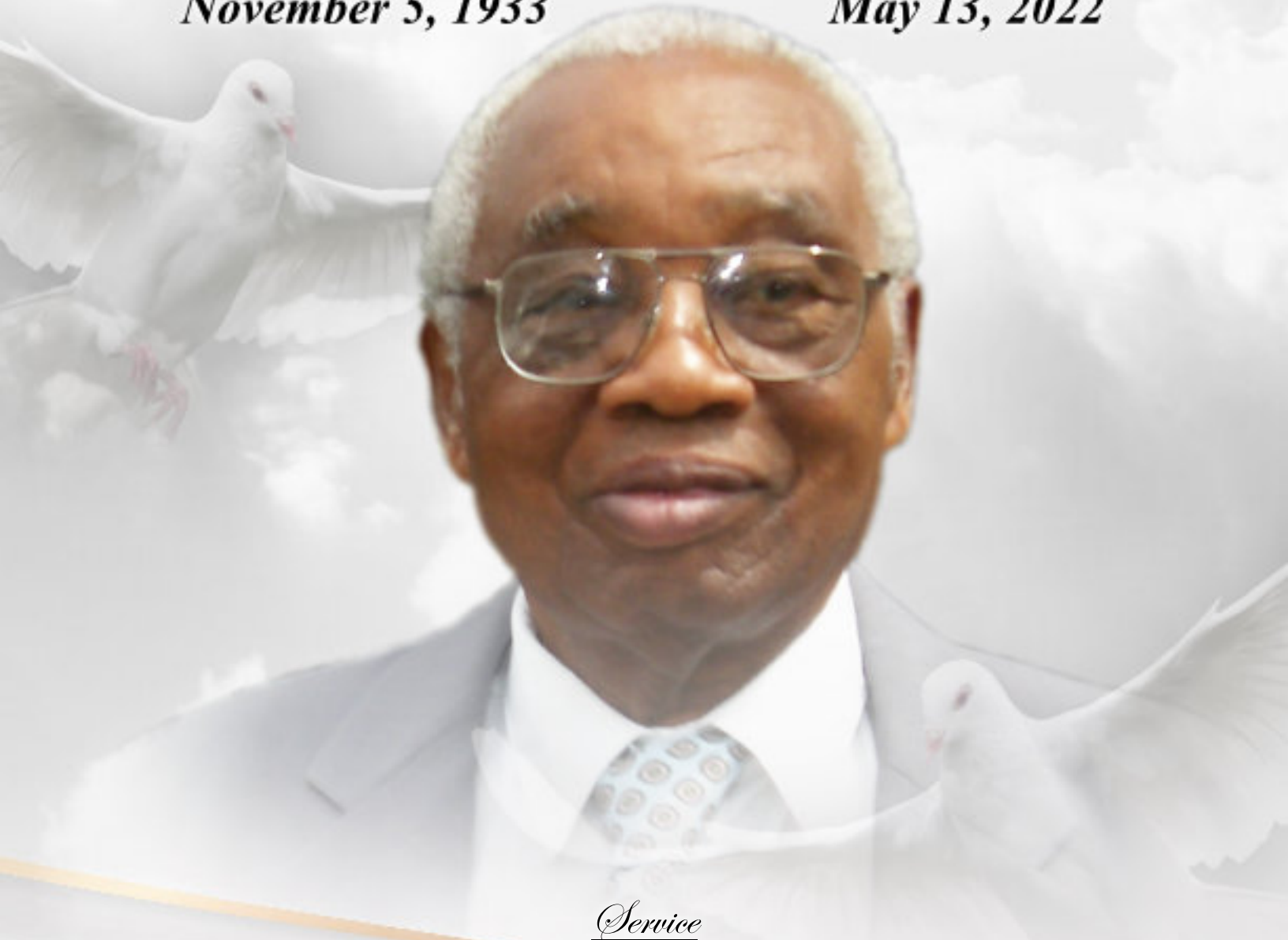


In Loving Memory of
THOMAS NII ABLORH JOHNSON

Sunrise
November 5, 1933

Sunset
May 13, 2022



Service
Friday, June 10, 2022 • 11:00 a.m.

