

*Celebrating the Life of*



*Herman Samuels*

**Sunrise: July 24, 1922 - Sunset: February 3, 2022**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022 - 10 AM**

**UNITY FUNERAL CHAPELS, INC.**

**2352 8th Avenue • New York, NY 10027**

# *Obituary*

**Herman Samuels**, the youngest of 11 children of proud parents Alonzo Samuels and Bertha Samuels, n'ee Lett was born of July 24, 1922 in Pollard Alabama.

When Herman turned 18 years of age, he desired to venture out and move from the small rural town of Pollard Alabama without informing his parents (because such would have broke his parents heart -especially his mother who would've had him experiencing a feeling of guilt for wanting to leave). Herman was the last of his 10 siblings to eventually depart from his parents humble abode in Pollard; just as each of his elder siblings had systemically done throughout the foregoing years.

When Herman arrived in Mobile Alabama where one of his older brother's Robido was residing, he telephoned his parents and apprised them that he was safe and was now living with his older sibling and family. During the 3 years that Herman lived in Mobile Alabama, he was able to secure a few menial jobs, being that the United States was entering into World War II and was fortunate that he was skilled in the trade of carpentry.

In 1943, when Herman was 21 years of age he decided to join most of his other elder siblings Lafayette, Daisy, Cleophuis, Voncille, Bennett and Gifford and move North to New York City.

Upon arriving in NYC, Herman was employed in a variety means of employment, one initially being a box manufacturer in 1944 for The Famous Paper Box Company and ultimately becoming a professional waxer for The Madison Cleaning Company in 1946. Which resulted in Herman becoming a member of (32BJ) the union for Building & Janitors for 41 years; until his retirement in 1987 at age 65.

Herman Samuels joined Metropolitan Baptist Church in 1943 under Reverend Abner Brown. He was a devout christian and attended church faithfully every Sunday.

Herman was the chairman for the Male Usher Board for several decades and was responsible for organizing very successful fundraisers commencing in 1955 (ie bus rides) for Metropolitan.

Herman loved being a very long standing elder of Metropolitan as he experienced as well as endured the several transitional changes of pastors throughout the 7 decades of his membership.

Herman met, courted and married Edna Mae DeVette and from this union a son Herman Alonzo Samuels was born on November 30, 1948. Unfortunately, Herman and Edna Mae divorced in 1964.

Subsequently, Herman met Catherine (sister) Drake on a fundraiser bus ride for Metropolitan Baptist Church and they were both introduced to one another by a fellow usher of the church Willie (Doc) Drake (Catherine's eldest brother). Herman and Catherine thereafter engaged in several social activities which ultimately led to engagement and then matrimony on Catherine's birthday December 11, 1965. To this union a son Alvin K. Samuels was born on December 28, 1967. Herman & Catherine remained fittingly married until her return to the essence in 2003.

Herman transitioned unto his peaceful journey on the early morning of February 3, 2022. Herman departed this earth in the physical sense at the age of 99, and was only 5 months shy of his 100th birthday. He was very proud of his independence, that he never required any assistant or a home health aide, and traveled alone as well as could tend to all his errands for himself.

Herman was very blessed with longevity, he was widower and the last survivor of all his 10 siblings, his wife Catherine (Drake) Samuels of 37 years and all of his brothers and sisters preceded him in death.

Herman leaves to cherish his memory; two sons Herman A.Samuels and Alvin K. Samuels, three grandchildren Jamar Samuels from San Antonio Texas, Savoirfaire J. Samuels and Qu'teion C. Samuels, seven great grandchildren, six great great grandchildren; nephew Mr & Mrs Robert (Nin) Samuels from Mobile Alabama, grand nieces Gwendolyn Samuels and Regina Johnson, great grand niece VaRhonda Johnson, sister in law by marriage Mrs Willie Webb, n'ee Drake and female companion Ms Amelia Scarborough, many many more extended family members to extensive to name and many many friends and fellow church parishioners.

# Order of Service

Organ Prelude.....Kareem Felder  
Minister of Music, Metropolitan Baptist Church

Officiating.....Rev. Dr. Derrick S. Johnson Sr.  
Assistant Pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church

Invocation

Scripture.....Michael Paulin  
Old Testament (Psalm 23).....Deacon, Metropolitan Baptist Church  
New Testament (John 14:1-6)

Musical Selection.....Amelia Scarborough  
Deacon, Metropolitan Baptist Church

Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Dr. Bobbie McDaniel  
Pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church

Reflections.....Please keep remarks to 2 Minutes

Acknowledgements

Obituary .....Qu't'eion Samuels

Selection.....Kareem Felder  
Minister of Music, Metropolitan Baptist Church

Eulogy .....Rev. Dr. Derrick S. Johnson Sr.  
Assistant Pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church

Benediction

Recessional

**Interment:**  
Rosehill Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey

**Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what [d]fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what [e] communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you[f] are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will dwell in them  
And walk among them.  
I will be their God,  
And they shall be My people.”

17 Therefore

“Come out from among them  
And be separate, says the Lord.  
Do not touch what is unclean,  
And I will receive you.”

18 “I will be a Father to you,  
And you shall be My sons and daughters,  
Says the Lord Almighty.”

**Poem:**

“I have 6 months to mind my business and 6 months to leave other people's business alone.

If I never get to Heaven, it's not because I'm not trying!” Mr. Herman Samuels

**Church Assignments:**

Marshall of the Usher Board

Trustee

Sunday School Superintendent

Assistant Sunday School Teacher

He headed many bus outings and with the proceeds he took care  
of the oil that kept the church warm for many years

## *Acknowledgement*

*The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts  
of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour.  
May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

***Special Thanks to Rev. Derrick Johnson of Metropolitan Baptist  
Church for his enduring support during our time of bereavement.***

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*Fun*



As Is customary, the Convent Avenue Baptist Church honors Father's of the Harlem Churches each year. This year our own Brother Herman Samuels was chosen to represent the Metropolitan Baptist Church, on Friday night, June 15, 2001. He was honored along with News Personality, Harold Dow and Shikoku Diablo, the father of Amadou Diablo.

**“THIS IS A LITTLE STORY  
ABOUT THE FATHER OF THE YEAR”**

Herman Samuels is the husband of Catherine Samuels, and the father of two sons Herman Alonzo and Alvin Samuels.

Herman joined the Metropolitan Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend Abner Brown, October 12, 1943. He joined the Usher Board in February 1944, and has been a faithful member of this ministry. He has served under the leadership of seven (7) Usher Board Presidents. They are as follows; P.S. Easter, M.C. Williams, Clarence Thompson, D.C. Jackson, Henry Dillard, Annie Belle Wilson and Eudora Jackson.

Herman started to organize bus outings in 1955 and is still a leader in providing this service to the church congregation. This year the Usher Board sponsored a trip to Las Vegas, Nevada.

You can ALWAYS find Herman at the church, helping in whatever capacity that he can. this is a little story about the “Father of the Year,” a man faithful to his God, his family and his church.



# *Carry On My Children*

Carry on my children

And do not weep.

For today is not the end

But instead the beginning.

Carry on my children

You must be strong

For I am home with the Lord

And I am free from all that ails me.

Carry on my children

And keep my memory alive

Remember our laughter

And all the joys we shared.

So until we meet again

Carry on my dear children

For one day we will all be free.

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