

Marion Jackson—Living a Beautiful Life Dedicated to Faith, Family, and Healing



by Christopher Cussat

Marion Jackson likes to think of herself as a very spiritually-driven woman. She believes that the spiritual essence permeating her person has helped her be successful not only in her healthcare profession of nursing, but also in her artistic aspirations as an actress and model.

Growing up in the small town of Midway (which is located about 20 miles southwest of Pittsburgh), Jackson was the oldest of three children. Her mother, who was a homemaker, and her father, who worked in construction, instilled many life lessons and positive living values in her throughout the years.

Jackson recalls, “Specifically, my mother was my earliest memory of greatest influence to me, and she instilled at a very young age the importance of eating healthy and exercise.” She adds that some of her fondest childhood memories involved the times her mother spent with them. “We routinely took long walks together—she did cartwheels and played hopscotch, badminton, and jump-rope—just always keeping her children very active.” Jackson notes that her family’s diet was also generally health-conscious—consisting of homegrown fruits, vegetables, and venison which her father, brother, and mother hunted.



Marion Jackson

as well as from being the neighborhood babysitter. She decided to go back to school when her boys were in their teens and now she is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Prior to this is when Jackson had done some advertising and modeling work. “My desire to learn about the beauty world started in high school, and I followed that route for awhile by taking up cosmetology in my sophomore year,” she notes.

She stumbled upon working as an extra in movies accidentally when an agency

One of the other important forces in Jackson’s life has been her faith. She explains, “It is very important for me to portray, to the best of my ability, a Godly woman in all that I do.” In fact, she feels that this is the largest responsibility in her life, especially because she is a mother of two sons. “I want to set an example for my children, family, and the watching world.”

Looking back, Jackson thinks that her gift of nursing was inspired very early in life partially due to being the big sister looking after her siblings,



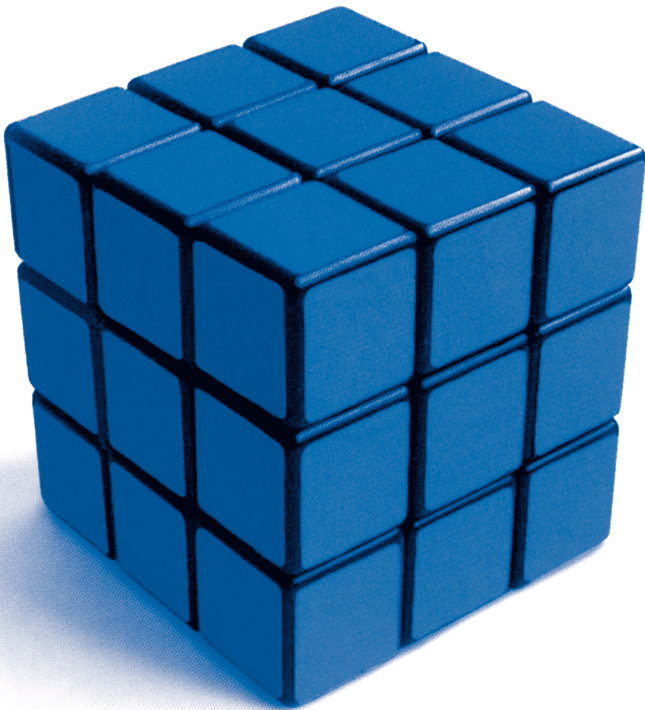
she was affiliated with asked if she would do so. “I did, and I found it to be very fun and exciting.” She continues, “I met a lot of people, was pampered by a make-up artist and beautician, ate very well, and got to dress up! I saw that it wasn’t all that different from doing a modeling gig and I thought, ‘I can do this!’”

Jackson has found that by doing acting and modeling, it is in a sense, a great occasional escape from the high pressure and demands of nursing. “In addition, it gave me the opportunity to role-play many different characters—and I loved this,” she says.

Through her real role as a nurse, Jackson has worked at the Veteran’s Hospital on the skilled, dementia, and hospice units. She adds, “I also have experience in home healthcare, but my newest endeavor and passion though, is focusing on nurse advocacy.”

Jackson concludes that it is important in life to try and maintain a healthy balance in everything that we do—so as to not ever lose ourselves or put too much emphasis or self-worth in our jobs. “Basically, we are not defined by what we do, but instead we are defined by who we are,” she explains. “In life, I think it is easy sometimes to feel like unless we make a certain amount of money, attain a certain rank, or hold a certain title, that we are not always worthy somehow as a person—I try not to define my self-worth through these things, but instead through who I am, and how I treat people.”

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