Whigham Funeral Home
580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. • Newark, New Jersey
Pastor ChangYong Shin, Officiating

Order of Service

Greeting and Opening Prayer..... Pastor ChangYong Shin
Opening Hymn #1 “Amazing Grace”
Scripture Readings
 Psalm 23..... Crystal Dsani (Great-Granddaughter)
 John 11: 1-3, 17 -27 Joy Ogundele (Granddaughter)
Selection..... “His Eye Is On The Sparrow” - Renee Walker
Biography..... Jessica Lancaster (Granddaughter)
Tribute by Wife Juliana Johnson (Daughter)
Tribute by Children..... Seth Johnson (Son)
Tribute by Grandchildren..... Claudia Ahmed (Granddaughter)
Tribute by Great-Grandchildren..... Cyril Dsani (Great-Grandson)
Selection..... “Wind Beneath My Wings” - Renee Walker
Eulogy Pastor ChangYong Shin
Hymn #2..... “Blessed Assurance”
Acknowledgments and Poem Reading Regina Johnson-Matos (Daughter)
Prayer and Benediction Pastor ChangYong Shin
Closing Hymn #3 “When Peace, Like A River”
Recessional Hymn #4 “How Great Thou Art”

Interment

*Evergreen Cemetery & Crematory
1137 N. Broad Street
Hillside, New Jersey 07205*

Repast

*Immediately following the service,
the family will receive all friends
and sympathizers at:
Montclair Women’s Club,
82 Union Street
Montclair, NJ 07042*

Service Of Committal

“God Be With You Until We Meet Again (vs 1 -2)”

Prayer

Final Resting

Prayer (in unison):

All: Eternal God, you have shared with us the life of Thomas Ablorh Johnson. Before he was ours, he was yours. For all that Thomas Ablorh Johnson has given us to make us what we are, for that of him which lives and grows in each of us, and for his life that in your love will never end, we give you thanks. As now we offer Thomas Ablorh Johnson back into your arms, comfort us in our loneliness, strengthen us in our weakness, and give us courage to face the future unafraid. Draw those of us who remain in this life closer to one another, make us faithful to serve one another, and lead us to know that peace and joy which is eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

“God Be With You Until We Meet Again (vs 3-4)”

Benediction

“Hymn 5 - God Be With You Until We Meet Again”

1. God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you;
With His sheep securely fold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you will we meet again,
‘Neath His wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

3. God be with you till we meet again,
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put his arms unfailing round:
God be with you till we meet again.

4. God be with you till we meet again,
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you
God be with you till we meet again.

Obituary

Thomas Ablorh Johnson was born on November 5, 1933 to the late Gilbert Kobloga Johnson of Adedenkpo (Aklamakpe Johnson II) and the late Dinah Ayorkor Ardeyfi of Adiakwaw (We)-Accra in Accra, Ghana. He started his education at the Government's Bishop Boy's School in Accra. Upon completion of his basic education, he was employed by the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) where he worked as a Radio Technician. He was promoted to supervisor and was transferred to Nsawam where he resided for seven years. He was then transferred to Takoradi but then came back to Accra which became his final transfer before coming to the United States. Thomas had long dreamt of going to the United States to further his education. In preparation for that and while working at GBC, he attended night classes for his Ordinary Level certificate exams with Cambridge, UK through its distance learning program.

In 1958, Thomas married Adelaide Naa Oye Johnson (nee Quarcoo). Their union was blessed by five children in Ghana, Emmanuel Amonu, Margaret Amisah, Dinah Bentuma, Seth Bentum and Regina Ansaba. Thomas was always a firm believer in the Lord and his faith never wavered, even after the passing of his first son, Amonu. In fact, his relationship with God even intensified as he joined the "I AM" Temple of the Saint Germain Foundation Church. Thomas became a member of this church in 1963 and remained an active member in the United States as he attended church services regularly before he became ill.

