



Homegoing Celebration



Sister Mattie L. Bennett

Sunrise: December 26, 1914

Sunset: February 23, 2008

Saturday, March 1, 2008

12:00 P.M.

Mt. Calvery Missionary Baptist Church

27 Girtman Street

Hazlehurst, GA 31539

Minister Reginald Cordy, Pastor

Minister Henry Josey, Presiding

Pastor Christopher D. Johnson, Officiating

Interment: Francis Chapel Cemetery

McRae, GA



To Those I Love



*When I am gone, release me, let me go,
 I have so many things to see and do,
 You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
 Be happy that we had so many years,
 I have gave you my love, you can only guess,
 How much you gave to me in happiness,
 I thank you for the love you have shown,
 But now it's time I travel alone,
 So grieve a while if grieve you must,
 Then let your grief be comforted by trust,
 It's only a while that we must part,
 So bless the memories with your heart,
 I won't be far away, for life goes on,
 So if you need me, call and I will come,
 Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near,
 And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,
 All of my love around you soft and clear,
 And then, when you must come this way,
 Alone, I'll greet you with a smile,
 And welcome you home.*



Order of Service

Processional

Opening Hymn.....Reverend Joseph McCloud

Invocation.....Reverend Levon Vann

Scripture

Old Testament.....Reverend Todd Davis

New Testament.....Bishop Robert Fryer

Selection.....Choir

Tribute.....Grandchildren

Solo.....Sister Ethel Wright

Tribute.....Great-Grandchildren

Reflections

As a Neighbor.....Sister Annie Fryer

As a Friend.....Sister Ida McMillan

As a Christian.....Sister Ruthie George

Others (Two minute limit please).....Family and Friends

Selection.....Choir

Resolutions.....Sister Elizabeth Brown

Solo.....Sister Linda Benjamin

Acknowledgements.....Sister Geraldine Crawley

Words of Comfort.....Minister J.C. Jordan

Solo.....Reverend Catherine Mathis

Eulogy.....Reverend Christopher Johnson

Final Glimpse.....Thornton Funeral Home (Staff)

To Our Mother



As We Look Back

*As we look back over time
We find ourselves wondering
Did we remember to thank you enough
For all you have done for us?
For all the times you were by our sides
To help and support us
To celebrate our successes
To understand our problems
And accept our defeats?
Or for teaching us by your example,
The value of hard work, good judgment,
Courage and integrity?
We wonder if we ever thanked you
For the sacrifices you made.
To let us have the very best?
And for the simple things
Like laughter, smiles and times we shared?
If we have forgotten to show our
Gratitude enough for all the things you did,
We're thanking you now.
And we are hoping you knew all along,
How much you meant to us.*

To Our Grandmother



A Tribute to the Light of Our Lives

Grandmamma how do we let you go?

You have been a part of our lives forever. You have provided us with wisdom, guidance, discipline, and unconditional love for all of our lives. Your smile, laughter and words have been our rock in a big and dangerous world. Grandmamma how do we let you go? You have a special place in each and every one of our hearts but, your special gift was to treat us all the same "None better than the next". We all knew we were special because we are your grandchildren. You see our grandmother was a Virtuous Woman for her price was far more precious than rubies. She was clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughed with no fear of the future. When she spoke her words were wise and kind and she ruled when she gave instructions. She carefully watched all that was in her household and did not have to bear the consequences of laziness. Her children stood and blessed her. Her husband praised her. Grandmamma how do we let you go?

Grandmother as we remember you let us also remember God's words in Proverbs 31: 28-30. There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all: Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last, but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised. Reward her for all she has done, let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

Grandmamma how do we let you go? You will be missed but, we know God is too wise to make a mistake and you have found comfort and peace. God's words tell us if you give to his people he will give to you abundantly and your life was a testimony to God's words.

Grandmamma we will miss you, love you and try to live our lives in a way that will bring you respect but, we will never let you go because we will see you again!

