

In Loving Memory of



Ida Lighten-Mitchell

Sunrise: January 28, 1929 - Sunset: August 25, 2015

Services

Tuesday, September 1, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

Metropolitan Baptist Church

149 Springfield Avenue

Newark, NJ 07103

Rev. David Jefferson, Senior Pastor

Obituary

Ida Lighten-Mitchell
(Midus-Mydus-Modus-Mudder)
January 28, 1929 - August 25, 2015



In the Beginning:

Ida Lighten entered this world on January 28, 1929, in Fort Necessity, Extension, Louisiana, through the loving union of the late Deacon Jessie Lighten and Ida Brown Lighten. Ida was the youngest girl, as well as, the eighth child in a family of seven daughters and seven sons. Jessie and Ida were God fearing people and raised their children to know and love God. Every Sunday, without fail Jessie and Ida attended the Daughters of Zion Baptist Church, with their children, where each child was baptized.

A Time to Learn:

Although, Jessie wanted his children educated, the chores on Mr. Charlie Grayson's Plantation oftentimes came first. Ida was spared from such grueling work and so were her five younger brothers. Papa Jess, as he was also known, assigned her to babysit while her other brothers and sisters worked the fields. Little did she know babysitting her five highly charged, competitive, rough and tumble brothers was also hard work. Ida often spoke about how she was held accountable for what they did. On many days she wanted to tie them up to the back of the barn, but they were so cute, so she prayed and let them play. Since she couldn't beat them, she decided to join them. Anything that they could do she had to do better, which was another mistake, because the older they became the more risky the challenges. Ida recalled vividly the day she was injured accepting their last challenge. The brothers used to pull back a bamboo tree, and then one of them would sit on the end and get launched into the air. The one who landed the farthest was the winner. Ida never wanted to play, but on that day she accepted the challenge. In hindsight, Ida knew she should have aborted the challenge when she saw how much further down to the ground they had bent the limb, but she got on anyway. Momentarily, Ida soared like a bird in the sky, and suddenly there was panic. Ida's knee hit the ground first, and once on her feet, she knew that her knee would never be the same. With having field chores, the injured knee and the grueling farm work soon convinced her it was time to leave the nest.

At the age of nineteen, Ida migrated to Asbury Park, New Jersey, with her sister Clara and the late Ozie Hudgens. Once there, she wasted no time becoming gainfully employed. Ida was employed at a factory during the day and worked as a waitress during the evening. Most weekends she cleaned suburban homes and had a few live-in babysitting jobs. Determined to make a better life, Ida moved to Newark, New Jersey.

A Time for Love and Family:

Once in Newark, she began a loving relationship with David Alexander, a handsome debonair and smooth dancer. Their love was painfully short lived when David was called to serve in the US Navy. In time Ida moved on and in 1949, she met and married the late Charlie Mitchell a suave dressing man with and through their loving union they had three daughters and one son.

In 1956, Charlie Mitchell's life tragically ended leaving Ida to struggle to care for four children as a single parent. Despite the hardships, Ida vowed to keep her family together. A short time later, David Alexander returned from military duty. Their rekindled love produced two daughters.

A Time for Change:

For several years Ida worked as many as three jobs at the same time. In 1969, Ida applied for a position as an Admitting Clerk at Martland Medical Center (formerly known as Newark City Hospital), currently Rutgers-UMDNJ. Ida loved her job assisting people and never viewed it as work. Ida retired after 25 years of service with an excellent record in attendance.

All in all, in life Ida was like a magnet. Ida would always find amazing energy to "hang out" and cook for family and friends. Ida made everyone feel at home in her house. At the end of a festive time she would say aloud..... *"It was beautiful"*and she was even more BEAUTIFUL!

A Time to Be with God:

Preceding her in death were: father, Jessie Lighten, mother, Ida Brown Lighten, husband, Charlie Mitchell, brothers, Jessie Lighten, Jr., Dennis Lighten, Purvis Lighten, Jimmy Lighten, Hank Lighten, and David Lighten, brothers-in-law, Ozie Hudgens, Levy Swazer and sisters Etta Lighten-Walker, Lottie Mae Lighten-Swazer, Alice Lighten-Brown, Emma Lighten, Eris Lighten and David Alexander.

Ida leaves to cherish her memories: Jacqueline Mitchell-Adams (the late Joe Louis Adams), Deborah Lynn Mitchell-DeBerry (Frank DeBerry), Gail Mitchell, Charles Edward Mitchell Sr. (Wanda Alderman-Mitchell), Gina Elizabeth Alexander, Donna Lorraine Alexander-Littles (Cyrus Littles), grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and a host of other devoted relatives and esteemed friends.

Order of Service

Rev. David Jefferson, Presiding

Processional

Hymn.....Cyndi Pinkney

Scripture Reading:
Old Testament: Psalms 23
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort.....George Bunton

Homage.....Gina Alexander

Solo.....Cyndi Pinkney

Reflections (3 minutes please)

Acknowledgements

Obituary.....Pamela Lighten

Eulogy.....Tracy Soto

Interment
Fairview Cemetery
1100 E. Broad Street
Westfield, New Jersey 07090

Pallbearers

Isaiah Littles Charles Mitchell, Jr.
Kyle Mitchell DeShad Adams

Graveside Poem.....Idika Adams

Tenor Say.....Thomas Rosenthal

Immediately following interment, please join the family back at the Metropolitan Baptist Church for repast.





God knew you had reached your limits,
and had truly done your best.
To live by his Commandments.
It was time for you to rest.

Though tired from your endeavours.
Still you tried to carry on.
Always giving of yourself,
till all your strength had gone.

God knew that if he let you,
You'd keep going till you drop.
But good soul that you truly are,
it was time for you to stop.

So now that you're in heaven,
To family and friend's delight.
With tears in our eyes,
and heavy hearts,
We say Dear Ida,
Good night!..... The Family

Acknowledgement

*With deep appreciation, the children of **Ida Mitchell** would like to thank you for all expressions of concern and sympathy, including your warm thoughts, prayers, cards, telephone calls, texts, emails, postings, visits, flowers, food, hugs and the sharing of your talents to guide and support us during this time of bereavement.*



Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

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Newark, New Jersey 07102
973-622-6872

Carolyn Whigham, Director

