



## Novella Harrington Reaves

September 14, 1912 - March 3, 2002

For ye are the Temple of the living God”2 Corinthians 6:16On September 14, 1912, heaven rejoiced over God’s appointed hour for the earthly arrival of a daughter who would become the embodiment of one of the favorite songs of the Gospel, “God Has a Way That’s Mighty Sweet.” For on this day was born Novella Harrington, daughter of Walter Scott Harrington, a slave who was freed at the age of 17, and Mary Mark Harrington. Novella was the youngest of twelve children. Novella received her education in the school system of Lee County, North Carolina. She was known for her thirst for knowledge, her creativity, and her athletic abilities in the area of track and field-specifically relay running. Novella’s appreciation of knowledge would follow her throughout her entire life. As an adult, she completed a host of scholastic and vocational education programs. Novella was an exceptional artist, and to this day, her body of work is displayed throughout the homes of several family members. By the summer of 1926, a breathtakingly beautiful young woman had emerged. Her physical beauty was even more amplified by the beautiful soul and spirit that would define her character and demeanor. In July 1926, the ethereal Novella captured the heart of Neal Reaves. Sr. and they were married on March 9, 1928. Although Novella was a mere 15 years old and Neal was just 17 on their wedding day, this union of holy matrimony lasted for over 60 years, until on November 7, 1988, when God called home the one and only man Novella had ever known. Even as senior citizens, many would marvel at and comment on the open display of love and affection still

generating between the two teenagers who had become pop Reaves and Mother Reaves. This life-long union brought forth 15 children. Novella lost her mother as a young child. Therefore, she committed her life to ensuring that her children would never know the misfortune of not having one of the greatest gifts on earth-the love of a mother anointed by God. She was filled with so much love that she accomplished the seemingly impossible. She made each one of her thirteen surviving children feel as if they were her favorite. Mother fiercely protected them-for it was her position that there was no sacrifice too great for the well being of her family. Novella was known as "MOTHER" by everyone that knew her-children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends of her children, co-workers of her children, her church family, and the numerous friends who embraced her. The aura of Mother was so magnetic and powerful that in her presence you knew that you were in the presence of a phenomenal woman of God. How could such a gentle spirit possess an inner strength that would reach out and make the broken and rejected feel so loved? How could such a soft-spoken one speak words with the effect of balm to the soul? How could a paragon of beauty, grace, and elegance also be meek and humble? God Has A Way that's Mighty Sweet. In her early twenties, Novella was baptized and received God's gift of eternal life-the Holy Ghost. Mother Reaves began her walk with the Lord under the ecclesiastic Tutelage of Bishop Joseph Turpin. She continued her walk under the guardianship of Bishop Winfield A. Showell, and was an active member of the First Apostolic Faith church for many years. Mother Reaves served the Lord through many ministries, including music, missionary, usher, spiritual advisor, and anything God required of her. Mother Reaves tirelessly supported her husband, Elder Neal Reaves, Sr. in his ministry of preaching the word of God. In 1973, she joined her son Bishop Alfred R. Reaves initially as a member of "The Jesus Associates," and subsequently at the Church of New Covenant where she served as pianist, choir member. President and President Emeritus of the Missionary Board. One of Mother's greatest loves was the Missionary Outreach. As a young missionary she became tenacious

and fearless in God's requirement to minister to those in need. There was no situation too large, small, or dirty for her to apply her hand. On Sunday morning, March 2002, in accordance with His perfect will, the Lord transformed the bedside of Mother Novella Reaves into a Cathedral of Love. As only He could, the God of all comfort communed with her, and carried His daughter safely to her eternal Home. Now, this Woman After God's Own Heart, High Priestess, Royal Heiress To His Majesty's Throne is in the presence of the Lord. She is this time, eternally with Elder Neal Reaves, Sr., her first born, Brother Neal Reaves, Jr., her baby boys who God elected to take back at birth, her very special Gail, and all those saints who overcame. God Has A Way That's Mighty Sweet. Still surviving in "MOTHER'S" love are five generations including seven sons, James, Marion, Johnnie, Alfred, Timothy, Michael and Joel, four daughters, Mary D. Jackson, Joyce A. Gillard, Janet S. Green, and Pamela Reaves-Scriber; four daughters -in -law, Marlene Reaves, Odell Reaves and Denise Smith-Reaves; four sons-in-law, Joseph Jackson Sr., Thomas Gillard, Paul Green and Reginald Scriber; twenty-six grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren and one great-great-great grandchild; on sister-in-law, Helen Reaves; cousins, her church family and a host of friends.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Novella Harrington Reaves*

March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Novella Harrington Reaves*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *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



“ *-The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms... -May you find comfort and strength in God's Love... -Praying For You In Your Time Of Loss...##imported-begin##Harry & Annie McIver and Family##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Through example "mother" taught us what a virtuous woman really is. May God comfort each of you during this time and may the love that she gave to all who came in contact with her live forever in each of your hearts.##imported-begin##patricia newman##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Hello Bobby and Odell, We were sorry to hear about the lost of your mother. May God comfort you during this time. It is our desire that the Reaves Family will find comfort in knowing that your mother has found her place ... the place that is promised to all of us if we but walk in the path(s) prepared for us along the highways of life. We love you and our prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Andrew and Gloria Reid##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Dearest Pam, This message is sent with Love and Respect for the Love and Respect that you so wonderfully showed towards your mother. If everyone would have that much Love for one another, how much better this world could be. Giving honor to God and His Son, Jesus I send these words of comfort: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God". As I know, you carry Christ in your heart and know that God is with you always and will continue to carry you as long as you have trust in Him. He has accepted a true Angel from this earth to come home to be with Him. I never got the opportunity to meet her but felt her spirit in my heart through you. I thank you for sharing your mother with me. I Love you dearly and will continue to pray for you and your family.##imported-begin##Patricia Watkins##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *The Richardson family sends it deepest regrets and a message of hope, true faith and sincerity to Johnny and the entire Reaves family.##imported-begin##clement m. richardson##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *In the quiet moments, when the hurt is hard to bear, may love become your shelter and may the beauty of precious memories be your comfort. You are held in our prayers. God bless and keep you always. Love Patsy & Kids##imported-begin##Patsy L. Washington##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *Dear Mom Mary Jackson words cannot express the sadness in my heart I fill for you right now all of you have done a great job in caring for mother may God richness be upon all of you ,I love you but God love you more. Love Amy Boo, and her seven.##imported-begin##Amy Scott##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ *My Dear Wife Joyce, Thank you for being obedient to the will of God for caring for your mother in her hours of need both physical and especially spiritual. May Jesus Christ be Praise.##imported-begin##Thomas D. Gillard##imported-end##*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ we will always miss you "Mother". See you again in heaven.##imported-begin##Denise & Darrin Green##imported-end##

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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##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM