



Willie Merkerson

January 4, 1916 - January 5, 2008

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, January 10, 2008 at Prince of Peace Missionary Baptist Church, 725 N. 24th Street. Pastor R. B. Corley, Jr. will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call at the church on Wednesday from 1:00 until 8:00 p.m. where the family will be present from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. for the Family Hour. Our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, sister and aunt went home to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Saturday, January 5, 2008. Our mother was born on January 4, 1916 in Port Gibson, MS to William G. and Susie (Childress) Wilson. Willie Mae graduated with honors from Wechler High School in Meridian, MS. She also attended Alcorn A.M. College, Michigan State University and Wayne State University where she majored in Early Childhood Development. Willie Mae Merkerson married Rev. K. M. Merkerson who preceded her in death after 38 years of marriage. Willie Mae retired from the Saginaw County Child Development Center, Inc. after 13 years as a social worker. She was President of the Saginaw Valley Baptist Association-Woman's Auxiliary for 35 years and of the Wolverine State Baptist Woman's Auxiliary for 17 years. Mother Merkerson received an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Urban Bible Institute in Detroit, MI and was a lifetime member of the NAACP, the National Baptist Convention Woman's Auxiliary, USA, Inc., and was listed among "Who's Who Among Black Women?" in 1976 by the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. As a convention delegate, she traveled extensively to many places, including

Europe, the Bahamas, Canada, Switzerland and within the U.S.A. She received many awards of honor for community services. For 50 years, Mother Merkerson was a faithful member of the Prince of Peace Missionary Baptist Church, which was organized by her husband, the late Rev. K. M. Merkerson and now pastored by Rev. Robert B. Corley, Jr. Mother served faithfully in Sunday School, Mission, on the Mother's Board and as the church pianist. She leaves to cherish her memory, four sons, Marvin L. (Deborah) Pierce, Flint, MI, Theodore Braddock, Ivan C. (Odie) Pierce, and Nathan Merkerson; a daughter, Mary E. Jacobs, all of Saginaw, MI; four stepchildren, Irene, Lucille, Jeanette and Geraldine; 19 grandchildren; 22 great-children; 12 great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Canary Mayo and Naomi Mason, both of Chicago, IL; two sisters-in-law, Leola Wilson of Saginaw, MI and Algae Mae Wilson of Benton Harbor, MI; a host of nieces, nephews and cousins; three godchildren, the Prince of Peace Missionary Baptist Church Family and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband; both parents; four brothers; one sister and two grandchildren.

Tribute Wall

“Granny,

You loved your family well. You wouldn't let New York still us away and put us in fostercare when our mother was AWOL due to sickness. You provided for us. One of my earliest memories was of you ironing as I woke up from a nap on the "dufole" with you uttering something like "I'll be John Brown," as you watched in amazement at the funeral procession of either Dr. Martin Luther King or President John F. Kennedy on t.v. Everyone thinks I should have been too young to remember something like that. I must have been age 3 or 4. I remember adorning Paw Paw's feet while he was in his lounging chair. I remember how you dressed me up like Shirley Temple and sent me off to Kindergarten at Potter Elementary School. I remember running away from a very cute admirer who was accompanied by friends who hastened the "chase." I escaped because they didn't know that my father's brand new fiance lived nearby! Odie let me in and I played with Frisky, her Chiwawa. I remember being rescued by dad when your house caught fire. He took us next door to your friend and neighbor Mrs. Garrett's house. On the way I saw the fireman ask Beaday who lived in the apartment upstairs above your house to jump off of the roof into the large trampoline. She didn't. I missed riding tricycles with De De her daughter after that. Beaday had pearced my hears the old fashion way once... I remember when Odie married my dad in your house and you sent us off with a blessing and prayer to live in our new home on Annesley Street. We ended up adopting our neighbors (the Coopers) into our rather huge family. You always saw to it that all of the girls experienced the Easter Sunday luncheon...that was our ettiquette. As God elevated you, no one was left behind...you carried us all with you as God used you greatly even beyond the state of Michigan while you were serving as vice president and president of the Wolverine State Baptist Convention Women's Auxilliary. No matter how God used you, you still played the piano for us at Prince of Peace and taught Sunday School lesson sometimes...You made sure all the girls new how to cook for Paw Paw...clean the house...You even went a step further with me... You gave me your Sweet Potato recipe when I got married along with

*alot of other tips... You treated Ray like your natural son. You had a way of making everybody feel right at home. You saw me through each birth...I still have your many letters... You kept up with all of us by phone when you stopped traveling...and would give us a mighty welcome spread whenever we came to town... Visiting with you, talking to you by phone, what sweet fellowship even when getting a tongue lashing! Thank you Granny for all of your advice, love and prayerful support. We will miss you Granny, but look forward to joining you at the appointed time because of our faith in Jesus Christ. I will always treasure all of the time well-spent with you all the way up to the end. Thank you Granny...you chastened whom you loved and fully expect for all of your family to get right, continue to live today like there's no tomorrow, living right, doing right, loving right, dying right...then all truly will be well when we meet again.
Thank you Granny*

Esther L. Satchell - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Dearest Cousins,

My prayers and thoughts are with you on the loss your mother (my Aunt Willie). You were truly blessed to have Aunt Willie for so long as a guide in your lives and those of your children. In reading the many wonderful tributes from those who knew her best, I am struck by the awesome influence she had on the lives of others. I believe we can best honor her life and legacy by continuing to strive for excellence in our own lives and thus becoming a positive force in the lives of our own children and grandchildren. In that way, the legacy will continue for generations to come and need never die. May you each find true comfort and peace in knowing that Aunt Willie truly fought the good fight. She is now enjoying her eternal reward and resting in peace with her heavenly Father, Big Mama, Papa, Jimmy, Ted, Junior, Gus, and Grace. Just thinking about that family reunion makes my heart smile.

God bless you all,

Cousin Cheryl (Jimmy's daughter)

Cheryl (Wilson) King - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *Death is nothing at all
I have only slipped away into the next room
I am I and you are you
Whatever we were to each other
That we still are
Call me by my old familiar name
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used
Put no difference into your tone
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow
Laugh as we always laughed
At the little jokes we always enjoyed together
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was
Let it be spoken without effect
Without the ghost of a shadow on it
Life means all that it ever meant
It is the same as it ever was
There is absolutely unbroken continuity
What is death but a negligible accident?
Why should I be out of mind
Because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you at an interval
Somewhere very near
Just around the corner
All is well.*

Henry Scott Holland

Even as I cry, I smile for I know that "All is Well"

*Thank you Granny for establishing the foundation of my relationship
with God.*

Jaclyn - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ Thank God for having known such a wonderful and caring person who always shared her love, wisdom, and christianity where ever she went. We Thank God for the impact that she made in our lives. "God bless you family"-now she has go to rest.

Gladys L Humes - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Home Going of Sis. Willie M. Merkerson
January 10, 2008

To the Merkerson family and extended family.

By faith we said good-bye. By faith we know we will see your loved one again.

Until then, we can anticipate the indescribable joy of that reunion in heaven.

*Sis. Merkerson left an astonishing legacy for those to imulate... a christian who's light shined through faith and her passion to walk with God
and to lead various women to Christ.*

Our prayer is the promises of God will continue to comfort and sustain you.

With deepest sympathy,

*TrueVine Baptist Church Family
Rev. Paul E. Broaddus,
Pastor*

Rev. Pau Broaddus, Pastor - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ Our heartfelt sympathy to Willie Mae's family and friends. She was a great lady! She joined the S. C. Child Development Centers as an employee and soon became a good friend, with wisdom, grace, and a unique understanding of the families we served. She influenced more people than you will ever know. She will be missed by countless people whose lives she touched and changed for the better.

Nels & Judy Andersen - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ I want to extend my heartfelt sympathy to the family. I remember Mrs. Merkerson's friendship with my great-aunt Frances Ball. They were the prime example of how a Christian woman should walk, talk and live. They showed the best example of what true friendship was really about. I will always treasure the life lessons that I gleaned from these seasoned saints. I pray that God will grant you comfort in your time of bereavement.

Thea Turner Burress - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

II

“ My grandmother became my mother when she was 48 years old, after my birth mother left. She and my grandfather raised me, my sister and brother for 5 years before they gave us to our father and our adopted mother, Odie. Odie raised us after the pattern of my grandmother. I left home to enlist in the Navy after graduating from high school. When I was appointed to the US Naval Academy, Odie continued to encourage me to work hard until I graduated. When I graduated, my grandmother attended my commissioning and told me, "Where ever you are, God is." After I became a father I received the sacrament of confirmation. I helped raise my son with his mother and her husband. Together we are Michael's family. When I retired from the Navy, an admiral recognized Odie for being a Navy Mom. As Michael prepares to enter college, I continue to support him while continuing public service as a Navy civilian engineer, with my grandmother's blessing.

Ivan C. Pierce III - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Granny was the strongest woman I ever had the privilege to know and love. Her strength was only eclipsed by her love for all people and her love of God. The Lord truly blessed her and the family was blessed through her prayers and encouragement. She will be missed on this side. But the joy she is experiencing now that she is in glory with so many loved ones that have gone on before her is far greater than we can even begin to imagine.

I thank God for bringing Granny Merkerson into my life . I only pray that I may live up to be half the woman in Christ she was. And I look forward to meeting her again.

Love Deidre Hicks

Deidre Hicks - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Thank you for touching my life in such a special way. You were a great teacher, mentor and friend. Your words of wisdom will be missed by all who knew and loved you. Take your rest, Christian woman, for a life well-lived.

Sharon M. Floyd - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ I won't greive for you for now I know that you are free. Your parting has left a void, buy I will fill it with memories shared.

From things you have taught me, you will forever be in my heart.

Love You and Miss You!

Stella Williams - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Psalm 121:1-2 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

Each day I scan the Internet reading the Saginaw News and today I was blown away ? I just received my annual Christmas card from mother. Mother Merkerson was more than a grandmother to the youth of Saginaw Valley and I can remember as a child her telling me to stop fidgeting when on program. She installed church values in a lot of young adults and with that most are still working and doing something in the church. To the family, I love you guys and as the scripture says ? Our help comes from the Lord. Trust and depend on him and he will see you through ? this I know from first hand experience...

Robin & Riara Hunter

Robin F. Hunter - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PC

“Wow, Uncle Ivan & Aunt Odie Mae, Uncle Teddy, Aunt Mary, I just talked with Aunt Odie and she was telling me Granny was doing o-kay. I mean, what a shock! One thing, I know for a fact Granny had her business taking care of. She and God, worked this thing! Granny was a worrior, and she just gone home that all. She with the Saints of God who gone before her. I can see Paw Paw just a smiling and Jason and Mama and Rev Jones and many others there waiting her arrival and just like one getting off a plane at the gate and the sign saying Welcome home From Labor to Reward! Who right there in the Middle Jesus Christ with his arms wide open! Go GRANNY, we will miss you down here, but one day in that Great by & by and that getting up morning we see you again!! Its not good-bye, but I'll see you later when my work is done on this side of Heaven. Intill then I must be about our Father business. Love, Peter and the entire Cooper's Albert, Carl, Linda, Kathy & Joy.

Peter & Deniene Cooper - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TW

“just wanted to let the family know that i was very sorry to hear about grandma merkerson as many of the youth from saginaw valley used to call her...she will be very missed and loved by all who knew her...we know she is in a better place...so from my family to yours...may god bless and keep you all.

Tyrese Welch - January 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM