



Rose Marie Finley

July 23, 1935 - May 22, 2008

In God's infinite wisdom, Rose Marie Connor was born to Jeffrey and Rosalee Connor on July 23, 1935 in Orangeburg, South Carolina. In 1937, this family relocated to Rockaway Beach, New York. There Rose, tenderly known as Marie to her family and friends, attended Public Schools 42, graduating from 8th grade and continuing to Far Rockaway High School. She later received a GED and advanced her education at the Nassau Community College in Long Island for Business Studies. She also attended Bethel Bible Institute in New York, in the 1980's graduating from a certificate program. On May 14, 1955 Marie married Lewis Finley, of Holly Hill, South Carolina. To this union was born 3 children: Rosalynne, Lewis (Bobby) and Gwen. Her husband, Lewis was deceased in 1972, yet she maintained her godly character and raised her children with love and pride, constantly displaying the example and character of holiness. One of her greatest passions in life was caring for her children and family. She ardently loved and was loved by her only two grandchildren, Roxanne and Norman, who devotedly cared for her until her departure. Marie worked as a Principal Administrative Aide II (Timekeeping) in the New York City Transit Authority, where she retired after more than 20 years of dedicated service. After retirement in 1992, she enrolled in Nassau Tech BOCES where she completed a Practical Nursing Program and became a licensed nurse. She then relocated to Richmond, Virginia in September 1993 and started her first nursing career at the McGuire VA Hospital. She also worked with local nursing agencies and homes, retiring once again in

2006, due to health issues. She was a very dedicated to her home health client, Eric, who made her last assignment very memorable. She was an avid lover of the Lord and was saved at a very young age. Marie attended and was a member of some of the greatest churches in Rockaway Beach, including, Bethel A.M.E., her father's church where she was christened; Macedonia Baptist Church, and First Church of God in Christ. She settled in the Community Church of God In Christ in 1960, under the pastorate of Elder Moses Green, where she served for over 30 years. There she formed one of the first singing groups in the church with her sister and friends. She also was a member of the church choir, and later became the choir director. In the words of her sister Ruby, "The choir didn't become a choir until she became director and began teaching each voice, giving notes until they were harmonized." she also helped established choirs in the church by going about following up on visitors and members, inviting them to choir rehearsals and church services. She had a keen ear for music & harmony both with accompaniment and acappella. Also in this ministry, she served in many capacities including President of Hospitality, Pastor's Aide, and choir, as well as Licensed Evangelist in the Church of God In Christ, Coordinator of Fundraisers and Events. She often utilized her creative skills and hosted many Fashion Shows and Concerts, where she sewed most of the clothing. Marie, also served as State Public Relations President in the C.O.G.I.C. 2nd Jurisdiction in New York prior to relocating to Virginia. Upon relocating to Virginia, Marie joined the Word For Living Church of God In Christ, under the leadership of Pastor Larry C. Miles, Sr. There she also served in many capacities including member of the Missionary Board, Mother's Board, President of the Culinary Ministry, and whatever her hands would find to do. Mother Finley would often be found visiting the sick and shut-in with her specially created baskets, pies and/or meals. In her early years here, Pastor Miles would occasionally entrust her to carry out the services while he and First Lady Miles went on assignments and she would be requested to sing a solo or songs of praise in the worship services also. Mother Finley loved the church, her pastors and

was committed to ministry. So many things could be said of this great servant of the Lord, but one thing is for sure, nothing and no one could take away her joy in the Lord. Despite experiencing a massive heart attack in 1981; losing her husband, son, other family and friends; rapidly failing health within the last 3 years, Mother Finley continued to witness to family, neighbors, friends and even passers-by, compelling them to come to Christ. Today, we celebrate the life and service of a great woman and servant of God. Mother, Rose Finley was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Lucy Rebecca Stancell; and her son, Lewis Robert Finley. She leaves to treasure her legacy: her children; Rosalynne Shaw and Gwendolyn Finley and her grandchildren, Roxanne Moorer and Norman Shaw, Jr. all of Richmond, VA; 4 sisters, Ruby and Eunice Conner, Laney Young of Richmond, VA. and Lorraine Connor of Rockaway Beach, N.Y.; 3 brothers, Ernest, Jeffery and John Connor all of Rockaway Beach, N.Y.; a family adopted sister, District Missionary Marie Darby Hubert of Rockaway Beach, N.Y.; 3 sisters-in-law, Barbara Connor of Rockaway Beach, N.Y., Anna Mae Scott of Jamaica, N.Y. and Janie Riezie of Columbia, S.C.; 2 brothers-in-law, Louie Rienzie and Derrell Stancell, Sr.; 2 aunts Lucille Hunt and Okarita Howser, both of N.Y.; 3 uncles; 4 godchildren, Shelia Connor James of Richmond, VA., Naomi Sloss Cross of Chicago, Ill., and James Green of Los Angeles, CA., and Missionary Carol Rivers of Landover, MD.; a faithful dear friend, Alberta Corwise of Rockaway Beach, N.Y.; a great host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, close friends, and two church families and Pastors, Superintendents Moses Green and Larry C. Miles, Sr.

Tribute Wall



“ Rose Marie Finley

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ Grandma,,

It's been quite a while that you've been gone. I've never been able to write anything because the pain of losing you has been so severe, that I try to block it out. The problem with that is it is impossible to block out the pain of losing you without remembrance of all the joy love and laughter we've shared. Not only were you a wonderful example for Godly living for women, you were an example for all who wanted to follow Christ. I never understood how you remained so loving and kind even in adversity and times that some weren't nice to you. I couldn't understand your decision to always love and exhibit compassion and forgiveness of all. What I am so grateful for is having you as the example disciple here on earth. As God said "raise up a child in the way they should go so that when they get older they shall not depart from it". Words cannot express how your lessons of life, giving and loving have returned to me in my latter years and the peace I have from understanding that you are just fine where you are. I remember having a hard time with you being buried, me feeling ill because I felt you were cold and alone. But I truly believe to be absent from the body is to be one with God. Who better to be with. Although I miss you dearly and still cry all these years later. I praise God for your life in ministry. Everything about you I love and miss. I sure hope to see you again just so you'll know your work here was not in vain, and so I can apologize for all the wrong I've done. Also to let you know I'm better now. I love you always and forever grandma!

Roxanne Moorer - November 24, 2021 at 07:30 PM

GF

“ *Missing my mom is an understatement. This week we buried her younger sister and it felt as if mom was taken away again. All of my aunts carry a piece of my mom in my heart. But it's comforting to know that you are there to receive and embrace her. I love you mom.*

Gwen F - January 02, 2020 at 06:51 AM



“ *Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal. Please know that the entire Finley & church family are in my prayers. I have to tell you that I have experience many funerals/homegoings but we had a celebration at Mother Finley's homegoing service. The Lord truly met us in the place. Even in death she managed to still give us a blessing and uplift at her service. We will miss her. I look forward to the day when I shall see her again. As you stated Sister Gwen at the service Mother has laid all of her burdens down. No more sadness, no more sorrows it is all over for her this day and we give God praises in this. God Bless. I'm just a phone call away if you need me. Love ya, Darnita###imported-begin###Darnita Hassell###imported-end###*

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to send words of encouragement, remembrance and love. Also thanks to each of you for showing your love to my mother even before her passing. She will always be remembered in our hearts and lives. We are grieving daily, but we know she is at rest now, living in the peaceful bliss of God's atmosphere and that makes us happy even in the midst of our sorrow. Continue to pray for us and we'll continue to receive the strenght needed to go on. Again, thank you! Gwen, Roz, Norman, & Roxanne###imported-begin##Gwen Finley###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Mother Finley was such a special lady. To know her was to love her. She truly loved and cared about people and she showed it. I have been blessed just knowing her and will forever hold her memory in my heart.###imported-begin##Jackie Carter###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Roz, Gwen, Roxanne & Norman: We've come a long way. I know that you know that I loved your Mom. Mother Finley was like another mother to me. She and my mom were such good friends. I guess they are together again. I'm sorry that I could not have been with you all physically but I love all of you so much. I will always keep you in my heart and prayers. Mother has gone on to where we all want to go. I can still hear her singing two of my favorites: "More Like You Lord and "His Eyes Are On The Sparrow." She will be greatly missed and I guess I will always be "Gray face", because thats what she always called me. Please be encouraged you will be able to smile again.###imported-begin##Carol Rivers###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I REALLY MISS MARIE SO MUCH. I MISS THE WEEKLY CALLS SHE ALWAYS MADE TO ME. BUT SHE IS IN A BETTER PLACE. I WILL ALWAYS KEEP HER IN MY HEART. LOVE TO ALL OF YOU , ROZ,, GWEN ROX AND NORM. AUNT LORRAINE##imported-begin##AUNT LORRAINE##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Aunt marie you will be missed by many R.I.P LOVE YOU ALWAYS FOREVER AND EVER YOUR NIECE BEFF'SHEVA ALL MY LOVE ROZ, GWEN. ROX AND NORM##imported-begin##Beff Sheva##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ I would like to thank everyone for their love and kindness shown to my mother over the years and in her passing. Thank you also for extending that love to her family as well. My mother became my best friend, one that I miss so much. I know that she is now awaiting that call from our heavenly father and I too one day hope to be called by the Lord to come home so that I can again see my loved ones gone on before. Continue to keep our family in your prayers and we will do the same for you and yours.##imported-begin##Rosalynne Shaw##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Family, it's easy to say be strong, It's easy to say dont cry no more tears, she's with the God now, but remember this, Jesus weep. There will be tmes when you long for the smell of food cooking in the house or the slide of her feet in the hall and hear her laugh, then you will laugh because you will know she's cooking,hugging,singing laughing with the angels###imported-begin##Cornelia M Harris###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ The Finely Family, May God comfort and keep you during this time and days to come. God bless you and may heaven smile upon you. Love and Prayers, Jessica Townsend###imported-begin##Jessica Townsend###imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To Gwen, Norman,and the Finley family, I wanted to let you know I love you and I will continue to pray that God wraps his arms around you all and comort you in this difficult time .###imported-begin##Candice Dunlap###imported-end##

