

*In Loving Memory  
of*



*Evangelist Geraldine R. Jenkins*  
*"Gerri"*

October 11, 1926 – April 10, 2020

# Obituary



**Geraldine R Jenkins** affectionately known as Gerri to all that knew and loved her was born to William and Lena Bouie Ragin in Newark NJ on October 11, 1926, the oldest of nine children.

Gerri graduated from West Side High School in 1945 a member of the yearbook staff and civics program. After high school she worked in Office of Dependency Benefits in Newark as a member of the finance dept, processing checks for families of the servicemen. Her work history stopped during the fifties when she became a mother to her only child Cheryl A Berry Williams and wife to Eugene Jenkins, who preceded her in death. From 1967 - 1978 she worked a brief stint as a long distance operator for the phone company. Gerri also worked for the United States Post Office as a mail handler/carrier and at times a distribution clerk, and finishing as Intermittent Claims Taker for The New Jersey Unemployment Office in East Orange.

Gerri always knew she wanted to do more than what the era assigned to women so she began her journey to becoming a Social Worker and set off back to school. Pursuing a major in Mental Health Gerri received her Associates of Applied Science at Essex County College in May of 1981. She didn't stop there; while working as a Mental Health Aide for Catholic Community Services, Mt Carmel Guild from 1981-1985 she enrolled and graduated from Kean College receiving her Bachelors degree in Social Work in June of 1985. From there she participated in several internships and volunteer programs, way too many to list. Now rejoicing in achieving her new found career she began working at Easter Seal Society as a live-in Residential Counselor for mentally impaired adult. Later landing a job at Newark Preschool Council Inc (Head Start Program) as Social Worker where she happily worked until her retirement in 1991.

Now you can't talk about Geraldine and not know her spiritual lineage which started at Saint Phillip Holy Church which she held dear to her heart and was fully involved in. Starting with bible studies, and missionary/leadership training under her mothers tutelage from the time she graduated high school until 1964. Geraldine became an Evangelist on June 28, 1978 receiving her training under the United Church of Jesus Christ in Washington D.C. She then started training to receive her Elder and Pastor Orders through Tabernacle Church of God in Newark in August of 1972 and took over as the pastor of St. Phillips Holy Church.

Geraldine then set her sights on becoming ordained which she received through The Original United Freewill Baptist Conference of America in November of 1974. Evangelist Jenkins ministerial experience is loaded with various theological conferences, seminars, and workshops throughout the years. She was a member of United Clergy of the Oranges under Rev. Michael Sykes, the Prevailing Prayer Band under Deacon John Jones, and the Essex County Prison Ministry for Essex County Jail Annex in Caldwell NJ.

Geraldine eventually became an Associate Minister at Faith Temple and was added to the calendar bringing forth the word. This began her long standing fellowship with Faith Temple Original Free Will Baptist Church in East Orange where she actively served for the next 30 years until moving to South Jersey in 2008.

Gerri siblings who preceded her in death are Dorothy Quince, Stephanie Sturdivant, Barbara Hawkins, Willie Ragin Jr. (aka Sonny), Edward Ragin, and Audrey Ragin still presumed missing which she has tirelessly searched for up until 2010.

Her siblings left to mourn her passing are her loving sister Gloria Hoyle (aka Ya- Ya), and Louise Ragin. She also leaves to mourn her daughter Cheryl Williams her loving grand children Sharonda, Shakira, and Sadiq who lovingly cared for her and their father Carl Murray her son-in-law. A host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and church family.

## *Psalm 23*

*The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

### **JOHN 14:1-3**

Let not your hearts be troubled;  
believe in God, believe also in Me.

In my Father's house are many  
rooms; if it were not so, would I  
have told you that I go and prepare  
a place for you?

And when I go and prepare a place  
for you, I will come again and will  
take you to Myself, that where I am  
you may be also.

John 14: 1-3



*Now is your time to rest in the arms of your heavenly father, we love you but God loves you best*

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

Professional Services Provided By

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