

Celebration of Life for
Minister Gwendolyn Freeman

July 27, 1959 – June 3, 2011



Order of Service



Thursday, June 16, 2011
Ten O'clock in the Morning
Immanuel Love Fellowship Center
176 Mt. Pleasant Avenue • Newark, NJ 07104
Bishop James H. Everett, Officiating
Bishop Kenneth S. Davall, Sr., Eulogist



- Music Prelude..... Wallace W. Smith, Jr.
- Processional Clergy and Family
- Praise and Worship Second Baptist Church, Roselle, NJ
- Scripture Reading
Old Testament - Ecclesiastes 3:1-4; 22a Min. Elaine Gregory,
Immanuel Love Fellowship Center - Newark, NJ
New Testament - 1Thessalonians 4:13-18 Pastor Aubrey Gregory,
Newark Gospel Tabernacle - Newark, NJ
- Prayer Bishop Carswell Jackson
New Life Deliverance Evangelistic Church - Paterson, NJ
- Selection The Moore Family
- Reflections (2 Mins) Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
Deliverance Jesus Is Coming
Immanuel Love Fellowship Center
Friends/Family/Clergy
- Selection Pastor Yvette Levell
Everlasting Covenant, Orange, NJ
- Acknowledgements/Resolutions/Obituary Sis. Rosetta Mason
Abundant Life Worship Center - New Brunswick, NJ
- Selection Min. Dyanna Aldridge
Grace Apostolic Church - East Orange, NJ
- Eulogy..... Bishop Kenneth S. Davall, Sr.
Immanuel Love Fellowship Center - Newark, NJ 07104
- Recessional

Interment
Arlington Cemetery
Kearny, New Jersey

My daughter Gwendolyn was such a beautiful sweet child. Even when she was a little baby, she never kept me up at night. She went to sleep sucking her fingers, leaving her bottle of milk to spoil. She always cheered me up with her smiles and prayers. I always felt so comfortable around her, I forgot about my cares. She was willing to help others when she could. I love you baby but God loves you best, and took you out of your pain. I thank God for giving me such a sweet daughter, Oh yes, I will see you again!

~Love, Mom

My Dear Sister Gwen

I don't exactly remember, way back then, I could imagine it must have been a joy to see for the 1st time, my dear sister Gwen! She was such a "cutie pie", a baby-doll to me. My Mom let me hold and feed her, what a sight to see! I was only four years old, but oh what a blast! I finally had a sister to play with at last! As time flew by and we grew older, I kept her under my wings. To teach, train, and express to her that "LIFE" is a fleeting thing! Here today, gone tomorrow, "How are you livin'?" Where will you spend eternity? You need to make a decision! My sister said yes and turned her life and talents to the Lord! When congregants heard her sing, "Order My Steps", we could help but "worship", in one accord! There were times when Gwen would say, "Now siblings don't you fuss!" Only God can change a person, just listen and hush! I could hear in the back of my mind, she really wanted to say, "Each of us are unique, in our own special way"!

I miss you my dear sister, my heart breaks everyday! I've tried to make the tear drops stop, it's so hard our family's joyful spirit has gone away! God told me not to be selfish, two days before you left. I prayed, I cried then humbly submitted to the one who knows best! So I released you my dear sister, knowing my love was keeping you here. No longer in pain, you're free today, one day, I'll meet you there!!

~Lovingly Submitted: Your Oldest Sister, Debbie.

My Sister, My Best Friend. You were with me through thick and thin. In the good times and the bad times, you were there. Words cannot express the way I feel. We talked everyday and I will miss that. I always looked forward to that. The words between us always stayed between us. It was funny when I would call and Ruth or Tori would answer the phone and they would say, "Your BFF is on the phone". You and I would just laugh. The joy and love that expelled from your soul was enormous. You had a good heart and were always there to help anyone in need. The children that came through your doors will always remember your kind words and warm heart. We were always together, your children and my child. Your children were like my own and T.J. would always say "My #2 Mom". I was not jealous at all. I was glad he had someone he would trust to call "Mom". He was so comfortable with you that he would just lie across your bed like he was your own. I love u Girl and you will always be remembered. Your smile will stay with me forever. You will be missed. I know the Lord has a plan for our lives and He wanted you with Him now even though we wanted you here a little longer with us. I know he welcomed you with open arms and said "Well done, thy good and faithful servant". As a servant of God, I will see you again.

~Love your Sister and BFF, Di.

You will be very missed my #2 sister. Words can't express how I feel this very moment. I really don't feel like writing, but you would tell me to keep on fighting. You were my joking buddy, we would laugh all day together but now that you're gone, I must stay strong; to keep the family laughing as we used to do. My tag team buddy is gone and some people would say what's wrong? If they knew how it felt to me, that I would never be with you on earth again, I would just say that you retired from being my partner to be Jesus' partner and to make all of heaven have a new sound of laughter.

~From your only brother, Wallace Smith "Jr."

To My Beloved Angel,

You have been one of the best things that has happened in my life beside my salvation and our children. We would have celebrated twenty-five years of marriage on June 28th but the thing that puts joy in my heart is that our baby daughter will graduate on this same date from high school. I'll miss you greatly. I'll always love and cherish you for the rest of my life.

