

*In Loving Memory of*



*Elphenia B. Bell*

Sunrise:  
*July 23, 1946*

Sunset:  
*August 17, 2017*

*Service*  
*Thursday, August 24, 2017 - 2:00 P.M.*

**New Hope Baptist Church**  
144 Norman Street • East Orange, New Jersey 07017

***Rev. Dwight D. Gill, Senior Servant***  
***Pastor Darrell L. Harris, Sr., Eulogist***

***Bishop Horace Michael, Officiant***

***Mr. Myron Smith, Organist***

# Order of Service

Processional

Officiant .....Bishop Horace Michael

Invocation

Choral Response .....(Oh I Want to See Him)

Ministry of the Word..... Bishop Norman Harris, Jr.

Prayer of Comfort .....Pastor Courtney Johnson

Ministry of Song

Remarks .....Pastor Willie Shy  
Bishop Michael Robinson

Family Refelections  
(2min. Please)

Ministry of Song

Acknowledgement of Condolences and Resolutions..... Sis. Sonia Harris

Ministry of Song

Reading of the Obituary .....Sis. Sonia Harris

Ministry of Song

Eulogist..... Pastor Darrell L. Harris, Sr.

Viewing

Benediction

Recessional..... When We All Get To Heaven

<p><u>Interment(Private)</u> New Jersey Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Arneytown, New Jersey</p>
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## **Old Testament – Psalms 91: 1-11**

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

## **New Testament - I Corinthians 15:50-58**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

## **CHORAL RESPONSE**

*I As I journey through the land, singing as I go,  
Pointing souls to Calvary—to the crimson flow,  
Many arrows pierce my soul from without, within;  
But my Lord leads me on, through Him I must win.*

### *Refrain:*

*Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His face,  
There to sing forever of His saving grace;  
On the streets of glory let me lift my voice,  
Cares all past, home at last, ever to rejoice.*

*2 When in service for my Lord dark may be the night,  
But I'll cling more close to Him, He will give me light;  
Satan's snares may vex my soul, turn my thoughts aside;  
But my Lord goes ahead, leads whate'er betide. [Refrain]*

## Obituary

### **Mother Elphenia B. Bell**

Elphenia Bell was born in Summerton, South Carolina on July 23, 1946. She is one of two children to Theola Briggs. At the age of six months Elphenia, her mother and brother Russell moved to Philadelphia with her aunt, Laura Rice. Elphenia was educated in the public school system in Philadelphia. After High School she went for training to be a Medical Secretary at Mercy Douglas Hospital in West Philadelphia.

Elphenia, affectionately called Fennie, enjoyed singing with the Sunday School Choir, Children's Choir, Youth Choir, and Gospelsettes. Fennie was baptized, and at the age of 13 and she too received the gift of the Holy Ghost. She was taught whatever your hands find to do –do it and do it with Joy. Mother Bell's favorite scripture is Psalms 34 and her favorite song is "I love to Praise Him".

Sis. Fennie met Deacon Walter James Bell, Jr. thru a mutual church friend. They became pen pals while he was in the military. Their relationship grew and on August 3, 1968 they were united in Holy Matrimony. Three children were born to this union. They served together in Ministry for over 35 years.

Mother Bell began employment with New Jersey Bell (now Verizon) in 1969 where she met some of her treasured friends even to this day. Mother Bell retired from Verizon in November, 2002 after serving thirty three years.

Mother Bell served locally as a Sunday School Teacher, Youth Advisor, Minister/Deacon Wives Guild Member, Women's Council Member, Missionary Board President, Advisor and Coordinator to the New York Manhattan Diocese and State Women's Council President of the New York Manhattan Diocese. Mother Bell has also served as coordinator of the BeTa Ministries Self Help Seminars. In 2015, Mother Bell was appointed Church Mother of the Bethel Church of Christ.

Not only was Mother Bell known for her fabulous hats but she loved collecting salt & pepper shakers, magnets, pictures and greeting cards. Mother Bell was an avid greeting card writer. She was known for dropping you a note to say "HELLO" or "STAY WITH THE LORD". If she didn't write she'd pick up the telephone just to see "How you be?" Her sentiment was if you want to remind someone of your love, what better way than to let them hear your voice or read your handwriting.

Another little known fact about Mother Bell is although she was always impeccably dressed she did not like to shop. She had her own personal shoppers that would randomly call her for fittings and try-ons. Only a selected few knew the identity of these faithful women of two generations, but only for their protection. You're welcome!

