




Celebration of Life for

James L. Ricks

Sunrise
April 28, 1946

Sunset
December 5, 2015



Friday, December 11, 2015 - 8:00 p.m.

MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH

9-11 Tulip Street

Passaic, New Jersey

Rev. William Baskerville, Pastor

Kenny Montgomery, Organist

Reflections of Life

James Lee Ricks was born on April 28, 1946 in Wakefield, Virginia. He was the 5th of 11 children born to the late Walter and Elsie Mae Ricks.

James received his formal education in the Waverly Public School System. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age, and was baptized at the Liberty Baptist Church in Waverly, Virginia, where he attended regularly. He took after his father with his love of family and music.

James migrated to Paterson, New Jersey in 1963, and later moved to Passaic in 1964, where he stayed until 2010. He was employed as a Truck Driver for much of his life, working in New York's Garment District; I.H.E. Floors in Elmwood Park, New Jersey; Service Plumbing in Passaic, New Jersey; however, he was mostly known as a driver for Calling All Cars in Passaic. James Lee followed his heart and opened The Little James Hot Dog Truck, and J&R Grocery Store in Passaic.

It was in 1969, when he met the love of his life, Etta Hopson, and after a rather long courtship, they married on October 6, 1977. James later followed his passion for music and his love for quartet singing, he formed, founded and sang with his family in a group called "The Faithful Few". He then founded Virginia Music where he managed The Uplifters, with whom he got a chance to travel across the country singing and spreading the Gospel of the Lord.

James was a member of the Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Passaic, where he was the Bass Player, and he served faithfully for over 50 years until his health began to fail.

On Saturday, December 5, 2015, the Lord sent his angel of mercy to the Daughters of Miriam Rehabilitation Center of Clifton, NJ, and at 10:45pm James Lee Ricks closed his eyes on this side for the last time.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Elsie Mae Ricks; one brother, John Ricks; and three sisters, Bernice Young, Barbara King, and Diniah Ricks and brother-in-law, Frank Haskins; sister-in-law, Philip Jennings.

Precious memories will forever remain in the hearts and minds of his loving and devoted wife, Etta Hopson Ricks; 6 children, Lisa Adams, Tammy Adams (Francis), Charles Hopson (Irma), James Ricks (Rev. Taria), Denise Ricks and Michelle Thomas; one brother, Walter Ricks (Debbie); 6 sisters, Hazel Dixon (Alvin), Dorothy Ricks, Juanita Ricks, Thelma Haskins (Frank-deceased), Mary Jennings (Phillip-deceased), and Shirley McGriff (Charlie); 21 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; mother-in-law, Catherine Hopson; one godson, Joseph Nelson, Jr.; 3 sisters-in-law, Beverly Hopson, Debra Vaughn (John), and Dollica Hopson (Jack); his group, The Uplifters; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, friends and neighbors; and his Mt. Moriah Church Family.

His favorite songs "Walk Around Heaven" is what he is doing now, and "He Was There All The Time" is how his family will remember him.

Order of Service

The Prelude.....	Rev. Keith Odom
The Processional.....	Clergy and Family
First Testament Reading - Ecclesiastes 3:1-11	Elder Andre Peterson
Second Testament Reading - 2 Corinthians 5: 1-8.....	Rev. Joseph Nelson
The Prayer of Comfort.....	Deacon Willie Green Chairman, Bd. Of Deacons
Solo.....	Evangelist Mert Nelson
Words of Comfort.....	Rev. Leo Williamson
Selection.....	<i>“He Was There All The Time”</i> Mt. Moriah Choir
The Obituary.....	Sis Elizabeth Gray Church Clerk
Acknowledgements/Tributes/Resolutions.....	Church Clerk
Solo.....	Ceecee Williamson
Selection.....	Mt. Moriah Choir
The Eulogy.....	Rev. Dr. William F. Baskerville, Jr., Pastor Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
Remarks.....	Funeral Director
The Committal	
Benediction.....	Pastor Baskerville
Recessional	

Interment

East Ridgelawn Cemetery
Clifton, New Jersey



I'm Free

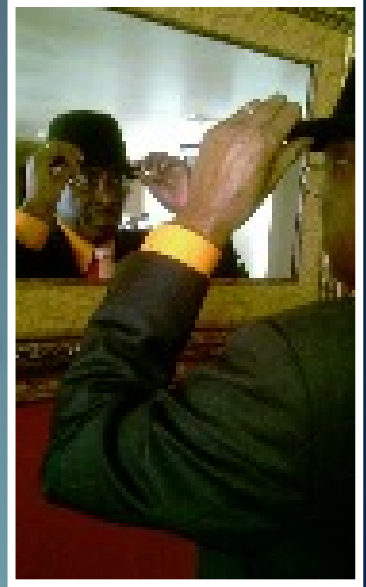
Don't grieve for me,
for now I'm free
I'm following the path
God laid for me
I took his hand when
I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day.

To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it up with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Oh, yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free!

-author unknown



Acknowledgement

*The family of the late James Ricks wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement.
May God Bless and Keep You!*

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