placed deep in her heart,
And its tune only a few would know.*

Denied the privileges that most of us have, Dessaymore Scott rose above her circumstances to live a life of meaning and purpose. We, too, can achieve incredible things if we seek to fulfill the potential for which God created us.

--Beecher Hunter