



Mother Iola Bruce-Williams

January 28, 1930 - August 27, 2013

Our beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, Godmother, First Lady and friend departed this life to be with the Lord on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at her home surrounded by her family rejoicing in the will of God.

Born in Ellendale, Tennessee to the late Zealus and Olivia Bruce, she was the second oldest child of five siblings. She married Rev. Herbert J. Williams on June 17, 1950 and recently celebrated 63 years of marriage. To this union was born five (5) children: 2 sets of twins, Reginald LaMont and Regina LaMethia, Herbert J., Hubert J. and Olivia Arnice. Mother Williams was the grandmother of ten (10) "Grandma's babies" and eleven (11) great-grandchildren (Grandma's precious babies").

Mother attended Grade School in the city of Detroit, Michigan. She graduated from Northeastern High School, attended Detroit Bible College, and was certified in Sunday School Administration. She attended Highland Park Community College and attended Wayne State University. She graduated Cum Laude from Saginaw Valley State University with a B.A. in Sociology and Psychology and completed the Master's Program at Central Michigan University in Marriage and Family Therapy.

She was the epitome of a pastor's wife for 63 years. She was the 1st Lady of

Greater Williams Temple (Saginaw) and Jackson Memorial Temple (Flint). She was the “Queen” of the North Central Jurisdiction of Michigan for thirty-five (35) years alongside her husband, Bishop Herbert J. Williams.

Mother Williams loved to read, sew and was an excellent cook. She was an excellent homemaker. She always had a deep concern for Black families with an emphasis on parenting and relationships.

Mother Williams’ church work started at the age of fourteen. Her home church was Seth Temple in Detroit, Michigan under the leadership of the late Bishop J. S. Bailey which she dearly loved and supported. She never forgot her roots of holiness. She always wanted to see the saints do their very best in whatever tasks assigned to them. She expected the best because we serve an “awesome” God.

An excellent role model for all women whether in the church or not. A woman of God that was admired for her beauty, strength, integrity, honesty and godliness.

She was predeceased by her parents, Zealus and Olivia Bruce; and one brother, Vernon Bruce, Rochester, New York.

Mother leaves to cherish, her beloved husband of 63 years, Bishop Herbert J. Williams, Sr.; five children, Reginald LaMont (Pia), Dallas, Texas, Regina LaMethia (Stanley) Mobley, Ypsilanti, Michigan, Herbert J. (Ava), VanBuren Township, Hubert J., and Olivia Arnice, Saginaw, Michigan; two brothers, George (Archie) Bruce and Jessie James Bruce, both of Rochester, New York; one sister, Mattie Smith, Detroit, Michigan; special Godchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Burbank Scott II; special daughters, Missionary Mary Williams (Adjutant Sister) and Mother Myrtis Williams, Flint, Michigan; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and Godchildren.

Family hour will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at Greater Williams Temple C.O.G.I.C., 608 E. Remington, with the funeral commencing at 12:00 Noon. Bishop R. L. Williams, Sr. will officiate with entombment in Oakwood Memorial Mausoleum. Friends may call at the church on Tuesday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Memorial Mausoleum

5950 Gratiot
Saginaw, MI 48603

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 3. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Greater Williams Temple C.O.G.I.C.
608 E. Remington Street
Saginaw, MI

Family Hour

SEP 4. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Greater Williams Temple C.O.G.I.C.
608 E. Remington Street
Saginaw, MI

Service

SEP 4. 12:00 PM (ET)

Greater Williams Temple C.O.G.I.C.
608 E. Remington Street
Saginaw, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Evans & Browne's Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mother Lola Bruce-Williams*



Browne's Mortuary - August 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *Troy and Renee (Howell) White*



Renee White - October 22, 2013 at 04:23 PM

TG

“ *Tresia Givens lit a candle in memory of Mother Lola Bruce-Williams*



Tresia Givens - September 11, 2013 at 12:54 PM

RH

“ September 4, 2013

*“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body,
and to be present with the Lord.”
2 Corinthians 5:8*

To the family of the late lola Bruce Williams,

Sympathy is extended in your time of grief for the loss of your mother. She was loved by all who knew her. She has labored hard and long and has received her promised rest.

Remember that your lost is shared by many friends who care, and that you are in our hearts, our thoughts, and our every prayer. May you find the courage to face tomorrow in the love that surrounds you today. May the love of friends and family be a source of comfort to you at this time.

