

*A Tribute of Love and
Homegoing Celebration
for
Mrs. Willie Ozie Gray*



Sunrise
November 24, 1929

Sunset
January 18, 2014

Saturday, January 25, 2014 – 9:00 AM
Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church

88 Lyons Avenue
Newark, NJ 07112

Rev. Dr. Allen S. Potts, Pastor

January 19, 2014

Hi Mommy,

If I have not told you enough times, I'm going to just keep on telling you...I love you, Mommy! I LOVE YOU MOMMY !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Mere human words - no matter what language or dialect or even in silence could ever express the depth of LOVE and GRATITUDE I feel towards you for LOVING me unconditionally and with such humility...Thank You Mommy... and Thank You GOD for giving me this MOMMY!

Mommy, you exemplified the epitome of strength, courage, perseverance, endurance, and most of all - UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. Despite the challenges and tests of this life - you emerged, VICTORIOUS!

Mommy, you proclaimed and clearly showed that you Loved and accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, that you had a personal and intimate relationship with Him and that you were never ashamed to let others know that they, too, could experience HIM and HIS agape Love for themselves!

Mommy, as was shared with me by the Word, "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." Even though I'm here cloaked in this human grief, Now, I truly understand, that you are, indeed, with our Heavenly Father, and that you are receiving your just reward!

Mommy, I truly believe that we will be reunited again...and with that, Mommy, I'll simply say as I always do, I LOVE YOU and I'LL SEE YOU LATER!

Reflections of Life

Willie Ozie Gray, the beloved and only child of Tommie and Willie Mae Carriel, was born on November 24, 1929 in Renfroe, Georgia. She later relocated to Newark, New Jersey in 1937 with her parents.

Willie received her education in the Newark Public School System.

Shortly after meeting the love of her life, the late Clarence Gray Sr., they were united in holy matrimony and to this blessed union, six children were born: two sons and four daughters. Willie, along with her husband, also raised his cousin Janice (Gray) Smith from a young child, as one of their own. Affectionately known as “Mama”, she was a devoted grandmother, foster parent, and mother figure to many. To her great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren she was known as “Big Mama”.

Willie and her husband desired a big family, and since each of them were their parents’ only child, they later realized that God had truly answered their prayers.

Willie worked for a while as a seamstress. Since her priority was her family, she chose to devote her life to caring for them as a homemaker. She later completed the program to become a licensed foster parent.

As a young adult, Willie accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and joined The First Timothy Baptist Church where she taught Sunday School and often brought one of her home-made cakes for the children

to enjoy. After moving to a new community, Willie and her husband attended and later joined Canaan Baptist Church, where she served as a member of the Pastor's Aide Ministry.

In 2008, Willie joined The Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church to worship with her other family members there. Due to health reasons, there came a time when she was unable to attend services as often as she would have liked, but that never diminished her love of Jesus and sharing Him with others. She often prayed for, and spoke highly of her Pastor, Reverend Allen S. Potts.

Willie Ozie Gray's homegoing chariot arrived on January 18, 2014 after she was told that her work here was done and it was time for the good and faithful servant to come home.

She leaves to mourn five children: two sons, Malachi and Clarence Jr.; three daughters, Reena (Dickens), Gloria, and Deborah; one daughter-in-law, Laura Simmons-Gray; eight grandchildren: Jesse, Dorian, Aaron, Tremal, Sakeenah, LuQuan, and Cyra; eleven great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

She was pre-deceased in death by her beloved husband, Clarence Sr., one daughter, Valerie Mungin, one granddaughter, Teresa Dickens, cousin Janice (Gray) Smith and one foster son, Charles Cuffie.

Willie was the true essence of Unconditional LOVE. She will be deeply missed and her memory will be cherished forever!

Order of Service

Viewing

ProcessionalClergy and Family

SelectionGreater Abyssinian Choir

PrayerDaniel Hunter

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

New Testament

Obituary Lillian Ellis

SelectionGreater Abyssinian Choir

RemarksFamily & Friends
(2 Minutes)

Selection Greater Abyssinian Choir

EulogyRev. Dr. Allen S. Potts

Recessional

Interment

Evergreen Cemetery
1137 North Broad Street
Hillside, New Jersey

Following the interment, family and friends are invited to return to the church for the repast.

Mommy, Mama, Big Mama - Our Angel

An angel lived among us,
A gift from God above.
She showered us with kindness
And shared with us her love.

She cherished every moment
With the man who was her life;
Walking hand in hand together,
Facing life with all its strife.

She loved her children dearly,
Each one a different way,
Nestled close within her heart.
Though, now, she's far away.

She's gone to live with Jesus.
But, she's here with us, today,
Smiling down on every one of us,
And telling us she's O.K.

Pallbearers

Vincent Ellis	Kevin Warren
Willard Wilson	Romni Ellis
Jarnell Williams	Derrell Ellis, Jr.

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to acknowledge, with sincere appreciation, the many expressions of sympathy shown to us during our time of bereavement. Perhaps you sent us flowers, or a lovely card, or you spoke kind words of comfort, or you thought of us in prayer – either way, we thank you.

May God continue to bless each of you.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE
130 Main Street
Orange, NJ
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street
Newark, NJ
973-926-6400

COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME
37 Clinton Avenue
Jersey City, NJ
201-433-1000

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