

Home Going Celebration for

A portrait of Vivian Elaine Leonard, an elderly woman with short, styled grey hair, wearing a blue top. She is smiling warmly. In the background, there are soft-focus white and light blue flowers. A smaller, faded version of her portrait is visible in the upper right corner.

Vivian Elaine Leonard

Sunrise

October 24, 1933

Sunset

April 18, 2013

Service

Thursday, April 25, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

GREATER REFUGE TEMPLE

2081 7th Avenue • New York, NY

Apostle James I. Clark, Jr., Sr., Pastor

Christ Temple Church, NY, Eulogist

Apostle William Lee Bonner- Pastor, Greater Refuge Temple Church, NY

Assistant Pastor- Bishop Charles Wright, Sr.

Assistant Pastor- Bishop William Wilkins, Jr.

Obituary

The life and legacy of **Vivian Elaine Delores Leonard Shockness** began on October 24th 1933, as the 11th of 12 children, to the late Otis Leonard of Cartersville, GA., and the late Ethel Wise Leonard of Washington, D.C. on 2 East 133rd Street, New York in the Village of Harlem.

Attending both Parochial and Public schools, she later graduated from Nursing School at the University of the State of New York in 1967, receiving her degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse where she found her passion; caring for others needing special care. In retrospect, her love for caring for other people began when she cared for our mother at a young age. Growing up in Harlem during the early 40s was a challenging yet exciting time for a young girl raised by a stringent father and a sickly mother. Her older brothers formed a wall of protection around her. As sisters, we were profoundly attached. She requested that I write her obituary and so, I begin.

We grew up not far from this church on 124th street between 5th and Lenox Avenue. Together we skated, played, jumped double-dutch, and ran up the steps of Marcus Garvey Park to the bell tower. We couldn't stray far from our doorsteps as our father watched us like an eagle. Most people believed we were twins due to us only being 10 months apart and shared love for one another; she wore pink and I wore blue. Ironically, later we discovered that she preferred the blue over her own pink garbs. In early 1947 we were invited to a Youth for Christ service by two missionaries. Reluctantly we attended, however, after seeing the quixotic youth and hearing the Gospel, we were promptly baptized on February 3rd, 1948; thus receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost on February 12th at the Cradle of Refuge on 133rd St. Born Again. Bishop R.C. Lawson placed us in the Radio Choir. We formed a group known as the "Marcellaires" where we traveled and sung everywhere. As a beautiful and young woman, the world and era was hers to prosper and live in. Vivian adored politics, reading books on black culture, and immersing herself in Harlem during the Black Movement and heightening awareness of which at home. She was also an aficionado of poetry and songs; especially those of Apostolic or Pentecostal origins. Recognizant of her deep, African American history and engrossed in the rich heritage she exuberantly voiced, "I'm Black and I'm Proud".

She later met and married the late Lionel Rudolf Shockness of Barbados, West Indies, and three beautiful children were born from their union; Karen, Lionel, and Lauren. A true lover of life, with a loyal and gregarious personality, Vivian always kept her friends close. Once a friend to her, you could be eternally ensured that you were a true friend of hers. As a strong matriarch of her family she supported that all of her children prospered in their respective lives and were college graduates. She was resilient and truly persevered throughout all of her endeavors; she ALWAYS reached her goals with valor and grace. Later in her life she joined Christ Temple, New York, and Bishop Bonner requested that she aid and guide his son, Bishop James I. Clark, Jr. She loved Christ Temple and deeply involved herself there, planting her roots in the holy church that she loved, and established the First Nurses Unit. Evoking her caring and motherly nature she served with the International Allied Nurses Unit with Professor Heyward Gill and served with the Women's Council as Vice President and the Prison Ministry. Her loving soul spread everywhere and anywhere she could possibly help.

Upon learning of Vivian's declining health I cried, "God, please don't take my sister", and made her promise that she wouldn't leave me. She kept her promise. Always a fighter, she was in the perilous fight for her life; winning battles and loosing, she always rallied and constantly prayed. Miraculously, she left the Hospice, the nursing home and finally returned to her own home. Walking with vigor, eating heartily and praising God all the way! She was a true evangelist filled with vivacity! Her relationship with Christ was proven and sealed. However, all was not well. Only a few days ago I received a call from her that she was in the emergency room with pneumonia. Soon after, tying up loose end in her life, she claimed her place in Heaven as God beckoned her home.

Vivian leaves to cherish her loving memory: three children, Karen, Lionel, Lauren; daughter-in-law, Wanda; son-in-law, Wyatt; three grandchildren: Clifford, Shannon,, and Jaedyn; her sister, Elizabeth Leonard Wilson; her sister in law, Missionary Gladys Leonard; a host of nieces and nephews; a much loved cousin, Miss Flossy Milton; god-daughters Brendez and Brittany Wineglass with their mother Jeanette; a devoted and loyal friend, Sister Nancy Gottlieb; and the Church Family of Christ Temple and Church Family of the Greater Refuge Temple.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

ProcessionalClergy & Family

Officiating MinisterElder Carol O. Thomas

Prayer of ComfortElder Daryl Harris

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Minister Maurice Wardlaw

New TestamentMinister Gilroy Fabian

SoloSis. Rhonda Clark

Remarks Members of the Clergy

Acknowledgements of Cards

& ResolutionsSis. Majorie Thomas

Sis. Karen Gore

Sis. Gloria Rogers (Tribute)

Selection Radio Choir, GRT

ReflectionsFamily Friends

Mr. Lionel R. Shockness, Jr. (Tribute)

Ms Karen Shockness,

Shannon Robinson

Brendez Wineglass

Reading of ObituaryMissionary Elizabeth Wilson

Solo Sis. Zenobia Dewely

Eulogy..... Apostle James I. Clark, Jr.

Selection Radio Choir, GRT

Final ViewingClergy and Family

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mt. Rest Cemetery

Butler, New Jersey

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Acknowledgement

The family of Vivian Elaine Delores Leonard Shockness wishes to express their deepest appreciation and sincere thanks for all expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during their time of sorrow.

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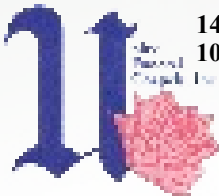
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