



*Honoring the Life
of
Leona J. Crawford*

09.21.1938

05.23.2017



HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017

VISITATION 8:30AM - 11:00AM

SERVICE - 11:00AM



SECOND MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

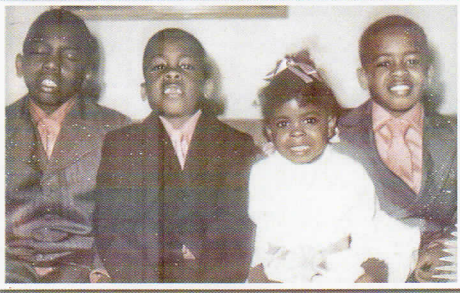
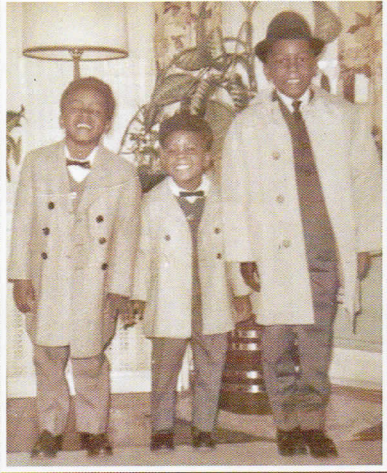
1301 W RUSCOMB ST. PHILADELPHIA, PA 19141

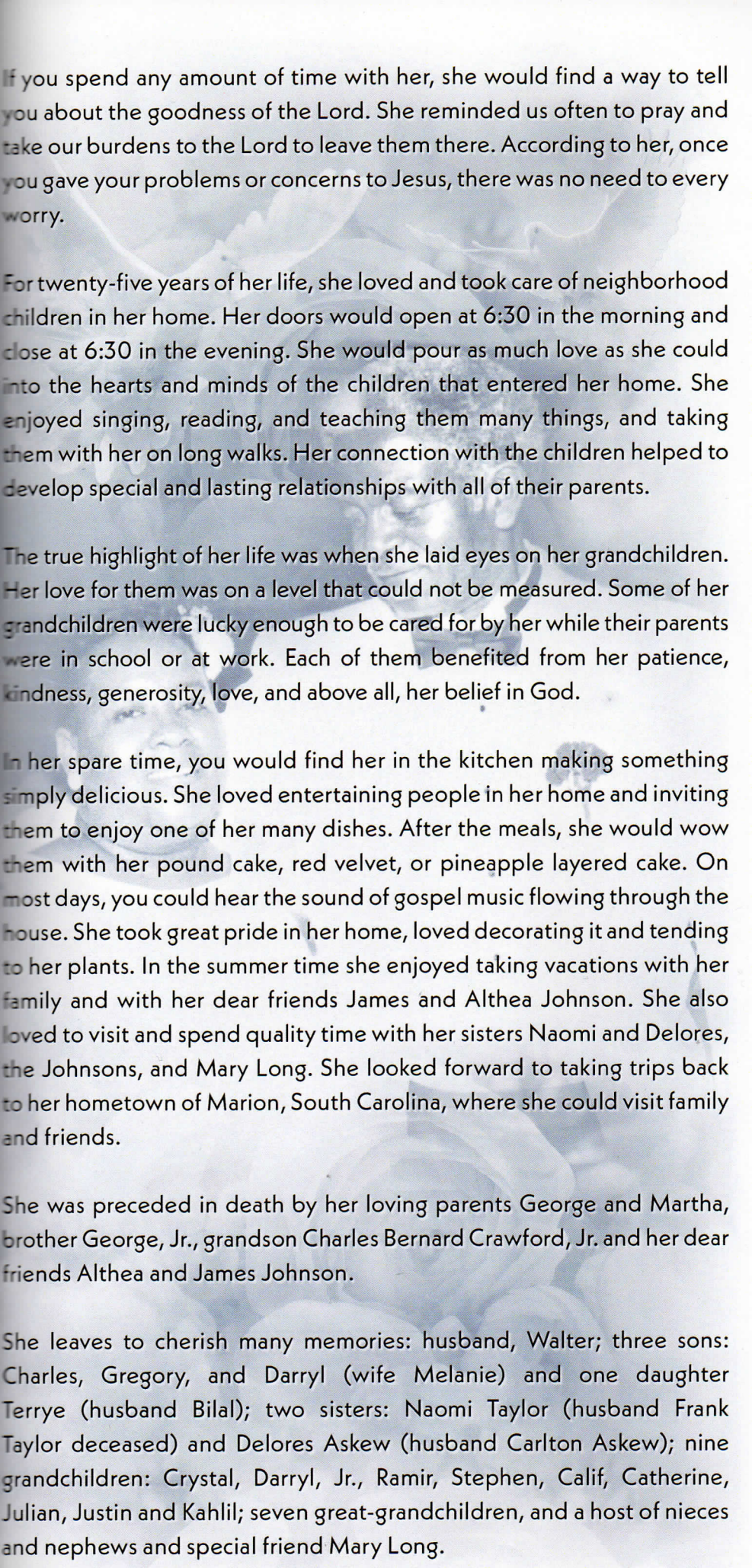
Leona Israel Crawford

Leona Israel, was born in Marion, South Carolina, on September 21, 1938, to George and Martha Israel. She departed this life on May 23, 2017. She accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal savior and was baptized in her early teens at Mount Pisgah Baptist Church. She received her education in the South Carolina school system graduating from Marion Training School in 1957. After graduation, she worked as the school secretary for one year.

She married, the love of her life, Walter Crawford, Jr. She met, Walter or "Crawford", as she lovingly called him, in the eighth grade. After studying her for a brief time, he made a declaration. He boldly declared at the young age of 13, that Leona Israel would one day be his bride. On June 22, 1958, he kept his promise, and he made her his wife. Through that union, four children were born. Charles (1959), Gregory (1960), Darryl (1963), and Terrye (1966) were blessed with a mother who was a beautiful gift from God. Her role as a wife and mother was one that she truly loved. She had a way a way of making each of her children feel special. The expression from her soft brown eyes, the gentle tone of her voice, her tireless efforts, and her forgiving nature solidified the love that she felt for her family. She always believed that everyone deserved a second chance. She thought that as long as we had breath, there was a chance to do better and change our circumstances. We welcomed her sage advice because she delivered it with love. She listened, counseled, and gently led us into making the right decisions.

In 1962, Walter moved his wife, Leona, and his young family to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Shortly after moving to Philadelphia in 1962, she joined Second Macedonia Baptist Church. She quickly dedicated her time and service to the work of the church. As a member of the church she worked with the Boy Scouts, Mother's Club, Carolina Club, Gospel Chorus, Senior Choir, Women's Chorus and as a Deaconess. Her life as a Christian was one of great devotion. Her parents instilled a love of God in all of their children. Like her mother, she trusted and believed God with all of her heart. Her father's love of the Bible was modeled by her, as well. Before she did anything in the morning, she began her day with thanksgiving, prayer, worship, and Bible study. Her life was a testament of her unwavering faith in God.





If you spend any amount of time with her, she would find a way to tell you about the goodness of the Lord. She reminded us often to pray and take our burdens to the Lord to leave them there. According to her, once you gave your problems or concerns to Jesus, there was no need to every worry.

For twenty-five years of her life, she loved and took care of neighborhood children in her home. Her doors would open at 6:30 in the morning and close at 6:30 in the evening. She would pour as much love as she could into the hearts and minds of the children that entered her home. She enjoyed singing, reading, and teaching them many things, and taking them with her on long walks. Her connection with the children helped to develop special and lasting relationships with all of their parents.

The true highlight of her life was when she laid eyes on her grandchildren. Her love for them was on a level that could not be measured. Some of her grandchildren were lucky enough to be cared for by her while their parents were in school or at work. Each of them benefited from her patience, kindness, generosity, love, and above all, her belief in God.

In her spare time, you would find her in the kitchen making something simply delicious. She loved entertaining people in her home and inviting them to enjoy one of her many dishes. After the meals, she would wow them with her pound cake, red velvet, or pineapple layered cake. On most days, you could hear the sound of gospel music flowing through the house. She took great pride in her home, loved decorating it and tending to her plants. In the summer time she enjoyed taking vacations with her family and with her dear friends James and Althea Johnson. She also loved to visit and spend quality time with her sisters Naomi and Delores, the Johnsons, and Mary Long. She looked forward to taking trips back to her hometown of Marion, South Carolina, where she could visit family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her loving parents George and Martha, brother George, Jr., grandson Charles Bernard Crawford, Jr. and her dear friends Althea and James Johnson.

She leaves to cherish many memories: husband, Walter; three sons: Charles, Gregory, and Darryl (wife Melanie) and one daughter Terrye (husband Bilal); two sisters: Naomi Taylor (husband Frank Taylor deceased) and Delores Askew (husband Carlton Askew); nine grandchildren: Crystal, Darryl, Jr., Ramir, Stephen, Calif, Catherine, Julian, Justin and Kahlil; seven great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews and special friend Mary Long.



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- Musical Prelude
- Processional Ministers, Officers and Family
- Closing of the Bier Claude J. Edney Funeral Home Staff
- Opening Sentences Reverend Harold R. Jolley, Pastor
- Hymn of Praise "Blessed Assurance" #27 – Choir
- Scripture Reading
 Old Testament – Psalm:1-8
 New Testament – II Corinthians 5:1-10
- Prayer of Comfort Deacon John McGuire
- Musical Selection "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" #340
- Acknowledgements & Resolutions
- Reading of Life Reflection (Obituary)
- Family Tributes and Remarks (2 min. limit respectfully)
- The Living Word (Eulogy) Rev. Harold R. Jolley, Pastor
- Musical Selection "I'll Fly Away" #432
- Recessional "Let the Church Say Amen"

Interment

Ivy Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

Repast

At church following the interment





"Psalm 121"

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord,
Which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper:
The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
Nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:
He shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming In from
This time forth, and even for evermore.



In Appreciation

The family would like to extend its most sincere thanks to the members of Second Macedonia Baptist Church.

A special thanks to Deacon John McGuire, Deacon Barbara McGuire, Deacon Julia Bradley, and Deacon Betty Pratt for the special time you spent serving communion and fellowshiping with my wife. We would also like to thank the home healthcare aides and nurses who cared for her over the years. (Wanda, Delores, Lexus, Keisha, Melissa and Margret, you had a special place in her heart.) To Will and Levitt; your help, care and concern will never be forgotten. Words cannot express how thankful she and I were to Richard, Beverly, Cephas and Carol for always making her feel special and loved. The time that you sacrificed was truly appreciated. To all of the family and friends that were by her bedside loving her to the very end, we thank you! Her pain and suffering is over! When God whispered in her ear on May 23, 2017, there was no hesitation. She answered his call and joyfully left her earthly body. He will rejoice forever and ever. Amen!!!



Services of Comfort Entrusted To:

Claude J. Edney Funeral Home, Inc.

Claude J. Edney, Sr., Founder - Claude J. Edney, Jr. Supervisor

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