



## Bernice Gates-Owens

January 24, 1938 - November 23, 2011

OWENS, Mrs. Bernice - Age 73, passed away Wednesday, November 23, 2011 at her residence. Family hour 10 a.m. Saturday, December 3, 2011 at Bethlehem Temple of the Apostolic Faith, 3401 M.L. King Ave., with funeral service commencing at 11 a.m. District Eld. Phillip J. Thompson officiating. Interment River Rest Cemetery, G-4413 Flushing Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10 a.m. Saturday. Mrs. Owens will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 906 W. Flint Park Blvd., and may be viewed from 12Noon-8 p.m. Mrs. Bernice Lovell Gates - Owens was "born into time" January 24, 1938 in the small town of LaGrange, GA to the Christian lineage of Elder Jimmie and Ida Mae Gates. She was the eldest of 4 children. In search for better economic advantages the family relocated to Flint, MI. Bernice was the only child at that time. Her early formal training was at Dewey Elementary, Emerson Junior High and Northern High School. One of her passions has always been reading, therefore she continued to educate herself in many areas throughout her life. Church records indicate that she was baptized and filled with the precious gift of the Holy Ghost in November of 1951. Her parents being new to holiness also taught their daughter this new lifestyle and they all grew under the teachings of the late Bishop Frank R. Bowdan, Dist. Elder B.T. Scott and Dist. Elder Jerry T. Lewis. Bernice married Leslie Owens, Jr., April 19, 1958 and to this union, six children were born. Leslie was an only child and loved the pitter patter of the little feet. Leslie wanted her to be a homemaker and she was for many years. He worked two

jobs at times to provide for his thriving family and eventually achieved the status of supervisor at General Motors in an effort to financially meet all their needs. Eventually Bernice did work outside of the home. One of her jobs was for The Genesee County Detention Center, she also worked for Dr. James Hawkins one of the first African American doctors in Flint. She worked at Robert Hall, a retail store on Clio Road for a short time and after the children grew older she became the Church Clerk for Bethlehem Temple under Dist. Elder Jerry T. Lewis' administration. Sister Owens worked faithfully in the church as a young woman and mother as did her husband. They both enjoyed God's house and nurtured the children in holiness. One of the long time positions she held was Director of the Senior Choir. Many notables tutored and sang in the Senior Choir over the years. Sister Bernice was also the Dining Room Supervisor for many years; therefore all social activities at the church fell under her jurisdiction. During that time she had groomed many young people in appropriate etiquette, grooming, and temperament necessary for successful events. Many have returned and thanked her for the lessons they had learned while under her tutelage. Bernice had a passion for arts and crafts which inspired her to create her own business "Beautiful Accents." She was often called upon to create floral arrangements for many occasions at the church. One of her last floral projects included supplying flowers that many adorned on Pentecost Sunday of 2010. Bernice loved and enjoyed beautiful things, never to the point that she was possessed by them; but God did bless her to be a recipient of natural as well as spiritual gifts. She was known for her wit, sense of humor, and ability to make friends easily; A truly well-rounded child of God. After a short illness, Sis. Owens fell asleep in Jesus and so it is we bow our hearts in humble submission to the will of Almighty God Sis. Bernice Owens exchanged time for eternity and was "born into eternity," November 23, 2011 at 11:09 am to receive the crown of life made for her since the foundation of the world... Sis. Bernice Lovell Gates-Owens leaves to cherish her memory 6 children, 3 daughters and 3 sons, Karen Flowers, Craig Owens, Kym (Eddie) Lucas, Camille Owens (affectionately

known as Val), Kevin Owens, and Kerry Owens (affectionately known as Keshawn); 4 grandchildren, Shamonica Owens, D'nae Owens, A'Leslie Lucas and A'Leah Lucas; great-grandchild, Dejuann Jones Jr.; sister, Mary (Dorcenia, Jr.) Brazle of Mt. Morris, MI; brother, Terry (Glenna) Gates of Flint; stepmother, Mildred Ashford-Gates; aunt, Mrs. Lois (Oscar) Beason of Dayton, OH; uncle, Mr. James (Lela) Boddie of Flint; many nieces, nephews, cousins, including special cousin, Doris James of Flint; extended families; R. B. Smith, Dennis (Dorothy) Smith, Julian Green, Pastor Kenneth Brown, Sr., and Sharon Matthews, Boddie, Beason, Campbell, Gates, Johnson, Washington, Collins, Byrd, Kilgore, Rosborough, Webb, Releford, Chatham Drive neighbors, Ren-Bods across the United States, family and friends. The family would like to express special thanks to the Hurley Medical Center 9th floor staff, McLaren Home Hospice, Janisha Claxton, Dionysus Petty, Drs. Ahmed Arif, Rizwan Danish, and Jay Nayak, District Elder Phillip Thompson, First Lady April Thompson and the Bethlehem Temple Church family, along with Bethel Apostolic, Southeast Christian, Pentecostal Temple, Greater Emmanuel Temple, Christ the Rock Apostolic, Secret Place Tabernacle, Our Savior Apostolic, Cathedral of Faith C.O.G.I.C. and Northwest Christian churches.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bernice Gates-Owens*

October 09, 2023 at 07:02 AM



“ *We are truly sorry to hear of your loss. Our condolences go out to you and your family. Often during difficult times people turn to the bible. Two scriptures that come to mind are Acts 24:15 and Revelations 21:3,4. I hope that these verses are comforting to you.*

**R. and K. Muex** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *David said in Psalm 116:15 - Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.*

*To the Gates and Owens family Just want to know that we are Praying with and for you it this time.*

*Sis.Owens is now at Rest from her Labor.  
Revelation 14:13 Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.*

*God Bless you all  
Cleo M White Sr.*

**Cleo M White** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ *To the Owens Family.*

*I was at a loss of words when I heard of the lost of your Mother. She was truly a gift from God and will be greatly missed. Please know that the Davis Family are thinking of you and yours during this difficult time.*

*May your heart and soul find peace and comfort*

*Love Always - Gail Davis and Family*

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**Gail Davis** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ *We send our Heartfelt Sympathy to the family during this time of bereavement. Our prayer is that The Lord will give you Peace, Strength, Unity, and Comfort that passes all understanding, as only He can... Weep.. but briefly for your Love one as she enter into the Kingdom of God, for she shall possess a joy and Peace that is unattainable on God's earth. Rejoice with her in her everlasting and total happiness, for her eyes have seen GOD... "TO GOD BE THE GLORY".. Sandra Epps, Director.*

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**Sis. Sandra Epps** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *To the children: It was with great sorrow to hear of the passing of your mom. Mrs Owens, to me, was a beautiful woman. Not just in outward appearance, but a beautiful & sweet spirit. I am glad to have know her & to have been a part of her life. I know that you all are filled with the spirit of God & has accepted His will. May the Almighty continue to cover you. She will be greatly missed, but you all will always have a place in my heart~~~~Love, Mrs. Hawkins*

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**Carolyn R. Hawkins** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ My most sincere condolences for your recent loss of such a strong and important figure, however, I know that she has passed down her valuable traits and qualities to you. If you any difficulties or need any help with anything, please let me know it would be a pleasure.

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**Sis. Etoyia Hill-McEwen** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

L(

“ Expressing our deepest sympathy during your hour of beravement. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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**Lil & family (Veve)** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ Sorry about the loss of your mother, may God keep you and Bless you. I am asking God to give you comfort and peace.

*We love you and are keeping you and your family in our prayers.*

*Geary And Evelyn Williams*

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**Geary Williams** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ I remember Sis.Bernice Owens having a hand in my upbringing at Bethlehem Temple and Camille was like a big sister, on behalf of myself, my aunt Tonya McIntyre, and in memory of my great grandmother Evangelist Viola D.McIntyre we send to Camille and the rest of the family our deepest sympathies!!!

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**Lizzie Tamboya Deloney** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Trust in God during this very difficult time. Your entire family are in my prayers.

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**Kenyatta D. Eleby** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ I was sad to my dear sister in Christ passed away. Absence of the body is presence in the Lord. I would like to offer my condolences to the family and your in my prayers. John 14 says: Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.  
2In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.  
3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.  
4And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

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**Louise Campbel** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ Kerry,  
Know that you & your family are held in heartfelt prayers at this time in the loss of your Mom. God's caring presence and strength will see you through.

*Lillian Tusson  
EMU*

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**Lillian Tusson** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AH

“Wow, seems like yesterday when Mrs. Owens would be sitting on the porch watching everything in our neighborhood. She was a great neighbor and a wonderful soul! I'll miss seeing her and coming over & porch sitting with her. I'm blessed to have had her be a part of our lives (the mother next door) she will truly be missed! For the family, know that I'm only a phone call away and God will see you through! Love you all.  
Andrea (Vette)

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**Andrea Hill** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BD

“Karen, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not to thine own understanding". My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in these trying times.

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**Bobie Douglas** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DE

“May God Bless each of you during this time of bereavement. May you sense the Lord's loving presence today, keeping you all close to his heart, assuring you of his tender care and covering you with His Grace.  
With Love and Prayer, Denise & William

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**Demetria** - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM