



## Mother Ruby Burnell

January 31, 1918 - February 15, 2020

“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord” (2nd Corinthians 5:8)

At the precious age of 102 years, our dear, sweet, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother, Ruby Mae Burnell surrounded by her family, transitioned from this earthly Life to be with the Lord on Saturday, February 15, 2020.

Ruby was born on January 31, 1918 in Taylorsville, Mississippi to Edward and Cora Sullivan. She is the 10th child of eleven children, Tom (Ruth), Sarah (Johnny), Liddell (Kennis), Roosevelt, Edward (Hannah), Mary Jane (Sam), Mattie (Eddie), Corine (Reger), A.J. (Ardell) and George (Ora Mae). She shared many fond childhood memories of growing up with her siblings on 600 acres owned by her father where they worked and lived on the land; cutting timber, farming, hunting and fishing. Ruby assisted her mother, who was the local mid-wife and provided care for her grandmother, who lived to be 116 years of age. Ruby gave birth to ten beautiful children, Jettye (George), Bobbie Ray (Ethel), Clifton (Clara), Irene, Mattie, Mary Dell (Clyde), Herschel, Jr. (Jerri), Shirley, Barbara (Ron), and Donald (Jackie). She was married to Cleveland Cooper, he preceded her in death in 1950. She later married Herschel Burnell, who preceded her in death in 1969. Ruby loved and lived for her children. She was the heart and soul of the family. Also, she was the very

proud grandmother of 32 grandchildren, 65 great-grandchildren and 25 great-great-grandchildren.

Although Ruby had an eighth-grade education, she was an avid reader. Her bed was covered with bibles, books, commentaries, cookbooks, word puzzles and newspapers. Ruby also mastered in the art of cooking and baking. She was known through-out the city for her “Hot Tamales,” Pound Cakes, Peach Cobblers, and her Golden Chicken ~N~ Dumplings. People came from miles around to feast on the master chef’s “good home cooking”. God gifted Ruby’s hands to succeed at whatever she touched; from making dollies in the 60’s to establishing a small home business in 2010. Ruby retired from Saginaw Community Hospital (Health Source) after serving for 30 years as a Nurses’ Assistant.

As a child, Ruby was raised in a devout Baptist home, however; coming to Michigan, she was drawn to Christ through the influence of her son, Herschel who would cry every Sunday to go to his god-mother’s (Mother Sarah Barnes) church, Williams Temple. After taking her son to church, Ruby embraced “Holiness” by accepting the Lord as her Personal Savior and was never the same. Mother Burnell was a dedicated, faithful member of Greater Williams Temple C.O.G.I.C., serving for over sixty-seven years. Ruby was emeritized as Mother of the Church. She had served as President of the Mother’s Board, Head of Kitchen Services, Sewing Circle President, Anniversary Captain, the an Usher Board member as well as other auxiliaries and ministries at the church. Ruby’s legacy epitomizes a Woman of Faith; her life is an example of how to live for God, and her longevity is one of strength and endurance. Ruby’s spirit of giving could be matched by none. She gave freely of her time, energy and resources to meet the needs of many.

Ruby leaves to cherish her memory six children, Mary Dell, Rose (John) Burnell Thornton, Herschel, Shirley, Barbara and Don; grandchildren, great-

grandchildren; great-great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends including special god-children, Elder James (Ava) Weston, Mary, Judy Dunn and Zaynaya Bady.

Mrs. Burnell was preceded in death by her parents, Ed and Cora Sullivan; six children, Jettye, Bobbie Ray, Clifton, Irene, Mattie and Bill Burnell; several grandchildren; Ruby-Jean, Katrina and Andria and other great-grandchildren and ten siblings.

The family would like to express special thanks to Barbie, R.N. and Katy, Bath Aide from Grace Hospice, Cindy, R.N. from Visiting Nurses, special care givers: Lois Price, Jean Haller, and Carolyn. The visiting home ministry of GreaterWilliams Temple: Mother Connie Ramsey, Sis. Mary Ross, Sis. Nellie McCulloth, Miss'y Mary and Judy Dunn. Thank you for the services rendered, along with the care and support you provided, we will never forget your labor of love.

Finally, the entire family would like to thank a very special person, Jackie M. Burnell, our sister-in-law for her availing dedicated care and service to our mother. Jackie, we will never forget how you welcomed our mother into your home and worked tirelessly to support Don in providing her care.

Family hour will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 22, 2020 at Greater Williams Temple C.O.G.I.C., 608 E. Remington Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48601 with the funeral service commencing at 11:00 a.m. Supt. Arthur Aikin, Sr. will officiate with interment in Oakwood Memorial Mausoleum, 5950 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, Michigan 48603. Friends may call at the funeral home on Friday from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Memorial Mausoleum

5950 Gratiot  
Saginaw, MI 48603

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **21**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Evans & Browne's Funeral Home  
441 N. Jefferson Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
(989) 754-0481  
evansbrownes@gmail.com  
<https://www.evansbrownesfuneralhome.com>

## Family Hour

FEB **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

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FEB **22**. 11:00 AM (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 Ruby Burnell* ”



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**Browne's Mortuary** - February 28, 2020 at 10:46 AM

MB

“ *Michelle Bishop-Dawkins lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell* ”



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**Michelle Bishop-Dawkins** - February 24, 2020 at 08:42 PM

DM

“ *Derrell Martin lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell* ”



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**Derrell Martin** - February 24, 2020 at 06:23 PM

LC

“ *Condolences to the family. I spent my early years two doors down from this wonderful lady on eighth street. Miss Ruby was a mother to all of us on the block. Much love*  
*Dr Lawrence Crawford*

lawrence crawford - February 23, 2020 at 02:11 PM

SR

“ *Mother Burnell, such a beautiful, inspiring and GODLY Lady... May Almighty GOD continue to BLESS each and everyone of your love ones. AMEN 🙏*



Stephanie Terry Rohelia - February 22, 2020 at 10:01 AM

JS

“ *Jamie Sanders-Hicks lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



Jamie Sanders-Hicks - February 22, 2020 at 08:58 AM

GP

“ *A Rose for a Beautiful Mother, My Deepest Condolences to The Family*



Gwendolyn Perry - February 22, 2020 at 08:50 AM

GB

“ *Gwen Bowman lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Gwen Bowman** - February 22, 2020 at 01:07 AM

KS

“ *Condolences from the Mannie Family. We loved Irene and your entire Family. Herscel, my Brother Wayne and me were certainly RUNNING BUDDIES. Celebrate her life knowing the Love and Respect from ours. God Bless*

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**Kenneth "Ray" Mannie Sr** - February 22, 2020 at 12:09 AM

LO

“ *Leah O'Daniels lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Leah O'Daniels** - February 21, 2020 at 08:42 PM

CB

“ *Charline Bodiford lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Charline Bodiford** - February 21, 2020 at 06:49 PM

JP

“ *Joyce Phillips-Stanley lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Joyce Phillips-Stanley** - February 21, 2020 at 10:52 AM

DB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Don Burnell** - February 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM

JG

“ *My prayers and thoughts are with the Burnell. Mother Burnell was a great woman of God and she was like a mother to me and so many others. I miss her terrible.*



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**Joyce Glass-Staves** - February 21, 2020 at 07:36 AM

DT

“ *Earth has NO sorrow that Heaven cannot heal! D. Sharese Terry*

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**D. Sharese Terry** - February 20, 2020 at 10:56 PM



“ *Nedra Ann RileyWilliams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



Nedra Ann RileyWilliams - February 20, 2020 at 08:23 PM



“ *Debbie Lynn Cooper-Isom sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



Debbie Lynn Cooper-Isom - February 20, 2020 at 08:00 PM



“ *My prayers are with the family of Mr. Ruby. I have so many great memories of her and my mother(Ada Jackson) . They shared so many stories about us their kids. A great women!!*



Michelle Livingston - February 20, 2020 at 04:27 PM



“ *Idella & Lynn Meanes lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



Idella & Lynn Meanes - February 20, 2020 at 04:23 PM

JW

“ *Jean Willis lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Jean Willis** - February 20, 2020 at 02:15 PM

CM

“ *Charlotte McMillan-Harper lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Charlotte McMillan-Harper** - February 20, 2020 at 08:57 AM

TV

“ *Trudy Vaughn sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Trudy Vaughn** - February 20, 2020 at 07:43 AM

JT

“ *Aunt Ruby May you rest in God. You will forever be in our hearts. You reminds me of my grandmother Mary Jane your sister. My prayers and love is with our family .... Your Great Niece Judy 🙏🙏*

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**Judy Thompson-Golden** - February 19, 2020 at 08:50 PM

CH

“ *Your light shall remain to shine on our family, we will pick up where you left off. I love you Granny... Say hello to everyone for me* 😊



**Candice Henderson** - February 19, 2020 at 08:06 PM

CH

“ *Candice, Debonaire, and Zion Henderson. We love you Granny. It's a celebration, you are with the Father... Rest in full Peace. You are missed Granny...*



**Candice Henderson** - February 19, 2020 at 08:04 PM

NM

“ *Natalie McLaurin-Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



**Natalie McLaurin-Johnson** - February 19, 2020 at 06:33 PM

LE

“ *LUCY ERBY lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



**LUCY ERBY** - February 19, 2020 at 03:00 PM

HF

“ *Hollis Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Hollis Family** - February 19, 2020 at 12:22 PM

DM

“ *Deborah Morris-Williams lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Deborah Morris-Williams** - February 19, 2020 at 11:49 AM

BM

“ *My condolences to the family. God bless you all.*



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**Bernadette Magee** - February 19, 2020 at 11:35 AM

CK

*Praying for you all , we the Hatten family send our love and prayers . We will always cherish the lifetime of memories*

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**Cynthia Knight** - February 19, 2020 at 11:49 AM

TF

“ *The Cooper Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**The Cooper Family** - February 18, 2020 at 08:14 PM

CC

“ *Cooper Family*



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**C. Cooper** - February 18, 2020 at 08:12 PM

KH

“ *Kunitha Hicks-Peterson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Kunitha Hicks-Peterson** - February 18, 2020 at 08:01 PM

JM

*MY sincere condolences to the Burnell Family, Mother RUBY will truly be Missed.*

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**Joy McWright** - February 18, 2020 at 09:52 PM

JS

“ Jackie Sangster lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell



Jackie Sangster - February 18, 2020 at 07:14 PM

SI

“ SiroccaSangster lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell



SiroccaSangster - February 18, 2020 at 07:12 PM

RG

“ Rochelle Gilmer lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell



Rochelle Gilmer - February 18, 2020 at 06:37 PM

AM

“ Audrey McKandes sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell



Audrey McKandes - February 18, 2020 at 06:15 PM

NM

“ *Norma McLaurin lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



Norma McLaurin - February 18, 2020 at 04:58 PM

NM

*With love to the family knowing mother is now resting in God's hand.*

Norma McLaurin - February 18, 2020 at 05:00 PM

CL

“ *Sorry for your loss . known that she is in gods hands now. Cliff Leavitt and Judy dominowski*



Cliff leavitt - February 18, 2020 at 02:51 PM

BW

“ *Bernice Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



Bernice Williams - February 18, 2020 at 01:59 PM

RV

“ Robert And Linda Veasley lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell



Robert and Linda Veasley - February 18, 2020 at 09:49 AM



“ Doloris Mixon lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell



Doloris Mixon - February 18, 2020 at 08:41 AM

BM

“ Bernice McGlothin sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell



Bernice McGlothin - February 17, 2020 at 08:19 PM

BE

“ Becky Edwards lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell



Becky Edwards - February 17, 2020 at 08:14 PM

VM

“ *Veronica McClain lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



Veronica McClain - February 17, 2020 at 06:11 PM

BW

“ *Bernice Williams sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



Bernice Williams - February 17, 2020 at 04:10 PM

FF

“ *Felicia Badger & Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



Felicia Badger & Family - February 17, 2020 at 04:09 PM

SF

“ *Sue & Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



Sue & Family - February 17, 2020 at 04:08 PM

JK

“ *Janice Kemp-Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Janice Kemp-Anderson** - February 17, 2020 at 01:11 PM

MF

“ *Mannie Family lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Mannie Family** - February 17, 2020 at 12:45 PM

TF

“ *The Mannie Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**The Mannie Family** - February 17, 2020 at 12:44 PM

VS

“ *Vermell Sangster lit a candle in memory of Mother Ruby Burnell*



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**Vermell Sangster** - February 17, 2020 at 11:48 AM

CB

*Thank God and each of you for sharing mother Ruby with me. My life is the better for it*

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**Chaplin Joseph Bady** - February 18, 2020 at 10:08 AM

RF

*Blessings and love to my childhood friend and classmate Barbara. May the memories of your beautiful Mother give you, Shirley, your siblings and the entire family peace and comfort.*

*Love, Rhonda Farrell-Butler and Leola Wilson.*

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**Rhonda Farrell-Butler** - February 21, 2020 at 09:54 PM