



Mary C. Clayburn-White

July 23, 1933 - May 4, 2005

On Wednesday, May 4, 2005, God called the radiant spirit of Mary Clayburn-White, lovingly known as “Mary C”, home to dwell in His presence. Born Mary Elizabeth Mathews, she was the second blessing of 5 children; 3 which preceded her in death, to the union of the late Reverend James and Eleanor Matthews on July 23, 1933 in Baltimore, Maryland. Mary was educated in the Baltimore City Public Schools and had a real zest for knowledge to continue her education at the Baltimore Junior College, Morgan State College and Loyola University. Mary gained a wealth of knowledge, which led her into a life of broadcasting. If gospel music is a part of our heritage, the present responsibility and the success of gospel radio in Baltimore can be given to our honoree, Mary “C” White. For twenty-eight years, Mary “C” had conducted herself with remarkable preparedness, inclusiveness, friendly spirit and elegance as she filled the sound waves with gospel music. Mary Clayburn White began her broadcasting career in September, 1967 at radio station WEBB. She was hired by Fred Robinson, Program Director and was given “on-the-job” training to become a Gospel disc jockey with an air shift that started at 5 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Her co-hosts were either, Bishop Harold I. Williams, Ernie Boston or Anthony Davis. The tragic death of Martin Luther King, Jr. triggered an interest in Mary’s desire to interview elected officials and the need for more involvement in public affairs. On the day of Dr. King’s death when the entire world was engulfed in sadness and anger she played spirituals and hymns as her way of offering consolation and peace to

our people. Mary played the solemn music between the interview and commentaries almost non-stop from Friday, April 4, 1968 until Dr. King was laid to rest. When Kitty Broady left her position as Public Affairs Director at WWIN, Al Jefferson hired Mary Clayburn. It was he, who named her Mary "C." Mary's interview program, THE FORUM, aired from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. followed by MELODIES OF INSPIRATION, gospel music from 9 a.m.-12 noon on Sundays for nineteen years which included her commitment to public affairs. Simultaneously, she produced a gospel show at WMAR-TV entitled MUSIC TO LIVE BY and years later hosted a show on WBAL-TV, JUBILEE. Mary believed that she put her microphone to its best use when she began to speak out about Sickle Cell Anemia. As a result of her awareness strategies, the first Sickle Cell Anemia awareness organization in Maryland was formed and pamphlets devoted solely to Sickle Cell Anemia received a federal grant of "\$111,000 for the purpose of awareness. The rest of the story is history. Mary's tenacity and determination resulted in numerous awards and commendations, among them: Charter Member of the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease, profiled in "Women Who Found Their True Calling" by Lois Rich McCoy of Harper & Row, featured in an educational film, "Mending Dreams", the first Black woman to be named Baltimore's Advertising Woman of the Year, National Ad Woman of the Year, the Andrew White Medal of Humanitarianism from Loyola College, Zeta's Finer Womanhood Award, 100 Distinguished Women Award from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and also granted Mary Clayburn Day in Baltimore. In 1987 Roy Sampson called upon Mary "C" to become the first live announcer of Sunday morning gospel music on the "Number 1" urban music station in the state of Maryland, V-103. She opened each Sunday morning with that famous song "Include Me." The success of that innovation prompted the management to discontinue country music on its sister station WCAO and make it a twenty-four hour gospel music station known to all as HEAVEN 600. Again, Mary "C" was the first voice heard on the New HEAVEN 600 where she also served as the Director of Public Affairs. Mary "C" and Lee Michaels worked as a team for several