Through the years, even after Thomas had started his family, he still had that burning desire to go to the United States. In 1969, Thomas was afforded the opportunity to study at St. Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey (USA) through a religious scholarship. His lifelong dream had finally come to fruition. It was very difficult for him to leave his four children at that time however, he felt that his wife and children could join him once he settled in the US. Thomas thought about the many opportunities in America that were not available in Ghana at that time and wanted his family to have the best life possible. Thomas's journey to the US did not come without struggle; however ultimately, through his drive and determination, he arrived in the US in November of 1969 and started his college studies shortly thereafter.

Thomas and Adelaide kept in close communication all throughout his college years. He promised to bring Adelaide and the children to the US at the right time. Thomas went to school and worked to support himself and to save for his family. In 1973, he was given the opportunity to bring his family to the US however, he was only allowed to bring two of his children, not all four. After much consideration, the very difficult decision was made to bring his wife and only the two youngest children (Seth and Regina) since he left them at a very young age and they did not know him well. The plan was to bring the two older children (Margaret and Dinah) shortly after, once he completed college and the family was settled in the US.

Thomas graduated from Saint Peter's College in 1974 with a Bachelors in Business Administration and a minor in Computer Science. While in college, Thomas started to envision his career path post-graduation. He dreamt of working on Wall Street in the financial services industry. When he completed his degree, he planned to start his new career in business and support his family in the US and in Ghana. His fatherhood responsibility increased with the birth of his daughter, Juliana Achre. He also started to actively work on getting the remainder of his children to the US. Unfortunately, due to the expiration of his student visa and the lack of a US work visa, Thomas was unable to secure any job opportunities that would utilize his hard-earned degree. In fact, he faced the harsh reality that the family would be deported back to Ghana. But Thomas was resilient and defied all odds by remaining in this country. He could have easily given up and returned to Ghana but he fought very hard to find any possible means to stay in the US. He sacrificed everything and used every resource he had to ensure that he and his family could partake in the "American dream" and educational opportunities available in the US. This was a testament to Thomas's unwavering strength and fortitude.

Thomas was an extremely hard-working man. Although he could not obtain his dream job, he always had

a job to keep a roof over his family's head and food on the table. Thomas faced many years of difficulty and disappointment jostling from one dead end job to another just to make ends meet. He finally secured a full-time position at Newark International Airport as an Airport Security Agent where he worked until his retirement. He poured himself into his children's education which included daily after school tutoring sessions, specifically in his favorite subject, Mathematics. He wanted all of his children to also go to college one day so he knew the only way that would be possible is if they had a solid foundation and always put education first, as he had done. He wanted them to reach even greater heights than he was able to achieve due to his circumstances.

Thomas fought for his family to stay in the US and in 1987, his fight finally came to an end. He and the family were able to legally stay in the US and he could finally have his remaining children join him. Thomas was unable to go back to Ghana since he had arrived in the US but once his immigration status officially changed, he visited his homeland in 1990. He cried the day of his departure back to Ghana as he would not see his mother whom he had lost earlier that year but was overjoyed to be reunited with his daughters and the rest of his extended family. In 1994, Thomas made good on his promise to have all of his children in the US and welcomed the arrival of Margaret, Dinah and his granddaughter Doreen to the US. It was a bittersweet end to the many years of strife, disappointment and despair that Thomas had endured for his family. It was Thomas's strong faith in God that sustained him through all of those challenging years. But the sweat, tears and sacrifices all seemed to be worth it as he saw his children, grand-children and great grand children all succeed academically and professionally. The fruits of his labor had finally come full circle.

In addition to Thomas's love for education, he loved competitive sports too. At a tender age, Thomas played football (soccer) and participated in many recreational leagues in Ghana. In his older years, he enjoyed watching soccer matches and developed a love for American football and basketball. He was an avid Giants and Knicks fan. Additionally, in line with his thirst for knowledge, you could find Thomas on the couch every evening after work watching his favorite show, Jeopardy. He loved watching the news and read the newspaper daily to stay current on local happenings. He had a passion for politics, sharing strong political views with anyone who would listen. It was always interesting to hear his presidential election predictions as he was usually right. He loved to debate and usually did not stop until he had the last word. Thomas loved spending time with his family, particularly his grandchildren whom he took to the park regularly. He enjoyed taking family trips to Virginia and Maryland every year to visit his daughters Margaret and Juliana who resided there respectively. He also loved telling stories about his childhood and his extended family in Ghana. These are some of the fondest memories of Thomas that will be cherished forever.

In 2015, Thomas became ill. However, even during his illness, he remained strong willed, strong minded and a man of principle. Thomas was mentally gifted and his beautiful mind continued to shine even through sickness. He continued to emphasize the importance of education to his family. The academic successes of his grandchildren and great grandchildren warmed his heart. He was so very proud of them as he was of all of his children. He also developed a love for music and would often dance when he heard Kpanlogo playing which surely brought him great memories of his younger years in Ghana.

On the evening of May 13, 2022, Thomas made a "change" and transitioned into his new body in heaven beside the Lord. The number seven, signifying completion, was the number of years that he endured his illness. It was in the seventh year that his battle came to completion. His life journey ended with his family that he loved so dearly by his side.

Thomas was pre-deceased by his brother Alfred Ansah Johnson and his son Emmanuel Amonu Johnson. He leaves behind his devoted wife of 64 years, Adelaide Johnson, his children, Margaret Amisshah Johnson, Dinah Bentuma Johnson, Seth Bentum Johnson, Regina Ansaba Johnson-Matos, Juliana Achre Johnson, his grandchildren, Claudia Ahmed, Jordan Matos, Doreen Adams, Jessica Lancaster, Joy Ogundele, Jimmy N. Matos, Jada Matos and great grandchildren, Cyril Dsani, Crystal Dsani and Joseph Dsani, in-laws Jimmy Matos, Ishark Ahmed, Kristalyn Matos and Mack Lancaster and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews who will surely miss him and cherish his memory and legacy forever. May his soul rest peacefully in paradise in the hands of the Lord.

Tribute By Wife

I thank the almighty God for giving me the strength to endure the pain of losing my beloved husband. It is by the grace of our almighty God, that He has kept us through our many years of better and worse; richer and poorer, sickness and health. But on May 13, 2022, we were parted by death, the inevitable day that I did not fathom would occur on the fateful night. I thank God in advance for protecting and keeping me until we meet again.

Our journey together started 64 years ago in Ghana. We were neighbors; our homes shared a wall. I was introduced to Thomas by his aunt who was also my best friend. At a young age, I always admired Thomas's drive, determination and love for education. While in Ghana, he was always studying, hardworking and was always so thoughtful of his family. I was so proud of him as his job transferred him from city to city, working as hard as he could to provide for us. I was so saddened when he left for the US in 1969 but he would always write to check on me and the children. I knew that he would do everything possible for us to join him, and he did. After 4 years, by God's grace, we were finally reunited. In the US, I saw that Thomas had that same drive and determination that he had in Ghana but I also saw the pressures of the challenges he faced here. I stood by his side during these difficult times and he supported me and the children as well. I admired the fact that he never gave up, stayed steadfast on his quest to keep his family in this country and to also bring over our children we had left back home. When faced with very tough decisions, you always thought about what was best for the children. You ensured that our children were in the best schools and always pushed them to be the best that they could be. You made sure that they took advantage of every opportunity that you were not afforded. I will forever remember these selfless acts, your love for our family and the many sacrifices you made for our welfare. You were a pillar of strength for our family and the provider and strong protector of our home. Thank you so very much, for being a faithful husband, a supportive friend and the best role model for our children. As I look at each of our children, I see a piece of you in them that will cherish that for the rest of my days.

I thank God that the toils of this world are no longer your burden to bear. You are no longer in pain and suffering. On May 13th, you saw the light of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and He declared that your work here on earth was done, come home my faithful son, job well done. You are now free!

I will miss hearing you humming your favorite tune, seeing you sitting at the dining room table and hearing you pray for our family. Thank you for covering and protecting us for what seems to be a lifetime. Thomas, you fought until the bitter end. But God knows best. He knew when it was time for your fight to end. Go and take your rest dear husband, I will take it from here.

Until we meet again
Those special memories of you
Will always bring a smile
If only I could have you back
For just a little while
Then we could sit and talk again
Just like we used to do
You always meant so very much
And always will do too
The fact that you are no longer here
Will always bring me pain
But you're forever in my heart
Until we meet again

Fare thee well my dear love
Oyiwaladonn!
Yaawo jogbanj.

Tribute By Children

What defines a godly father? Throughout the pages of scripture, God reveals Himself to us in His word as our Heavenly Father. When we think about God as our Father, He provides us with some principles to live by as earthly fathers. God has entrusted men with a great responsibility to provide spiritual leadership in their homes, and to their families. Daddy, you exemplified all of the qualities of a Godly father.

Godly fathers love their family. Daddy, you demonstrated your love for us in so many ways. You worked tirelessly to make sure that we were well taken care of. Education was your passion. You would make us do our homework as soon as we came home from school before anything else. If we needed help with math, you were there to help us. You even gave us more advanced math equations so that we were ahead of our class. Because of this daddy, we always excelled in math and all of our studies. That is the legacy that you gave your children that we will forever be grateful. You loved us not merely by words but by your actions.

Godly fathers lead their family. Daddy, you lead our family in your own special way. You made sure we always followed the right path. You led by example, showing us the importance of handling our finances well and encouraging us to make wise financial decisions. All of your children have grown up to be productive members of society. That can only be attributed to the leadership that you provided to all of us. You disciplined us when we needed it and guided us when we were off track. Teachers would always compliment you and mommy on how well we behaved. That was a direct effect of how strong of a leader you were to us. You led us through the word of God. You taught us the “Lord’s Prayer” and always encouraged us to put God first in our lives. Daddy, thank you for leading us with wisdom, strength and encouragement.

Lastly, Godly fathers provide for their family. Daddy, you were definitely a provider. You worked to make sure that if we needed anything, it was there for us. We know it wasn’t always easy to give us all that we needed, but somehow, you always found a way. Many times, you went without so that we could have. Thank you for being such a giving and caring father. Thank you for making us who we are today.

Daddy, you always fought for us. Even at a time when circumstance prohibited you to be with some of us physically, you were still there emotionally, mentally and spiritually and we felt it every day. You never left our side and, in the end, we never left yours. You will always be a part of us and forever a part of generations to come. Your legacy will live on!

To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We take peace in that and knowing that you are now reunited with our brother in Heaven. Thank God for your beautiful journey into the arms of the Lord.

To the hardest working man we know, we say THANK YOU!

To the wisest man we know, we say THANK YOU!

To the STRONGEST man we know, we say THANK YOU!

Rest in perfect peace daddy, until we meet again.

Papa kpakpa, Yaawo jogbanṅ.

Tributes By Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

If we live, we live to the Lord. and if we die, we die to the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Romans 14:8.

Our Grandpa was a man who had smiles to brighten your day, who always made you feel good with his warm words of praise, and what's more, he knew what to do to make wishes come true. He was indeed a grandfather, he was our grandfather. Today, as your grandchildren, we are very sad to bid you farewell.

We console ourselves that, because you lie in the bosom for the Lord, we shall see you again. Grandpa, you were a wonderful living experience to us your grandchildren. You were a grandfather, a mentor, a counselor, and a pillar of support.