During her last years of retirement, you could catch Mother Bell surrounded by her family and friends. Be it sitting around the dining room table eating her famous chili

and drinking tea with all her girls or picking up #s 3, 4 and 5 grandchildren from school with a quick snack run at the Dollar Store. Yes she called them by their numbers. They loved “Grammy” taking them to the Dollar Store. This meant they could have all the sugar and junk their daily allowance could afford without a single word of scorn from their mothers. This brought Mother Bell great joy. She was known to scold her grown children for giving too harsh of punishments to her grandbabies and they’d know better than to talk back.

Most recently Mother Bell operated as a Captain of Bethel Church’s #TeamBethel initiative. Mother Bell loved her church and was a dedicated member. Her dedication even took her back to the bowling alley. Although it had been many years since she last picked up a bowling ball, Mother Bell donned her Team Bethel T shirt with green accessories on several occasions and hit as many strikes as she could. Although she never claimed to be the best, she showed up each time and made the younger ones sweat! On May 27, 2017 the Bethel Church Family awarded Mother Bell the Award of Excellence for Exemplary Leadership and Selfless Acts of Dedication and Time. Her example of love and encouragement is a staple in Bethel’s fiber and she will be greatly missed.

On the morning of Thursday, August 17, 2017 this awesome woman of God departed this life to receive her crown in glory. She leaves to cherish her memory: her husband; Bishop Walter James Bell Jr., brother; Russell Briggs (PA), two sisters: Ruby Hickman (SC) and Rhuenette Samuel (SC), son; Walter, III (LaRhonda), Dawn, and Debora (Darrell), six grandchildren: Latrice, Tiffany (Sharodrick), Tyla, Darrell Jr., Dana and Triston, one great-grandchild: Robyn Violet, four godchildren and a host of nieces, nephews cousins and friends. Rest on Mother Bell, you have won your race.





**With love from Walter...**

Fennie, Thank you for standing by me through the good and bad times. You are remarkable and irreplaceable.

**With love from Walter, III...**

Fennie Fennie Fennie... You will always be my Day One. I will always cherish and remember everything you taught me for they truly are words to live by. Love you Girl!

**With love from Dawn...**

My Mommy Dearest, I am so happy you are free. I will love you for eternity. I'll always be your Dawnie Pooh

**With love from Debora...**

Well Sugar it is finished and it is well. Thanks for being the best mother and teacher a girl could ever hope for. I was tremendously blessed when God gave me to you. No regrets and nothing left to say but later Baby! I'll see you over there.

**With love from LaRhonda...**

You loved me as if I were one of your own. I'll love you always and forever be your Rhonda Boobie.

**With love from Russell...**

My Dear Sister

Your job on earth has been completed  
It's time for you to rest  
God called His special Angel home

After she did her very best.  
The best at being a mother  
The best at being a friend  
The best Sister I could ever hope for  
I pray that someday I'll see her again.  
I'll cherish the memories forever. Your love will live deep in my heart.

My Sister I really love you  
My Sister you will truly be missed

My Sister I really love you  
But God loved you best.

Your brother, Russell



## Pallbearers

Mr. Sam Douglas

Mr. Sharodrick Burns

Mr. Celest Beasley

Mr. Wilbert Moore

### **Miss Me But Let Me Go**

*When I come to the end of the road  
And the sun has set for me  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room  
Why cry for a soul set free?  
Miss me a little-but not too long  
And not with your head bowed low  
Remember the love that we once shared  
Miss me-but let me go  
For this is a journey that we all must take  
And each must go alone.  
It's all part of the Master's plan  
A step on the road to home  
When you are lonely and sick of heart  
Go to the friends we know  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds  
Miss me but let me go.*

### **FROM THE HEART**

We encourage all of our family and friends to be aware of a serious illness known as Heart Disease.

Please visit: [www.goredforwomen.org](http://www.goredforwomen.org) to learn more.

### *Acknowledgements*

*The family of Elphenia Briggs Bell wishes to express their sincere appreciation for all acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy shown during this time of sorrow. Your prayers, visits, florals and other acts of kindness have comforted us during this difficult time. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Dwight D. Gill and the New Hope Baptist Church Family. We thank you ALL and pray God's continued blessing upon each of you.*

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