



## Ruth Bond-Mickens

December 23, 1916 - May 9, 2006

RUTH BOND MICKENS, born on December 23, 1916 to the late Elder James Emory bond, Sr. and Isabella Grant Bond, departed this life to be with the Lord on May 9, 2006 at 2:20p.m. A native Baltimorean, Ruth was the oldest child of James and Isabella's ten children who were reared in the family homestead at 236 N. Mount Street, the house purchased by her parents in 1915 that still is occupied by Bond family members. James Emory Bond, Sr. lovingly refereed to Ruth as "the child of his strength," words than symbolized the life long bond of trust and friendship that he shared with his first born child. During her young adult years, Ruth and "Daddy" spent hours conversing about his childhood in Back River, Baltimore County and his world travels as an enlisted soldier in the United States Army during World War I. Ruth's mother, Isabella, a graduate of the Colored High and Training School, instilled in her children a passion for learning, homemaking, and moral virtue. Emulating her mother's example, young Ruth became an excellent student, a skilled seamstress, a baker of cakes, cookies, and breads, and a keeper of her family's history and traditions. Ruth's nine siblings respected their oldest sister because of her wisdom and the example that she set. Ruth attended Baltimore City Public Schools, and she was graduated from Frederick Douglass High School as a member of the class of February, 1935. She was taught and mentored by many outstanding educators, but she especially admired her teachers S. Leroy Taylor, Edna Over Gray Campbell, and Fannie Barber. Ruth's favorite subjects were mathematics and French. Not only did she tutor her brothers

and sisters in these subjects, but also she earned spending change from tutoring her friends and neighbors. Ruth was an avid reader for rare books, newspapers, magazines and journals. Following her graduation from Douglass High School, Ruth began to search for her own church home and religious experience. Although she was reared in a God-fearing Christian home, Ruth often said that she felt the need to make a personal commitment to Christ. She visited and later joined the Church of God in Christ located on Mount Street very near to her home. In 1945, guided by the leadership of its Pastor, the late Elder R.A. Carr, the church expanded its borders and was renamed the Rehoboth Church of God in Christ. During her thirty year sojourn in this faith community, she served her church in many capacities: church secretary, Sunday school teacher, church registrar and historian, and editor of the Rehoboth Beacon newsletter. One of her favorite activities was singing with the Rehoboth choir. According to Ruth's romantic tale, she met her future husband, a debonair gentleman, when by happenstance they stood beside each other on the choir. One Sunday morning, Hannibal asked her if he might borrow ten cents to add to his "church offering." The melodic soprano, Ruth Bond, granted his request. Shortly thereafter, their whirlwind courtship began. Hannibal Mickens, Sr. was a member of the large Brockington family that migrated from Florence, South Carolina to Baltimore, Maryland in the early 1930's. Ruth soon discovered that the Brockingtons, Mickens, and Saunders were not just church family but were neighbors as well. The romance between Ruth and Hannibal brought the families together. On December 17, 1938, Ruth Bond and Hannibal Mickens were joined in holy matrimony in a very sacred, elaborate wedding. This union was blessed with two children: Hannibal Mickens, Jr. born September 15, 1939 and Lois Naomi Mickens, born February 6, 1944. Ruth's wifhood and motherhood epitomized the coming together of all of her dreams. For the first fourteen years of her forty-seven year marriage, she devoted her time and talents to homemaking, childrearing, and loving Hannibal, Sr., affectionately called "Reds." Before there was a Martha Stewart, B. Smith or Top Chef, there existed Ruth B.

Mickens, arranging pictures, decorating corners, stretching lace curtains, and collecting antiques. She was a cook extraordinaire who prepared the best blueberry dumplings, deep dish apple pies, crab cakes, vegetable soup, great northern beans with ham hocks, and other culinary delights. As a result of her reputation as master chef and supreme hostess, she was hired to cater weddings, anniversaries, and parties. As a mother, Ruth was a strict disciplinarian who required good behavior and manners from Hannibal and Lois at all times however, her high expectations were tempered by love, patience, and nurturing. Because she did not work outside of the home, the public schools that Hannibal and Lois attended called upon her for P. T. A. duties, costume making, refreshments, etc. Often, for special occasions, under Ruth's tutelage, Hannibal and Lois leaned and recited passages from the Book of Psalms, The Christmas story recorded in Isaiah, chapter 53 and Luke, chapter 1, as well as poems written by Edgar A. Guest, John Greenleaf Whittier, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. When Lois turned fourteen and Hannibal was graduated from Frederick Douglass High School, Ruth decided that it was time to explore new vistas. She entered the world of employment in the public sector and was trained to become a health care professional. First, she was employed as an X-ray Technologist for the Baltimore City Department of Public Health. Next, she served as a Clinic Administrator for the Baltimore City Department of Public Health, and lastly, for fifteen years she worked as a Laboratory Technologist for the Baltimore City Bureau of Laboratories. Due to her declining health, she retired from the Baltimore City Health and Laboratory Systems, after having worked consistently for twenty years. Ruth retired from her career and somewhat followed the orders of her physician, Dr. Elijah B. Saunders; she quickly returned to her first love, her work in ministry. In 1965, she joined the First United Church Jesus Christ Apostolic, established and pastured by her family member and friend, Bishop Monroe R. Saunders, Sr. Despite her chronic health problems, Ruth continued her rigorous involvements in church work. Pastor Saunders appointed Ruth Bond Mickens

to the Board of Trustees; she held the position of Church Secretary. Additionally, she served as Women's Department President, President of the Spiritual Resources Committee, and charter member of the United Church of Jesus Christ Scholarship Board. With loyalty and dedication, Ruth served the First United Church (Transformation Church of Jesus Christ) for forty years. Ruth Bond Mickens lived a rich life, full of joy, love, and peace. She managed her home and lived alone for twenty-one years following her husband's death in 1985. To the chagrin of her five granddaughters, at the time of her death, she still advocated loving your husband, homemaking, working for the church, and then establishing a career. She often reminisced about how she enjoyed serving "Dad" (her husband) his breakfast in bed, shaving him, and giving him personal foot care. Before her tragic fall and the health problems that she endured as a result of the fall, she enjoyed reading her friends and relatives obituaries, many of which she had written. Ruth sometimes entertained herself by looking through her old National Geographic Magazines from the 1930's and 1940's. Her grandchildren were fascinated by her conversations that were sprinkled with vignettes about accompanying her father on his trip to the Holy Land in 1965. She loved to say, "Daddy and I visited Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt." Most of all, Ruth treasured the bond that she shared with her brothers and sisters. When Ruth, Luther, Edith, Isabella, Ruby, Pearl, Frank, Mandy, and Chloe gathered for their monthly birthday celebrations and breakfast, they sometimes argued about who loved Ruth the most. Aunt "Nu," Ruth's sister-in-law, tidied Ruth's home and prepared her meals when she could not function independently. Juanita, Hannibal's wife, was the person whose name she called during her pain filled moments, and "Mac," Lois' husband, prayed daily for her recovery. Her son, Hannibal, visited her every day, without fail, for one year. Her daughter, Lois, took care of all of her personal needs during her daily visits. Ruth's journey on this earth has ended, but we rejoice that she has transitioned to her heavenly home. The framed embroidered motto that hangs on the wall next to Ruth's front door states: "Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a

friend to man.” In Ruth’s soft-spoken demeanor, she welcomed mankind into her graces. She leaves to cherish her memory: her son, Hannibal Mickens, Jr. and Hannibal’s spouse, Sonia Juanita Henderson Mickens; her daughter, Lois Naomi Mickens McMillan and her spouse, Betha D. McMillan, Jr.; her grandchildren, Anita Michelle Mickens, Tiffany Beth McMillan, Jessica Patrice Mickens Williams and her spouse, Antoine Williams, Angela Lois McMillan Howell, and her spouse, Ricardo O. Howell, David Betha McMillan, and Sally Camille McMillan; her great grandsons, Mark Isaiah Benjamin, and Antoine, Jr.; her precious brothers, Luther Grant Bond, Sr. and Frank Bond, Sr.; her dear sisters, Edith Bond Mercer, Pearl Bond Dean, Mandy Bond Bynum, and Chloe Bond; nephews, nieces, cousins, and a host of other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband Hannibal Mickens, Sr. and sisters and brothers, Isabella Bond Byrd, Ruby Bond Rivers, and James Emory Bond, II. Ruth...” Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Bond-Mickens*

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March 25, 2023 at 10:25 AM



“ *Ruth Bond-Mickens*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ 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



“ To the Bond's-Mickens's ! I send my condolences to all. Losing someone as wise as Ms.Bond-Mickens is truly a heartbreak. She did so many wonderful things during her life time. That remind me of Ps.90:10 where because special mightest her days were long. The reflection and memories of her will live on forever. May the God of all comfort be with you all, 1Cor.1:3. I send my heartfelt feeling to you all. Sincerely, Lillian crosby.##imported-begin##lillian crosby##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. Mrs. Mickens certainly had a wonderfully fulfilling life. It was truly a blessing for her to have been so loved and cared for down to the end. Even though we know that death is inevitable, it is still difficult to accept. Death was not something that God intended for us. The thought of death is always distasteful and it always will be because Jehovah God has created within us the keen desire to live forever. We never get used to it. We feel deep down in our hearts that this should not happen because, “Even time indefinite he (God) has put in their heart,” says Ecclesiastes 3:11. One of the wonderful parts of his plan is the hope of the resurrection of dead loved ones. (John 5:25, 28, 29). Please be assured that Jehovah God loves us and wants the best for us. Take comfort in the promise that he has given us at Rev. 21: 3-5 of a new earth where there will be no more death.##imported-begin##Senita Swann##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ DEAR FAMILY, MAY THE BIBLE COMFORT YOU DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. THERE IT TELLS US THAT MRS. MICKENS WAS INDEED SPECIAL, FOR AT PSALM 90:10 WHEN A PERSON LIVES PAST THEIR SEVENTIES AND EIGHTIES IT IS BECAUSE OF SPECIAL MIGHTINESS. MALACHI 3:16 TELLS US THAT SOON ALL THOSE WHO ARE IN GOD'S BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE WILL COME BACK TO LIFE RIGHT HERE ON THIS EARTH. WE ALL CAN HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN WHAT GOD PROMISES.##imported-begin##MICHELLE##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To god give the glory for blessing the world with a sweet gift as mother mickens,to the family we send our love.##imported-begin##noel carroll##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ To the family of Mrs. Ruth Bond-Mickens please except my condolences for your loss. God's word the Bible can bring much comfort Revelation 21:3,4 is such a scripture "Look! The tent of God is with mankind, and he will reside with them, and they will be his peoples. And God himself will be with them. And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be will be no more, neither will mourning nor out cry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed aways." In verse 5 it says, Look! I am making all things new. Also, he says:"Write, because these words are faithful and true." This a promise by Jehovah God. Jesus Christ speaks of the dead being resurrected back to life here on earth not in the same condition we see today (because all of what we see today will be done away with) but something better is to come. (John 5:28,29). I pray that this letter will bring comfort to your family at this time. My Deepest Sympathy Shirel Halstead.##imported-begin##Shirel Halstead##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM



“ Tiffany, my family and I send you our deepest sympathy in the passing of your grandmother. We will keep you and your family in our prayers. God Bless you. Valerie##imported-begin##Valerie M. Evans & Family##imported-end##

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July 02, 2010 at 02:21 PM