



Association of Adventist Women

# Brenda Blackmon Wood

— Woman of the Year —

Professional Life

1998

Orphaned at the age of 5, Brenda Blackmon was adopted by her aunt, Alma Blackmon. Brenda was educated at Oakwood College and Loma Linda University. She earned a B.A. degree in speech communication and mass media on the La Sierra campus in 1977.

She began her professional career in Huntsville, Alabama, at age 23, working as a news reporter, anchoring news breaks, and producing a public affairs show. After her marriage to Dr. Keith Wood, an Oakwood College professor, she worked for eight years in Memphis. Subsequently she and her family moved to Atlanta where she first anchored news at a CBS

affiliate. When that station was taken over by Fox broadcasting, Brenda decided to move to the NBC affiliate where she became lead news anchor.

Characterized as “tough, driven, competitive,” Brenda Blackmon Wood was determined to make a career in television

journalism despite warnings about losing her way spiritually. Today she has not only received numerous honors and awards—including 10 Emmy awards and five awards from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists—but she is also an active and respected leader in the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. In her home church Brenda directs a



mentoring program matching new members with established church members to assist them in integrating with the larger church family. She is active in church communication projects, children's church, and the choir.

Atlanta Magazine writer Vincent Coppola describes her as “a devout Seventh-day Adventist...cool, contained--the female version...of the network anchors of old guys like Eric Sevareid and Walter Cronkite.” Another colleague says, “Brenda Wood is the genuine article. You are getting the truth. You are getting the real person. Brenda Wood's personal strength and presence come through on the screen.”

Pastor Eric Calvin Ward says, “I have seen Brenda Wood climb in technological prominence with our national media exponents. With all of her professional accomplishments, she has also grown spiritually, in her faithfulness to her family, and more importantly, in her relationship with God.”

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