



Gwendolyn Ann Lankford

June 24, 1950 - June 22, 2006

We are only keepers of the flame of memories today as we reflect on the life of Gwendolyn Ann Lankford our sister, our aunt, our friend, God's Child. The road of any relationship is fraught with peaks and valleys, joys and disappointments but always sprinkled with a generous dose of love. It is in love that we share with you glimpses of her life. Gwen, as she was affectionately called, was born the 5th of 7 children on June 24, 1950 to Thomas and Elizabeth Lankford. She was a child of bubbles and joy. Their lives were spent in the suburban town of West Caldwell, NJ. The family was giving and caring and that was repeated in the life of the 2nd generation and definitely in the life of Gwen. She loved gift giving and took delight in finding the right gift to a "higher level." Gwen loved crafting things, painting, and art. Her last project was that of apron painting and we who love her all have a hand painted apron which typify our idiosyncrasies she recognized and memorialized for us. She loved collecting dolls, heart boxes, and watches. Gwen loved life. Gwendolyn was educated in the public schools of West Caldwell, NJ. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Oakwood College in Huntsville, AL. She lived and worked in Pittsburgh and Willow Grove, PA. She then moved to Baltimore, MD. She worked as director of the Daycare Center of Baltimore Junior Academy for 8 years. Then she became a teacher at the same institution for 18 years. She received the coveted Zapara Award for Excellence in Teaching. She has also done advanced studies at several institutions. Gwendolyn accepted Jesus as her personal Savior in her home

church in Montclair, NJ. She was a member of the Berea Temple Seventh-Day Adventist Church from 1976 until she fell asleep in Jesus on June 22, 2006. She was active in the church choir and thoroughly savored the chorus experience. Gwen perfected the art of shopping. She believed that presentation was a key to demonstrating beauty in color. She perfected the art of laughter and family and believed it was a key to demonstrating God's personality through her, increasing her contacts in her world. Gwen loved her Justin and Christina, children of her deceased sister Jacquelin, as her own. She adored her nephews Ryan and Troy and her nieces, Duenya, Atiya and Rasheeda. She chose to adopt in spirit Antoine Fleming, a family friend, as the son she added to her heart. She loved the students she taught or interacted with and was as delighted with their accomplishments as if they were her own children. Gwen leaves in her photo memory snapshots of: her loving sisters, D. Tami Tillman of Philadelphia, PA, Joan Newman of Charlotte, NC, Minnie Smith (Husband Keith) of Baltimore, MD, Paula Lankford-Howard (Husband James) of Alexandria, VA; and one brother, Thomas Lankford Jr. of Baltimore, MD. There are also shots of adopted sisters, Cassie Le'mon-Johnson of Pittsburgh, PA, Donna Green (Husband Raymond) of Baltimore, MD, Dorine Robinson of Baltimore, MD, Joy Ferguson-Pratt (Husband Mathian) of Freeport, Grand Bahamas, Melva Brown, of Baltimore, MD and many other relatives and friends. Gwen has traveled extensively from California to Bermuda and several trips to the Bahamas. She will be remembered for her final comment before her lapse into 3 weeks of unconsciousness, "Don't worry, God always takes care of me." At 7:30 pm on June 22, 2006 God in loving care took back the breath of life on loan to her. God's plan includes a return of her breath. We thank God that we, like Gwen, trust Him to continue to take care of her.

Tribute Wall



“ Gwendolyn Ann Lankford

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Dear Family, Please accept my condolences for the loss of your loved one. First Corinthians chapter 15, verse 26 tells us that our "last enemy death" will one day be "done away with". There is hope of our loved ones being restored to life with no more death, sickness, sorrow or pain.(Revelation 21:4) Acts 24:15 assures us that "there is going to be a resurrection." May you receive much comfort and strength from these loving promises found in the Bible.###imported-begin##Sharon Hill###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To my nieces: I am so sorry about the loss of your sister and my niece. I can not be there in person but you are in my prays and in my heart. Your aunt in New Jersey. God Bless each and everyone of you. Love Yvonne###imported-begin##Yvonne Smith###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To Tammy,Joan,Paula & Minnie To all my nieces you have my deepest symphthy. I love you all, but am sorry I was not able to attend the funeral. God Bless all, Love Jeanette###imported-begin##Jeanette Massenburg###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To my nieces: Very sorry for your loss. Love- Aunt Annie M Holmes##imported-begin##Annie M. Holmes##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



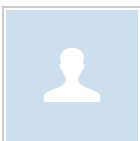
“ I cannot express the words that I feel toward the loss of your sister. You are in my prays and my thoughts. God Bless All of You. Love your Aunt Doreatha Harrison##imported-begin##Doreatha Harrison##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I am very sorry for your loss. I cannot be there in person but my thoughts are with you. God bless you all. Your aunt Mahalia from Raleigh NC.##imported-begin##Mahalia M. Williams##imported-end##

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“ I am your cousin from East Orange, NJ. I am so sorry for your loss. My father was Thurman Massenburg. Annie Massenburg son. He talk about you all often. She will truly be miss. Love your cousin Chanita Massenburg.##imported-begin##Chanita Massenburg##imported-end##

