



## **Thelma Wells Biography**



From times of singing in a dark closet to the founding of a national women's mentoring ministry, Thelma Well's life has been a courageous journey of faith. The name on her birth certificate read simply: Baby Girl Morris. Thelma's mother was a severely deformed teenager with no husband and no place to go, since her own abusive mother insisted that she take the baby and leave the house. So when the baby was born, her unwed teenage mother found work as a maid cleaning "the big house" while living with her baby daughter in servants' quarters. Eventually, the baby went to live with her great-grandparents, who called her Thelma Louise Smith and loved her dearly. They took little Thelma to church, where she learned to love the hymns and praise songs.

On those occasions when Thelma was taken to her grandparents' home, her grandmother abused her, just as she had tormented Thelma's mother. She was locked in a dark, smelly, insect-infested closet until just before her grandfather came home when her grandmother would bring her out of the closet, clean her up, and act as if all was well. In spite of her deep fear, little Thelma spent her time in the closet singing every hymn and praise song she could remember. She would sing herself to sleep in that closet, and the Lord received this little girl's innocent praise and rewarded it with an abundant life of joy, protecting her from feelings of anger or bitterness.

Thelma grew up to become a trailblazer for black women, a prominent international speaker and author, and a wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. As a student at North Texas State University in Denton, Texas (now the University of North Texas), she was a member of the first group of girls to integrate the school's dormitories. She earned her Bachelor's degree there and eventually received a Master's of Ministry from Master's International School of Divinity in Evansville, Indiana. In 2002 she became the school's first black female professor.

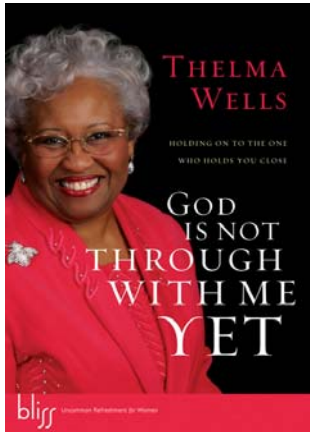
In 1980 Thelma became the first black woman in the South to organize her own international speaking and consulting corporation. Her natural talent for public speaking and storytelling attracted the attention of the Women of Faith Tour, and in 1996 she became the first black core speaker for the organization. She has authored several books, including her latest *God Is Not Through With Me Yet*, an inspiring examination of her own life experiences in which she encourages readers to "sing in the closets of their lives." She serves as the president of The Daughters of Zion Leadership Mentoring Program, an organization she founded in 2000 (another first for a black woman). Through this ministry, "Mama T," as she is affectionately called, has mentored over 100 spiritual daughters.

Thelma has been married to George Wells, her best friend, supporter, and encourager, for over 45 years. The couple lives in Dallas, Texas, and has three married children, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



## Singing in the Closets of Life

### *Embracing God in Times of Fear*



**Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX**—Thelma Wells, author and popular speaker on the Women of Faith tour, specializes in the art of motivating, inspiring, and equipping people to “be their best.” Her latest book, *God Is Not Through With Me Yet*, offers readers the encouragement to face times of testing and uncertainty in life. As a writer, Thelma possesses the unique talent of communicating with her audience in a disarming, folksy manner, as if she and the reader are already good friends. As she shares some of her own memorable life experiences, her “tell-it-like-it-is” style, combined with her natural tendency toward motherly warmth, makes *God Is Not Through With Me Yet* an uplifting, irresistible read.

When she was just a little girl, Thelma was locked in a dark closet for hours at a time by her abusive grandmother. In this environment she discovered the power of praise. As she sang every old hymn she could remember, God met her in the darkness and exchanged her terror for overwhelming peace. Since that time, Thelma (or Mama T, as she is affectionately called) has been spreading the message of prayer and praise to everyone she meets, encouraging them to “sing in the closets of life.” This philosophy has given her the strength and determination to become:

- Recognized in newspapers and magazines as the first Black woman to serve as assistant vice president of a commercial bank, North Park National Bank in Dallas, TX
- The first Black woman in the South to organize her own international speaking and consulting company
- The first Black woman to become a core speaker for the largest Christian women’s movement in the world, the Women of Faith Conferences
- The first Black woman to found and implement a national mentoring program for women in ministry, The Daughters of Zion Leadership Mentoring Program
- The first Black woman to become a professor at Master’s International School of Divinity in Evansville, Indiana. A Women’s Issues Department was created as a result of the books and programs she developed.

Thelma has seen God do mighty things through the fervent prayers and praises of his people—including her own miraculous healing from breast cancer. After recovering from two surgeries and months of sickness, Thelma is one energized great-grandmother who is truly convinced that God is not finished with her yet. The book is scheduled for release in February 2007.

#### ***God Is Not Through With Me Yet***

**By Thelma Wells**

Multnomah Publishers February 2007

The WaterBrook Multnomah Publishing Group

ISBN: 1-59052-785-2/hardcover/224 pages/\$15.99

*Since 1987, The B & B Media Group, Inc. has used its broadcasting, marketing and advertising experience to provide the specialized and strategic publicity necessary to achieve the public relations goals of each client. The Barnabas Agency, a division of The B & B Media Group, Inc., is a proven provider of exceptional public relations and personal management services for authors, speakers, ministries and organizations.*



## ***Thelma Wells Speaking Topics***

### ***God is Not Through with You Yet***

Based on Thelma's book, "*God is Not Through with Me Yet*," Thelma tells of her battle with cancer and two surgeries that almost took her life. Mixing personal stories and solid biblical teaching, she encourages you to develop a deeper faith and desire to follow your Lord...even through life's most turbulent storms.

### ***A Formula For Success: B+E+E=S:***

Because Thelma wears a bumblebee every day, she uses this formula to emphasize:

B - Be aware of who you are - Psalm 139:13-17

E - Eliminate the Negatives in your life - Philippians 4:6

E - Eternal Value is what counts in life - Matthew 15:2

S - Success is a decision - 3 John 2

\*This material can be covered in a keynote or two consecutive sessions of 1 hour each.

### ***Bumblebees Fly Anyway***

In this topic, Thelma teaches strong principles gained from her personal life story of racial bias, humble beginnings, and a sense of personal inadequacy. As Zig Ziglar said, "Thelma calls on us to exceed our own limitations, to go beyond the expected, the routine, the ordinary, in all our pursuits. Because that is what she demands of herself."

### ***God Will Make a Way***

Thelma identifies specific promises from Scripture, followed by inspiring testimonies from her own experience to offer fresh insights into ways that God answers prayer, offers guidance, and restores hope in the midst of trial and hardship.

### ***What's Going On, Lord?***

When the circumstance of our lives raise more questions than answers, where do we turn? According to Thelma, that's when it's time to take God at His Word. With insight and humor she directs us to God's Word for teachings about our need for safety, peace, provision, guidance and wisdom. Then she applies the teachings to all that we fear.

### ***Girl, Have I Got Good News For You!***

Thelma offers God's comfort, wisdom, and perspective to help you heal and move on after such occurrences as depression, abuse, failing health and a hurt too deep to forgive. Speaking from her own life experience, she blends humor, compassion, and a cheerleader's commitment to encourage others through God's Word and prayer.

**Customized Keynote:** For over 20 years, Thelma has addressed audiences of all types and sizes. With information YOU want and need to hear, she will take your theme and ask God to impart the message. HE never fails. Combining years of experience, practical advice and humorous stories with the Word of God, she creates a tailor-made message that will speak to your heart and challenge you to be your best.



***CORPORATE SPEAKING TOPICS:***

***YOU CAN BE THE BEST OF WHAT YOU WANT TO “BEE” ©***

We all have the ability to be the best of what we want to be in any situation. Every day we are faced with family, career, religious, community, health, financial and/or other decisions that affect our very existence. This speech is dedicated to the proposition that we can have anything we want in life if we have the physical ability, mental aptitude, and motivation to do so. When people tell us what we cannot do, we must believe that the only limits we have are the limits we put, or allow to be put, on ourselves. Thelma says, “Don’t believe the lie that you can’t fly!”

***CUSTOMER SERVANTHOOD – THE GOLDEN RULE IN ACTION ©***

The various roles of the Customer Service Representative include being part host and hostess, part teacher, part detective, and part psychologist. Customer Service Reps have one of the most stressful jobs in the United States. This seminar is designed to share the latest techniques for dealing with customer service opportunities that can delight your customers and help you put the golden rule into action.

***SELF-ESTEEM IS A MATTER OF CHOICE ©***

Everyone suffers from low self-esteem at one time or another. But, nobody has to be victim of low self-esteem. This seminar is designed to help you gain and maintain a high level of self-esteem in spite of life’s difficulties. You will learn techniques that can help you be the best when all around you seems to be caving in.

***L.E.A.D. ©***

Managers, supervisors, group leaders, coordinators and the like are faced with the awesome responsibility of leading people in a complex and revolutionary business climate in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many people find themselves in management positions without any training or former experience. This program is designed to teach the principles of L.E.A.D.:

- L – Lend a Helping Hand
- E – Excel at Menial Tasks
- A – Accept Responsibility
- D – Demand More of Yourself than Others

***DEFYING THE ODDS AT WORK AND HOME - A FORMULA FOR SUCCESS ©***

Bumblebees are not designed for flying. According to the laws of aerodynamics, in fact, they should not be able to get off the ground. Yet every day millions of these little creatures defy the odds—they do fly! This program is about collaborating in the creation of opportunities, progress, and change in your career and personal life. By wearing a bumblebee brooch every day, Thelma reminds others of the formula for success:

- B – Be Aware of Who You Are
- E – Eliminate the Negatives in Your Life
- E – Eternal Value Is What Counts
- S – Success Is a Decision

Note: This material can be covered in a keynote or two consecutive sessions of 1 hour each.

**THELMA WELLS** has been a popular Women of Faith speaker for over 10 years and has authored numerous Christian books. But not many people know that Thelma also has over 25 years of experience traveling globally speaking to corporations like: IBM, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Internal Revenue Service, Baylor Hospital, Coldwater Federal Penitentiary, University of Michigan, American Association of Christian Counselors, The House of Hope, Lutons Bank - United Kingdom, The Electricity Supply Company of Dublin, Ireland, and The University of Oxford in England. She has also spoken to numerous other organizations, corporations, universities, banks, and institutions throughout the world.

**Thelma specializes in the art of motivating, inspiring, and equipping people to “BEE their best.”**



## What People Are Saying About Thelma Wells

“When Thelma Wells speaks, I listen. When she inspires, I grow stronger. And when she smiles, well...no one smiles like Thelma Wells

**Max Lucado**

**Bestselling author and senior minister of Oak Hills Church, San Antonio, Texas**

“Anyone knowing Thelma Wells would not have questioned that this wonderful woman of God was already perfected in the Lord. But, if anything characterizes Thelma, it is her transparent honesty. As this internationally acclaimed woman of God faced the harsh realities of a devastating physical trial, she discovered that God was not yet through with her

**Dr. Dennis D. Frey**

**President, Master’s International School of Divinity**

“Thelma Wells is a modern-day prophet. Impassioned, profound, and unmistakably poignant in delivering this life changing message: ‘Never give up on God. He is right in the middle of every storm you are in, ready and able to comfort and deliver.’ Amen, Thelma—we’re listening, keep on preaching it!”

**Dr. Gary and Barbara Rosberg**

**Speakers, authors, and cohosts of a nationally syndicated, daily radio program**

“When I think of Thelma, she makes me smile, she’s like Jesus with skin on...she’s a constant reminder of God’s grace. Thelma is an epistle of Christ written not with ink, but by the spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh that is of the heart.”

**Mike Hyatt**

**President and CEO of Thomas Nelson publishing the parent company of Women of Faith**

“Thelma is a tremendous blessing to all who hear her. Even when hurting, Thelma has found the Peace that passes understanding, and she’s passed that opportunity to have that peace on to others.”

**James Robison**

**Christian TV host of *Life Today***

“Thelma is a woman of character, of talent and distinction. She always knows how to connect and communicate with the audience--with a Christian spirit, an intellectual mind and a gifted soul. I congratulate Thelma for the ability to connect with human beings, to minister and help them, to be the kind of steward with which our Lord would be very happy.

**Nido Qubein**

**President of High Point University, High Point, NC**

“Thelma's words are like rain from heaven...they refresh parched hearts. So leave your umbrellas home and get ready for showers of blessings.”

**Patsy Clairmont**  
**Women of Faith Speaker, Author of *Dancing Bones***

“Every time I hear Thelma speak I am reminded that God is in control of all things, at all times. She lifts my heart and my spirit and reminds me to worship my way through any storm. It is a joy and an honor to call her my sister.”

**Sheila Walsh**  
**Women of Faith Speaker, Author of *God Has a Dream for Your Life***

“Thelma is utterly captivating, charming and winsome. She communicates those characteristics within moments of meeting her. Her speaking and writing encourage me to rest evermore fully in the love of Jesus. As I study scripture, I see Thelma living it out. She is an inspiring example of one whose life reflects God's life.”

**Marilyn Meberg**  
**Women of Faith Speaker, Author *Free Inside and Out***

"Thelma Wells is a woman of great strength and Christ-like humility. She's been through more adversity than one woman should have to endure, but I've never seen her without joy. It's woven into the very fabric of her colorful clothes and spirit. In short, she's one of the more remarkable women I've ever known."

**Nicole Johnson**  
**Author of *Fresh Brewed Life* and dramatist for Women of Faith**