



## Melissa Steele

January 11, 1910 - April 3, 2005

Steele, Mrs. Melissa Saginaw, Michigan. Funeral service will take place at 1:00 p.m. Friday, April 8, 2005 at the Corinthian Baptist Church, 104 South 10th Street. Rev. Roy Manning, Pastor. Pastor Tim Kurtz will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call at the church on Friday from 9:00 a.m. until time of service.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MELISSA STEELE Melissa Steele was born January 11, 1910 in Eastman Georgia to Andrew J. and Cleyon Kurtz. She went home to her Lord Sunday, April 3, 2005 in Albion, Michigan. In September of 1929 she moved to Albion, Michigan where she united with Bethel Missionary Baptist Church under the late Reverend C.G. Young. While there, she was active in the Sunday School, BTU , Choir and missions. Because of employment opportunities, she moved to Jackson in 1932 and immediately united with Second Baptist Church. It was there that she met and married Richard J. Hart. This marriage was short lived when Mr. Hart became ill and passed away July 12, 1936. Mrs. Steele worked throughout her life to improve her education. She completed High School, and then took many hours of evening classes in her quest to attend college. Her dream was realized in 1941 when she entered Georgia Baptist Junior College in Macon, Georgia. While in Georgia, she met and married Rev. Otis J. Steele. They moved back to Albion where Rev. Steele became the pastor of Mrs. Steele 'home' church – Bethel Missionary Baptist. As the First Lady of the church, she continued to be active in several auxiliaries. In 1944, Mrs. Steele and her husband prayerfully accepted a 'Macedonian' call in Saginaw,

Michigan from Zion Baptist Church. It was while in Saginaw that Pastor Otis and Mrs. Melissa Steele organized Corinthian Baptist Church. It was a labor of love for them, and it still thrives today. She was the chairperson and instructor for the Saginaw Valley Baptist District Ministers Wives and Widows for many years. There is no way possible to write of all that Mrs. Steele accomplished spiritually, educationally and socially in her 95 years of life in this obituary. Each of our personal memories of her must become the book where her life must etched. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Otis J. Steele; parents, her sisters, and seven of her brothers. She is survived by one brother, Willie Kurtz of Arcadia, Louisiana. Although she had no biological children, she leaves to cherish her memory her 'special daughter', Lula Belvin of Saginaw, Michigan, in addition to a host of nieces, nephews and friends.