

In Loving Memory of



Linnette McDowell-Taiwo

January 28, 1957 - November 23, 2013

Service

Saturday, November 30, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.

FIRST PEDDIE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

572 Broad Street • Newark, New Jersey

Rev. Felix Tingson, Pastor

Rev. Timothy Famojuro, Officiant/Eulogist

Carol Gallentine, Organist



Order Of Service

ORGAN PRELUDE

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN – *TAKE MY HAND PRECIOUS LORD*

PRAYER

HYMN – *TO GOD BE THE GLORY*

SCRIPTURE READING - *PSALM 23*

TRIBUTE

EULOGY

HYMN – *ABIDE WITH ME*

THE MESSAGE

OFFERING

SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

SONG SELECTION – *HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW*

VOTE OF THANKS

CLOSING HYMN – *SLEEP ON BELOVED*

Interment

Rosedale Cemetery • Orange, NJ

P R E C I O U S M E M O R I E S



Obituary

For 56 years, **Linnette E. McDowell-Taiwo**, affectionately called Beverly by some, played several roles. At her center however, Linnette was simply an awe-inspiring woman. Born on January 28, 1957 in Clarendon, St. Andrews Parish, Jamaica to John and Mariam McDowell, Linnette E. McDowell-Taiwo was the youngest of 13 children. She was born nearly 30 years after her eldest sister, Christine “Ruby” Simpson. Upon leaving Crofts Hill High School, Linnette became a teacher educating 4th graders in math and English at Linstead Primary School in Kingston. She spent any free time she had hanging out with her best friend Cynthia, either cooking rice and peas on their designated “rice and peas and chicken Wednesdays” or at the beach on Sundays.

Linnette always had big dreams. Her big dreams led her to New York in 1978. The move up to the states was far from easy. Her big sister Nora, also known as “Blossom” and brother Clinton graciously took her in during her first few years in this strange new country. Linnette quickly found her footing in the US and enrolled at Medgar Evers where she would receive her BS in Finance.

Not only was Linnette a dreamer, she was also a true beauty. No one could agree with that statement more than the young Abraham G. Taiwo, who Linnette met during the summer of 1979. He was mesmerized by Linnette’s beauty and was determined to win a date with her; and win a date, he did. It did not take long for them to fall in love. Four years later they officially started their family with the arrival of baby Omolola Taiwo. The young couple eventually left their beloved Brooklyn, NY, the city that brought them together, and moved to New Jersey where they had their second child, Abayomi Christopher Taiwo.

Being the determined woman that she was, Linnette eventually decided to leave the financial industry to develop a meaningful career as a nurse. She attended New York University and received her B.S.N in 1995.

Linnette was a dedicated nurse. As a beloved I-Blue staff member at University Hospital in Newark for the past twelve years, she became fierce friends with her colleagues and “adopted daughters” which made her work life very fulfilling. Due to her love of helping people, Linnette also made time to work as a per diem nurse at St. Michaels.

Linnette was a brilliant wife, mother, sister and friend; and she was loved by many. She was warm, loving, caring, positive, affectionate, very cheerful and always had a smile on her face.

Linnette’s relationship with her best friend, Cynthia, is just one example of the type of person Linnette was. Even though Linnette left Jamaica before Cynthia, they remained pen-pals and never lost touch. As Cynthia would tell you, Linnette never let Cynthia feel alone. When Cynthia first came to the U.S., she became very homesick and longed to go back to Jamaica. On one birthday in particular, Cynthia was feeling quite lonely. Linnette happened to call to check up on Cynthia. Upon

hearing how distressed Cynthia sounded, Linnette hung up the phone, made her way to Manhattan, and showed up on Cynthia's door steps ready to take care of her best friend.

Though Linnette was the youngest sibling, she was also the strongest. She often kept her brothers and sisters on their toes. They are older than her, but at times she was a mother to them. Whether through phone calls or frequent visits to Toronto or London, she cared very deeply for her siblings. She made her brother Guy give up smoking. In fact, toward the end of her life, when she was weak and could not speak on her sick bed, Linnette wrote a message for her brother, telling him to go to church and get baptized. She was a steadfast supporter and comforter.

Linnette was also a devoted wife. For Abraham's 50th birthday party, Linnette tirelessly planned an amazing surprise party for her husband.

To Linnette, family was everything. She was the ultimate hostESS, the force behind every holiday gathering that brought her nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends in to her home for celebration. She also had the best taste in clothes, jewelry, and furniture. For Abraham's 60th birthday and their wedding anniversary, the Taiwo family decided to go to the Dominican Republic. As a surprise to Linnette, Abraham, Lola, and Christopher went on a fishing expedition for a new diamond ring. Now if you know Linnette, not just any ring would do. This ring had to be fabulous, unique, and high quality. Lola and Christopher spent the entire summer creating elaborate ruses, trying to get Linnette into jewelry stores, because there was no way they would able to pick a ring without her approval. The anniversary gift was a great success, and their ability to not only bring a huge smile to her face, but also to surprise her was a great feat for her family.

Linnette's faith in Christ has sustained her. God has always remained the center of her life. From her love of Gospel music, especially anything sung by Mahalia Jackson, to her desire to see her entire family strengthen their relationship with God, Linnette truly lived like a Christian. Even throughout her illness, Linnette leaned on her faith for strength and made it clear to her loved ones that her greatest wish was that they find a church home. It saddens us to see her depart from this world, but we are certain that she is in a better place now, waiting for her family and friends to join her one day.

Linnette is survived by: her husband, Abraham G. Taiwo; children, Omolola and Abayomi Taiwo; sisters, Ruby, Monica, Jean, Joyce, Nora, and brothers, Guy (Sissy), Clinton (Lorraine) and Johnny (Jennifer) McDowell. She also leaves her God-son, Randy Gordon, and best friend, Cynthia Gordon, as well as all of her nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Linnette Elaine McDowell Taiwo has joined in eternity her parents, John and Mariam McDowell, and her four siblings, including George and Ivy and two infant siblings.

Rest sweet Linnette. Thank you for a life well lived.

Her Children's Precious Memories

Omolola Taiwo:

My mother is one of my closest friends. She always has been. I've always known how blessed I was to have this amazing black woman in my life show me what unconditional love meant -- what commitment and dedication to family meant – and what it meant to be a nurturing yet strong-willed woman. My mother instilled a great deal of values into me, the ability to be honest, forgiving, giving, loving, faithful, and tidy --always tidy. There's not a single person who's ever met Linnette Taiwo and doesn't know her “ Tidy Commandments” as I like to call it. That's my mom. You know she cares about you, the second she lovingly scolds you for not tidying up something. Of course, there's a plethora of stories I could share. Stories of how I typically become a 5-year child when I'm near her. How I often like to cuddle and bother her while she's enjoying her alone time in front of the TV. Or how I took a great deal of pride in bombarding her with tight hugs and kisses until she had to yell at me to leave her alone. The more annoyed she became, the more entertained I was –it's silly, but that's me. However, what distinctively stands out the most in my mind, is how understanding my mother was. No matter how dire the situation seemed, my mother always managed to find a way out or through it. She made you believe that you were always going to be ok at the end of the day. There was no situation that we couldn't tackle together. If there's one person in this world whose love made me feel safe and eternally secure, it was hers. God blesses us with angels on earth and He blessed me with the chance to be raised by the most amazing black woman. God's love was evident through her. If I manage to grow up to half the woman, sister, aunt, friend, mother, and wife she was, then that would be a great blessing.

Abayomi Christopher Taiwo:

To sum up a single moment where I realized that my mother was an exceptional woman is impossible; there are many moments that truly exemplify her as a wonderful person. During her time as a full time nursing student at NYU and throughout her time as full-time nurse, my mother was always selfless and caring. Every summer my mother would care for and provide entertainment not only for my sister and I, but for three to five of our cousins as well. One of the fondest memories I have is of the time she took us to The Land of Make Believe. I was only five-years-old at the time and don't remember the day much, but I do remember that she let me sit in the front seat, and out of all my childhood memories that was the best. The time and effort it took to manage and care for so many kids and handle her own responsibilities truly showed how strong of a woman she was and all that she would do for her family.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Precious Lord, Take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, Lead
me home.

