



Mother Leona Johnson Rivers

March 23, 1930 - March 23, 2017

A Time To Be Born—Mother Leona Johnson Rivers was born on March 23, 1930 in Palatka, Florida to Holly and Queen Esther Johnson. She spent most of her childhood years in Williston, Florida after her parents relocated the family to Levy County. Leona's parents and five siblings preceded her in death.

A Time To Love—Leona moved to Orlando at the age of 15, where she fell in love with Enoch Rivers, who had relocated to Orlando from Monticello, Florida. They immediately became soulmates and were joined in holy matrimony on August 23, 1947. Although still very young, Leona was the perfect wife for Enoch and their marriage was truly made in heaven. They moved to Eatonville in October of 1953 and built their home there.

A Time To Build Up—Their love flourished and God blessed their union with their first and only seed, Vanessa. Leona's first and foremost profession was that of a homemaker, wife, mother, and eventually grandmother and great-grandmother. But she also worked for Orange County Public Schools as a school bus monitor for 14 years and nurtured even more children.

When God called Enoch Rivers into the ministry, Leona was also called to serve. As her husband pastored, Leona was a spiritual advisor, leading and guiding others on their spiritual journey. She was a humble Christian woman, who quietly touched hundreds of lives in very special ways. Leona was a great cook and often welcomed family, friends, and neighbors into her home to share a meal. And even though she stayed out of the spotlight, her compassion and kindness shined brightly to everyone she met in a quiet unassuming manner.

A Time To Die— On March 23, 2017, surrounded by her family and Pastor (Lorenzo Lane), Leona put on her wings and soared heavenward.

Leona has taken her rightful place around God's throne and is undoubtedly rejoicing with her Husband of 62 years, Enoch Rivers, Parents, Holly and Queen Ester Johnson,

Granddaughter, Brittany Williams, Siblings: Samuel Johnson, Leroy Johnson, Bertha Mae Momoe, Ida Mae Sims, and Helen Sims, and the many other family members and friends who preceded her in death.

A Time To Mourn-Leona is survived by her only biological seed, her loving daughter, Vanessa; devoted son-in-law, Gregory Williams; four granddaughters, Shana Williams, Alesia McWhite (Demarquis), Nikisha Baker (Larry), and Jennifer Hicks (Jay); two great grandchildren, Destin and Destiny; four special nieces, Marion Coleman, Shirley Hosley, Naomi Williams, and Michelle Johnson; a sister-in-law, Mary Lawson; two brothers-in-law, Samson Rivers and Cleveland Sims; five goddaughters, Jeanelle Bronson, Helen Neal, Chris Latson, Angela Richards, and Willie L. Walker (Robert); two godsons, Theotis Bronson and James Williams; special friends, Margaret DeSue and Mary Ann Demonio; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, sons and daughters in the ministry, friends and neighbors who will forever cherish her beautiful and loving spirit.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 31. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

The Life Center Church
63 East Kennedy Boulevard
Eatonville, FL 32751

Service

APR 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

The Life Center Church
63 East Kennedy Boulevard
Eatonville, FL 32751

Tribute Wall



“ *Mother Leona Johnson Rivers*

October 22, 2023 at 05:49 PM



“ *My name is Kathy Goss, and from 1962 to late 1963 Miss Leona took care of me & my sister Nancy (Hubbell family) in Orlando, Fl. I've always wanted to thank her for our wonderful upbringing. She would always sing as she worked. My favorite of Miss Leona was she would be in the backyard hanging up washing. She would look up at the clouds and she told us that those were angels looking over us. She was gentle, kind, loving & firm. She taught us right from wrong. I became a singer and never forgot Leona's loving voice. God bless her and keep her.*



Kathy Goss - May 13, 2018 at 11:20 PM



“ *I'll forever remember the love you always showed me and my children, a constant steady support system. I love you Ma Rivers*



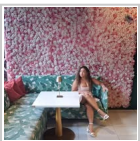
Latosha Demonia - April 12, 2017 at 03:44 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mother Leona Johnson Rivers.*



March 31, 2017 at 07:03 PM



“ *Granny! I remember when I was younger she would always make me Kraft Mac&Cheese on Sunday for Sunday Dinner because I didn't eat baked Mac&Cheese! Just showed how loving she was and also riding in the Lincoln with her driving when I got a little older to get items from the store for her 🥰*

Celena Chyanne - March 30, 2017 at 04:20 PM



“ From the age of 8, mother Rivers was very welcoming to me in her home, and I was over there often. I loved her cooking and beautiful smile. She treated me and my girls like family. We love her and will miss her very much.

Lakiva Cook - March 30, 2017 at 04:17 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mother Leona Johnson Rivers.



March 30, 2017 at 02:48 PM



“ To the family of Mother Rivers, it has been a joy and pleasure in knowing Mother and Pastor Rivers. They are together in love forever. May God continue to bless the family. To Vanessa, Greg, Shonda and Alicia always remember the love you all received from Mother Rivers. Love Always Andre, Rosa & Sylvester Rawlings

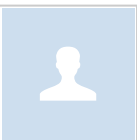
Rosa Rawlings - March 30, 2017 at 01:09 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mother Leona Johnson Rivers.



March 30, 2017 at 01:05 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mother Leona Johnson Rivers.



March 30, 2017 at 09:48 AM



“ Dearest One Casket Insert was purchased for the family of Mother Leona Johnson Rivers.



March 29, 2017 at 04:56 PM

JM

“ I am proud and grateful to have had you as my most favored aunt in my life. You were aND will forever be a true child of God. I'll always love you and have a special place in my heart for you.

Your loving nephew,
Jimmie

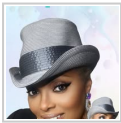
Jimmie McDaniel - March 29, 2017 at 10:21 AM

SL

“ Heaven just received another special angel in the transitioning of Mother Rivers. She touched so many lives and I know we are all enriched by it. I had the blessed opportunity of knowing her when my mother and grandmother were members of New Salem. May God strengthen you all during this time. Remembering earth has no sorrow that heaven can not heal.

With love,
Elder and Sister Thomas Leonard Jr.

Sharon Leonard - March 27, 2017 at 09:43 PM



Please accept our deepest sympathy and our prayers. Our thoughts are with you and your family in this time of loss. I hope peace, strength and comfort surround you as you walk through this trying times.

Nathaniel and Louisa Nixon
Lillie Mae Watson
Harriet Rosebud

Harriet Rosebud Millinery - April 01, 2017 at 06:33 AM