



Mattie Lee Palmer

February 25, 1910 - February 14, 2005

Mattie Lee Williams Palmer, the only child of Abe and Inia Payne Williams, was born in Chancy, Georgia on December 25, 1910. Around the age of eight her family relocated to Cincinnati, Ohio. Sister Palmer's father, a Deacon, and her mother, a Deaconess and Mother of the Church, visited the sick and shut-ins. Sister Mattie accompanied her parents during these visits and at a very young age became interested in missionary work and care of the ill. Her parents, with little Mattie in tow, often attended revival meetings. Sister Mattie often recounted the day of her conversion to Christ as she heard the church singing "Jesus said whosoever will, Let Him Come." She anxiously ran up to the altar crying, "They're singing to me... they are singing to me." This revelation helped to begin her dedicated service to the Lord. In 1927, Sister Mattie organized The Willing Workers Club of Prospect Baptist Church, in Cincinnati, Ohio where she also served on the senior choir and was known for her strong contralto voice. She immediately joined the church and was baptized at the age of nine. In 1929, Sister Mattie graduated from Dyer High School and during her junior and senior years she expressed a strong interest in nursing. On May 5, 1931, Sister Palmer and Brother Jesse Palmer were joined together in Holy Matrimony. In 1933, the couple moved to Baltimore, Maryland and joined the Enon Baptist Church where Rev. A. J. Payne was pastor. In 1951 Sister Mattie and Brother Jesse Palmer along with their infant daughter Marietta Lois joined Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church. It was there that her beloved husband was called into the Ministry where he served

faithfully until his death in 1979. Sister Mattie served alongside her husband in many capacities. She was Secretary to the Deaconess Board, member of the Senior Choir, member of the Pastor's Aid, founder of the Nurses Guild, which included the children's groups, The Aidettes, The Aiders and the Rose Buds. She was also a Vacation Bible School, Baptist Training Union and Sunday School Teacher, Girl Scout Leader and Founder of the Reviving Prayer Band. With all the activities surrounding her beloved husband and church, Sister Mattie never forgot her first calling, nursing. In pursuit of that calling she graduated in 1948 from the Saint Paul School of Nursing in Baltimore, Maryland where she received her certification as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Her nursing career started in Baltimore's only African American owned and operated hospital, Provident Hospital of Baltimore. She retired from full time nursing in 1969, but continued to provide private duty nursing on an on-call basis in addition to becoming part of the clergy volunteer staff. As a resident of the Bel Park Tower Senior Citizen Community, she became a Booster for the Interdenominational Religious Services. She served in several community-based organizations. Sister Mattie had two sayings, #1 - "May the work I've done speak for me" and #2 - "I would rather wear out than rust out." In 1986, Sister Mattie, at the insistence of her daughter, relocated to Gaithersburg, Maryland where she lived with her daughter and family. In that same year she joined the Popular Grove Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. James E. Prather and after his death, the Rev. Joseph W. Austin. She continued her services to God in many capacities, such as member of the Deaconess Board, member of both the Mass Choirs and the Voices of Inspiration. Sister Mattie used to say often that she really enjoyed the "little church by the side of the road." In 1997, Sister Mattie suffered her second stroke and agreed with her family that she needed around the clock nursing care. She willingly accepted her new life at the Mariner Health Care Center in Kensington. Within a few months of her arrival she did what she did best, organize. Within a few months of her arrival at Mariner, Sister Mattie scheduled their first "real Baptist service" which was held every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. From the phone in her

room, she was able to recruit ministers to volunteer their services to Mariner, in addition to choirs, not only from her own church, but many others. She drafted her daughter, Marietta and her daughter's Christian Sister, Bernadette to play musical instruments for their services. Sister Mattie often reminded her daughter and others that "the family that prays together stays together." So, in order to feel a part of the Palmer/Smith Family, she asked to visit her daughter's church located in Silver Spring, MD. In early 2003, after attending only two services, Sister Mattie joined Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Eldridge Spearman. During that time she was appointed by the pastor as a "Deacon Emeritus." Sister Mattie attended services as often as her health permitted. Sister Mattie departed this life on Monday, February 14th at 6:42 a.m. Sister Mattie leaves to mourn: her loving daughter, Marietta L. Smith and her fiancŽ Arthur M. Freeman Jr.; three grandchildren, Monica L. Dixon-Davis and son-in-law, Ledrew E. Davis, Anissa L. DeLuca and son-in-law, Russell A. DeLuca and Kevin L. Dixon; also, four great-grandchildren, D'Arron L. Dixon, Yuana L. Davis, Mackenzie Mattie DeLuca and Jessie L. Dixon; and one great-great-grandson D'arron L. Dixon Jr.; two sisters-in-law, Lula Palmer and Mae Palmer of Cincinnati, Ohio; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mattie Lee Palmer*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Dear Family I wanted to take this time to express my condolences on the loss of your loved one. I wanted to let you know that the Bible offers hope and comfort at times like this. The scriptures tells us that God is a God of Comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3,4 & Isaiah 66:13). They also tell us that he sees our plight is near to those broken at heart and those crushed in spirit he saves, Psalm 34:18. There is also hope of seeing our dead loved ones again in a different world free from all the stresses of this world. A world where there are no crimes, sickness, death, poverty, etc. These promises can be found at scriptures such as Psalm, 37:10, 11; Revelation 21:3, 4; John 5:28, 29; Isaiah 26:19; Hosea 13:14. There are plenty of other scriptures but time will not permit me to give them all to you. Please take the time to read the scriptures mentioned and draw comfort from them whenever you feel the need.##imported-begin##Sophia Briscoe##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *Marietta and family: Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Ethel and Georgeanna Locks##imported-begin##Ethel Locks##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy and heart felt love for the family.##imported-begin##The Smith Family##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Just knowing Miss Mattie a little was a blessing in my life & can see some of her wonderful qualities in Marietta. This site is very nice that we can renew heartfelt feelings. Sincerely, Peggy##imported-begin##Peggy Kaplan##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ 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 55:11 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##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM