



## Lola M. Spence

March 30, 1909 - August 23, 2002

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. Proverbs 31:10 LOLA MAE WILLIAMS, “Doll” affectionately called by many was born in Camden NC to the late Miles and Ella Gregory Williams. Lola had seven siblings; Ruth Bell, Frances, Minnie, Sophia, Miles, Jr, Austin and Wilbert, all pre-deceased her. Lola received her education in Camden county, NC public schools. Lola was united in holy matrimony June 1925 to the late Roy James Spence, son of David and Roxie Spence. From this holy union, there were seven children: Catherine Evelyn, Roy Winzola, Hilda Maxcine, Christine Ophelia (deceased), Clyde Shelton, Norman McCoy and Consta Willa. Roy and Lola Spence raised their children in a God-fearing home and taught every one of them the power of prayer. The Spence children were taught to give thanks to God each morning, before each meal, and before going to bed each night. We have fond memories of gathering together for family prayer each Sunday morning and 6:00 p.m. each weekday. Although we were showered with love, Roy and Lola spared not the rod in most instances. We were taken to Sunday School and taught the ways of the Lord from infancy to adulthood. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil; she will do him good and not evil all the days of her life (Proverbs 31:11-12). “Lola Mae”, as her lifetime companion called her, accepted life’s challenges gracefully early in her life. Her spouse, who was considered handicapped, was unable to do many things that other men could do. Lola assumed the additional responsibilities, always striving to provide the

best for the family and ensure their happiness. Mother's unselfish love extended well beyond her husband and children. As far back as our respective memories travel, we remember Mother assisting with the rearing of two of her brothers and one sister, along with our cousins. While we were growing up there were often cousins, nieces, nephews, sisters and brothers that Mother reached out to help. It can truly be said that she gave joyously from her heart just for the sake of giving. She stretched out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy (Proverbs 31: 20). Mother was not a woman content with idle time. During the early part of her life, she demonstrated culinary skills in her famous chicken and dumplings and mouth-watering sweet potato pies. She also exhibited phenomenal skills in such tasks as picking cotton and anything else associated with farming. She took in laundry for other people, as well as cleaning houses. Her list of employment includes working W.P.A, making clothes for the states' needy; a school lunchroom service, the Airport during World War II, a men's clothing factory. While in her late 60's Lola completed the required Red Cross/CMA certification program for the state of Maryland and became a private duty nurse. Her last job at age 88 was as a senior aide for the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. "She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengthened her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff." (Proverbs 31:13-19). In 1944 Lola and Roy Spence relocated to Delaware to improve the quality of life for their children. At that time, many of Lola's children were grown and Mother continued to assist her children when necessary with the rearing of her grandchildren. Her son, Roy will always revere her for her enduring strength during his illness of two years. In 1951 our parents again relocated, this time to Baltimore, Maryland.

Because of strong familial ties of the Spences, most of the children followed. The family residence, 2937 Clifton Avenue continues to be occupied by third and fourth generation family members. Lola ministered as Church mother for approximately 50 years beginning with, Full Gospel Holiness Church of Lincoln Delaware under the pastorate of Bishop David Shockley, where she initially accepted Christ. After moving to Baltimore in 1951, she briefly attended Carter Memorial Church on W. Fayette, Reverend Carter, Pastor. Being led from that assembly to Prayer House of Our Father with Mother Irene Montgomery, she established her Apostolic roots. Elder and Mother Spence met Brother Ernest Gilliam, Sr. and Sister Winnie Gilliam in 1952, along with many other pioneers of the Faith at that great saving station, on High Street. It is there in 1959, that God gave Mother Spence the vision to assist with the establishment of ST. PAUL APOSTOLIC HOLINESS CHURCH, INC., with Elder Ernest & Pastor Winnie Gilliam and her companion, Elder Roy Spence as the assistant Pastor. Services were held in a building on the corner of N. Broadway and Federal Street. July 1, 1962, they relocated to their current location at 1725 E. Baltimore Street. Mother Spence served as Church Mother to St. Paul for approximately 40 years. In her latter years, she saw the need to Worship with her son, Bishop Roy and daughter-by-marriage, Pastor Bessie Spence at CHRIST TEMPLE HOLINESS CHURCH. It should also be noted that in her Eighties, Mother Spence completed a theological course at the St. Paul Bible Institute, under Dean David Wilson. Upon completion of the course, she received honorable mention because of her accomplishments to score one of the top grades in her class at her age. The repertoire of Mother Spence's favorite testimonial songs include, I Love Jesus - He is My Savior, I Will Trust in The Lord, Yes, God is Real, and I Am So Grateful. Lola Mae was blessed to drive her own car until October of 2001 as well as reside in her own apartment until her health began to fail in February of 2002. When she was unable to continue her independent life style, she consented to live with her son, Clyde and daughter-by-marriage, Jean. As her health continued to