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“ To the family, i am truly sorry for your loss. Isaiah 25,8 promises that one day Jehovah God will swallow up death forever, and certainly wipe the tears from all faces. Then Acts 24,15 promises that there will be a ressurection for the dead, and we can have the wonderful blessing of being with our loved ones again. I hope that these scriptures from the bible bring you much comfort, and a wonderful hope to cling to.###imported-begin##Rita Johnson###imported-end##

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“ Great is God's faithfulness. Truly Mother Finely will be missed. My life has been touched by her and I will always hold her memories in my heart.##imported-begin##Janell Lewis##imported-end##

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“ I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT I LOVE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. GOD HAS SET THE TONE FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES. WE ALL HAVE TO LOSE IN ORDER TO GAIN... REMAIN BLESSED AND TRUE TO HIS WORD! LOVE LOVE LOVE##imported-begin##Veronica Llano##imported-end##

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“ We are interceding for you and your family. God's grace is sufficient for you. God Bless You and keep you in his care##imported-begin##Barbara Dunlap##imported-end##

July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Roz, Gwen,Rox and Norm. There is so many things I would like to say. But it is so hard to express into words, what you feel in your heart. The Love Peace and Joy she gave to us all will last a lifetime for me. She will be in my dreams and my every waking moment. But most of all , she will always be in my heart. Remember God took her home to rest in his Mighty arms of love and peace.##imported-begin##Aunt Lorraine##imported-end##

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“ *The Finley family--you have my deepest sympathies. I love you all. Your mom is safe in God's hands now.##imported-begin##Ojetta Scott##imported-end##*

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“ *i will miss you##imported-begin##denise davis##imported-end##*

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“ *To Sis. Gwen & Family: Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time. Remember, weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. May you find comfort in knowing that she fought a good fight, she kept the faith and now she has gone on to receive her reward. Love you.##imported-begin##Mo. Dolores Williams##imported-end##*

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“ *A rose is known for it's beauty and unique fragrance. Mother Finley has definitely been a Rose like no other! Her fragrance and beauty have left impressions on all who have known her. May each of you be encouraged, strengthened, and reminded of the fact that her beauty is now shining forth in the heavens! I love each of you.##imported-begin##Shari D. Cameron##imported-end##*

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“ To Ros, Gwen, Rox and Norm Aunt Marie was a blessing to me and she taught me many things that I have passed on to others. She will always be remembered and loved. She will be missed. My prayers and thoughts are with you as God grants you peace and strength. I LOVE YOU ALL.##imported-begin##Jacqueline Llano##imported-end##

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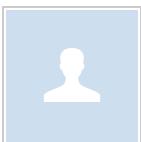
“ My prayers and deepest sympathy goes out to each member of Mother Rose Finley's family. Mother Finley was a wonderful woman, with a pleasant and sweet spirit. She will truly be missed. Continue to hold each other up and be what she all wanted you to be. Hold on to all the talks and wonderful time that you had with her, for that is going to help you through it.##imported-begin##KeVette L. Bias##imported-end##

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“ Hello all, This is still hard for me to believe but I know my special lady is in better place with our lord and savior jesus christ and is in no more pain. I love and miss her dearly. Gwen, Roz, Foxy and Norm your in my thoughts and prayers...##imported-begin##Sheila Marie Connor-James##imported-end##

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“ Gwen,Roz,Norman I just want you all to know that in this difficult time I have you and your family in my prayers! Be blessed with love Charice AKA reesie##imported-begin##Charice Harris##imported-end##

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“ We the women of "A Sisters Heart" are praying for the Finley family. May God's comforting power be with you all in your time of bereavement.##imported-begin##Miriam Holt -(A Sister's Heart)##imported-end##

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“ Dear Sis Gwen and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you##imported-begin##June Ford##imported-end##

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“ Dear Gwen and Family, On behalf of my husband and children as well as the entire Woodside Family (including Bishop and Mother Woodside) we are praying for you during this season of your life. What an example of a mother you were able to glean from. Just think of how awesome God is to give us such strong foundations that would enable us to carry out His purpose for our lives. My family is now spread out in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Boston and New York. Nevertheless, our prayers from wherever we are will carry you through, so may the peace of God continue to comfort you.##imported-begin##Regina L. Williams##imported-end##

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“ To the Finley family, Mother was a good and kind person. Love people, she always wanted to give you a kiss or hug. Even when she was ill she always had a smile. You could not help but to love her as I got to know her. She made me happy one day when she told me that she enjoyed one of my cakes. She even asked if I would bake her one. Now that was something because Mother enjoyed cooking. We all know this one thing that it is well with her soul. Rest Mother until we meet again. Love Ya Janet Wynn-Cooke, Mother Rosetta Wynn and family.##imported-begin##Janet Wynn-Cooke##imported-end##

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“ I wanted to say to the family you will be in my prayers and I love you. I will miss mother finley. She was an example of when the bible say for the older women to teach the younger women, Mother finley taught me how to cook, the orange chicken is my favorite.##imported-begin##Marineka Snyder##imported-end##

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“ Be strong and of good courage for he shall strengthen your heart...For the joy of the Lord is your strength....I am fervently praying for you and your family....##imported-begin##Patrice Thomas##imported-end##

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“ To the Finley Family, I just wanted to say that we have lost a jewel. Mother Finley was one of the sweetest persons I have ever known. To know her was truly to love her. Anyone that came in contact with her was never the same after meeting her. She has left a stamp on each of our lives; and an example to be followed. I can only imagine the emptiness you feel, because I know how I feel and how I will miss her kisses and beautiful smile. Stay close and strong for each other and remember all the good times. And may God continue to bless each of you and give you the strength you need at this present time.##imported-begin##Juanita Sherman##imported-end##

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“ You're family is remembered in my prayers that God will give you comfort and strength during this season of your lives.##imported-begin##Sue Ampey##imported-end##

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“ Hello Family, first I want to tell everyone how much I love them, Foz, Norm, Foxy, Gwen (aka Sven), words can't express how much I will miss Aunt Marie she is in my heart everyday and will remain there forever, hope to see you soon and again Love You's!##imported-begin##Sharon Connor##imported-end##

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“ I would like to thank the Finley family for allowing us all to be blessed by Mother Finley's love. She ALWAYS had a kind work to share. The memories of her love and concern for others will continue to bring about a smile.##imported-begin##Debbie Brown##imported-end##

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“ Please accept my condolences for the loss of Mrs. Finley. Acts 24:15 lovingly declares: "There is going to be a resurrection." May you receive much comfort and strength from this wonderful resurrection hope found in the Bible.##imported-begin##Mrs. Hill##imported-end##

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“ I really miss my mom. More and more each day, I realize what a great influence and asset she was to my life. Thankfully, I have had many years of mentoring from her and now I can try to perpetuate some of the gifts and talents she had. It is a pleasure to know that she is at rest with the Lord.##imported-begin##Gwen##imported-end##

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“ Roz, Gwen, Rox, & Norm just a few words to let you all know that I Love you very much. you are always on my mind & in my heart. Well it is almost a year since my best friend went home to meet the Lord. but she is always here with me too. God Bless & take care of all of you. Miss you much. Lorr##imported-begin##Aunt Lorraine##imported-end##

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