~To My Honey, From her Sonny



Pall Bearers
Nephews and Students

Acknowledgement

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.

Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

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Obituary

Minister Gwendolyn Freeman was born July 27, 1959 in Newark, NJ, to the proud parents of Wallace Raymond Smith and Annie Ruth Smith. On June 3, 2011, the Lord dispatched His angels to usher Gwen into the presence of the Lord.

Gwen received her education in the Newark Public School System. She graduated from Arts High School where she studied Vocal Music in 1977. Gwen went to further her education and attended Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York where she studied Education and received her BA in 1982.

Gwen married Luther Ray Freeman, Jr. on June 28, 1986 and out of this union they were blessed with three beautiful children, Michael Timothy, Ruth Ann Marie, and Keturah Victoria.

During Gwen's younger years, her Mom took her and her siblings to church every Sunday. She grew up in Mt. Sinai Baptist Church where she was taught the Word of God. That was her foundation. She re-dedicated her life to Christ at the age of nineteen when her Brother-in-Law, Bishop Kenneth S. Davall Sr. taught her, her sister, Dianna and her brother, Wallace about being "Born Again". After College, she joined Deliverance Jesus is Coming under the leadership of Bishop and Pastor James Everett where she was a dedicated servant.

Gwen was so in touch with the Spirit of God that she knew her Sister, Pastor Deborah and Brother-in-Law, Bishop Kenneth needed some help with their Ministry. She asked her Pastor, Bishop Everett permission and he gave her permission to help their Ministry. She then joined Immanuel Love Fellowship Center where she was a loving Minister, Teacher, Choir Directress, and Superintendent of the Sunday School Department, Trustee and the Director of the Immanuel Little Loves Day Care.

Gwen loved and adored children. She taught at Maranatha Christian Academy, Refuge of Hope Institute of Learning, and Calvary Christian School. After that she started her own day care. She had a number of children come and go from her home. Once Immanuel Love Fellowship Center (I.L.F.C.) started their Day Care, Immanuel Little Loves, she willfully accepted the call as Director. She not only watched over the babies, she taught them their ABC's and 123's. She had so much love for everyone who walked through her doors and into her life.

Gwen had a joy for music. Her and her siblings sang together as children and still sing. Her voice penetrated our hearts. Everyone knew she liked, no, "LOVED", Donnie McClurkin's music. We all teased her about it and she would just laugh. A couple of songs she sang were "Order My Steps" and "I Go to the Rock". It would penetrate our hearts and move our souls to worship! She would always have a song to encourage people when they were going through. This Minister would comfort you and give you Godly advice.

Gwen was so much fun to be around. She always had a joke or something funny to say. If you were in a bad mood she would definitely cheer you up. Gwen and her family loved to watch movies. When you talked to them, they always had a quote from a movie. They would laugh because nobody knew what they were talking about. It was like a code between them. She adored her children so much. They would hug each other all the time. Each of them had their special time with her.

Even though for the past year and a half Gwen was bedridden, she still had time for encouraging words. Her faith made her strong and everyone around stronger. She will be missed.

Gwen leaves to cherish her memory: her husband, Luther Ray Freeman, Jr.; one son, Michael Timothy Freeman; two daughters, Ruth Ann Marie and Keturah Victoria Freeman; mother, Annie Ruth Smith; two sisters, Pastor Deborah D. Davall, Dianna Davis; one brother, Wallace W. Smith, Sr.; two brothers-in-law, Bishop Kenneth S. Davall, Sr. and Alfred Davall; two sisters-in-law, Tracy A. Smith and Ingrid M. Davall; eleven nieces/nephews, Kenneth, Jr. (Monique), Kawhana, DeWayne (Twanda), Christina, Wallace, Jr., Raymond, Thomas "T.J.", Marie and Ian; one great niece, Brianna; four god-children, Joseph Fletcher, Andrea Alston, Bianca and Brianna Pearson; five aunts/uncles, Ann Smith Brown, Lily Smith, Vernelle Morrissey, Percy Faison, Sr. and Jack Williams; and a host of other relatives and friends. Gwen was preceded in death by her father, Wallace R. Smith and her grandson, Elijah Jha'ilil Johnson Freeman.





Heaven Needed Mom

There is a wonderful legacy
Of which I wish to tell
About a wonderful woman
That we all loved so well
Her strength lives within us
And grows stronger each day
Her honor still lingers



Though her earthly body has slipped away
I miss the sound of her joyous laughter
And even her stern lectures too
I especially miss hearing her say "I Love You"
She was a precious gift from God above
With so much beauty, love and grace
You touched our hearts in so many ways
Your smile so bright even on the bad days
She planted all the good things
That gave our life it's start
Her constant good example

Let us see inside her heart
She taught us all lessons, which made us who we are today
She was always right there through everything,
constantly showing us the right way (God's way)
For the time and love you spent we say thank you
For no other could measure up to the things you do
She fought a good battle then gave up the fight
To rest in the arms of Jesus
What a beautiful sight
In our hearts her memory
Will always stay
For nothing could ever take
Her remembrance away

From Your Children,
Michael, Ruth and Keturah