Ivis Marie Hopper Powell was born on December 8, 1920 in Ontario, Oregon to Walter James and Vineta Parton Hopper.

Ivis grew up in a Christian home and enjoyed singing with her sisters in trios and quartets. She gave her life to Christ at a young age and felt God's call to become a nurse. After graduating from Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing and receiving her nursing degree from Northwest Nazarene College in 1945, Ivis set sail for Swaziland, Africa. After nearly three months of travel she arrived at the mission hospital where she worked for the next sixteen years, caring for both the young and old. Some of her favorite work was with children; Ivis was in charge of the children's hospital ward and orphanage for several years, and later became supervisor of the midwifery department as well as teaching midwifery. During her service in Africa, Ivis returned home only twice, traveling extensively in the U.S. and Canada telling about her mission work.

In 1962 Ivis returned to the United States and began work as Director of Nursing Services for the hospital in Council, Idaho. On March 14, 1966 she married Milton Wesley Powell and moved to his farm south of Fruitland, Idaho. Together they farmed eighty acres, milked a dozen cows, raised calves, and cared for Milton's four children who had recently lost their mother to cancer. Ivis felt that God had placed her there, and the love Ivis and Milton shared kept them strong for nearly 35 years. They retired from the farm in 1977 and lived in Nampa two years before resettling in New Plymouth, Idaho.

Ivis was always busy crocheting beautiful pieces of handwork or tending to one of their beautiful gardens. She was very active in the Ontario, Oregon Church of the Nazarene, teaching Sunday school for 25 years, serving 15 years as missionary society president, and helping out wherever she was needed.

Milton underwent heart surgery in 1995 and did not recover well. Ivis' nursing skills proved invaluable as she lovingly cared for Milton until his death on August 22, 2000. In June 2001, Ivis was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that progressed quickly. Even in her last days she sang hymns of praise to the Lord and prayed for the salvation of her family. She was called home to her Lord and Savior on August 31, 2001.

Through all of her life, Ivis Marie Hopper Powell was a strong woman with a deep love for the Lord and His work, diligently serving Him and impacting many lives. An inspiration to all, she will never be forgotten.

Criteria for the Award

(1) Recipients are to be students who meet general scholastic requirements and show potential for academic success and degree completion. (2) Recipients are to be nursing students, either undergraduate or post-baccalaureate, with enrollment status of half-time or above. (3) Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship. (4) Recipients may receive the award in successive years, not to exceed four years. (5) Nominations for this award are to be made by the Department of Nursing through the School of Health and Science and the Office of Financial Aid.