

Celebrating the *Life* of



Mrs. Genola M. Lake McKinnie

Saturday, March 19, 2022

12:00 Noon

Mt. Salem Baptist Church

Hickory Valley, TN 38042

Pastor Melvin Bufford ~ Officiating

Dr. Donald McKinnie~ Eulogist

Hillside / Truth Tabernacle

Seventh Day Adventist Church

Harrisburg, PA

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in
the paths of righteousness for his
name's sake. Yea, though I walk through
the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy
rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies: thou
anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth
over. Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life: and I will
dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.



Order of Service

Rev. Melvin Bufford, Officiating

Processional

Celebration Songs	Congregation
Scripture (Old and New Testaments)	Rev. Jessie McKinnie
Prayer of Comfort	Elder Louis Williams
Words of Comfort	Rev. Melvin Bufford
Music Selection	Lou Fields
Obituary	Karen C. McKinnie
Tribute	
Music Selection	“Father I Stretch My Hand”
	Lou Fields
Eulogy	Dr. Donald McKinnie, Jr.
	Benediction/Recessional

Obituary

Genola Marietta Lake McKinnie

Our Creator God in His Almighty and infinite wisdom on Monday August 17, 1925, blessed the marriage of Chester Homer Lake and Millie Ann Lockett Lake (affectionally known as Kizzie or Momma Millie) with a precious baby girl. She was named Genola Marietta. She was given an unusual name of Genola because she was unique even from birth. Marietta came from the combination of her Aunt Mary and Aunt Etta's names. Soon to join her in Hickory Valley (Hardeman County), Tennessee would be her sister Geneva and brothers Willie P and Jesse James.

Genola's parents were landowners during this time of segregation in the South. She grew up with her siblings on their farm in Hickory Valley learning about hard work and God's nature. She was among many friends and family. Genola was especially close to and fond of her grandfather, Charles Lake, "Grandpa". He was a prominent landowner and who gave the land for the Lake Family Cemetery. And he was instrumental in the establishment of the Mt. Salem Baptist Church. Even up to her last weeks, she would always ask "Where is Grandpa?" Growing up, family was significant to her. She often recalled playing with her siblings and especially the "big girls" her cousins Alice and Ruby Lockett.

Genola was educated in the public schools of Hardeman County. Her parents felt led to send her to Chicago to attend the renowned DuSable High School, known for educating Black students. Her parents worked hard to send provisions for her to stay with relatives while there for the year. She too took on a job to support this effort. Not only was she smart and bright, but she was also athletic. Genola played guard on the basketball team and ran track. She was once known as the "fastest runner in Hardeman County". She graduated from Allen White High School in Whiteville.

The most significant aspect of her life was that she was a "Woman of God". The Lake family life centered around the church. Although the custom when she grew up was that the church met once a month. Her family would visit other churches in the community. She gave her heart to Christ at an early age. She was proud to say, she was baptized in Spring Creek. Her love for Christ was constant in her life. She gave Bible studies on Wednesday night at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. She was a Sunday School teacher at her home church of Mt. Salem and served on the Mother Board. She was a praying woman and relied on Jesus to sustain her. She never allowed her children to leave the house without prayer and reciting the 23rd Psalms. Even during her dementia, she called on Jesus. She would sing songs such as "Who's Goanna Help Me Call the Angels' and "Father I Stretch my Hand to Thee" (her Daddy's favorite song). She was a member of the Golden Grain Good Shepherd #22, whose primary mission is to visit the sick and take care of the needy.

Genola married Jesse William McKinnie. This union lasted for nearly 42 years until his death. Between the two of them they had nine children, who were raised with love. Six preceded her in death, Joe, Rose Etta, Norris, Cora Ann, Clifford, and Brenda.

Genola was talented. She was known as the “Family Historian”. She could trace the connection to each family member and tell you who was related to whom. Not only did she have a memory like no other, but she was also a quilt maker, writer, song writer and storyteller. She wrote a myriad of stories about her childhood, many stories about the adventures of her Grandpa, family and animals. She was often asked to present them at the Ames farm, during the Fall festival in the Little Red School house. And she was a member of a story telling organization in Madison County. Not only did she tell stories at the Fall festivals, but she was also invited to recite her stories at the library in Jackson, Tennessee. Genola wrote and submitted the lyrics to the song, “The Love of a Mother”, and it was recorded by country music singer Keith Bradford on his album “I Remember When”. She was especially close to her mother, who she made quilts with and gave them away as special gifts. Whatever she put her mind to, she did well. She held many jobs to support her family but retired as a teacher’s aide from the Hardeman County school system.

Wherever Genola was, she left a positive impact on everyone she met. The last five years of her life she lived with her son, Donald and his wife Karen in Maryland. She attended Fourth Street Friendship Seventh-day Adventist Church with them. There she became an unofficial Mother of the Church, because of her sweet disposition and kindness. Genola had a loving, caring, generous, forgiving, courteous and humble spirit. She **loved** everybody. Whoever came into her presence could tell she was filled with the Holy Spirit. She made friends easily. She had one special friend, who cared for her and would call her every week when she moved to Maryland. The family would like to thank Vernell Polk for her concern and loving care.

Early Thursday morning on March 3, 2022, God allowed Genola Marietta Lake McKinnie to take her last breath. She now sleeps, awaiting the return of Jesus.

Those who are alive and awaits His return to see her are sons Jesse (Alice), Donald (Karen), Charles, daughter-in-law Janice, 19 grandchildren, many great grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.







Acknowledgement

We are grateful to God for all he has given. For the friends, and extended family who have extended so much love, and kindness, the prayers, cards, visits, calls, whatever you chose to do, please accept our sincere gratitude.

*May God Richly bless each of you.
The Family*

Pall Bearers

Family & Friends

Interment

*The Lake Family Cemetery
Hickory Valley, TN*

Repast

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, there will be no repast.

Professional Service Entrusted To:



750 Bills Street * Bolivar, TN 38008
731-658-3941

Jenkins Funeral Home
7474 Landover Rd
Landover, MD 20785



Layout & Printing by:



Heavenly Events Printing
731-609-0279
heavenlyeventsprinting@gmail.com

