

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

*Mother Sarah St. Linda M.
"Mommie Love" Blanchard*

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course,

I have kept the faith ~ 2nd Timothy 4:7

SUNRISE

October 15, 1950

SUNSET

August 23, 2023



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 - 11:00AM

IND. CHURCH OF GOD AND SAINTS OF CHRIST

51-53 Jones Street • Newark, New Jersey 07103

OFFICIATING: EVANGELIST SHARON D. DOYLE, PASTOR

Obituary

The following words are from a mother about her second oldest daughter...

"I, St. Matilda the mother of the honoree, St. Linda. Lynn as we call her, and Mommie Love; at an early age I noticed her with the older people and children. She have a special care for them. When working in the nursery with Sister Catherine and working and taking care of older people, I knew then she like that job. Linda loves nice things, very fussy and particular. She is very out-spoken even with her smile. Congratulations Lynn to you. St. Linda with your past examples, your dear Grandmother Sarah St. Lucy Franklin and your dear Aunt Dorothy, Mother Sarah."

That written memory was from a loving mother congratulating her daughter, who was installed in the office of the Mother Sarah in the Church of God and Saints of Christ, under the leadership of Evangelist Enoch Stallings. And the installation was performed by Grand Rachel St. Ruth Thomas. The ceremony was one of traditions and rituals, but more importantly a spiritual journey that her grandmother, St. Lucy Franklin and her aunt, St. Dorothy Lewis also traveled. Mother Sarah St. Linda had big shoes to fill, but when God qualifies you for the job, you have the best teacher.

Linda Muriel Blanchard was born on October 15, 1950, second daughter to Matilda and John Blanchard, little sister to Barbara (Babs). She was educated in the Newark school system and graduated from Essex County College with a certification as a Nurse Assistant. That love and care that she exhibited early in life would span her entire life, including loving and caring for the elderly and children.

Baptized in the Church of God and Saints of Christ on April 23, 1961, Linda also sang alto in the church choir. She worked diligently alongside her mother-St. Matilda, her aunt-St. Dorothy Lewis and sister-SE Babs Burford lending her expertise in various offices. She also assisted the deacons of the church in maintaining and setting the communion table. She would hear stories of how her grandfather the late Deacon Eugene Franklin would serve the church and other fellow deacons. Linda took that to heart.

Linda was a great cook, organizer and very particular about how things were run in the office of the Mother Sarah; she had the heart and the spirit of a mother, and many children benefited from her love and attention. As a result, they gave her the title of "Mommie Love."

In caring for the elderly, Linda had the honor and privilege to care for the late Bishop Allen Wesley Hamilton and would listen attentively to his accounts of how he helped his father prepare the body of Prophet William Crowdy and the history of the churches on Lewis Street and Jones Street. The Hamilton family entrusted him to her care, and she filled that role with all the diligence, love and a caring heart that was her nature.

Linda was famous for her celebrations and parties within the church, New Year's, Harvest, Birthday, and babies being blessed, all done with love, care and fun. Pastors, deacons, and other officers within the church looked to Linda, the Mother Sarah of the church, for whatever assistance needed and knew they could count on her to perform an outstanding job. The Daughter's Quorum benefited from her role as Mother Sarah and Linda made sure that the auxiliary areas of the church including the children, elderly, widows, orphans, and those in need were taken care of. If there was someone who needed help, Linda could be counted on to be there.

When her health deteriorated and she was unable to physically fill her role as Mother Sarah, she would instruct her sister, Sister Elder Beth, to perform those duties and make sure that things were set in place for the uplifting and glorification of the church. God can use anyone no matter what the external limitations may be. If you had a phone call from her, she would encourage you. If you called her to lift her spirits, she would do the same for you. The world saw her as disabled, but the Lord saw a vessel to continue to spread the "good news" that Jesus loves us. He cares for us, and He wants us to keep having faith in His promises to always be there for us when we need him.

Linda fought a good fight. She endured. And when doctors believed she was at the end, she would show them that God was still in the miracle saving business and rebound with a stronger heart, mind, and renewed spirit. God was her refuge and strength and a very present help in the trials and tribulations of life.

Those that preceded her in death, left a void in her heart, but their memories she would cherish and recount: her mother, St. Matilda, her aunt, St. Dorothy, her sisters, Sister Elder Barbara (Babs) and St. Dorothy (BabeRuth), her brother, Kenny, her partner in life, Ashimi Shitta-Bey, her cousins who were like brothers and sisters to her; Arthur, James, Norman, Johnny, Delores, Earl, Stanley, and Juanita who just recently passed. They lived in the same senior building and would look out for each other.

She leaves her family to recount her life's journey: her devoted sister, Sister Elder J. Beth Blanchard, her brother, Kurt Blanchard, her son, Khashif (Kochie) Shitta-Bey, her nieces, Vashona Blanchard, Nikki and Alneesah Williams, Kathryn Blanchard, godson Shepherd Andre Roberts, her goddaughter Tiffany Irby-Boyd (East Bunny), her best girlfriend in the whole wide world, Simone Roberts Jenkins, nephew, Kurt Blanchard Jr., great nieces, Tytiana and Jayani Spann, Sha-Jae Williams, great-nephew Kirin T. Burford II, cousins, St. Roslyn Irby and her children, Kristel, Emerald and Diamond and a whole host of cousins, church family and friends. Special mention ~ her adopted families, Aunt Carrie Lynn, The Mayes Family, The Chase-Harris Family, Cousin Joette and Ray Harkins, Robyn Hewitt, and Carla Anzalone.

"A man can write the epitaph (a phrase or form of words written in memory of a person who has died...) of your life, but it is the life's work that I have done that will speak for me."

Order of Service

The Processional

Choir “On That Resurrection Morning”

Church Anthem “I Love Thy Church O’God”

Prayer St. Matthew 6:9-13

Choir Selection

Scripture Reading

Old Testament Psalm 39

Choir Selection

Scripture Reading

New Testament 1st Corinthians 15:41-58

Choir Selection

Prayer of Comfort Reverend Lisa S. Webb

Victorious Life Ministries

Choir Selection

Condolences/Resolutions

Solo

Remarks from Family & Friends (please limit to two minutes)

Choir Selection

Acknowledgements of Clergy

Reading of the Obituary

Solo Chorister St. Wanda Roberts

Eulogy Evangelist Sharon D. Doyle, Pastor

Ind. Church of God and Saints of Christ, Jones Street, Newark, NJ

Choir Selection

Final Viewing

The Recessional

A repast will be offered in the church dining hall downstairs, please join us.

INTERMENT • MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

ROSEDALE CEMETERY

408 Orange Road • Montclair, New Jersey



To My Sister
By Allison Chambers Corsey

*I'm blessed to call you sister; I also call you friend.
You've loved me unconditionally and stood through thick and thin.
You've shared my joys and sorrows, my laughter, and my tears.
You've been my inspiration, as we grew up through the years.*

*When we were little children, we laughed and played together.
Then growing up you stood by me, through good and stormy weather.
There's something God has given us, That's more than family.
He's placed a love for you, my Sister, deep down in the heart of me.*

*I want to note that Linda and I learned sisterly love and devotion from the
two best sisters, our Aunt and Mother, Dorothy, and Tillie - From Beth*





precious memories





Miss Me, But Let Me Go

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no Rites in a gloom filled room,
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little – but not too long,
And not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love we once shared,
MISS ME – BUT LET ME GO!

For this is a journey we all must take,
And we each must go alone...

It's all a part of the Master's plan,
A Step on the road to Home...

When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to Friends we know

And bury your sorrow in doing good deeds.

MISS ME, BUT LET ME GO!

God saw the road was getting rough
The hills were hard to climb;

He gently closed my eyes

And whispered,

“Peace Be Thine.”

The weary hours, the days of pain,

The sleepless nights are passed,

The ever patient, worn out frame

Has found sweet rest at last.

MISS ME, BUT LET ME GO!

Acknowledgement

There are really no words to express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy, love, prayers, phone calls, random acts of kindness and support you have extended towards our family during this time of sadness. We appreciate it, and you should know that your care and love will always be remembered. A special thank you to our church family for all your prayers, support, and care that you have extended to our family.

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