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“ Paula, I was so sorry to hear about the death of your sister. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Maria O'Neal##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Please accept our condolences for the loss of your loved one.##imported-begin##Harold and Melodye Ray##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Paula, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Heather##imported-begin##Heather Fish##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Hello Paula. I am very sorry for the loss of your sister. I pray for her, and God bless her soul.##imported-begin##Peter Phan##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ My deepest sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with you. I pray that you will feel God's presence and peace during this time. Lean on Him, He will not fail you.##imported-begin##Cindy Cannette##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Paula and Family, please accept our deepest sympathy. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. With love, Lisa and Don##imported-begin##Lisa Peters and Family##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To Paula and Family, May God continue to be with you all in this your time of sorrow. Please remember that God is always just a prayer away. My prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Elsa McDonald##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ **THE PASSING OF OUR FRIEND AND LOVED ONE** There is a ritual Gwen and I had when we talk. I would say, "Hi, Gwennie how are things in your little life?" With laughter in her voice she would go through the gem points of her day and then respond, " and how are things in your little life? Melva". We were friends and sisters. We shared our hopes and dreams. We had mutuality - we hurt for and enjoyed things with each other. We never had a serious disagreement in 38 years. The golden cord of faith and hope that ran through her life was voiced in this sentiment she frequently made, "God always takes care of me." One on my last conversations with my friend had me looking concerned and forlorn and Gwen encouraging me, "Don't worry Mel, God always take care of me." I think Gwen was right He did. He said Gwen, "... I will never leave you or forsake you..." and He didn't. He said Gwen, "... I have graven you upon the palm of my hand...." and she is there. He said Gwen, "... cast all your cares upon me ...I care for you...." and He has proven faithful. He said Gwen, "... rest from your labor...." and she who had trusted Him all life went to sleep in the hope of the resurrection. It has been four weeks since we had our customary greeting. I am eager for our reunion when she will hear me say, "Hi Gwennie, how are things with your glorified life in God." I will be delighted to hear once more the joy and laughter and drama in her voice telling me, "...it is unbelievable here, and Jesus is more that wonderful!" I expect to hear her customary ending, "... and how are things with your glorified life in God, Melva?" And I will say, "...just perfect" with a smile on my face. Gwen loved her family and was able to fondly list the positive aspects in each of their lives. Tami was her cook and business entrepreneur; Joan was her organizer, administrator and director; Jackie was the mother and sister of compassion; Minnie was the dependable, support system, who struck by her family through thick and thin; Tommy the only boy; Then there was little sister Paula who she reported was the child she helped raise. Today it is this family that Gwen loved and her adopted sister Melva, that bids you, her friends who have come to bid your last farewell a thank you and a smile from our Gwen. We have a reason to go home. We want to see our Dad, our Mom and

Jackie and now Gwen. God has said, let not your heart be troubled....He has prepared a place for them and for us. We expect him to keep His promise God bless you all.##imported-begin##Dr. Melva Brown##imported-end##

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“*Paula and family, Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. Gwen was blessed to be part of such a wonderful family and I am blessed for having the Lankfords from West Caldwell as friends. Love, Karen##imported-begin##Karen Olsen-Fanelli##imported-end##*

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“ My deepest sympathy during your time of sorrow but know that the God of comfort is with you all during this time of tribulation. (2Corinthian 1:3-4) Due to the many unforeseen occurrences that brings tragedy to our lives Jehovah God promises one day soon Death will be no more (Rev 21:3-4) and his son have been given the authority to bring all those in the memorial tombs back to life. John 5:28-29 Just think there will come a time not only will death be no more but Jehovah promises that no one will have to say I'm sick according to Isaiah 33:24. I feel the need to express these words of hope because so many of us today treasure the gift of life and we do all we can to maintain it to hold on to it. That is why it hurts so badly when our loved ones die. With so many of us desiring life today no matter how good or bad it is we still want life here on earth. No one looks forward to that time of death. That is why I am under obligation by the spirit and love of God to share that hope that is in our near future that the righteous shall inherit the earth and reside upon it forever according to Psalms 37: 29 along with the above stated promises on a paradise and peaceful earth. We all can hold true to this everlasting promise because Isaiah states all the words Jehovah have spoken WILL NOT RETURN WITHOUT RESULTS. What a wonderful prospect for our future especially enlight of the fact that Hebrews 6:18 States of God, it is IMPOSSIBLE for him to lie.##imported-begin##Carter##imported-end##

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“ Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. I too have lost loved ones in death. Even though we know that death is inevitable, it is still difficult to accept. Death was not something that God intended for us. The thought of death is always distasteful and it always will be because Jehovah God has created within us the keen desire to live forever. We never get used to it. We feel deep down in our hearts that this should not happen because, “Even time indefinite he (God) has put in their heart,” says Ecclesiastes 3:11. One of the wonderful parts of his plan is the hope of the resurrection of dead loved ones. (John 5:25, 28, 29). Please be assured that Jehovah God loves us and wants the best for us. Take comfort in the promise that he has given us at Rev. 21: 3-5 of a new earth where there will be no more death.##imported-begin##Senita Swann##imported-end##

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“ The Lanklord's May you all take joy in knowing that others know the feeling of losing some one in death and send love. We need friends at a time like this in our lives.A whole year has past since Gwenhdolyn die.Time will come fast like that when Jesus will have a share in the ressurection of our dear love one too. The bible gives us so many promise to look forward to such Isa.28:8, Isa.33: 24, Rev.21:3-4. May these few uplifting marvelous thoughts help ease the pain of losing a dear lovd one like Gwendolyn. I send my condolences. Lillian Crosby.##imported-begin##lillian Crosby##imported-end##

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“ I used to eat lunch with Gwen at James Caldwell High School. We're planning our 40th reunion and I was excited at the prospect of seeing her again after all these years. My heart is broken to see that I let so many years go by without trying to find her, and now it's too late to see her again on this earth. Gwen was one of the sweetest, kindest souls I've ever known, and I know she's in the hands of the Lord. My deepest condolences to her friends and family.##imported-begin##Sallie Scully Sullivan##imported-end##

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