

In Loving Memory
Of

Sunrise
February 18, 1958

Sunset
December 2, 2011

Helen Forde Williams

Services

Friday, December 9, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.

ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

132 Odell Clark Place
New York, New York

Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, Officiating

Obituary

Helen Roberta Forde Williams was born February 18, 1958 at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York to George and Isabelle Forde. She was the second of three children. As any child growing up in New York City, Helen would occasionally get into mischief along with her brother, George or with her sister, Patrice. Whether it was playing outside with friends and family or yelling out the window to the adjacent apartment in the Mitchell Houses, Helen did everything with energy and exuberance.

At a young age, because of her high energy, she was enrolled in Ruth Williams Dance Studio. During her junior years, she was always involved in activities in conjunction with dance such as Basketball, Volleyball, Girl Scouts, as well as being a counselor for Minisink Townhouse. For Helen, education was very important. She was able to graduate early from Sacred Heart of Mary High School and continued on to Howard University in Washington, D.C. where she met and became acquainted with Marc Williams of New York, NY. After two years at Howard, she returned home to give birth to her first child, Nicole. The following year, Helen and Marc were married and through this union they had two more children, Marques and Tiffany. With this growing nest, Helen always made sure she “got on the ball” and did what was needed to do in order to support her family. While working for companies like Bear Sterns and Discover Card, she followed through with her goal and obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from the City College of New York.

Helen continued to pursue higher education while she worked in a multitude of employment fields including financial services and social services. After taking courses at other institutions such as Columbia University and Long Island University, Helen received her Master’s Degree in Social Work from Adelphi University. In realizing her true passion in helping those who needed assistance, Helen became a force within her field as she carried out social work for domestic violence shelters, welfare offices, and homeless outreach organizations including her final place of employment, Bronxworks. With education being such an important and vital skill to Helen, she ensured that all three of her children developed the same passion for higher learning. No words were needed to describe Helen’s emotion on the day of each child’s college graduation. She was very proud of all of them for what they were able to accomplish.

Throughout the years, Helen continued to display her love for dance with the Ruth Williams Dance Studio and a few other organizations such as the Bokandeye Dance Company and the Millennium Dance Company. It didn’t matter how long her days or weeks at work, or how bad her feet hurt from the daily commute, Helen made sure she was involved with dancing. Helen was also a dedicated soldier for God and demonstrated her dedication and commitment as a member of the Abyssinian Baptist Church. She was involved with numerous ministries including the New Life Ushers, the Inspirational Voices of Abyssinian, the Exodus committee, as well as the welcoming committee. Helen was always thrilled to participate in church outings or events whether it was bathing in the sun at the annual church picnic, dressing to impress at the Black Tie Affair, or tailgating at the NY Urban League Football Classic.

On December 2, 2011, after a long battle with cancer, Helen was called home to reunite with her family and friends. Helen is survived by: her three children, (Nicole, Marques, and Tiffany); husband (Marc); grandchildren, (Jayden and Zaire); mother (Isabelle); brother, (George); sister, (Patrice); daughter-in-law, (Tonya); mother-in-law, (Elaine); eight nieces and nephews, (Tameeka, Oronde, Shakira, Quiana, Isiah, Jamel, Jabor and Juwan); two godchildren, (Sarita and Patrice), and a host of cousins, friends and other relatives too numerous to mention. Helen was preceded in death by her father, George Forde, Sr. and dearly loved, Malcolm McIntosh.

Helen’s strength and enthusiasm for life will continue to live on through us all. She will be greatly missed here on Earth, but surely we will reunite with her again in glory.

Order of Service

Prelude

Invocation

Congregational Hymn

“We’ve Come This Far By Faith” - #412

Scripture Reading

Old Testament - Psalm 91

New Testament - II Timothy 4:6-8

Prayer of Comfort

Choir Selection

“Oh Jesus”

Soloist - Eunice Newkirk

Acknowledgements & Resolutions

1. Marques Williams
2. Dance Tribute performed by the Bokandeye Dance Company

The Obituary

Patrice Lee

Choir Selection

“Oh Lord, How Excellent”

Eulogy

Committal

Benediction

Recessional

“When We All Get To Heaven”

Interment

Mt. Hope Cemetery

Hastings-On-Hudson, New York

Come

To

Me

*God saw she was getting tired
And a cure was not to be
So He gently closed those loving eyes
And whispered "Come to me"
The days of toil and nights of pain
The weary hours have passed
The patient gentle worn out frame
Has found sweet rest at last.
Day and night we stood by her
And saw her in pain,
Anxiously awaiting her cure
But our waiting was in vain.
God who knoweth all things best
Eased her suffering, gave her rest
She is gone but not forgotten,
Never will our memories fade
Sweetest thoughts of her will ever linger
Round the place where she rests.*

-Author unknown

Acknowledgement

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of
kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.*

God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.



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