You may have passed on, but your memories will always live on within us. Thank you for your sacrifice, your care and concern, your love, and everything you have done for us your grandchildren. Wherever you are, we know you are in a much better place. We will be forever grateful and thankful that you are our grandfather. You are a man that gave us inspiration and courage to achieve our goals in life. You told us our rights from wrong, and most of all, you put us your grandchildren before any other. Grandpa, we will never forget this phrase, as you always used it in your words, "No Ko Ye Dzen", meaning there is more to the world than what we see. We especially have lived with this in every aspect of our lives, and it has built our courage in life. We feel lucky and privileged to have known Grandpa to this day. For in our life, you have played a special part. The memories we will treasure and keep close to our hearts. Grandpa, we will forever miss you. May the good Lord receive you in His bosom.

From all your grandchildren, Claudia, Jordan, Doreen, Jessica, Joy, Jimmy and Jada, we say:

Grandpa, Rest in perfect peace. Grandpa, Da Yie.
Grandpa, Yaawo jogbaŋŋ.

Grandpa, you were such a humble man, always filled with wisdom and compassion. My grandma, mom, aunts and uncles, and relatives always spoke highly of you, and I've always admired you.

It's heartbreaking to know that having you around with us is no longer possible. I would give any moment just to see you one more time, to show you and let you know just how much you were loved.

However, in life and now death, we know you wouldn't want us to focus on the sadness and sorrow, but to continue loving and supporting each other as a family, no matter the situation.

Many don't get the privilege to meet their great grandparents. We were blessed to have you in our lives for so many years. We all love you, and from your great-grandchildren, Crystal, Joseph, and Cyril (Junior), we all say fare thee well. God has called you to be with Him, so until we meet again, to part away no more, may you rest in perfect peace, Grandpa.

Hymns

Hymn 1 – Amazing Grace

1. Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

2. 'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed

3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
We have already come
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far
And Grace will lead us home

4. Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

Hymn 3 – When Peace, Like A River

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ (yes, He has) has regarded my
helpless estate
And has shed His own blood for my soul
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

3. My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Hymn 2 – Blessed Assurance

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood

2. This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

3. Perfect submission, perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love

4. This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long

Hymn 4 – How Great Thou Art

1. Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

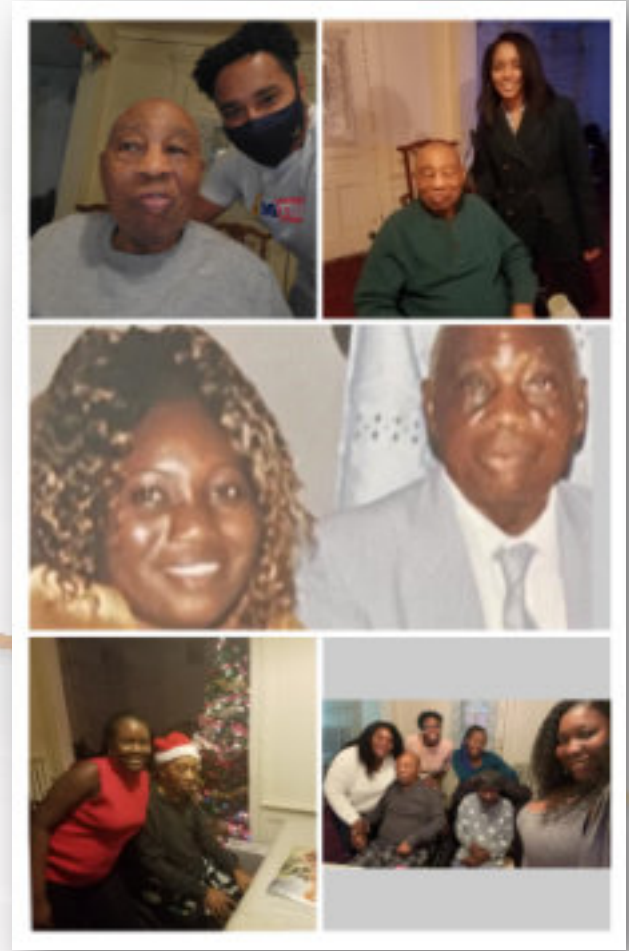
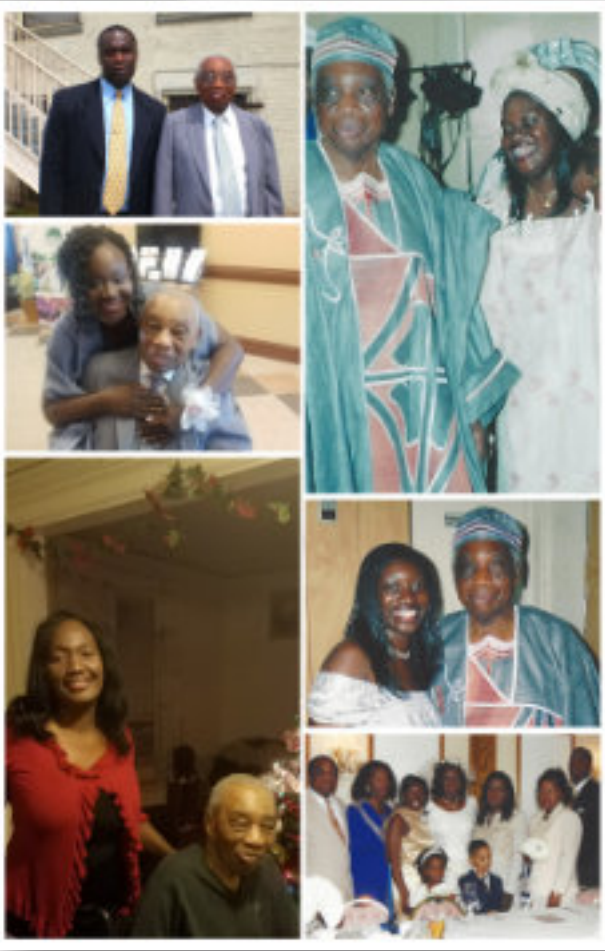
2. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

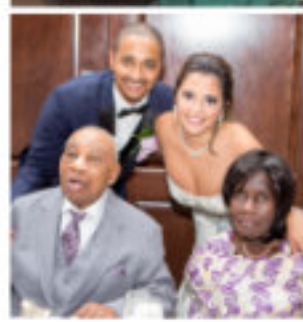
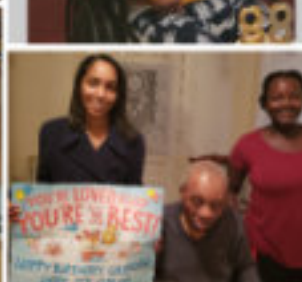
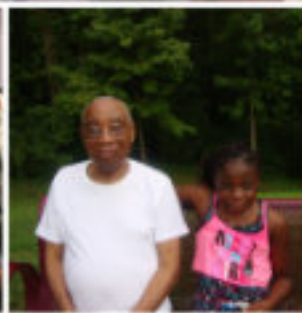
3. And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

4. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

5. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

6. Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art





"I Am" Prayer

*We must do the will of God, to fulfil the Divine Plan for us,
in order to gain our outmost victory.*

For our Freedom in the Accession as beloved Jesus did.

This is why we are in this embodiment (world).

*We must decree (pray) to Almighty God
everyday through Jesus Christ and the Ascended Masters
to praise, adore, worship and thank God.*

*For God is love, life, light, perfect, pure,
just, good, great, merciful, everlasting.*

"I Am" the perfect harmony of my thought, feeling and action.

*Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works
and glorify your father - God who is in Heaven.*

Acknowledgements

The Johnson family wishes to express their deep appreciation and sincere gratitude for your many kind and generous expressions of support during our time of bereavement. Special thanks to his home caregivers who cared for him over the past seven years and his medical care team and special angels at Clara Maass Medical Center in the part they played in Thomas's final days. May God bless you all abundantly!

Professional Services by:
Whigham Funeral Home

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

Carolyn Whigham, Director

