

In Loving Memory
of
Ruth Rawls

Sunrise
October 8, 1939

Sunset
December 4, 2015



Tuesday, December 8, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

PHILEMON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
246 Shephard Avenue • Newark, New Jersey 07112

Bishop Hilton Rawls, Officiating
Anita Bethea, Organist

Order of Service

Musical Prelude

Processional

Opening Hymn by All

“We Have Come This Far By Faith”

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:16

Prayer of Comfort

Selection

Poem

MJ, Ruben Jr, Elizabeth

Obituary

Selection

Remarks by Family & Friends

(2 minutes please)

Eulogy

Recessional

INTERMENT

Evergreen Cemetery
Hillside, New Jersey

Obituary

RUTH RAWLS, was born in Tifton, Georgia on October 8, 1939 to the late James W. and Amy Gardner. She entered Heaven's Gates on December 4th, 2015.

First and Foremost; Ruth's first love was "God" and her children. She had unconditional love and unwavering faith in the All Mighty God. Ruth used her love for gospel music, gift to sing and play the piano to display her undying love and admiration to God. Ruth formed a gospel group that traveled and sung at various churches throughout her teenage years into her early twenties. Ruth met her late husband Bishop Curtis L. Rawls in her early twenties at church and they ushered into this world her prized possessions, six beautiful and multi-talented children: Curtis L. Rawls Jr., Andrice Padilla, Elizabeth Rawls, Tia Rawls, Vonchitta Rawls and Carmen Miller. She eventually became a dedicated member and worshiper at the Pentecostal Church of God all of her adult life; where she served the Lord with gladness as a powerful praying women and respected woman of God. Ruth and Curtis later divorced and she eventually relocated to Newark, NJ with her parents James W. and Amy Gardner.

A consummate Gospel singer, song writer, Minister of music and Choir Director; Ruth passed her musical gifts on to her children and she poured into them the importance of keeping God first and foremost in everything that they do and the power of love, faith, unity, family and home. She led by example and taught her children to be vigilant in prayer, believe and praise God in good times and through adversity. Ruth gave her life to God and used all of her gifts to glorify his name. Anyone that truly knew her can testify about how she always made time to go outside her circle of love to speak into another person's life. They can remember experiencing her love and compassion for others and was a recipient of her inspirational guidance and radical faith in God. She was known for testifying about God's goodness and praising him not only in church and at home, but at the doctor's office, dentist office, ophthalmologist office, supermarket and where ever she would go. She was not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and preached it all the days of her life.

Ruth was a retired hairdresser and obtained her Associates degree in Early Childhood Education from Essex County College in Newark, New Jersey. Ruth was the loving and proud grandmother to her grandchildren; Murjani, Ruben, Jr. Elizabeth, Marcus, D'Angelo, Skye, little Curtis Jr. and Kiyonna. She also cherished her only great grandchild Adaya. Ruth was also an excellent cook and baker. With blessed hands; Ruth enjoyed preparing homemade meals passed down from her mother Amy Gardner and she was well known for baking her famous sweet potato pies and mouth watering peach cobbler for her family and friends.

Ruth was the fourth child of six siblings and is survived by her youngest brother and sister Peter and Patricia. Ruth began to experience on-going issues with her health over the past two years and with tenacity and resiliency she used the word of God as her weapon to fight and make it through each day. After long-suffering and enduring hardship as a good soldier, God called Ruth home to unite with her mother Amy, father James W. and siblings; Sam, Amy Lee and Louie. Ruth will be deeply missed and never forgotten by her sister, brother, six children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, son-in-laws Tony Wells and Mark Miller, and a host of extended family, church family members and lifelong friends.

Today we say to our loving Ruth; although we will miss your presence here on earth, you will always be in our hearts and prayers and we thank God for the precious time he has allowed us to have you in our lives. We sincerely thank God for calling you home to rest, unspeakable joy, everlasting peace and eternal life with him. We have comfort in knowing that we will see you again. 2nd Corinthians 5:7-9; *for we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.*

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Unconditional

Unconditional, the only word that comes to mind
A love you can't just feel but taste, hear, and smell
A soul brighter than any star with a heart as vast as the cosmos

It's an empty space inside that no one could ever fill
An unconditional love that still lives in my heart
It's a stain I never want to get out
In the memories from old to new, between me & you, let them continue
To crowd my brain & ease the pain
Until I see you once again

You've done well; a well lived life begets a well rest earned
There is aging and then there is aging brilliantly, gracefully
The world may be a little less full
But whatever is lost on earth, resides as a star in the sky
Unconditionally

We Love You Grandma

Murjani

Ruben Jr.

Elizabeth

Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.
Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

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