2. When my way grows drear precious
Lord linger near
When my light is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me
home

3. When the darkness appears and
the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand
Guide my feet, hold my hand
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me
home

4. Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me
home



To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath
done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His
Son,
Who yielded His life our redemption to win,
And opened the life-gate that all may go
in.

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice;
oh, come to the Father, through Jesus
the Son,
And give Him the glory; great things He
hath done.*

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of
blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon
receives.

Refrain

Great things He hath taught us, great
things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the
Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport when Jesus we
see.

Refrain

Abide With Me

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me
abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts
flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with
me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little
day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass
away;
Change and decay in all around I
see—
O Thou who changest not, abide with
me.

I need Thy presence every passing
hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the
tempter's pow'r?
Who, like Thyselv, my guide and stay
can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord,
abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to
bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no
bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave,
thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my
closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me
to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's
vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Sleep On Beloved

 Sleep on, beloved, sleep and take thy rest,
Lay down thy head upon thy Savior's
breast;
We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee
best;—
Good-night!

Calm is thy slumber as an infant's sleep;
But thou shalt wake no more to toil and
weep;
Thine is a perfect rest, secure and deep;—
Good-night!

Until the shadow from this earth be cast,
Until He gather in His sheaves at last,
Until the Lenten gloom be overpast;—
Good-night!

Until the Easter glory light the skies,
Until the dead in Jesus shall arise,
And He shall come— but not in lowly
guise;—
Good-night!

Until, made beautiful by love divine,
Thou in the likeness of thy Lord shalt
shine,
And He shall bring that golden crown of
thine;—
Good-night!

Only "Goodnight!" belovèd, not "Farewell!"
A little while, and all His saints shall dwell
In hallowed union, indivisible;—
Good-night!

Until we meet again before His throne,
Clothed in the spotless robe He gives His
own;
Until we know, even as we are known;—
Good-night! Amen.

Beyond The Sunset



Should you go first and I remain
to walk the road alone,
I'll live in memories garden dear,
with happy days we've known.
In spring I'll wait for roses red,
when faded, the lilacs blue.
In early fall when brown leaves fall,
I'll catch a glimpse of you.
Should you go first and I remain,
for battle to be fought.
Each thing you've touched along the way
will be a hallowed spot.
I'll hear your voice, I'll see your smile,
though blindly I may grope,
The memory of your helping hand
will buoy me on with hope.
Should you go first and I remain,
one thing I'll have you do:
Walk slowly down that long long path,
for soon I'll follow you.
I want to know each step you take,
so I may take the same.
For someday down that lonely road
you'll hear me call your name.

In Appreciation

We give thanks to God Almighty for the support, comfort and prayer that our family and friends have provided during this difficult time, and we thank you for joining us in celebration of Linnette's life. May God bless each of you abundantly for your love and generosity. We extend a heartfelt thanks to the following families and individuals:

Special thanks to Linnette's siblings Christine "Ruby" Simpson, Lebert "Guy" McDowell, Joyce "Odessa" McDowell, Clinton McDowell, Lascelle "Johnny" McDowell, and especially Monica Dacres, Jean Blake and Nora McDowell, and all nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to Cynthia Gordon and Family.

Special thanks to the Families of Oduola and Olugbemi.

Special thanks to the Families of Onadipe, Agunbiade, Boboyoe, Sasona, and the Members and Spouses of the Association of Friends.

Special thanks to Linnette's colleagues at University Hospital, the I-Blue Staff and Managers, especially Anike, Ceyon, Comfort, Fadwa, Kadia, Lisa, Mary, Sogi and Tricia.

Special thanks to Abraham's colleagues at Prudential.

May God Almighty continue to bless and keep you all.

Professional Services Provided By

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