

HOME GOING SERVICE
FOR
HERBERT KIRK



Sunrise
March 23, 1937

Sunset
September 1, 2015

Service

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.

UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.

2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027

*Evangelist Rosalyn McIntosh, Eulogist
Sister Collen McIntosh, Officiating
Latasha Jordan, Soloist*

Obituary

Herbert Kirk, 78, of Harlem, passed away at home, 11-15 123rd Street Apt. 3D, on Tuesday, September 1, 2015. Kirk was born on March 23, 1937 in Birmingham, Alabama to Herbert (late) and Kathy Kirk (late). Kirk was born into the Great Depression with his eldest sister, Nettie Thomas and younger sisters, Mary Lois McBride, Willie Michelle Simmons, and Pauline Kirk. Kirk and his siblings moved to 11-15 123rd Street in Harlem during the mid 1940's with their paternal aunts, Mary E. Kirk (late) and Nettie K. Woodlyn (late). Herbert received vocational training in carpentry at Cooper Junior High School. As a student he excelled at basketball and was offered scholarships to play at several colleges. Unfortunately, Kirk's knee had become injured during a high school basketball game and he was unable to continue his career professionally though his love of the game carried on. Kirk built relationships with a number of professional basketball players by playing recreationally and hosting clinics on the East Side of Harlem at Mount Morris Park.

In the late 1950's, Kirk was employed with the US Postal Service. Kirk left the postal service to begin managing the family stores *Kirk Candy and Variety Store* and *Kirk Candy Variety and Books*, at three locations in Harlem. His favorite location was the apartment store located on 46 West 117th Street. It was the most popular location for young adults to buy sweets, listen to music playing and meet young people in the area. It was here he met his favorite customer, Rosalyn Costella McIntosh (late) and they began dating. Some of his favorite dating locations were Birdland Club and Small Paradise located uptown 135th Street. After being inseparable for years their two daughters, Linda and Collen were born in Harlem Hospital. Leaving Harlem with three young children they moved to Brooklyn while he continued to manage the *Kirk Candy and Variety Stores*. They expanded their family to a total of seven: Diana, Linda, Collen, Jezebel, Nicodemus (late), Marvin "Gehazi" (late), and Rosalyn.

Kirk loved to take the children on journeys to their Aunt Mary's house and to their maternal grandmother, Martha Reese's home. It was on these long walks that he spoke to the children about the world around them. Kirk was very strict within his family unit and some would describe him as a militant. In 1970, after dealing with the loss of his spouse, and the separation of his children, he moved back to 11-15 123rd Street in Harlem. From the 1970's to the 1990's he worshipped at several churches throughout Harlem and worked with different religious organizations. His vocational training allowed him to become known as a carpenter in which his larger projects required building up the Greater Emmanuel Baptist Church located on 325 East 118th Street.

Kirk loved to speak and teach on the Bible and was nicknamed "the Walking Bible".

Among his other talents and gifts, Kirk fell in love with photography and became a Free Lance photographer in Harlem, known to capture special moments in the community as well as in his family. Kirk, more commonly known as "Brother", spent a lot of time with his nieces and nephews helping to nourish and raise them. Kirk had care in his heart for all whom he came in contact with, caring for his Aunt Mary and his older sister, Nettie during their older years. In 1992, he was reunited with his children and young granddaughters where his title became "Grandpop," and other similar variations. Kirk thanked Martha Reese, maternal grandmother, and was very grateful for her raising his children and that they were doing so well. He was excited to debate with his children on the Bible and the goodness of the Word of God. He was devastated when his youngest son, Gehazi was murdered in 1996. Over the last two decades Kirk has been an inspiration and support system in the lives of his children in various ways.

His favorite dishes were beef stew, baked macaroni and cheese, turnips and collard greens. He loved a good game of spades and was known for a smiling face and a hard laugh.

Herbert Kirk was a loving brother, father, uncle, grandfather, and friend is survived by: his daughters, Linda McIntosh-Rasul (Brooklyn, NY), Collen McIntosh (Brooklyn, NY), Jezebel McIntosh (Syracuse, NY) and Rosalyn McIntosh (Brooklyn, NY); his sisters, Nettie Thomas (New York, NY), Mary Lois McBride (Columbus, OH), Willie Michelle Simmons (Brooklyn, NY), and Pauline Kirk (New York, NY); and a host of nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends. He was predeceased by his sons, Nicodemus McIntosh and Marvin "Gehazi" McIntosh as well as his uncle, Willie Kirk.

written by: Collen McIntosh

Order of Service

ProcessionalEvangelist McIntosh and Family
PrayerEvangelist Rosalyn McIntosh
SelectionHymn #380 Kelvin Brown McIntosh
PoemShakira McIntosh and Alphonso Derrel Jackson
Scripture Readings:
 Old Testament - Psalm 117..... Mary Lois McBride
 New Testament - Hebrews 9:27-28Emanuel Billingslea
PoemSandra Cofield
Reflections (2 minutes or less)..... Family and Friends
ObituaryFrank Reese, Jr.
Selection Emanuel Billingslea
Eulogy and Altar Call.....Evangelist Rosalyn McIntosh
RecessionalHymn #486 Isis McIntosh
Benediction



Interment
Mt. Holiness Memorial Park
Butler, New Jersey

I'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

In Loving Memory of Herbert Kirk

Swing low, sweet chariot ; Comin' for to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot ; Comin' for to carry me home

I looked over Jordan and what did I see ; Comin' for to carry me home
A band of angels comin' after me ; Comin' for to carry me home
(Chorus)

If you get to heaven before I do ; Comin' for to carry me home
Tell all my friends I'm comin' there too ; Comin' for to carry me home
(Chorus)

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down ; Comin' for to carry me home
But still I know I'm heavenly (*freedom*) bound ; Comin' for to carry me home
(Chorus)

If I get there before you do ; Comin' for to carry me home
I'll cut a hole and pull you through ; Comin' for to carry me home
(Chorus)

My arms are too short to box with God
God took Mommy, God took Daddy
But I honored Mommy and Daddy's words
They left me with Jesus Christ, God Almighty, Jehovah
And I am in good Hands.

~Love Linda McIntosh-Rasul a.k.a. Ms. Lin~

Acknowledgement

Our family wishes to convey our sincerest appreciation for your prayers and support during Herbert Kirk's passing. We are blessed to have friends like you and are thankful for all you've done.

Love the Kirk & McIntosh Family

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