

*In Loving Memory of*



*Mack Gaston*

*Sunrise*  
April 19, 1938

*Sunset*  
May 26, 2013

Service

Thursday, May 30, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

**CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
132 West 116th Street • New York, NY

## Obituary

**Mack Gaston** was born on April 19, 1938 to the late Conce Huntley and Lucille Blakeney in Kannapolis, North Carolina. He was adopted by Joe and Julia Misenheimer Gaston. In 1956, he graduated from Aggrey Memorial High School.

Upon arriving to New York City, Mack was united in holy matrimony to Alice Tate on April 10, 1959. He retired from MABSTOA, New York City Housing Authority and City Hall. He was respected and loved by everyone he knew.

He was a great supporter of his family, friends and community too. Mack was a Neighborhood Youth Corp. Supervisor (Volunteer), Coach for Rucker Basketball League (Youth) and (Pro), Founder of Ralph J. Rangel Youth Assoc, President of The Ralph J. Rangel Houses Tenant Association, Member of Community Planning Board #10, Member of Community School Board Five and a member of Esplanade Gardens Board of Directors. He had a good rapport with people, especially with youth and senior citizens. He was blessed with strong leadership qualities. He was committed to working towards making positive changes by taking one step at a time, but always moving forward. He was an active member of Canaan Baptist Church of Christ where he served on Security.

After a brief illness, Mack Gaston departed this life on May 26, 2013. He was preceded in death by his brother, James B. Gaston and sister, Margaret Blakeney.

He leaves to cherish his wife of fifty-four years, Alice; daughters, Ruth, Elaine and Kelly; brothers, Joe Ham (Manny), John Ham (Robin) both of Southfield, Michigan and Ronald Wilkerson (Clarissa) of Salisbury, NC; sisters, Willie Dean Reid of Madison, Alabama, Charlene, Mosely of Southfield, Michigan and Patricia Leonard of Salisbury, NC; mother-in-law, Claudine Neely of Salisbury, NC; two sisters-in-law, Margaret Gaston of Rahway, NJ and Barbara Ann Heilig of Salisbury, NC; seven grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

### ***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 path 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.***

# *Order of Service*

Processional

Hymn of Consolation

Affirmation of Faith

Scripture Reading

Prayer of Consolation .....Deacon Eudaker Taylor

Special Music Selection Of Canaan Choir

Obituary .....Kelly Smith

Solo .....“Precious Lord”  
First Lady Loretta Erskine  
of Bethany Baptist Church, Harlem, New York

The Eulogy .....Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Johnson, Sr.  
Canaan Senior Pastor 132 West 116<sup>th</sup> Street NY, NY 10026

Benediction

Recessional

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Interment</u></b> Maple Grove Cemetery Hackensack, New Jersey</p>
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***Repast:***  
*Immediately following service at Founders Hall*

## *J'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard Him call*

*I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day.*

*To laugh, to love, to work or play.*

*Tasks left undone must stay that way,*

*I found that peace at the close of day.*

*If my parting has left a void,*

*Then fill it up with remembered joy.*

*A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,*

*Oh, yes these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow,*

*I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.*

*My life's been full, I savored much.*

*Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,*

*Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.*

*Lift up your heart and share with me,*

*God wanted me now, He set me free!*

*-author unknown*

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

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