

*Homegoing Celebration
of*



Mother Jessie Mae McCoy

Sunrise

October 1, 1914

Sunset

September 12, 2013

Service

Thursday, September 19, 2013 - 7:00 p.m.

CHRIST TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

38 Hopper Street
Paterson, New Jersey

Rev. Gregory C. Turner, Pastor
Bishop Robert Spellman, Officiating

Reflections of Life

On Thursday, September 12, 2013 at her daughter Blanche's home in Whiting, NJ, an angel sent by God, whispered to her "Well done, my good and faithful servant, come with me and receive your Crown. You have been faithful and you have been dedicated".

Mother McCoy, (Ma-Ma), (Jessie Mae) was born in Camden, Kershaw County, South Carolina, October 1, 1914. She was the daughter of the late Jim and Emma Williams.

At a young age, Jessie Mae was deemed a bright and witty child. She practiced to be eloquent in her speech; so eloquent, that she once told her younger sister, "Don't say bucket, say bouquet." She was not a naughty child but (she) did her fair share of mischief. During one of those rare times that she had to be reprimanded by her parents, she whispered something naughty to one of her siblings. She was shocked and amazed to be reprimanded because since she had whispered the statement, she could not understand or figure out how it could be repeated.

Jessie Mae became a member of Jerusalem Baptist Church of Hartsville, SC, pastored by Rev. Hunter. While there she was a dedicated and faithful member.

After the sudden death of her husband, Gus McCoy, Sr. in 1957, Jessie Mae continued to live in South Carolina. Realizing that she must now be both mom and dad to her eight children, (ages 2-17), Jessie Mae began working at Pee Dee Hatchet & Company; plucking chickens. This was going to be hard, —real hard, for the struggle had just begun. Jessie Mae soon realized that there had to be a better way of life. She was not satisfied plucking chickens and in 1959, began her search for a better life. She had heard that "money was growing on trees" in Paterson, NJ. So, she sold her wagon, pawned her mule (just in case she had to go back to South Carolina, she would have transportation), loaded the cars and moved to Paterson, New Jersey. They all couldn't move at once because her family had now grown larger. In addition to her own eight children, she now also had a daughter-in-law and a grandson to help care for. To her surprise, upon arriving in Paterson, and shaking the trees, she realized that the game was the same — work, work, work of which she was no stranger to. It was indeed a struggle, but with God's Grace and Help, she made it.

In 1959, she began to fellowship at the Greater Bethel Church of Christ in Paterson where Bishop Herbert Frazier, was the Diocese Bishop and Pastor. It was there in 1960, she was baptized in Jesus' name and received the Gift of the Holy Ghost. She did not send her children to Sunday school or church; she was their living example. She brought her children with her on Sunday mornings; the road was lined with the McCoy Family coming from over the river...What a sight to behold!

While at Greater Bethel she served faithfully. She was Vice President of the Missionary Board, Former President of the Willing Workers and Senior Choir, Vice President of the Prayer Band, Chair Person Pastor Anniversary Committee, Woman's Auxiliary and lifetime member of the National Woman's Council.

Many, many years have passed since that move from South Carolina. A praying woman, a virtuous woman, a dedicated woman of God, Mother McCoy touched many lives. God gave her real inner strength. She raised her own children, and many of her grandchildren. She was so in love with children that she even adopted adults.

Jessie Mae was one of eight siblings, whom one is still alive. Mother McCoy was predeceased by her husband, Gus McCoy, Sr.; six sons, Gus, Jr., James, Jacob, Jessie, Danny and Ricky; two daughters, Geraldine and Diane; two brothers, Albert and James; four sisters, Blanche, Creola, Marie and Juanita; eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. What strength and faith in God to know that He never makes a mistake and is always too just to do evil. Yet, she continued to be a real example to us all. She was not too Holy that she could not laugh and talk, yet she was not laughing and talking too much to chastise you when you were wrong. People often asked her if she had any problems; because she always had that smile. We know she must have had trials, tribulations, problems, etc., but she learned how to lean and depend solely on Jesus. Through her dedication to Him, He taught her how to leave her burdens with Him and go on... Praying all the way. She was a woman of knowledge and wisdom. She gave advice freely; even when not asked, but it was always good advice... Advice that would help you on your way.

Mother McCoy leaves behind: daughters, Gedell Blum of Alhambra, CA, Eleise (Billy) Evans of Smyrna, DE, Blanche Bennett of Whiting, NJ, Carolyn (Nathaniel) Joe of Paterson, NJ and Deborah Crawford of Passaic, NJ; sons, Donnie McCoy, Sr. of Paterson, NJ and Bobby McCoy of Durham, NC; one sister, Eula McCall; daughters-in-law, Jessie McCoy, Iris McCoy, Ada McCoy and Betty McCoy; special nieces, Sylvia Frierson and Wanda Govan Augustus; godsons, Timothy Ballard and William Baker, Jr.; goddaughter, Lottie Mayo; adopted daughters, Sally Carr, Fontella Howie and Phyllis Mack; special friend, Evelyn Williams; thirty-three grandchildren, ninety-four great grandchildren, forty-five great great grandchildren, eleven great great great grandchildren; special thanks to her caregiver, Lucille White; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Mother McCoy taught her children and continued to tell them and her grandchildren that, "If you keep your hands closed so that nothing can go out of them, surely, nothing can come into them. Give freely from your heart and God will always Bless you double." Jessie Mae gave without malice or jealousy from the heart. A True Role Model, a Praying Woman, a Dedicated Woman, A Real Woman of God. She had a large mouth, a large family, a large heart... filled with Love for All.

Order of Service

“Favor is Deceitful and Beauty is Vain; but a Woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised” Prov. 31:30

Organ Prelude Minister of Music

Officiating Bishop Robert Spellman
Church Historian COOLJC

Selection GBCC Praise Team

Invocation Elder Thomas Perry

Scripture Readings

Old Testament - Proverbs 31:10 Elder Joseph Moore

New Testament Elder Timothy Ballard

Solo “I Go To The Rock” - Elder Linda Stancil

Words of Comfort and Tribute

Apostle Fred Rubin

Elder Timothy Ballard

Sister Carolyn Martin

Family - ret. Assemblywoman Elease Evans

Resolution and Acknowledgements Sis. Sonia Harris

Reflections of Life Sis. Pamela Harris

Selection/Solo Elder Linda Stancil

Eulogy Bishop Norman Harris, Jr.
Pastor Greater Bethel Church of Christ, Paterson, NJ

Closing Selection Elder Timothy Ballard

“Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates” Proverbs 31:31

Interment

Friday, September 20, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.

East Ridgelawn Cemetery • Clifton, New Jersey

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glints on snow
I am the sunlight on ripened grain
I am the gentle rain and*

*When you awaken in the morning hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight
I am the soft starlight at night*

*Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there, I did not die.*



Acknowledgement

*The family of the late **Mother Jessie McCoy** wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to their family during this hour of bereavement. May God Bless and Keep You!*

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