

CELEBRATION  
OF LIFE FOR

*A Message To You*

I'm going to see my Father, for I am tired you see,  
I'm going to see my Father for He is beckoning me.  
I see His arms spread open, I feel His presence near,  
He wants me to come home now! I've finished my work here.  
I know that you will miss me, but keep your eyes on Him  
and we will meet again soon in God's Holy Realm  
He wants you to come with me, how many? He doesn't mind.  
He said that you are welcome, this is for all mankind.  
So if you are not ready, please get yourself prepared, for He is coming for you  
and I want to meet you there.  
I won't say goodbye to my family, for I know that you'll be with me to share this  
eternity.  
by GLORIA PORTER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Florence Alfreda Gonzalez wishes to extend sincere and deep appreciation to all of you for your acts of kindness, comforting words and especially your prayers during this hour of bereavement. May God bless each of you is our prayer.

REPAST

The Bethel Church

FLORENCE  
ALFREDA  
*Gonzalez*

APRIL 8, 1937 | JULY 17, 2023

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023 - 11AM

*The Bethel Church*

215 Bethel Baptist Street | Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Jr., Senior Pastor

Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr., Pastor Emeritus

Q.L. DOUGLAS  
FUNERAL HOME

QUINTON L. DOUGLAS, L.F.D.I.C.

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# FLORENCE GONZALEZ

**FLORENCE ALFREDA THOMAS GONZALEZ**, affectionately known as “Freda”, was born April 8, 1937 to the late Elouise McClendon Thomas and Riley A. Thomas Sr. She was a product of the Duval County Public Schools and graduated from New Stanton High School in 1954. Shortly thereafter, she married her sweetheart, Leon Eugene Gonzalez, Jr, “Geno” while simultaneously continuing her education and from this union came four children. Freda earned a degree in Elementary Education from Edward Waters College and later a Master’s Degree in Special Education from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University’s School of Psychology.

Her passions were education, young people, and fashion. She began her career in Duval County Public Schools and held various positions until she retired as an Admissions Specialist in the Exceptional Student Education Program.

After retirement because of her devotion to young people, she taught at Edward Waters College. Her selfless spirit and love for Education kept her even more involved with her grandchildren and their high school friends. She was the “encourager” and champion of education as a means to continuously move oneself forward. Freda was a woman of faith, and was actively involved in church at an early age, originally as a member of Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church, and in 1967 transferred her family’s membership to Bethel Baptist Institutional Church (The Bethel Church) where she was actively involved in Bethel’s first Youth Fellowship Program, was a member of the Chancel Choir, served on Bethel’s Board of Trustees, and remained a Bethel member for more than 60 years.

Freda loved her family, children, and friends and everyone loved her. She was a beautiful, loving soul who always operated with style, elegance, and grace. Her presence illuminated and elevated everyone and everything around her. Always positive, encouraging, loving, and supportive, her children and family adored her and never heard her speak an unkind word about anyone.

Freda was preceded in death by her sister Gloria Porter and brother Riley A. Thomas Jr.

She is survived by her children: Centralia “Tracy” Gaffney (Don); Teena Lewis, Charlene Scott and Leon E. Gonzalez III (Sharon); grandchildren: Alisa James, Erika Gaffney, Geran Lewis, Erin Asogu, Geena Fowowe, Shannon Gonzalez-James, Michael Anthony Gonzalez Scott, Marcus Gonzalez and Quiana Shasmid-Deen (bonus grand); great grandchildren: Amara and Alexa Forts, Julius and Ava Asogu, Elijah and Maliyah Gonzalez, and Samiyah James; siblings: Maxine Thomas, Mark Thomas (Dora), Antonio Thomas, Antoinette Mitchell, Arlene Davis and Rosa Morrell. She leaves a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and close family friends.



# ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional.....This Is the Day

Life Reflections

Old Testament Scripture..... Minister Roger Herring  
Abyssinia Missionary Baptist Church  
Deuteronomy 31:6

New Testament Scripture.....Minister Greg Coleman  
The Potter’s House International Ministries  
1 Corinthians 13: 4-13

Prayer.....Pastor Zella Richardson

Selection.....Dr. Heather Carter  
Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Pastoral Remarks.....Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Sr.

Selection.....Dr. Quiana Shamsid-Deen  
Don’t Know About Tomorrow

Words of Comfort.....Bishop Rudolph W. McKissick, Jr.

Recessional.....Victory Is Mine