



Pallbearers

Lonnie Clyde Hicks III, brother • Eric Hicks, Nephew • Al-Jabree Hicks, Nephew
Amir Timothy Williams, Nephew • Tavis Colvin Williams, Brother-In-Law
Benjamin Davis, Nephew • Ricardo Sloan, Nephew



*When tomorrow starts
without me*

*When tomorrow starts without me,
and I'm not there to see
if the sun should rise and find your eyes,
all filled with tears for me.*

*I wish so much you wouldn't cry,
the way you did today,
while thinking of the many things,
we didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me,
as much as I love you,
and each time that you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too.*

*So when tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart.
For every time you think of me,
I'm right here in your heart.*

Acknowledgements

The family of Evangelis Tawanda Marie Gilmore Harris acknowledges with sincere appreciation every thought and act of kindness expressed to us during this time of bereavement. We will always keep you in our prayers. May God continue to bless you.



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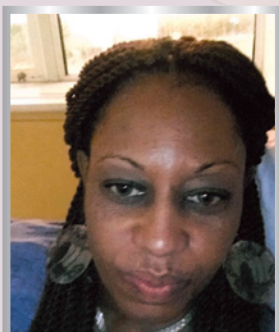
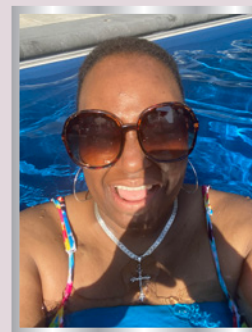
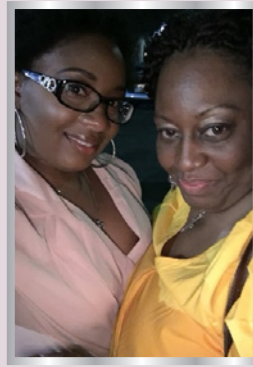
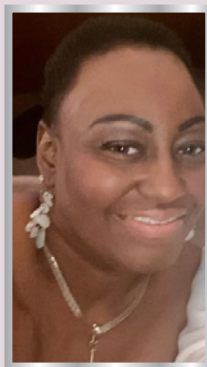
SERVICE OF TRIUMPH

Evangelist
Tawanda Marie
GILMORE HARRIS

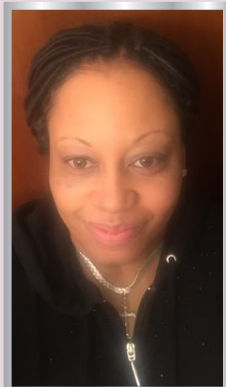
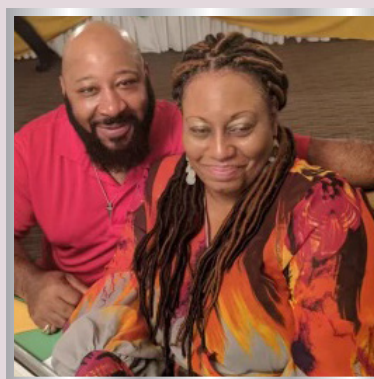
TIME
November 16, 1971
ETERNITY
June 4, 2024



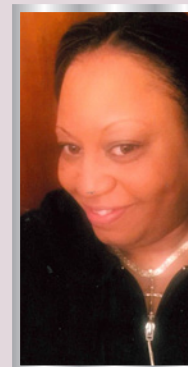
Thursday, June 13th, 2024
11:00 AM
St. Paul's Baptist Church
119 Elm Street
Montclair, NJ 07042



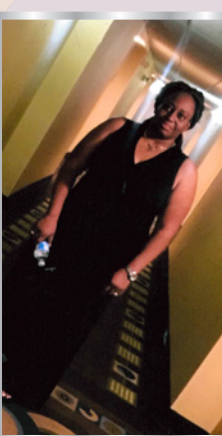
Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul doth rest.
Hark! 'tis a song of heaven
Borne in the sweetest voice,
Echoed by saints and spirit,
Making my heart rejoice.



Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breath,
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul doth rest.



Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe from corroding care,
Safe from the world's temptations,
Sin cannot harm me there.
Free from the blight of sorrow,
Free from my doubts and fears;
Only a few more trials,
Only a few more tears.





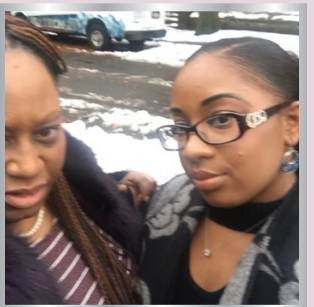
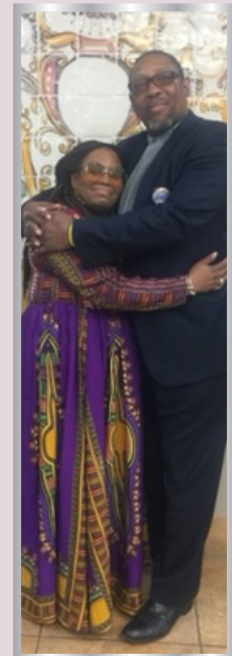
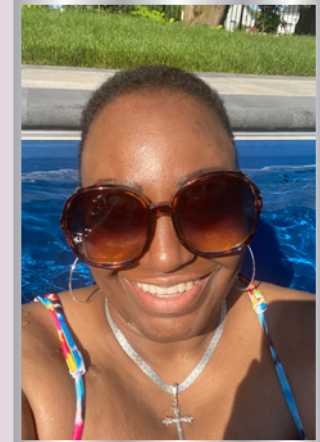
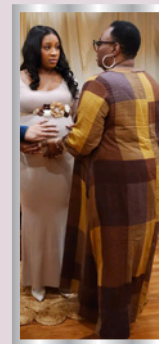
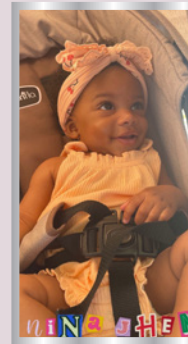
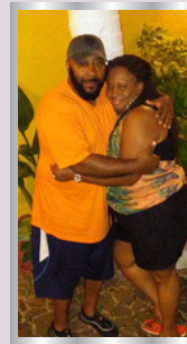
In Loving Memory of
Tanvanda Marie
GILMORE HARRIS
TIME ETERNITY
November 16, 1971 June 4, 2024



Obedience plus faith equals victory

Order of Worship

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| OFFICIANT | <i>Bishop Azel C. Colston Jr.</i> <i>The Glorious Church of God in Christ Newark, NJ</i> |
| MINISTER OF MUSIC | <i>Pastor James Shaw</i> <i>Shiloh Temple Church of God in Christ Jesus, Newark, NJ</i> |
| PROCESSIONAL | |
| PRAYER OF COMFORT | <i>Pastor Donald C. Francis</i> <i>First SDA Church of Paterson, NJ</i> |
| OLD TESTAMENT READING | <i>Dr. Altamease Harris</i> <i>Abundant Life Original Glorious Church, Irvington, NJ</i> |
| NEW TESTAMENT READING..... | <i>Kymerli Davis</i> <i>Abundant Life Original Glorious Church, Irvington, NJ</i> |
| SOLOIST BISHOP | <i>Bishop Azel C. Colston Jr.</i> <i>"I Won't Complain"</i> |
| POETRY SELECTION | <i>Gwendolyn Porter Barnes</i> <i>Christ Church, Montclair, NJ</i> |
| VICTORIOUS REFLECTIONS | <i>Yolanda Hamlett, Friend</i> <i>Bishop Margaret Daniels, North Eastern Diocese</i> |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT / OBITUARY | <i>Sarah Williams, Mother-In-Law</i> <i>First SDA Church of Paterson, NJ</i> |
| SOLOIST | <i>Elder Ron Williams, Father-In-Law</i> <i>"Feed My Sheep"</i> <i>First SDA Church of Paterson, NJ</i> |
| CHOIR SELECTION | <i>Unified Praise</i> <i>"Heaven"</i> |
| EULOGIST | <i>Pastor Sandra Davis</i> <i>Abundant Life Original Glorious Church</i> <i>Irvington, NJ</i> |
| FINAL VIEWING SOLOIST | <i>Pleshette Daniels Caroll</i> <i>"I Know Who Holds Tomorrow"</i> |
| CLOSING PRAYER..... | <i>Pastor Sandra Davis</i> |
| RECESSIONAL | |



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF MARRIAGE JULY 11, 1998...
‘Place me like a seed over your heart, over your arm, for love is as strong as death, it’s jealousy as enduring as the grave.
Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame’ (Solomon 8;6, NLT)

RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS JULY 15, 2023
‘So now I am giving you a new commandment; Love one another just as I have loved you, love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples’ (John 13;34-35)

