

*Service of Thanksgiving and Praise For The Life of*  
***Joycelyn Delrio Toomer***

*"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace."  
Psalm 37:37*

***Sunrise***  
*February 23, 1942*

***Sunset***  
*May 31, 2012*

***Service***

*Saturday, June 9, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.*

**THE AGAPE CHURCH OF GOD**

138-35 Springfield Boulevard  
Springfield Gardens, New York 11413

**Officiating Ministers:**

**Rev. Garven Graham - Senior Pastor**  
**Rev. Lascelles Edwards - Associate Pastor**  
**Rev. Wilmer Jackson**  
**Rev. Navon Lindo, Jr.**  
**Rev. Sylvia Edwards**  
**Organist: Ms. Ruby R. Ricketts**

## Obituary

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths; in feelings, not in figures on the dial; we should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best. –G. Bailey

*If today we should use these criteria to measure Joyce's life, we could indeed say she has lived well.*

**Joycelyn Delrio Toomer** arrived in this world on February 23 1942. She was born to Alice Abrahams and Gersham Lawrence in the cool hills of St Mary in the district of Richmond. Joyce was the last of five children and the only girl. Her formal education started at the Zion Hill Elementary School in the parish and continued in Kingston.

Joyce was groomed in a rich rural experience and growing up among four brothers made her very special. Her dedicated Christian mother not only ensured Joyce's secular education but also the spiritual education and so she was nurtured at the Full Truth Church of God at Orange River where her mother was a founding member.

Joyce migrated fully to the city in quest for personal development and pursued commercial studies at the Xavier High School. Learning from her mother, she also became a seamstress.

Joyce's church life was the fulcrum of her existence and so when she arrived in Kingston she attended the Church of God Deliverance Centre at 9-11 French Street. She submitted to the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and was baptized in 1958 by the late Bishop Wilfred A. Shaw who labored with her until Christ was formed in her.

Joyce always sought to be productively occupied and as an ambitious young woman gained employment at the Hanna group of stores where she worked as a supervisor. Subsequently, she resigned and joined the staff at the University of the West Indies Hospital where she worked in the Medical Records Department until her migration to the U.S.A. in 1982. She made her mark on that institution because of her sociable nature, her generous and compassionate heart.

The year 1971 was a notable year in Joyce's Life because on June 26 she was joined in marriage to the debonair Leslie Toomer. For almost forty-one wonderful years they shared their lives together.

# Order of Service

Processional ..... “When The Saints Go Marching In”  
Opening Hymn ..... “Praise To The Lord The Almighty”  
Opening Prayer ..... Pastor Sylvia Edwards  
Scripture Reading ..... Psalm 116:1-15  
Ms. Maxine Lawrence (niece)  
Musical Selection ..... Mr. Matthew Ogle  
Acknowledgement ..... Mrs. Althea Toomer-Blair (niece)  
Obituary ..... Mrs. Carmen Campbell  
Prayer for The Family ..... Rev. Navon Lindo Jr.  
Selection ..... Agape Sanctuary Choir  
Message ..... Rev. Wilmer Jackson  
Closing Hymn ..... “Because He Lives”  
Recessional

**Interment**  
Maple Grove Cemetery  
Kew Gardens, New York

**Pallbearers (From Church)**  
Clifton Cole      Glen Fisher  
Gregory Lawrence      Matthew Ogle  
Neil Campbell      Tony Graham

**Pallbearers (To Graveside)**  
Carl Lodge      David Campbell  
Frederick Rose      Jan Campbell  
Kelvin Campbell Jr.      Noel Buckle



### *Acknowledgements*

*The family wishes to extend it's sincere gratitude to all those who have been so gracious and kind and for the outpouring of love shown to us at this time. For the prayers, cards, telephone calls, comforting words and practical acts of kindness, we thank you and may God bless you all.*

*A special thanks to Rev. Garven Graham and the Agape Church Family.*

Kindly join the family for refreshments in the Church Hall.

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Professional Services Provided By:

*Roy L. Gilmore's Funeral Home, Inc.*

Angela Gilmore-Manning, *President*

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In 1981 Joyce and her husband Leslie migrated to the U.S.A. She landed in Jamaica, Queens and was received by close family friends Mr. and Mrs. March. She and her husband resided with them for thirteen years. One could not tell that they were not a biological family because of the quality of the relationship. Migration changed her course of employment but association with the U.W.I. Hospital only intensified her desire and natural ability to serve the aged and ailing. Consequently, she was employed in the Health Care Industry and was a Certified Nursing Assistant. She received training in this field and successfully completed several qualifying programs. She was employed at the Centre for Nursing Rehabilitation in Brooklyn for twenty-four years until her retirement in July 2007.

Who was Joycelyn Delrio Toomer? Lamarita states “God has placed the genius of women in their hearts because the works of the genius are always works of love.” When we observe Joyce’s life we can concur with this writer because of the numerous works of love that we have seen demonstrated in her life.

Joyce was first and foremost a Christian woman. She served her church faithfully in Jamaica participating in various activities, including being a member of several choirs. When she migrated she became a member of the Agape fellowship where she carried the tradition of being deeply involved in her church. She was a member of the choir, the Sunday School Department, the Women of the Church of God and, the Hospitality Committee.

Joyce was a devout wife who invested her life in her marriage demonstrating like Sarah, the highest regard for her husband.

Joyce was a family person who did not conceal her love for her brothers, nieces and nephews and other relatives. An open heart and open arms were always there for them.

Joyce was a woman renowned for her hospitality and was of a great altruistic spirit, demonstrating that, to live is not to live for one’s self alone but to help one another. Her culinary skills were enviable. The kitchen was her forte. She loved people. She enjoyed people. She had no biological children but her house was never empty. Indeed she mothered many.

Washington Irving writes “a kind heart is” a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity freshens into smiles”. This was Joyce’s life. She lived aiming to reduce the difficulty in another’s life.

Joyce was a fountain of cheerfulness and one who truly showed herself friendly. Therefore she had many friends. Because of this, her life was fortified by the many friendships. This was strikingly evident when she was struck by illness. The love she gave was returned to her. She was encircled by her dear husband, siblings, family members, relatives, her Pastor, the church family and many close and faithful friends.

We watched Joyce going through the throes of illness and there her faith in the God whom she served all her life sustained her. She trusted God and was determined not to be held hostage by illness. She never lost her joy and continued to enjoy singing the songs of faith that inspired hope and consolation throughout her Christian walk. Joyce remained active until she could fight no more despite the effort of the medical team.

The buoyant vivacious Joyce who, though she loved life so much, spent all of it preparing for May 31, 2012. A faithful Christian life in this world is the best preparation for life hereafter. At 12:55 a.m. under the watchful eyes of her husband, her Pastor, relatives and close friends, Joyce transitioned into glory. She went to be with her maker, God.

Death has separated Joyce from us physically but cannot negate the wonderful memories we have of her. They are etched in our hearts. We have learnt from Joyce’s life that “A good deed is never lost”.

Joycelyn, wife, mother sister, aunt, friend, will never be forgotten by her husband Leslie, her brothers Alvin, (affectionately called Bro. Vin) Neville, Lloyd, and Arthur; sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces nephews, other relatives, close friends and a host of other friends; and the church family (USA, CANADA, JAMAICA).

Her rich legacy will live on and the precious remembrance of the just will flourish when she sleeps in the grave.



