



Ethel Benson

January 26, 1946 - December 8, 2007

Passed away Saturday, December 8, 2007 at the age of 61 years. Funeral service will take place at 12:00 noon Friday, December 14, 2007 at the Wolverine State Baptist Headquarters, 615 S. Jefferson Ave. Pastor Otis Washington will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call at the Holy Communion Gospel Center, 1245 E. Genesee Street, on Thursday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m., where the family will be present at 5:00 p.m. for a family hour. In the early hours of Saturday, December 8, 2007, God peacefully called one of His most faithful soldiers home at the age of 61 years. Born January 26, 1946 in Texarkana, Texas, Ethel "Pearl" Benson was the daughter of the late Gus and Lillie Pearl Butler. She was a graduate of both Saginaw High School class of 1964 and Delta College. She experienced life to the fullest with her husband of 39 years, Eddie Benson, whom she married on August 31, 1968. He survives her. Ethel touched the lives of many. She was co-pastor of the Christ Disciples Baptist Church, a speaker for the United Sisters in Christ and a volunteer for the Safety Net after-school program. Her loving nature, constant smile and warm and wise words will be dearly missed by her husband, Eddie Benson of Saginaw, MI; their three sons, Edward Benson of Boston, MA, Erving Benson of Chicago, IL and Ellison Benson of Saginaw, MI; sisters, Verna Anderson and Pat Butler, both of Chicago, IL; mother-in-law, Johnnie L. DeBardelaben; many nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers and sisters-in-law, other relatives and friends, including her special friends who made her last days more peaceful, Sharon Granderson, Marie

DeBardelaben and Kim Wilson.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ To the family of the late Mrs.Ethel Pearl, my heart goes out to Mr. Eddie and the boys, your wife and mother was a very nice sweet lady who would always have something funny to say when she would see you, just keep the faith and trust in the Lord and everything will be alright, I will keep your family in my prayers, remember God loves you. Michelle

Michelle Blair - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ I am so sad to hear about your mom. Always remember that she was a woman of God, and that He has prepared a beautiful place for her in Heaven. She gave life to wonderful boys and raised you to be strong, loving men. Her smile will always shine through on your face. I send you my thoughts and prayers that you find comfort during this time. Always know that you are loved and cared for dearly.
Love,
Chi-town

Rachel Ash - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ I do not know what to say except that I will miss Pearl. She was a very dear and close friend who could always make me laugh and to me that is priceless as she was. To the family I pray that God strengthens and comforts you all through this difficult time.

Ed & Sharon McKeethen - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of celebration. We understand that it is difficult, but as children of God, we know that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We loved her, but God loved her more. We stand with you as a brother and friend.

*Pastor Charles Coleman
New Faith Temple Church*

Pastor Charles Coleman - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Mom, you were a faithful warrior and soldier for the Lord. Although you will be missed greatly I am glad your finally resting in the bosom of Jesus. You have finally made it to your eteranal resting place. I know your praising God, you have finally recieved your healing. Where you are now there is no pain, sickness, nor disease. Your really finally resting and are at peace with your eternal creator. You taught me well and led me in the right way and I will see you again.

Love Always

Elisha

Elisha Stuckey - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ Now to the family be strong and know that God is able to comfort you in this time of need. Pearl was a warrior and endured to the end. Be encouraged and hold on the God's unchanging hand. Continue to trust Him and everthing will be alright

Elisha - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the family. I remember Sis. Benson's warm smile as I grew up in Tabernacle Baptist Church. She always had an encouraging word and I don't recall ever seeing her sad or disappointed. She was always content with whatever situation the Lord had placed her in. She will be missed. May God grant the family comfort during this time and forever more.

Thea Turner Burress - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Here's hoping you're able to find comfort in happy memories. May you find more peace and strength with passing day.

Please know my sorrow for you loss and you're in my prayers.

Sandra Ruffin

Sandra Ruffin - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ I did not know Mrs. Benson, but her smile will be alive for a long long time on the face of her son Ed. His spirit for life is gift that obviously came from his mother.

My prayers ar with your family.

Shawn McClarnon - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ I'll try to sum up 31 years of friendship.... you are like blood to me, an Aunt because you were always around. A very COOL AUNT, you always made people laugh. The smile, laughter and kind words will always be dear to me. May God see your family and friends through this time. You might have to look on me once in a while with Brennen and Ashtin. Thanks for always asking about them. Lots of Love.

Cretia

Lacretia Petty-Usher - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Eddie,
Our prayers are with you and the Boy's at this time. I hadn't seen you and Ethel in years but when I saw she had passed, I really wanted to remind you that memories don't fade, and neither will Ethel's smile and laughter because you will carry that in your hearts always. You all attended church with my Dad at Tabernacle which seems a life time ago. May the peace of Christ fall upon you all, and may He keep you close in His care. And we'll continue to pray on this end.

Chrissy

Christine Watkins - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *To The Family*

My the bible books of Revelation 21:3 & John 5:28,29 be of great comfort for you in this time.

I remember your wife and mother always telling us to put some of that candy back when we use to go to Al's market to buy candy when we were little kids.

Edward I remember going to Heavenrich with you.

My Deepest Sympathy

Shelbie Williams - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *My love and prayers go out to your family. I wish I had gotten the chance to meet Mrs. Benson. I have learned all about her through conversations with Ellison. She is a source of strength and inspiration to us all, and her life was a gift to this world. You have been and will continue to be on the top of my prayer list. God bless you all.*

Maggie Kaye - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HF

“ *Our deepest thoughts and prayers go out to the family. We will miss Ms. Pearl, she was a great woman of God. May God continue to give you strength and peace.*

Herring Family - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *I will keep your family in my prayers.*

David Hannah - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ *My blessings and prayers are deeply with the Benson Family. My heart goes out to each and every one of you in this time, I just want to let you know that you are one of the strongest families, that I have had the pleasure to be around. Each and everyday I try to mimic my family after yours. I just love the close knit that you guys have and that I'm sure you will continue to have. Once again my heart goes out to you, and if there is any thing or any time you feel the need to talk---I'm here... Love you guys....*
From the bottom of my heart
The Williams Family

Clay - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ *My prayers and deepest sympathies are with you and your family during this time.*

Lisa Wilson - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HP

“ *Ed and family,I struggle to find the right words to speak during this painful hour.Even though thoughtful and loving words of encouragement sometimes soothe the soul. I need you to know my prayers and most deepest sympathy from the bottom of my heart go out to you and your family at this most darkest hour.I will continue to pray for all of you.*

Hughey Phillips - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ Hi Ed:
My sincere and deepest condolences to you and your family. Hang in there and trust God for strength during this time of need.

Love you and will remember you and your family in my prayers.

Keyna & family.

Keyna Samuel - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ *Our Prayer are with you ,you have our deepest sympathy. May God be with you.*

Beverly - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Erving our prayer are with you in this time of need May God be with you.*

Beverly Montgomery - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ *I am sorry for your lost, but your family will be in my prayers.*

*Charity Hoskins
Burnham Anthony school*

Charity Hoskins - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ E.B, you shared many things with me regarding your mom and her antics with raising three sons just to encourage me with my raising four sons (all who adore you). Even though I never met your mom personally, I feel she and I shared a common "motherhood" bond. I know her love for you and your brothers will live on forever in your heart. As a mom, I can say that we DO LOVE OUR BOYS and expect only the best of greatness from them. I'm sure you have done that for your mom!

Love,

Debra Pickett

Debra Pickett - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ My deepest sympathy to the family on your loss. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Dan'iel Kendricks - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ I offer my sincere condolences for the passing of your mother. I never had an opportunity to meet her but I'm sure that if she was anything like you, I would have enjoyed her presence.

Marcus E Jones - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Ed,

Just wanted to take a minute to express my sincere sympathy to you and your family. I always remember you mom with a big smile on her face and with much love in her heart. I know she was very proud of you and your brothers! My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Denise

Denise Schmidt Schofield - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *I will always remember Mrs. Benson as a straight forward no nonsense person who accomplished this with a smile on her face. I always admired the relationship that she and Eddie had and saw it as a great model for others. Finally, if there is evidence of the influence of a mother - it is in her sons who demonstrated many of those same attributes.*

John Brandt - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ We send our most sincere condolences to you and your family. Your mother will always be in your memories forever. I understand your grief. Feel free to contact me at any time just to vent. From what I see in you, Erving, your mother had quite a bit of LOVE for you and the rest of your family.

Call me when you get back to Chicago, at your pace.

God Bless you and I will keep you and your mother forever in my prayers.

Sincerely,

Ms. Rosemary Arias

Rosemary Arias - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family in their time of grief. Ed- I was sorry to read in the paper this week that your Mom had passed. While many memories of our years at Valley get clouded with time, one thing I remember quite well is your positive attitude and smile...both obvious gifts from your Mom. There was never any question that she was very proud of her children and you all were her gift to the rest of us. May God comfort you and yours in the days to come with the assurance that she is safely home with Him.

Bart Hubbell - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ My prayers go out to you and your family. May God be with you and your family.

Jeannette Batie - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Unfortunately, I never had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Benson, but, I do know her son, Erving. If they are anything at all alike (and I think they are), I know she must have had a bright light. That light will always be with us and shine through in her children, family, and close friends. May God bless you all!

Lisa Krotiak - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

YM

“ Dear The Benson Family, A loved one is a special treasure from God. Special treasures will always return to God. Be at peace, there is no better place to be than with Him. He is strong... He is always with us... He is with you and yours today.

Just trust in Him.

Yolanda Morton - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ My condolences go out to the Benson Family. No words can really comfort you. But please know, my deepest prayers and thoughts are with you always. I know words can not heal the pain of losing someone so close and dear! May God give you strength to overcome all your pain. My Prayers are with your family.

Bianca Kazmi - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ To the Benson Family:

I did not have the pleasure of knowing her, but she did a great job in raising EB

My sympathies are with you on your loss. Take comfort in the fact that she will forever live on in your hearts & memories.

Pam Carpenter - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

HA

“ To my dear friend Edward and your Family,

Times like this are very difficult and the right words do not come easily. May your mother's love live on in your memories and bring you peace?

With my deepest sympathy

Howard

Howard H. Atkins - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

VP

“ Eddie and Family:

Knowing Ethel Pearl since growing up at the "old" Tabernacle we had many happy times and conversations == as most everyone have mentioned, I also have known her humor, and when she laughed, you had to laugh along with her; Please remember all the happy times you shared and let them comfort you!

My prayers and those of the other Kemp Family members will be with you all.

Vyethel Kemp Peterson - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ We would like to say to the family that we are praying for you in your time of berevement. For we know that all things work together for the good of them that love the Lord. As long as you keep your hand in his hand, and you don't faint, you will never want for anything. We also know that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. In this time we know that you are hurting but, weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. You all be blessed and we will continue to pray for you all. We also want you to know that we love you and are holding you up before the Lord.
God bless you,
Pastor and Lady Bothuel and family

pastor and sis bothuel - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ My thoughts are many, but my words are few; I can only imagine the smiles, laughter, and warm spirit that Mrs. Benson is now sharing in Heaven!! I have heard many times that the true test of your hard work will shine through those whom you have touched. I can truly say that Mrs. Benson should be smiling on her son Ed from Heaven.

Ed, we have been friends for many years and have shared many laughs while at Dow Corning. I pray that your heart is full knowing that GOD is in control. There is always a mountain to climb or a valley to walk through, but know that GOD is ALWAYS with you.

*My prayers to the Benson Family
Love, Angela Neal*

Angela Neal - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CY

“ TO THE BENSON FAMILY
SORRY FOR YOUR LOST
ETHEL IS TRULY WITH GOD
MY PRAYS ARE FOR THE REST OF THE FAMILY
GOD BLESS YOU
MR BENSON AND SONS
CYNTHIA (CLAY) RUTH

CYNTHIA - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ *Mrs. Benson was such a beautiful person. Her radiant soul shined through her warm contagious smile and gregarious disposition. God blessed us all to have had the privilege of knowing a such a caring and genuine person. What beautiful soul!!!*

Alysa Neal Rickman - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *Mr. Benson,*

Our prayers are with you as you celebrate the life of your mother.

May God wrap His loving arms around you and give you peace.

May His grace be with you now and forever.

JoAnne S. Gray - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Dear Mr. Benson & Family,

Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. I had never met your mom but I can see she did a fantastic job in raising you. I do respect that tremendously. As you know, our universe is a miraculous place and miracles never end!!!!

*Your Friend,
Marie Bonaminio*

Marie Bonaminio & Family - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ *Just wanted to express my sympathy to Ed. Sorry I was unable to make it to visitations or the funeral. Take care and know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Nancy

Nancy Spahr Glady - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ *You will be greatly missed.*

Tara Turner - Velez - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ *To Eddie and Family:*

I hope that you will remember me, I am Becky's cousin and always remember Ethel as she and Becky were running buddies back in the day. I was sorry to learn of her passing but, it seems to me that her life was in order and she will meet everyone at the Pearly Gates.

Peggie

Peggie Lucas - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *May God Bless U all joey Canty*

Jaclyn - December 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM