

# Reflections of Life

... And now these three remain: faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.
- I Corinthians 13:13

**Jessie S. Howard** was born on December 6, 1947 and departed this life on January 18, 2011. She was the first daughter of Mary Kelly Sewell and the late Jesse Charles Sewell of Selma, Alabama. Jessie was taught at a very young age to love, trust and believe in God, and above all else, respect others. Jessie learned her lessons well and carried those lessons with her throughout life.

**Jessie** was reared in a Christian home and confessed Christ at an early age. She attended New Knox Elementary School and was a graduate of R.B. Hudson High School, located in Selma, Alabama. Jessie's fascination with education and her desire to teach led her to continue her education at Alabama State University where in 1972, she graduated with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business. Jessie was an active member of the New Jersey Chapter of the Alabama State University Alumni Association.

**Jessie** married in 1967 and from this union a son, Darwin Bernard Oden was born.

In 1973, **Jessie** relocated to Newark, New Jersey, where she became a member of the Hopewell Baptist Church family. She continued her church membership at Christian Love Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Franklyn Greenaway. She later became a member of Clearview Baptist Church, where the Reverend Eric Beckham is the pastor. There, she was a member of both the Mass and Celestial Choirs.

**Jessie** was employed by the Newark Public Schools as a teacher of mathematics. Jessie was a committed and dedicated educator to her students, and remained so until retiring in 2007, after thirty-four years of devoted service.

Jessie leaves to cherish her memory: a loving son, Darwin of Woodbridge, New Jersey; her grandchildren, Daminique, Darria and Bryce; her loving and devoted mother, Mary K. Sewell of Linden, New Jersey; two sisters and one brother, Gwendolyn (deceased), Jacqueline D. Sewell of Irvington, New Jersey and Bernard A. Sewell of Montgomery, Alabama; a nephew/son, T.J.; nephew, Brandon A. Sewell of Montgomery, Alabama; one sister-in-law, Dawn (Bernard) Sewell; two daughters-in-law, Alvina (Darwin) Oden and Tyisha (T.J.) Francis; a godson, Mark D. Kennon, Jr.; and a host of extended family, colleagues and friends.

**Jessie** was considered by all to be the rock of our family keeping everything together. Family and friends, from all over, would come to her home for times of sharing. During Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays she made them so special for us with plenty of her love, good cooking and warmth. She is the epitome of what Jesus meant when He said, "the servant would be the greatest among you".

**Jessie** will most certainly be missed by all who she has touched over the years. She is definitely "one of a kind" with a heart of gold. She was blessed with a keen, sense of creativity that can be matched by no one. EVERYONE who came in contact with Jessie felt her genuine, warm, caring personality and love.

# Order of Service

Processional "We've Come This Far By Faith" Clergy and Family
Opening Hymn "Oh It Is Jesus" - Congregation
Prayer of Comfort Tim Danzey
Scripture Reading Old Testament - Reverend Johnson New Testament - Reverend Jeremiah Kelly
Solo Barbara Sharpe
Reflections "Family Only"
Reflections
Solo "One Day At A Time" - Lorene Motley
Solo
Solo

#### **Interment**

Graceland Memorial Park Kenilworth, New Jersey

#### **Pall Bearers**

Family and Friends

Following the interment family and friends are invited back at the church for the repast.

### WHEN TOMORROW

## STARTS WITHOUT ME

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see if the sun should rise and find your eyes, all filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today, while thinking of the many things, we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you, and each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.

But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand

that an angel came and called my name, and took me by the
Hand

and said, "my place was ready, in heaven far above and that I'd have to leave behind, all those I dearly love."

But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home.

When God looked down and smiled at me, from His great golden throne.

He said "This is eternity, and all I've promised you."

Today for life on earth is past, but here it starts anew.

I promise no tomorrow, for today will always last.

And since each day's the same way, there's no longing for the past.

So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart.

For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.

-Author unknown

### Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with sincere appreciation and gratitude the many kind words, deeds and comforting expressions of sympathy extended to them in their time of sorrow. To all of you who have supported, prayed for and encouraged us... May God continue to bless you.

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