months until she was later assigned as the 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. midday radio personality and became well known for her daily Bible Trivia and Lunch Time Revival. Following months of toiling with a major decision in her life, on December 21, 1995 Mary "C" announced to her listening audience that she was retiring from broadcasting, having worked in Baltimore radio for twenty-eight years. After her retirement from the radio she began writing the Church column for the Baltimore Afro-American. While working as a radio personality and having access to the critical needs of the Baltimore community enabled her to better serve as a member of various Boards, among them: League for the Handicapped, National Sickle cell Anemia, goodwill Industries of Maryland, Provident Hospital Auxiliary, Maryland Drug abuse Administration and Maryland Podiatric Advisory. Mary has received awards and citations from President Nixon, Governors Mandel, Hughes and Schaefer and Mayors Schaefer and Schmoke. Following the strong Christian Leadership of her parents, Mary accepted the Lord as her savior at an early age. Her Christian journey began at Mount Hebron Baptist Church under the pastorate of her late father, The Reverend James Matthews. Mary continued her Christian walk at City Temple Baptist Church of Baltimore, where she served as a Deaconess. She gave unselfishly of her time, energy and compassion as an active member. Her most recent affiliation has been with the New Psalmist Baptist Church where she served on the Hospitality Committee, the Empowering Disciples Magazine Ministry, and the Archives Ministry. She regularly attended Bible Class under the leadership of Minister Steve Colbert and also completed the three-year Discipleship Ministry in 2004. Mary "C" was united in holy matrimony to McKinley Clayburn and was blessed with two sons, Mark and Myron. She later married Frank White. Mary "C" leaves to cherish her memory and honor the blessing of her life: her husband, Frank White; two loving and devoted sons, Mark and Myron Clayburn; two daughters-in-law, June and Regina Clayburn; her devoted sister, Eleanor Matthews; six loving grandchildren Joshua, Javone, Elbert, Sade', Jerome and Megan; also, one

special niece, Marilyn, who preceded her in death; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary C. Clayburn-White*

March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Mary C. Clayburn-White*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Mary C. was a positive influence during my career in radio. She was never too busy to give advice or a listening ear. She taught me the meaning of dignity and how to remain humble. Even though I did not meet most of her family, I love you all for what Mary stood for. Mary will always be remembered as a pioneer in broadcasting. My prayers are with you, and My heart goes out to each and every family member. Sincerely, Barbara A. Nicholson Church News Director Weekend Air Personality, Clear Channel/ Heaven 600##imported-begin##Barbara Nicholson##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *MAY GOD CONTINUE TO HOLD ALL OF IN THE PALM OF HIS HANDS. KNOW THAT GOD CAN DO ANYTHING BUT FAIL. KEEP LOOKING UNTO HIM WHO IS THE AUTHOR AND THE FINISHER OF OUR FAITH.##imported-begin##RE. GLORIA BRISCOE##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ We, the Officers and members of In God's Hands Ministry wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Mary C. Clayburn-White. She touched so many lives and she will truly be missed - but rest assured, she is resting from her labor in the Vineyard of Jesus Christ. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mark, Minnie, Janis and the entire family! We love you, but God loves you best - and He loves you enough to send THE COMFORTER to your aid at this time! Thinking of you with support and so much love, Darrin and In God's Hands Ministry###imported-begin###Minister Darrin Matthews###imported-end###

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ We Bless the Lord for the life of Sister Mary White. We the entire Covenant Fellowship extend our deepest sympathy to the family... We say to you that Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can not heal. When Peace Like a river attendeth my way when sorrows like sea billows roll whatever my lot thou hast taught me to say It Is Well With My Soul..... Minister Brandi Foyles Covenant Fellowship Min. Malcolm Grimes Tia Ellis Administrative Assistant###imported-begin###Minister Brandi Foyles###imported-end###

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *mary c...i will always remember you for all the contributions that you made to sickle cell anemia and for all of your countless hours that you spent making a difference in the lives of us that suffer from this ugly disease....as i have said this to you many times thank you and even thou you never complained personally i know that some days your road from the pain and the associated illnesses from this disease must have been hard for you also but you continued to make a difference....to you precious family..thank you for sharing such a special lady with us... lauren c sweetwine###imported-begin###lauren c sweetwine###imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *There is so little one can do or say to ease the sorrow in your heart today, but all the sympathy of those who care goes out to you, her family today.###imported-begin##Betty Hawkins###imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *A TRUE PROFESSIONAL! FIRST CLASS! GRACEFUL....WE WILL NEVER FORGET.THANKS FOR PAVING THE WAY FOR ME! BRAD ROGERS HEAVEN 600 RADIO###imported-begin##BRAD ROGERS###imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Mary C. was a blessing and an inspiration to many people that she met. I was one of those people that she was a blessing to when she was on the radio. Her legacy will be remembered. My prayers and love is with the family and friends. May God continue to wrap you in His love and care.##imported-begin##Gordon Jones -WCAO 600am##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I pray that you will receive the comfort and peace that only The Comforter can provide at a time like this. I will always remember growing up and listening to Mary C on the radio which helped me on this christian journey. She will never be forgotten.##imported-begin##Sharon L. Smith##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I grew up listening to two people on Sunday mornings. Kitty Broadie and her successor, Mary Clayburn. Years later, I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Mary C. and found her to be one of the sweetest people I ever had the opportunity to work with. Learning of her passing sent shockwaves through my senses and I feel a profound sense of loss. What I feel pales by comparison to what her family and closest associates must be feeling today. My thoughts and prayers are with Frank and her entire family (including our WWIN family from back in the day). She was very proud of her sons and I recall her love for Bridge. Until that sweet reunion on the other side, I bid her farewell.##imported-begin##Larry Jennings##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ We all grew up listening to Mary C, her passing is like the lost of a family member. We love you and you will be Greatly Missed.##imported-begin##Denise McNeil##imported-end##

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“ God bless your family. I remember listening to her when I was young on WWIN Sunday mornings and different Choir Days. Then her last airing on Heaven 600. She will be sorely missed.##imported-begin##CLIFTON H WRIGHT##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I WAS HONOR TO BE A THE CELEBRATION FOR MARY C AND THE OTHER RADIO PERSONLITY AT BROWN MEMORIAL SHE WILL BE MISS GOD BE WITH YOU##imported-begin##Marilyn Mayden##imported-end##

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“ My deepest sympathy is extended to the family of this great woman. She motivated me on Sunday morning to go to church even when I didn't feel like it. Decades later, I am still on the battle field for my Lord. Thank you "Mary C." for your unwavering love of gospel music and your quest to win souls for Christ. I am privileged to be a member of the Southern Baptist Church where you were honored in 1981 for your commitment to spread the gospel through music. Goodnight "Mary C.," we'll see you in the morning. Lovingly, A Loyal Listener --- Roger N. Evans##imported-begin##Roger N. Evans##imported-end##

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“ I thank God for the life of our dearly departed sister. Melodies of Inspirations was our musical devotions on our way to Sunday Morning Worship. Mary ‘C’ is now at Home with her Master. He and His Celestial Choir (Aunt Pauline Wells Lewis,her sister and others) is waiting for our arrival. Mary C will always be in our future.##imported-begin##Floyd Brice##imported-end##

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“ Mary C. was like a second mother to me. I will never ever forget her for putting the Heaven 600 Chour together even tho we are not together at the present. Whenever there was a problem all you had to do was call on Mary and the problem was easly solve. I did not get to meet all of the family but my prayers and heart goes out to you all because I do no what it is to lose a mother and exspecialy one like Mary C. God Bless each and everyone of you.##imported-begin##Martha Dotson##imported-end##

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“ Mark and Myron, we were very sorry to hear of the death of your mother. We will forever keep you and your family in our prayers. May God continue to richly bless and keep you and your family. Don't forget to keep in touch with us. Love you lots, Helen and Gene##imported-begin##Gene and Helen Johnson##imported-end##

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“ Mary C was an inspiration to both myself & my husband Rev. Terry G. Thornton. We thank God for her legacy and her humble spirit and service to the body of Christ.##imported-begin##Jacqueline Thornton##imported-end##

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“ Hello Family & Friends, I am so sorry to hear of your loss and I am offering my condolences. The scriptures can be of great comfort to us all. I am reminded of the scripture at Revelation 21:3,4 where Almighty God, Jehovah says that he is going to wipe the tears from our eyes and death will be no more neither will mourning nor crying nor pain be any more. The Bible also promises that we will be able to see our dead loved ones again by means of a resurrection. (John 5:28,29) It is my hope that you will be comforted by these scriptures.##imported-begin##Sophia Briscoe##imported-end##

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“ My deepest sympathy during your time of sorrow but knows 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 What a wonderful prospect for our future.##imported-begin##Carter##imported-end##

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