*“I have fought a good fight,
I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith”
2 Timothy 4:6*

*Rev. James L. Headd,
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
Loafoma Road, Louisville, Mississippi*

Rev. James Headd - September 05, 2013 at 12:03 PM

BM

“ *Bernice McGlothin lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Bernice McGlothin - September 04, 2013 at 07:42 PM

LO

“ *Leah O'Daniels lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Leah O'Daniels - September 04, 2013 at 02:12 PM

BG

“ *Please accept our sincere condolences in the passing of Mother Iola Bruce Williams. We will remember you in our prayers during this time of bereavement. Should you need us for anything, just let us know. May God bless you with peace and strength.*

*Bishop Gerald O. and Mother Marcietia S. Glenn
New Deliverance Evangelistic Church, North Chesterfield, VA*

Bishop Gerald O. Glenn - September 04, 2013 at 01:48 PM

JS

“ *Jamie Sanders-Hicks lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Jamie Sanders-Hicks - September 04, 2013 at 01:01 PM

SC

“ Another pillar of this Saginaw Church Community has gone on to be with the Lord. On behalf of the Barnes Family, you have our prayers and condolences. God Bless you Bishop, Reggie, Regina, Olivia, Huey, and Herbert.

Sheila (Barnes) Chapman

Sheila Chapman - September 04, 2013 at 09:26 AM

MC

“ Michael & Sheila Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mother Lola Bruce-Williams



Michael & Sheila Chapman - September 04, 2013 at 09:20 AM

NA

“ To Bishop Herbert Williams & Family:
We, the members of the Brotherhood of All Nations Church of God in Christ, want the family of Mother Lola Bruce-Williams to know that our hearts are with you as we gather to bid a Christian good-bye to a woman of faith and a willing worker for Christ.
We are encouraged and consoled in the words of Jesus who said. "I will never leave you nor forsake thee".
We know your loss is deep and your sorrow is great, but we want you to know that we share in you sorrow, but more importantly, we recognize that this loss is Heaven's gain.

*Bishop James E. Atterberry, Sr.
First Lady Helen Atterberry,
& The Members of the Brotherhood of All Nations COGIC*

Nina Atterberry - September 04, 2013 at 08:10 AM



“ *Bishop Herbert Williams, may God's peace be with you and your family. Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. Our prayer's are with you.*

Evangelist OJ & Mrs. Flo Harrison, Newark, Delaware

Olander Harrison - September 03, 2013 at 07:05 PM

BC

“ *Bishop James Gaylord & Kelly Temple COGI sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother lola Bruce-Williams*



Bishop James Gaylord & Kelly Temple COGI - September 03, 2013 at 06:21 PM

JD

“ *May God bless you Bishop H.J. Williams and Family, especially Huey, Olivia, and Regina. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God give you peace and comfort during this hour.*

Elder Jacina Davis, The Daughters of Zion

Jacina Davis - September 03, 2013 at 05:09 PM

LB

“ *God bless Bishop H.J. Williams and family during this time of sorrow. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Linda S. Brooks - September 03, 2013 at 11:36 AM

DW

“ *Deborah Williams lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Deborah Williams - September 02, 2013 at 08:15 PM

GM

“ *Bishop Herbert J. Williams and the entire Williams Family,*

I am so sorry for your great loss. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Your wife and mother was a great woman of God and I will never forget her.

*Sincerely,
Gwendolyn Moore
Seth Temple C.O.G.I.C.*

Gwendolyn Moore - September 02, 2013 at 05:47 PM

JH

“ *Joyce Harvin lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Joyce Harvin - September 02, 2013 at 04:13 PM

MP

“ To Bishop H J Williams and the Williams family you have our heartfelt sympathy and prayers. Mother will highly be missed by us and many more, But: God proved to us He too loves the (Best). Love! Solid Rock COGIC Mother Delorese Payton and Church Family The Late Elder Lester Payton and Pastor and Founder

Mother Delorese Payton - September 02, 2013 at 09:57 AM

PC

“ *Life is but a stopping place
A pause in what's to be
A resting place along the road
To sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant
to learn some things,
But never meant to stay...
Our destination is a place
Far greater than we know.
For some, the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord.*

May the Lord our God continue raining his blessings upon you and your family. We are sending you our prayers during these days of life's changes.

The Champion/Head Family

*Pat, LaMethia & Kids, Gregory, James Lee, Nathan, Christine,
Dwight,*

*19129 Tracey * Detroit, Michigan 48235*

PATRICIA CHAMPION - September 01, 2013 at 11:38 AM

&O

“ & Evang. Youngblood, Okinawa lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams



& Evang. Youngblood, Okinawa - August 31, 2013 at 11:35 PM

LF

“ Dr. Ron & First Lady Georgette Frierson and New Covenant Christian Center Church sends their heart felt love and prayers of condolence to Bishop H. J. Williams and the entire Family. Mother Williams was a woman of high class and godly character. She will truly be missed.

Lady Georgette Frierson - August 31, 2013 at 07:52 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams.



August 31, 2013 at 07:43 PM

JG

“ Mother Williams was a great support to our family. I remember when my mother was in the hospital and had to miss my high school graduation Mother Williams and Bishop came to show their support as my family. She will be greatly missed by our family. We will always keep the Williams family in prayer. Sincerely The Glass Family & Joyce Glass-Staves

Joyce Glass-Staves - August 31, 2013 at 03:14 PM

DH

“ From Pastor Charles & Missionary Donna Hawthorne and the entire Labor of Love Church, our hearts go out to Bishop Williams and Family. Mother Williams was a true Woman of God, and a Lady of style and grace. Know that you are in our prays and hearts.

Donna Hawthorne - August 31, 2013 at 10:19 AM

LJ

“ Lela And Wilson Jones lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams



Lela and Wilson Jones - August 30, 2013 at 07:21 PM

SC

“ Sandra D. Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams



Sandra D. Chapman - August 30, 2013 at 07:06 PM

VK

“ Verna Kenebrew lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams



Verna Kenebrew - August 30, 2013 at 05:48 PM

RF

“ *Russell Fairris lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Russell Fairris - August 30, 2013 at 05:35 PM

RM

“ *Ramona Mems lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Ramona Mems - August 30, 2013 at 12:10 PM

LV

“ *Linda A. Veasley lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Linda A. Veasley - August 30, 2013 at 10:43 AM

MW

“ *Mother Iola Bruce Williams(mama), I miss and love you so much, it was a honor to serve you through out the years, such a great woman of God, There is no one like you....God bless Bishop H.J. Williams and the entire family.*

Mary Williams

Mary Williams - August 30, 2013 at 10:05 AM

MA

Its been a month now since mama been gone, and I can repeat her words " If he(God) bring you to it, he will take you through it" I miss her so much, I have good days and some days are kinda of rough, I remember so many great things about her, she never complained, she always had a encouraging word... She was One in a Million

mary - September 29, 2013 at 11:50 PM

JY

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Willaims Family. May Gob Bless you all with strength during this sorrowful time. (And Geannie MY Sister- Be Strong) We love you.!

Joyce Young
St. Joe Mercey Hospital

joyce A. Young - August 30, 2013 at 07:54 AM

PR

“ Pastor Terry Randolph and the Gethsemane MBC would like for the family to know that you all have our sincere condolences during the homegoing of your loved one. Praying for your strength in the Lord during this time.

Pastor Terry Randolph - August 30, 2013 at 01:56 AM

DW

“ Deborah Williams lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams



Deborah Williams - August 30, 2013 at 12:55 AM

PF

“ *Pastor Robert L. Ford along with the entire member of Greater Faith Transition Church bear the sorrow and grief that all love ones feel during this time of bereavement. May God's love guide your family during this time of sorrow and may you find comfort in His care,..... praying for the family*

*Humbly Submitted
Pastor Robert L. Ford
Ypsilanti, MI. 48198*

Pastor Robert L. Ford - August 29, 2013 at 11:39 PM

EM

“ *My prayers and condolences goes out to the Williams family. May the God of peace comfort you in your hour of sorrow.
Evangelist Yvonne McLemore*

Evangelist Yvonne McLemore - August 29, 2013 at 11:01 PM

EM

“ *My prayers and condolences goes out to the Williams family. May the God of peace comfort you in your hour of sorrow.
Evangelist Yvonne McLemore*

Evangelist Yvonne McLemore - August 29, 2013 at 11:01 PM

CK

“ *Our sincere condolences to Bishop H.J. Williams and the Williams family on the home-going of our First Lady Iola Bruce-Williams. Words cannot express the love and kindness she always gave to us. She was a true example of a Godly woman. We'll always love and miss her.*

Charlotte and Chyna Kelly - August 29, 2013 at 10:18 PM



“ *T Marie Marshall lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



T Marie Marshall - August 29, 2013 at 09:19 PM

RH

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Renee Hawkins-Morris - August 29, 2013 at 09:17 PM

SS

“ *Sharon(Shell) Smith lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Sharon(Shell) Smith - August 29, 2013 at 08:03 PM

EB

“ *Elder Scott Bliss lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Elder Scott Bliss - August 29, 2013 at 07:06 PM

MF

“ *Minister Brazil And Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Minister Brazil and family - August 29, 2013 at 06:07 PM

MF

From Minister Brazil and family

Minister Brazil and family - August 29, 2013 at 06:08 PM

AH

“ *Dear Family, I am deeply sorry to hear of the loss of your dear loved one. May Almighty God Jehovah's love guide your family during this time of sorrow and may you find comfort in His care. (1 Cor. 1:3,4)*



Anne H. - August 29, 2013 at 05:10 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams.*



August 29, 2013 at 03:29 PM

EW

“ *Elder James Weston lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Elder James Weston - August 29, 2013 at 03:11 PM

LB

“ *Leon, Carolyn & Laressa Batson lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Leon, Carolyn & Laressa Batson - August 29, 2013 at 01:39 PM

G

“ *Will always remember the support Mother Williams and Bishop gave our family when we lost our loved ones. Mother Williams will be missed and we are praying for the family as they go through this time of seeing Mother get home and where we all strive to be one day.*

George Miller - August 29, 2013 at 01:25 PM

GJ

“ *Gloria Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Gloria Jenkins - August 29, 2013 at 11:29 AM

EC

“ *My other mommy has joined my mommy in heaven. Oh how heaven rejoices and we mourn. To my other Family, Bishop, Reggie, Regina, Huey, Herbie, and Olivia, you all are in my prayers. Just as you all prayed and loved us through we will pray and love you all through.*

Dorla Elaine Coleman-Bonner

Elaine Coleman - August 29, 2013 at 09:14 AM

EC

“ *Elder William D. Cooper, Dallas, TX lit a candle in memory of Mother Lola Bruce-Williams*



Elder William D. Cooper, Dallas, TX - August 28, 2013 at 11:13 PM

LI

“ *Dear Williams Family and Friends,
I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear loved one. Please accept my sincere condolences. I too have lost several loved ones in death, and the pain is tremendous, even with the passage of time. Thankfully, I have found relief in knowing that "The Most High God" is the "Hearer of Prayer", and a source of tremendous comfort in times of grief and distress according to Psalms 83:18, and Psalms 65:2. Please be assured , death will soon be "swallowed up forever" and we will have the opportunity to see our dead loved ones again, as promised at John 5:28.29 and Isaiah 25:8. My family and I wish you and yours peace.*

Lisa - August 28, 2013 at 09:56 PM

NJ

“ *Natalie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Natalie Johnson - August 28, 2013 at 01:54 PM

DA

“ *Darrell lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



darrell - August 28, 2013 at 12:20 PM

DA

“ *May the grace of God be with you even now the more. The Sun my not be shinning right now, just know that thee Son is always shinning!! love Bro Darrell Clay*

darrell - August 28, 2013 at 12:18 PM

DW

“ *Diane Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Diane Williams - August 28, 2013 at 12:09 PM

RP

“ Raymond & Lynn Presley lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams



Raymond & Lynn Presley - August 28, 2013 at 12:05 PM

DP

“ Dorothy Price lit a candle in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams



Dorothy Price - August 28, 2013 at 11:52 AM

MP

“ My first First Lady! You have always been so precious to me, words could never express the Love and Adoration I have for this Woman of God. The warmth and care you have shown for each and everyone of your daughters in Christ has had such a positive impact on our lives its invaluable! You will truly be missed Mother Viola Williams, (awesome Woman of God) now take your rightful place at the foot of the King!



Love Robin W. Prescott & Family

Maurice-Robin Prescott - August 28, 2013 at 11:29 AM

MF

“ *Maurice-Robin Prescott & Family lit a candle
in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Maurice-Robin Prescott & Family - August 28, 2013 at 11:16 AM

MD

“ *Missionary Pamela J. Dottery sent a virtual gift
in memory of Mother Iola Bruce-Williams*



Missionary Pamela J. Dottery - August 28, 2013 at 09:13 AM