The Serenity Prayer

God grant us the serenity to accept
The things we can not change
The courage to change the things we can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.

The Grandchildren

Submitted by Renee Hall #11

This is my heartfelt thought of what our grandmother's life meant and stood for:

We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. (Psalm 78:4)

An old Chinese proverb says: "One generation plants the trees and the other gets the shade." In spiritual terms, we receive shade from our parents' and grandparents' value, their sense of moral duty, and their spiritual commitment. Their ideals shape the culture we live in and our ideals will shape tomorrow's culture.

Parenting is an incredibly complex assignment. Some parents have thought they've blown it as a result of their mistakes and failures. God does not want us to be mired in feelings of guilt and frustration. No parent is perfect. For this reason we need to stay on our knees and be in constant prayer for our children. Also, we need to give our children the shade and protection of God's word. If we do these things, then we will shade them from the scorching heat of an unbelieving world.

Submitted by Vincent B. Bennett #1

To Our Great-Grandmother



"Thank you grandma for living a life exemplifying to me what a woman of God is suppose to look like. Your life has truly been a blessing to me and I am honored to be apart of your heritage.

~Zafria Bailey #18

Thank You for always making each of us feel special in your own way. We are Grateful that we never saw you suffer, even through all your pain you were still strong. Which makes us that strong family you and granddaddy put together. Although you and granddaddy were the glue that kept this family together, we will pick up the slack and stick together and never let you down. We are so Happy that we will see you both again and have the Happiest Family Reunion ever in Heaven:)

Love you Dearly,

~Juduan Miles #29

(on behalf of Olivia Bennett Gadson and Family)

"You've sacrificed more than you had to, loved harder than you needed to, and meant more to us than we could even pray for. You where our example, our friend, and our protector. The word "great" to some is just a title, but to us it was a way of life. May Heaven embrace you and may the Angles welcome you. Goodbye Grandma, "missed" only begins to describe the way we feel. Love, your Great Grandchildren. "

~ Eric Hall #9

“Because of Her, We Carry On”

Because she was such a loving woman,
With kisses and kind words for friends and family
We should continue to love one another,
Following in the way she has shown us to be.

Because she was so caring,
With open arms and open doors to all,
We shall now keep caring for each other,
As her loving memory, we recall.

Because she truly loved the Lord,
And taught us to trust in him in all we do,
Though we may feel grief and sadness right now,
We have God’s peace and joy to look to.

Because she taught the importance of family
Staying close and coming together,
We continue to unite and fellowship,
And bond with one another.

Mattie Bennett was like a pillar of strength in our Family.
She was a righteous, wise, and beautiful matriarch.
Her life exemplifies how we should care for each other,
And her memory lives on in our hearts.

It is not “without” her that we carry on,
The foundations she created we can strengthen and nurture,
We will always remember all she was and has done,
And we will carry on “because” of her.

~ Brittany Thornton #37

To Our Great-Great-Grandmother



*We're glad you're in heaven now
But we wish you didn't have to go
There is just so much about you
that we still don't know*

*The few memories that we do have
Will probably fade away
As we grow older
With every passing day*

*Like the times you clapped and smiled
when we said, "I want to be..."
During the Thanksgiving reunion
Achievement ceremony*

*Or how you always had
A big hug and smile
For everyone from the biggest
To the littlest great-great-grandchild*

*Or how we thought it was so cool
that you knew each of us
We are way younger than you
And can't remember that much*

*Or the time you sternly said,
"Y'all better play nice."
You all are cousins
And cousins do not fight"*

*We will continue to think of you
Even if some memories leave our head
Especially during the reunion
When we wear our red*

*And we know this great big family
has tons of memories of you
So we'll learn more about our Grandma Bennett
from the burgundies, yellows, and blues*

*We wish that you would be here
To see what we grow up to be
But we promise to make you proud,
Just keep looking down, you'll see.*

We Love you Grandma Bennett!

Legacy Bouquet

...I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. (Gen 17:7)



Charlie Spencer and Mattie Lou Bennett, Sr.



**Walter (Barbara)
Bennett**



**Edna (Milton)
Thornton**



**Ernestine (John)
Balkcom**



**Olivia (Melvin)
Gadson**



**Amy (Quincy)
Kornegay**



**Charlene (Henderson)
Briggs**



**Charlie (Dale)
Bennett**



Mary Cook



**Reuben (Lenora)
Bennett**



**Mattie (Willie)
Travis**



Deroy Bennett



**Jim (Linda)
Bennett**



Janet Johnson



Valoria Bennett



Ray Bennett



49 Grandchildren



**86 Great-
Grandchildren**



**60 Great-Great-
Grandchildren**

Obituary

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you” (John 14:27)

“Let not your heart be troubled” (John 14:1)

Sister Mattie Lou Bennett was a devoted wife and mother, one who always put the interest of her family first, who saw to it that her children were given the best she could provide, in loving care, spiritual nourishment, and material comforts. She was faithful to her church, Big Bethel, where she served as Sunday School teacher for many years. She also served in the missionary field and as Mother of the church. She was a good neighbor and served her Lord and her people with a beautiful Christian life.

Sister Mattie Bennett was born 93 years ago to the late Robert and Amy Huff in Pierce County, Bristol, Georgia. She was converted and baptized at an early age and served her Lord faithfully until he called her home on February 23, 2008. She was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Sister Mattie was married to the late Charlie Bennett on October 19, 1930. Through this union, 15 children were born. Three children preceded her in death- Walter Bennett, Charlene Briggs, and Deroy Bennett. Charlene left four children whom Sister Mattie raised- Jerrell, Doris, Keith, and Sherry.

Left to cherish her memories are eight devoted daughters- Edna (Milton) Thornton, Ernestine Balkcom, Olivia Gadson, Amy (Quincy) Kornegay, Mary Cook, Mattie Travis, Janet Johnson, Valoria Bennett; Four loyal sons- Charlie (Dale) Bennett, Reuben Bennett, Jim (Linda) Bennett, and Ray Bennett; A special niece- Doris Pitts, 46 grandchildren, 83 great-grandchildren, 60 great-great-grandchildren, special people whom she inspired and loved, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

*The life I've lived is not a perfect one
For I've made some mistakes along the road
But I always tried to lend a helping hand
To some friend who struggled with a heavy load.*



God of Mercy, God of Love

If you are ready to share God's Great love,
 Follow His Spirit and give Him your all.
 Because numberless blessings are waiting for you,
 As you respond and obey his call.

For the Lord has promised to prepare,
 A place in heaven above,
 A home where we will always be,
 With him and those we love.



WHEN I DIE, WEEP NOT IN SORROW FOR I FLY IN THE SKIES ETERNAL



Although you cannot see the outcome,
 Trust in the Lord, He knows what's best.
 Be assured he sees your every trial,
 And he's with you in your test

So from your heart give God your praise,
 For Him blessing you all of your days.
 And lift your voice to God above,
 God of Mercy, God of Love.....



IF YOU SHOULD CRY, CRY TEARS OF JOY FOR I REAP THE HARVEST OF HEAVEN



Honorary Pallbearers

Charles Sanders
David Charles Wilson
Jack Holt
J.C. Jordan
Juniorus Bennett
Lacy Bennett

Larry Bennett
Leroy Sanders
Lewis Southerland
Royce Slade
Thomas Sharp
Willie Lee Sanders

Active Pallbearers

Grandsons

Flower Attendants

Granddaughters

Acknowledgements

We are most grateful to our many friends who have been so kind and thoughtful during these hours of sorrow. Your prayers, visits, calls, cards, flowers, food, and all other acts of kindness have given us strength and inspiration for the facing of this hour. May God forever bless each of you.

The Family

Repast

The Charlie S. Bennett Building
Hallspur Road
Hazlehurst, Georgia

Funeral Arrangements

Thornton Funeral Home
26 N. Miller Street
Hazlehurst, GA 31539