

*Celebrating the Life of*



*William "Billy" Johnson, Jr.*

*January 9, 1941 – May 22, 2010*

**Service**

*Friday, May 28, 2010  
12:00 Noon*

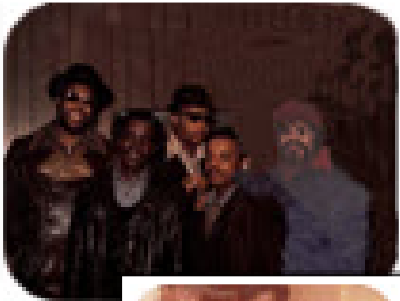
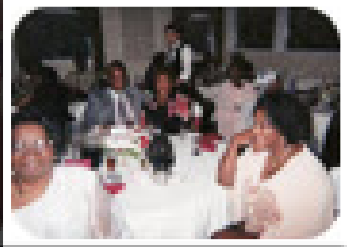
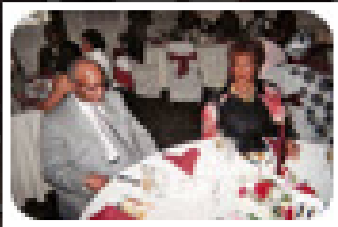
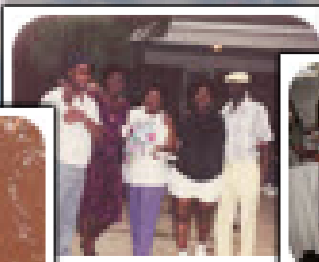
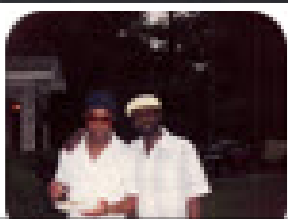
**GRACE BIBLE CLASS CHURCH**

54 Pine Street  
Passaic, New Jersey

*Rev. Bernard Durham, Pastor*



*Precious Memories*



## *Reflections of Life*

*William (Billy) Johnson, Jr.* was born January 9, 1941 in Laurinburg, NC to his late parents, William Johnson, Sr. and Virginia Curry Robinson. He attended local schools in Laurinburg, NC.

*He resided in Paterson, NJ for the past fifty years. He retired from Bergen Regional Medical Center in 2005 after thirty years of service.*

*He was preceded in death by a brother, Silas Robinson, two sisters, Anna Belle Johnson-Armstrong and Barbara Jean Robinson and a special devoted cousin, Peggy Ann Diggs.*

*Billy accepted Christ on October 5, 2003 and was a member of Grace Bible Class Church, Passaic NJ.*

*Billy was able to overcome many obstacles in his life; a tumultuous childhood and he was able to recover from his alcohol addiction. This year he would have celebrated seventeen years in the program. He was an active member of the Eastside and Totowa Twelve Step Program and the Matt Talbert Program. Billy was a good soldier in the twelve step program, speaking at meetings and always giving back what was so freely given to him so he could help his fellow man. He had many friends in the program O'Neal, Joe, Will, Henry, Erskine, Tom, Sean, Jim (sick and suffering), Al, Dave, Russ, Earl, Ann, Eleanor, Vivian and all those in the fellowship that he had not met were still his friends.*

*Billy loved the game of baseball. His favorite teams were the Boston Red Sox and the Los Angeles*

*Dodgers. Billy was always very meticulous with his car and his own personal appearance, he was a dapper dresser. In the home, family was always delighted with his culinary skills.*

*His special friends from work were Everlina Riley, Reatha Roach, Antoinette Walsh, Betty Thomas (Little Betty), Dorothy Grey, Savannah Houston, Ada Pagan, Al Buckingham and the late Anna Lee Maine and Edna Alston.*

*He leaves to cherish his memory: his loving wife, the former Ruth Hinton; a son, William S. Gibbons (Vanessa); a step-son, Paul A. Hinton both of Paterson; two daughters, Beverly Ann Slade of Winston-Salem, NC and Andrea Marie Pack (Rafiel) of Arlington, Texas; nine grandchildren, Keima, Chivonne, Tykeia, Stephanie, Imani, Torrance, William, Armani and Jamal; six great-grandchildren, Justin, Savion, Khari, Keimani, Ameerah and A Miracle; two sisters, Virginia Carlene Robinson and Veronica Daisy McLaughlin both of Laurinburg, NC; an aunt, Sara Sloan of Reading, PA; A brother-in-law, Lester Hinton (Phyllis) of Paterson, NJ; two sisters-in-law, Evelyn Barbee (Steven) of Concord, NC, and Mary Robinson of Laurinburg, NC; a devoted granddaughter, Chivonne Bryant; devoted nieces, Nicole Armstrong, Sherane Bunting, Rashida Barbee and Suraya Bunting; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, a special friend that he shared many cherished memories throughout his life in Paterson, Robert Wright; and a devoted friend and sponsor, Eldon O'Neal Johnson.*

# *Order of Service*

*Processional*

*Selection*

*Scripture Reading*

*Old Testament*

*New Testament*

*Prayer of Comfort*

*Selection*

*Acknowledgements and Remarks*

*Reflection of Life*

*Selection*

*Words of Comfort ..... Rev. Bernard Durham*

*Recessional*

**Final Disposition**  
*Laurel Grove Crematory*  
*Totowa, New Jersey*

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## *Don't Cry For Me*

DON'T CRY FOR ME when you think that I am gone for I am still with you. My body has returned to the earth from which it was formed by God, but my spirit lives on in His loving embrace.

I have joined the spirit of God in all Creation. I am riding on the wings of the fluttering butterfly and on the wings of the soaring eagle. When you feel the breath of God against your face in the gentle breeze, it is I who is whispering in your ear.

Don't think of me in some distant land of sterile mansions and streets of Gold. Others have chosen to live there but I have chosen to travel with the Spirit of God throughout all Creation. I dance on the rays of the sun as they race toward your abode on Planet Eden. Look at the shimmering waters and watch for the twinkling of my eye as reflected in the sunlight.

Do you not see the tiny dark speck on the surface of the full moon? It is I, waving to you from afar, yet I am also there by your side, watching you gaze in wonder at the moon and the myriad stars of God's infinite Universe.

I have joined the hummingbird and the bumblebee as they flit from flower to flower. I have climbed into the highest branches of the greatest oaks to marvel at the baby birds as they cry for their mother to bring them their dinner.

The great whales and I dive to the greatest depths of the ocean to marvel at the myriad forms of life therein and then with great joy we return to the surface to frolic in the waves. Yet I am also there by your side as you listen to the murmuring of the waves as they soothe your soul.

It is I singing with the birds. It is I dancing with the leaves. It is I floating gently over your head on a fluffy white cloud and when I wish to ride the rapids or cascade over a waterfall I dive to earth with the falling rain.

So, my dear beloved, DON'T CRY FOR ME, for God and I are with you always. And when your time has come to join us we will be your guide. Together, hand in hand, God and I will show you the wonders and reveal the mysteries of the marvelous tapestry of Creation.

And together we will visit those we've left behind and try to let them know that we are there in the falling snow, the scent of a wildflower, the song of the warbler, and the gentle breath of God as He caresses their lips and musses their hair.

### *Acknowledgements*

*The family would like to express their sincere thanks for the many prayers, courtesies, acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy extended to them during this time. May God continue to bless and keep each of you.*

*Special thanks to John Theurer Cancer Center at Hackensack University Medical Center, Hospice Program, Gwen Reynolds, Home Health Aide, Dr. Lawrence Berman and Staff and Glenn L. Brown, Director Paterson Police Department.*