decline, she was relocated to HEARTLANDS – ST. AGNES NURSING FACILITY. Because of her godly influence and the diligent prayer life of such a great matriarch, all of Mother Spence's children, children by marriage and many of her grand children are saved today. "To God Be the Glory for the great things He has done through her life!" The family of Lola Mae Spence, who will always cherish such great memories are; Catherine and Lorenzo Mercer, Philadelphia, Pa., Roy and Bessie Spence, Pikesville, Md., Maxcine and Jimmie Ball, Baltimore, Md., Clyde and Jean Spence, Columbia, Md., Norman and Emma Spence, Clinton, Md., Consta and Mack Williams, Rosedale, Md.; thirty three (33) grandchildren, one hundred-five (105) great grandchildren, ninety-three (93) great-great grandchildren, six (6) great-great-great grandchildren; two (2) sisters-in-law, Bernice Spence of Charlotte, NC and Ida Williams of Baltimore, one (1) god-son, Elder Joseph B. Wilson, one (1) god-daughter; Zina Smith, daughter-in-the-gospel, Pastor Winnie Gilliam, an abundance of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, church family and friends. Know that you were all special and loved by Mother Lola Mae Spence.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lola M. Spence*

March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Lola M. Spence*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Mother, I miss you so much each day. I think of all the things and times that we have shared. I also know that you are in a better place but, I selfishly wish I could pick the phone up and hear your voice one more time. Rest in peace until we meet at Jesus' feet! Luv ya Lola Mae!##imported-begin##Consta Willa##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *The richness of the human experience is in what is handed down from one life to the next –not simple things of mortar and stone, but memories of what one said or felt or did. Live with your good memories, as they will add to your comfort, which comes from knowing that your grief is shared and understood.##imported-begin##The March Family and Staff##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *She'll always be with you##imported-begin##Vanessa Stevens##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*###imported-begin###Elder Titus & Sister Marlene Spruiel###imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *May Memories of the "Good Ole Times" with your moms remain with you always*###imported-begin###John Waters###imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *Dear Consta and Family: Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. We know that Mother is now in the arms of Jesus and all is well. May He comfort each of you in the coming days as only He can.*###imported-begin###Pamela Reaves-Scriber###imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *We will miss Big Mamma but we know she's gone to a better place and we'll always have her smile and our memories of her.*###imported-begin###Loretta M. Fuller###imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *Gone, but never, never forgotten. There was but one Lola Mae Spence.*###imported-begin###Cherring A. Spence###imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ The possessor and displayer of the Holy Spirit's gift of UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.##imported-begin##Samuel Wright##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ God created a truly virtuous woman in "Big Mama". You will truly be missed, but thank God we have the assurance that we will see you again.##imported-begin##Winni Mercer##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ May the God of all comfort continue to comfort your family as only He can. Know that you all are loved and are continuously prayed for. God Bless.##imported-begin##Elder James & Sis. Raymonette Redditt##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Thank God for the example that you lived before us. We love you and we'll miss you.##imported-begin##Karen Mercer##imported-end##

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“ Aunt Lola, I will miss you very much. You helped me to meet so many of my family members. You were a dear, sweet Aunt and I will never forget the times that God allowed us to share together here on earth. Rest well. Job well done.##imported-begin##Olivia Jeffers##imported-end##

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“ Grandmom, we miss you very much. I miss those long talks we used to have. I promise not to tell that I was "your favorite" great grand daughter. You know how jealous the other grands are. (I know your smiling at that one) I thank the Lord for the many years I've had with you. It's truly been a blessing. I still want to be just like you when I grow up. Now your "little gentleman" as you called him (Anton), will have to open and close the doors for me. Love you dearly.##imported-begin##Tammy Tillett & Anton Haynes##imported-end##

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“ Very sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Lisa Nassner##imported-end##

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“ My sincere condolences.##imported-begin##Dave Bailey##imported-end##

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“ May the Lord continue to bless, keep and comfort the family. And may you keep this in mind that no greater blessing can come to a saint than, to be honored by God for living a life of faith. Mother lived for this moment to hear the Lord say to her"Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." So mother's strength has been renewed (because the joy of the Lord is her strength) and she is joyfully resting in his arms. So with this in mind continue to be encourage.##imported-begin##Evangelist P. Neal##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Big Mama we miss you so much. We will miss seeing you and talking to you. We loved you dearly but GOD loved you best. kymala, bj & byron##imported-begin##Kymala, Brian Jr, & Byron##imported-end##

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“ What a blessing to have known “Grandmother Spence” She truly had a heart that sings She is walking now In his Kingdom Safe beneath his wings##imported-begin##Willie & Millie Godfrey##imported-end##

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“ To the Beloved Mercer Family I was honored to have attended the going home service of such an anointed and dedicated mother of Zion held at First United Church. It was inspiring and refresing to see the fruit of Mother Spence's prayers and life long committment to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and her children. Mothers are not what they used to be. However there are still a few of us who take note and learn from those who know that God has called us to be chaste keepers at home raising our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. I do not have to speak blessings on this family for you are already blessed in the Lord above measure. Continue your mother's legacy of comittment to the Lord. "For in due season you shall reap if you faint not, for your labor is not in vain in the Lord. God Bless you all. Elder Eva Queen Church of the Redeemed of the Lord###imported-begin##Eva Queen###imported-end##

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“ I will truly miss you, but I know you are in a better place. I love you.###imported-begin##Albert A. Spence###imported-end##

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“ although she is just sleeping now glory be to god she will rise again, mother spence always cared for me and my family and she will never be forgotten. Love Angelo and family###imported-begin##Angelo Williams###imported-end##

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“ It's good to know the savior, it's good to know He's there. It's good to know His comfort, it's good to know He cares. May the loving comfort and consolation of our Lord Jesus Christ encourage your hearts.##imported-begin##Elder Reginald Reaves##imported-end##

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“ May God bless and comfort you. With deepest sympathy on the loss of your mother. She had a long and rich life that yielded many blessings-and I am pleased to know one of those blessings- Consta Willa. Bless you and your family.##imported-begin##Janet Hall##imported-end##

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“ There will be many more family members missing you in addition to the five generations you helped raise.##imported-begin##Davene M. Rutledge##imported-end##

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“ As a friend and co- worker of Connie Williams, I know she nurtured the spirit of love to many. God Bless the Family##imported-begin##Lenora E. Robinson##imported-end##

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“ Rest In Peace. You were LOVED and will be greatly missed!##imported-begin##Ivana Spence-Corbin##imported-end##

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“ *What a wonderful legacy you have left to us! We shall see you again someday. Tell the angels about those who are left behind! Love you grandmother!##imported-begin##Buddy & Cheryl Mercer & girls##imported-end##*

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“ *Mother Spence was a blessing to all who knew her. As a child, I knew her as one of the 'old ladies' of the church who always sat in the front pews. As an adult, I knew her as a blessing from God. She will forever be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.##imported-begin##Nicole Moore##imported-end##*

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“ *May the God of Peace, be with you and your family. Weeping may endure for a night but JOY comes in the morning. Psalm 23##imported-begin##Elder James Reaves##imported-end##*

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“ *Though I didn't have the opportunity to personally meet Ms. Spence, I can tell that she was a really great lady. My sincere sympathy to you - her family.##imported-begin##Vonita Jones##imported-end##*

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“ To my family, we are sadden and we will miss Aunt Lola's encouragement and inspirational advice. May God continue to bless you. James, Emma and Malissa##imported-begin##James, Emma & Malissa Spence##imported-end##

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“ I appreciate the life of Mother Spence. I remember her kindness and thoughtfulness, even when she would check on my Dad when he lived in her apt building. I will always love and appreciate her for that. Sandra##imported-begin##Mr. & Mrs. Clyde (Sandra) Lockett##imported-end##

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“ Wisom is a gift given to Grandmother from God. Through this, I've gained knowledge to instruct my children and many others. "BIG MOMMA", I'll always love and remember you.##imported-begin##Marion Copper##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Sometimes our skies are cloudy and dreary, Sometimes our hearts are burden with care; But we may know whatever may befall us, Jesus is always there. Never a burden that He doth not carry, Never a sorrow that He doth not share; Whether the days may be sunny or dreary, Jesus is always there.##imported-begin##Minister Thomas D. Gillard##imported-end##

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“ TO MY FAMILY, WE DEEPLY REGRET THE LOSS OF THE MATRIARCH OF OUR BELOVED FAMILY. WE WILL TRULY MISS YOUR PRESENCE . WE LOVE YOU. BERNICE,JAN AND GAIL. CHARLOTTE, N.C.##imported-begin##Gail Spence-Walker##imported-end##

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“ Our love, prayers and thoughts are with you during the loss of your loved one. Linda and Leon Johnson##imported-begin##Linda A. johnson##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ "When the joys are still remembered, but the sorrow has quietly gone, there will always be a special place in the heart - where love lives on." May it be a comfort and a consolation, too, to know, that we all share and understand your grief and wish you God's richest Blessing here at your time of need. We will truly miss and always love our Aunt Lola.##imported-begin##Sandra D. Blackmon and family daughter of the late Ethel Mae Har##imported-end##

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“ DEAR FAMILY WE ARE TRULY SADDEN HERE IN PORTSMOUTH, VA YOU ALL HAVE OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY AUNT LOLA WILL TRULY BE MISSED LOVE DAVID HARRIS & CHILDREN##imported-begin##LYNDA D. HARRIS & FAMILY PORTSMOUTH VA##imported-end##

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“ TO: Grandmother & Grandfather @ Clinton..... My sincere sympathy is extended to you in this your hour of sorrow. Remember earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. God's richest benedictions be upon you.##imported-begin##WILLIAM A. DICKEY##imported-end##

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“ Grandmother, We love you.##imported-begin##Dana, Antwain , Datwain & Donye'##imported-end##

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“ Grandmother, I give all thanks and praise to God for bringing you into our lives. I will cherish the time we spent together. I'll love you always!!##imported-begin##Donna, Kavon and Von##imported-end##

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“ The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. - Isaiah 32:17  
Connie, May God bless and keep you and your family.##imported-begin##Trinnea Mack and Family##imported-end##

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“ My deepest sympathy to your family in the passing of your loved one. May you gain strength and peace in the Father's love.##imported-begin##Maxine Traynham##imported-end##

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“ *May the Lord comfort you at this time in your hour of bereavement. May He give you strength for today and the days ahead.##imported-begin##Evangelist Joyce Gillard##imported-end##*

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *My prayers and thoughts are with the family. May God keep you forever in his loving care.##imported-begin##Renee Williams and Family##imported-end##*

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in the time of trouble." Be blessed.##imported-begin##Bernetha McCray##imported-end##*

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