



THE LIFE STORY OF Nichole Bethel

Nichole Bethel was born on November 7, 1966, to Bruce and Beatrice Morris. The younger of two children, she and her sister Lisa, grew up in a small, close-knit family. Her childhood was filled with nurturing love and a rich cultural heritage, giving her a deep appreciation for the unique roles each family member played in her life. Nichole cherished the artistic and creative lessons she learned from her grandmother Jess and her aunts Henrietta and Vivian. She found security in the steadfast love of her uncles Albert and Larry. Her dad Bruce taught her to believe in herself, to be confident and secure in her ability to achieve anything. Above all, it was her mother, Beatrice, who instilled in her a deep love for family—an influence that shaped Nichole’s thoughtful and caring approach to life.

Nichole loved to have fun and experience new things. She, her sister, their “sistercousin” Kelli, and the only boy, Chad, shared countless adventures swimming, fishing, exploring the arts, and more. These experiences shaped their lives as the family consistently encouraged and challenged each of them to be their very best.

Nichole was educated in the Philadelphia Public School system, attending her beloved McCall Elementary and becoming a proud member of the first graduating class of the High School for Engineering and Science, where she excelled. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Hampton University and a Master of Science in Nursing from La Salle University. A field of study Bruce insisted she try became her life’s passion. At Hampton, Nichole found lifelong friendships and sisterhood. She was a proud “real HU” alumna, and a dedicated member of the Gamma Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Hampton gave her many extraordinary memories and skills, but most importantly, it cultivated her commitment to community service.

A compassionate scientist at heart, Nichole found deep joy and fulfillment in nursing. From her early days as a medical-surgical nurse at Presbyterian Hospital to teaching at the Community College of Philadelphia, working in private practice in Chicago, and serving in nursing leadership roles at several area hospitals, Nichole embodied excellence in her field. She loved nursing—and nursing truly loved her.

Nichole returned to Philadelphia to continue her nursing career and to deepen her spiritual life and relationship with Christ. Having already professed faith in Christ during college, she joined Gospel Temple in South Philadelphia, where she served faithfully in many areas of ministry—teaching Sunday School, participating in evangelism, and assisting with administrative tasks wherever needed.

In July 1994, Nichole joined Christ Stronghold Church. It was there that she discovered a deeper sense of purpose and calling—and met the love of her life, Keith “Scoobie” Bethel. Nichole and Keith met in the Singles Ministry at CSC, but on December 16, 1996, Keith truly noticed her—standing from the hallway, leading an evangelism meeting, her radiant smile lighting up the room. They began dating soon after, and on July 20, 1997, they began a lifelong journey of oneness in marriage.

Nichole and Keith were best friends who shared a life in Christ, allowing God to write their love story. Their marriage became a living reflection of Ruth 1:16–17: “Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

To this union, God gave four wonderful children—Cobe, Cameron, Olivia, and Caleb. These four gifts of love transformed the focus of Nichole’s career and ministry. A dedicated nurse by profession, Nichole chose to step away from her career to devote herself fully to teaching and nurturing her children. Deeply committed to the values of her faith in Christ, culture, learning, and holistic health that she had embraced since childhood, she passed these life lessons into her family.

This was most clearly displayed in two defining family values: a love for exploration and a heart to serve. The Bethel family traveled widely, and Nichole turned every trip into a hands-on classroom experience. From the Grand Canyon to lava fields, from Yosemite National Park to the great cathedrals of Europe, she taught her children to marvel at God’s creation with wonder and gratitude. Their family motto captured its best: “Service is our purpose; our purpose is to serve.” To this day, her children carry that truth with them, often quoting it in college interviews, workplaces, and conversations that reflect their mother’s lasting influence.

The heart of service Nichole taught was most beautifully displayed in the final years of her life, as her children tenderly cared for her with compassion and unwavering love—living out the legacy she had instilled in them until the Lord called her home.

Over more than 30 years of ministry, Nichole served in dozens of roles and touched countless lives. Her first and greatest passion was evangelism—she simply wanted the world to know Christ, her Savior.

When she returned from Chicago in 2005, Nichole joined Sister Patricia Richardson, in Women's Ministry. Her love for women had been nurtured during her time in Chicago with her husband, Keith, where she served with Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) International. As a homeschooling mother of four, God revealed to Nichole His heart and compassion for mothers. This calling blossomed into a 15-year commitment and a national leadership role in ministry, dedicated to meeting the spiritual needs of women and mothers.

Having been prepared for this calling while in Chicago, Nichole's work in Women's Ministry at CSC gave her the opportunity to expand her passion for serving women. Under the wise guidance of First Lady Pat Richardson—and alongside her dear friend Elizabeth ("LizNiche")—Nichole helped bring the church's vision for women's ministry to life. Drawing on her gifts as a Christian counselor, public speaker, nurse, and administrator, she poured herself wholeheartedly into this work. Her motivation was simple yet profound: Christ had given her all the privilege to serve, and she would give Him her all.

In 2020, Nichole was diagnosed with a rare neurological disorder, Frontal Temporal Degeneration (FTD). Although the news was devastating, hope never faded. As a family, we witnessed the grace of God in the past, present, and every season of her journey. That hope and strength were inspired by Nichole herself, who insisted that we live life fully with no time for angers or regrets. She believed with unwavering faith that He who began a good work will see it to completion.

On February 16, at 1:36 in the morning, God called Nichole home. Holding the hand of her best friend, they shared one last moment of joy and worship together with the Lord who, in His grace, had given her a life well lived. She fought the good fight, she kept the faith, and now she has received her reward. Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

There are so many family members, friends, church family, and loved ones who will mourn her death and cherish her life. Please hold the following family members up in your time of prayer: her father and stepmother, Bruce and Trudy Morris; her children—Cobi, Camryn, Olivia, and Caleb; her sister, Lisa Morris; brothers-in-law, Kevin and Rhonda Bethel, and Kerry and Vicky Bethel; cousins, Kelli, Ron, and Chad; and her nieces and nephews, Jessica, Brittany, BB, Alex, Naomi, Dami, Matayo, Micah, and Danielle. Together we mourn and together we celebrate the life of our beloved Nichole.

Lovingly Submitted, The Family

