

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

Flower Bearers

Rhonda Callaway	Betty Harper
Doris White	Florence Dean
Rosalind Ashmore	Claudette Barnes
Joanne Thompson	

Honorary Casket Bearers

Clark Sims	Cleo Craft
George Thompson	Laturus Alexander
Fred Moon	Abe Plummer
Willie L. Thompson	

Casket Bearers

Marvin Stith	William Saddler
William Dean	Larry Ashmore
Dennis Rucker	Daniel White

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



Elberton Chapel
320 College Ave
Elberton, GA 30635
(706) 283-4566

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www.macksfuneralhome.com

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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: Napoleon 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

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	3 minutes Please
	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