

*In Loving Memory of*

*Irene "Grine" Richardson*

*Sunrise*  
*July 8, 1930*

*Sunset*  
*November 12, 2011*

**Service**

Friday, November 18, 2011 - 11:00 a.m.

**GREATER REFUGE TEMPLE**

2081 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.

New York, New York

# Obituary

**Irene “Grine” Richardson** was born in La Romana, Dominican Republic, the second of four children on November 8, 1930 to Ricardo and Alrica Richardson, becoming the second of eight children after her mother became a widow and married Wilfred Theophilus Wigley who was a devoted father to all of the children. Prior to her mother re-marrying, being a young widow with four children ranging in ages one through four years of age, she made the decision to send the two oldest, George and Irene, then respectively five and four years of age, to her father, their grandfather in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. because she realized that she could not care for four young children at the same time. When they arrived in St. Thomas, they probably said “Estamos entre personas extranjerias” translated into English “We are among foreigners”, as they could not speak the English language or understand the culture. They eventually learned English and assimilated into the culture.

Irene remained in St. Thomas until sixteen years of age, after which time she graduated from St. Thomas’ Charlotte Amalie High School. Following her graduation, she returned to the Dominican Republic, leaving her beloved brother, George behind, whom she never saw again. Arriving in the Dominican Republic, this time, she probably said in English “I am among foreigners, again” as she had forgotten her Spanish. As she was unable to speak to her siblings in Spanish, they would tease her mercifully, and she in return would “cuss” them out in a language that she herself did not know what she was saying. It probably was her form of “Span-English”. Eventually, she re-learned her native language of Spanish and re-assimilated into the Dominican Culture. When she re-entered the Dominican Republic her name was misspelled and her birthday documented incorrectly. Irene became “Grine” and her birthday became July 8, 1930. Officially, this is noted on all of her legal documents. She said “If they made that mistake, that is the way it is going to stay because it was written that way for a reason”. And so it remained, Irene became “Grine” and her birthday became July 8, 1930. So, she had two birthdays, the one that she blessed her parents with upon her arrival into this world, and the one that the Dominican Republic Government gave her. How many people do you know have two birthdays in one year, What a Blessing!

Irene immigrated to New York City in 1963. She met James Miller, the father of the four daughters that she was blessed with, Sonia Richardson, Verna Richardson, Martha Richardson and Amanda Richardson. She provided for her daughters to the best of her ability. She worked very hard as a Home Health Aide to provide for her family until she retired. Being the matriarch of the family, in retirement she continued to provide for her family until she became too ill. During her illness, she was at The Bronx Jewish Nursing Home. Her intention was to return to the home that she so loved. The Lord however wanted her to rest, and she said to family members that she was “tired”. On Saturday, November 12, 2011 at 5:30 p.m., He told her that her work on earth was finished, so He called her home to rest.

Irene was a member of Tabernacle Church of God until 1993. As an avid follower of Bishop William Lee Bonner, upon learning that he was presiding at the Greater Refuge Temple, where her sister, Sylvia Biel, was a member she followed her there. She was baptized in Jesus Name, at Greater Refuge Temple and Irene “Grine” Richardson became Sister Richardson. During September 1994, in the Greater Refuge Temple 6:00 p.m. Prayer Room, she received the gift of the Holy Ghost. She wanted to learn more about the Lord, she became an avid reader of the Bible and joined Missionary Ada Velazquez Sunday School Class. She was an active member of the Sisterhood Praise Ensemble Choir until her health failed her. Her favorite songs were “Amazing Grace” and “Blessed Assurance”. Her favorite scriptures was the 23rd Psalm and The Lord’s Prayer.

Irene treasured being the matriarch of her immediate family and the family itself; and enjoyed fellowshiping with her church, boat rides, cooking, gardening, listening to Classic Gospel Music, reading, singing and talking, even if it meant talking to herself.

Irene was preceded in death by her parents and step-father and her siblings, George, Maximo and Maria Richardson. From the first of her mother’s two sets of children, she was the last surviving Richardson. She carried on that powerful surname like a “trouper”. Altogether, she comes from an enormous family that is spread near and far with a legacy that will be carried on for generations to come due to the size of the family line. She leaves behind to carry on this legacy: her four daughters, Sonia, Verna, Martha and Amanda; seven grandchildren, Devin Richardson, Tshlene Richardson, Ayesha Moore, Kenyetta Greene, Gerineldo Christian Moore, Vitanti Fletcher-Richardson and Angelica Moore; four great grandchildren, Alyssa Ferguson, Amiyah Richardson, Aioke Richardson and Rae’Kwon Ferguson; four siblings, Noemi Wigley Mercedes-Diaz, Alvin T. Wigley, William B. Wigley and Sylvia M. Wigley-Biel, the sister who has to be acknowledged as being truly there for her around the clock, inclusive of sleeping at the nursing home, right up until the Lord called her home (What a blessing); over 200 plus nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, great great nieces, great great nephews, cousins, her special spiritual sister, Myrtle Carroll; and her church family. What Blessings!

Irene leaves all with her memory and love to move forward.

*Order of Service*

Processional ..... Clergy & Family

Selection ..... Choir

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Selection ..... Choir

Acknowledgement of Cards ..... Missionary Gladys Leonard

Tribute From Grandchildren

Tribute From Great Grandchildren

Remarks ..... Missionary Ada Velazquez  
Friends and Family

Obituary ..... Kenyetta Greene-Granddaughter  
Tshlene Richardson-Granddaughter

Solo ..... Missionary Aletha Edwards

Eulogy ..... Bishop Charles E. Wright, Sr.

Viewing

Recessional

Benediction

**Interment**  
Maple Grove Cemetery  
Hackensack, New Jersey

## *Amazing Grace*

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.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.  
And Grace, my fears relieved.  
How precious did that Grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis Grace that brought me safe thus far  
and Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been here ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun.  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

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.

## *Acknowledgement*

The family wishes to express their deep appreciation  
and sincere thanks for your kindness during a time of sorrow.



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*Clifford V. James, V.P. & Gen. Mgr.*

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