



*Home Going Celebration*

*Pastor Dorothy A. Wilson*

Sunrise  
April 18, 1952

Sunset  
October 20, 2016

*Service*

*Friday, October 28, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.*

**LOVE OF JESUS FAMILY CHURCH**

448 Highland Avenue • Orange, NJ 07050

**Pastors Joseph & Marlene Lewis**

Awesome Word Ministries • Raleigh, NC

Officiating

## *Obituary: Pastor Dorothy Ann Reese Wilson*

Dorothy Ann, affectionately known as Dot, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, sister-in-law, cousin and Pastor passed from this life to a better one, on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia, PA. She was born in Edison, Georgia on April 18, 1952 to the late Cornelius and Christine Reese. Her sister, Shelley Jean was born thirteen months later. Since they were so close in age their mother always dressed them alike, often causing people to mistake them as twins. Their mother also sent Shelley to school when Dot started and they allowed her to stay, reinforcing the notion that they were twins. To this day, if you run into their high school friends and mention one of their names people still say “oh yes, I know her she is one of the twins.”

Dorothy was educated in Edison, until the age of ten, when her family relocated to Newark, NJ. She then attended the Newark Public Schools. She and her sister graduated from Barringer High, becoming the first in their family to achieve this milestone. They went on to attend Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Dorothy went to Livingston College and Shelley went to Douglass College. It was there that Dorothy met the love of her life, Robert M. Wilson, who was attending the same University at Rutgers College. They met in August 1971, started dating in December, were engaged in April and were married in August 1972. It was at this time that dressing “like twins” stopped! Robert & Dorothy’s union of Holy Matrimony was blessed with three children, two planned and one a complete surprise. Their blessings are Jelani Shakir, Thandi Akilah and Omari Tahir.

After earning her bachelor degree in 1975, Dorothy began her professional life as a Vocational Counselor with Middlesex County Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration (CETA). She later became a Social Worker at the NJ Division of Youth & Family Services (DYFS) now known as DCP&P. As a Social Worker she functioned in various capacities, including Adoption Processor, Foster Home Finder, Protective Services and Institutional Abuse Investigator, and eventually Social Work Supervisor. After several successful years as a social worker Dorothy felt she wanted to pursue a position in the field for which she actually went to college i.e. history teacher. In 1998 she became employed with the East Orange Public Schools working at the Alternative Program and Clifford J. Scott High School. She was subsequently hired to work in the Newark Public Schools as a Social Worker in the Weequahic Twilight Alternative Program, ultimately promoted to the position of Coordinator of the East Side Twilight Alternative Program, prior to her retirement from professional life.

Between the years of 1986 and 1988, Dorothy and Robert along with their three children took a personal sabbatical to pursue theological training. In May of 1988 they both graduated from the Rhema Bible College in Tulsa, Oklahoma, majoring in Pastoral Ministry. In January 1989, Robert & Dorothy became the Pastors and Founders of Beth-El Love Christian Center, “The Church that is a Natural Representation of the Spiritual You” A house of prayer; where Jesus the Word is Lord, the Holy Spirit has Charge, and the Love of God does abound! Pastor Dorothy was an outstanding minister of the gospel, as she preached the unadulterated word of God! Church members still speak about her series on the occult, abortion and secular music. She was instrumental in establishing and or providing administrative oversight for several ministries within the church, which included: Children and Youth; Music and Dance; Virtuous Women and Missionary. She remained a superior “Shepherd” to her flock until the time of her passing, always caring and concerned, while resolute in applying the word of God to one’s life.

She had a keen sense of humor, and was always told by family she was a natural, as a comedian. She always responded “if I had to plan it, it would not be the same.” This wonderful woman of God who was more precious than rubies will be sorely missed but never, ever forgotten.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by and leaves to cherish her memories: her husband and best friend, Pastor Robert M. Wilson; three children, Jelani S. (Alexis), Thandi A. and Omari, T.; four grandchildren, Jahi, Shequoyah, Asa and Love; four siblings, Shelley Reese Perkins, Tina Thompson Brown, Rosemary Thompson Powell and Cornelius Thomas; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, friends and members of Beth-El Love Christian Center.



*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.*

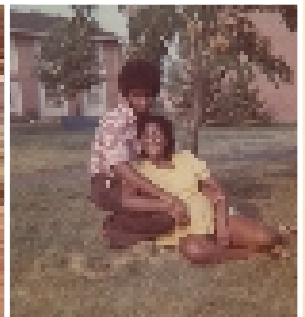
*Lift up your heart and share with me, God wanted me now, He set me free!*

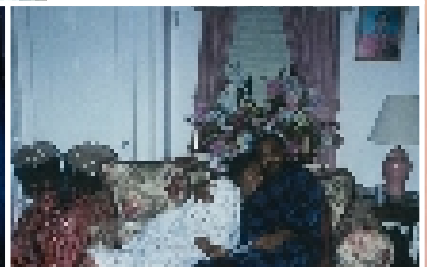
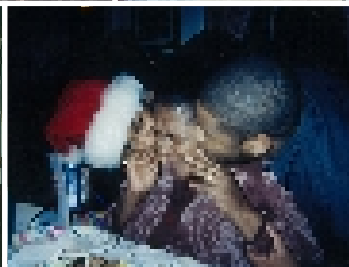
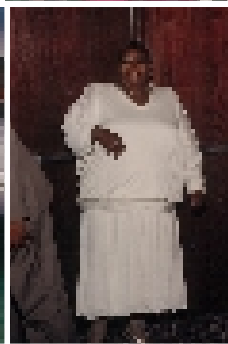
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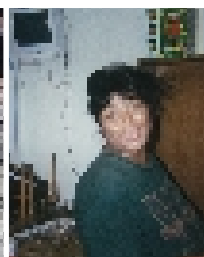
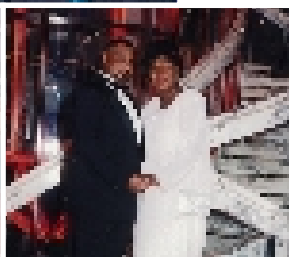
## *Order of Service*

Musical Prelude	
Processional .....	Clergy & Family
Prayer of Comfort .....	Bishop Kenneth Duvall
Praise & Worship .....	Holmes Family
Scripture Reading	
Old Testament .....	Pastor Deborah Duvall
New Testament	
Musical Selection .....	Khaleah White
Resolution/Acknowledgements .....	Pastor Marlene Lewis
Obituary Reading .....	Pastor Marlene Lewis
Clergy Remarks (2 minutes please) .....	Clergy Members only
Musical Selection .....	Jeanette C. Johnson
Family Remarks (2 minutes please) .....	Family Members only
Church Member's Remarks (2 minutes please) .....	BLCC's Members only
Public Remarks (2 minutes please) .....	Friends & Co-Workers
Musical Selection .....	Holmes Family
Eulogy .....	Pastor Joseph Lewis
A Parting View .....	Whigham Funeral Home
Recessional .....	Clergy & Family
Interment .....	Hollywood Memorial Gardens, Union, NJ

Repast for family and friends following the interment at  
Bethune Banquet Hall  
26 Washington Street • East Orange, NJ 07017









### *Acknowledgement*

*The family wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for all acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy that was shown to them during this time of bereavement.*

### *Special Thanks*

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks to Pastor Jason Alvarez and the Love of Jesus Family Church for hosting Dorothy's life celebration; Pastors Joseph and Marlene Lewis for making the journey from Raleigh, North Carolina to officiate the celebration; Diane Eafford Inspired Creations for the beautiful programs and Shawn Winbush for catering the family repast.

Professional Services by:  
**Whigham Funeral Home**

580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
973-622-6872

*Carolyn Whigham, Director*

