### I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free I'm following the path God has chosen for me. I took His hand when I heard him call; I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day, To laugh, to love, to work or play. Tasks left undone must stay that way; I've now found peace at the end of day.

If my parting has left a void, Then fill it with remembered joys. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss; Oh yes, these things, I too will miss. Be not burdened with times of sorrow Look for the sunshine of tomorrow.

My life's been full, I savored much; Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. Perhaps my time seems all to brief; Don't lengthen your pain with undue grief. Lift up your heart and peace to thee, God wanted me now-He set me free

### **Honorary Flower Bearers**

Geneva Ordister Barbara Heard Ruby Chase Frances Hubbard Alice Cleveland Matilda Perrin Lola Patterson Genel Shifflete

#### **Flower Bearers**

Rhonda CallawayIDoris WhiteIRosalind AshmoreIJoanne Thompson

Betty Harper Florence Dean Claudette Barnes

# Honorary Casket BearersClark SimsCleo CraftGeorge ThompsonLaturus Alexander

Fred Moon A Willie L. Thompson

#### **Casket Bearers** Marvin Stith William Dean Dennis Rucker

William Saddler Larry Ashmore Daniel White

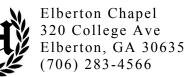
Abe Plummer

Ushers Sardis Baptist Church

## Services Entrusted To MACK'S FUNERAL HOME

P. O. Box 991 • Hartwell, GA 30643

Hartwell Chapel 266 Maple Street Hartwell, GA 30643 (706) 376-7566



E-mail address: macksfuneralhome@att.net <u>www.macksfuneralhome.com</u>

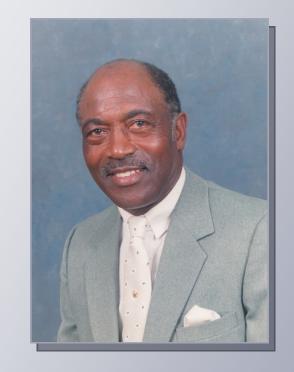
Baker's Originals & More - Printer • Cassandra D. Baker - Owner 706-340-2640

# Home Going Celebration

For

# Lonnie Jenkins Blackwell, Sr.

Sunrise October 13, 1932 Sunset April 11, 2016



Saturday, April 16, 2016 1:00 p.m. Sardis Baptist Church Hartwell, GA Dr. Marcus Sturgeon, Pastor Interment – Sardis Baptist Church Cemetery Hartwell, GA

### Obituary

**Mr. Lonnie Jenkins Blackwell, Sr.** was born October 13, 1932 in Hartwell, GA to the late Arthur and Genevieve Blackwell. He peacefully departed his earthly life and joined his parents and five brothers in eternity on April 11, 2016 at St. Mary's Hospital, Athens, Georgia.

In early childhood Lonnie joined Sardis Baptist Church where he faithfully served his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was chairman of the deacon board for many years and served in several other capacities until his health began to decline. He was a devoted member and loved his "church family" as they affectionately called him "Deacon Blackwell".

He graduated Hart County Schools, served in the U. S. military, and attended technical school in Savannah, GA where he also lived for a few years. Upon returning to Georgia Lonnie met and married his devoted wife of nearly 60 years, Betty Jo Wall Highsmith on July 17, 1956.

Lonnie was employed by the Southeastern Power of Administration (SEPA) Department of Energy and worked as a clerk. He retired in 1994 and later worked as a bailiff for the Elbert County Court System. Lonnie lived a very fulfilled life. He was a member of the Iron Men, The Brotherhood, Neighborhood Watch, where he served as president, Community Aid Club and Elbert County Chapter of NAACP. He loved bible study classes taught by his second pastor, Reverend Willie Moon at Westside Presbyterian Church. Lonnie enjoyed the outdoors with a passion. He was an avid walker, enjoyed fishing, deer hunting, gardening, listening to gospel music and yard work. He also loved reading, following politics and helping those that needed a hand. Lonnie was an amazing man and was admired and respected by all who knew him. Preceding him in death were five brothers: Napolean Blackwell, Sr. Jhue Blackwell, David Blackwell, Alzo Blackwell, Sr. and Arthur Blackwell, Sr.

He leaves to cherish his precious memories his wife, Mrs. Betty J. Blackwell, six children: Monteary (Hamp) Almond, Elberton, GA, Gwendolyn A. Blackwell, Athens, GA, Connie J. Blackwell, Augusta, GA, Lonnie J. Blackwell, Jr., Lincolnton, GA, Phyllis Y. Highsmith, Elberton, GA and Dwight L. Highsmith, Easley, SC: one sister. Mrs. Monteary B. Cole, Petersburg, VA, one brother-in-law; Mr. James Edward (Barbara) Wall, Chicago, IL, one sister-in-law; Mrs. Mary Blackwell, Savannah, GA: twelve grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren, a special niece Ms. Portia Stith, Augusta, GA, and his beloved pet "Smooch Blackwell" of the home. He also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends that he loved dearly. Much appreciation and gratitude for extended family member Ms. Veronica Lee, Athens, GA and a loyal helper Timothy Reid, Elberton, GA.

# Family Tribute

A precious one from us is gone A voice we loved is Stilled A place is vacant in our home which never can be filled. God saw the road was getting rough, The hills were hard to climb, He gently closed those loving eyes and whispered, **"PEACE BE THINE"** And weary hours, the days of pain, The sleepless nights are passed The ever patient, worn out frame, Has found sweet rest at last.

### Order of Service

order of Service	
Presiding ~ Dr. Marcus Sturgeon	
Processional	Soon and Very Soon
Selection	Sardis Baptist Church Choir
Scripture:	
Old Testament Scripture	Pastor Ronald Gantt
New Testament Scripture	Minister Susie Davis
Prayer	Rev. Kerry Hamm
Selection	Sardis Baptist Church Choir
Remarks	
	Church ~ Aaron Craft
	Family ~ Eleanor Cornelius
	Donald Watson
	Friend ~ John Hubbard
Daughter ~ Gwendolyn A. Blackwell	
Acknowledgement	Mrs. Mary D. Norman
Selection	Ms. Katie Davis & Family
Expressions of Comfort .	Rev. Willie Moon
Solo	Beverly Hill
Eulogy	Dr. Marcus Sturgeon
Recessional	Sardis Baptist Church Choir
Interment	Sardis Baptist Church Cemetery



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Words of thanks seem inadequate to express our gratitude and appreciation for the kindness bestowed upon our family. We are truly grateful for the many prayers, encouraging words, comforting calls, lovely cards, heartfelt visits and acts of condolence. May God continue to bless you in His most abundant way.

The Blackwell Family