Her cheerfulness and optimism led many to believe that she was without trouble. But Tawanda continue to be a blessing knowing that her reward would not be in this life but the next. She lived her life as not to be a burden on anyone, but she shouldered the burdens of others. She was determined to not let the blowing winds of ingratitude, selfishness, and inhumanity extinguish her already flickering flame. Without need for recognition, status, praise or fame, with no ulterior motive or personal agenda, she used her passion to live and took charge of her life and made it one of service. No matter how insurmountable her issues, no matter how others pushed past her on their way to the top, no matter the weight of the world she kept moving on towards Jesus the healer. In her weakness and pain she allowed God to do for her when no one else could do - comfort her. She was a woman who knew but for the grace of God she moves and that his grace was sufficient. The greatest legacy she leaves for us is that you have the ability to make a difference if you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. You can make a difference no matter how many obstacles stand in your way. She is the ambassador of every one who praises and labors under pressure and continues to worship God unceasingly never complaining but giving thanks in hopes of hearing one day “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”

Predeceased: Mother Dorothy Jean Hicks, Stepfather Elder Lonnie C. Hicks Jr., Father Henry Gilmore, one brother Frederick Arnold Gilmore, two sisters, Secret Hicks, Lonnette Hicks, one niece, Cynthia Hicks.

On Tuesday, June 4th, 2024, our Evangelist, teacher-leader bid us fair well ‘til we meet again. Leaving at her bedside, her loving devoted and affectionate husband of 25 years. She leaves to cherish her precious memory and celebrate her life and legacy: her beloved husband; Steven Dwayne Harris, daughter; Tanasia Nash Harris, granddaughter; Nina Jhene Jones, three brothers; Richard James Nixon, GA., Donald James Nixon, GA., Lonnie Clyde Hicks III, Newark, NJ, Five Sisters; Patricia Ann Gilmore, Newark, NJ, Tammy Hicks, NJ, Catherine Greene, GA., Anges Gibbs, S.C., April Denise Hicks Williams, Newark, NJ, Sister-In-Law; Lydia Gilmore, Newark, NJ, Father and Mother-In-Law; Ronnie George Williams (Sarah) DE, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, friends and the Abundant Life family.



Evangelist Tawanda Marie Gilmore Harris
NOVEMBER 16, 1971 – JUNE 4, 2024

Reflections on a life well lived

We may never know the total impact of our giving, respective ministries, benevolence in love. The life before us in tribute and memory has touched the hearts of each of us because God bestowed upon this woman the gift of giving and helping. She gave love in family, in friendship and acquaintance, in worship and praise, in stewardship and leadership, in mission and evangelism, in study and teaching, in causes and movements, in laughter and pain, and in prayer and in proclamation. Thanks be to God!

The distinguished life of Tawanda Marie Gilmore Harris developed out of the strong religious upbringing bestowed upon her by her parents and the church. They instilled in her the love of God and the desire to serve and help other people. Tawanda was a remarkable woman who had the ability to walk and talk with the learned and also those who needed more.

For most of her life she was a member of the Abundant Life Church, Irvington, New Jersey and was always in good standing; Youth Pastor; Instituted the Annual Youth Prayer Breakfast; served faithfully on the Usher Board; was a Praise and Worship Leader; Children's Choir Director; Drummer; Food Pantry Ministry; Event Coordinator; She was a sincere woman of God who cared for people, a blessing to all who knew her; and Evangelizing At Every Opportunity.

Telling Her Own Story
“Who Am I”

Tawanda Gilmore Harris
SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2009

Hello! I am Tawanda G. Harris. I was born in Newark, NJ at the Newark Beth Israel Hospital in 1971. I was born to the proud parents of Lonnie and Dorothy Hicks on November 16th. I am the 6th child out of the 8 children. I am better known as the “knee” baby of the family.

The question was asked; who am I? I am a Devoted Friend, Wife and Mother of one beautiful teenage daughter. I'm an Elect-Woman of God. I bare the fruits of the Spirit. I am “Praise”. I am worship. I am the apple of my father's eye. There are many gifts that God has invested in me, such as strength, wisdom, knowledge, and spiritual integrity.

Who am I? I attended West Side High School. Graduated in 1989 ready to face the world.

Who am I? I am a nurturer. I am a wife that holds my husband's head during his seizures; I am the woman that helps him to feel better. I am a daughter, who continues to take care of my ailing mother; I am also a daughter that tried to breathe life into my father, when he suffered a heart attack. I am a sister that helped care for my siblings while they were losing their battles with cancer. I am a mother that nurtures and encourages my daughter, to be better than her mother, and to follow her own dreams. I am a friend that lends a hand and heart wherever it's needed. I am a woman that has put her dreams on the back burner to simmer, while not losing focus of my plans for the future.

Who am I? I am that girl in the summer of 1999, that decided that I needed to do something better for myself, so I enrolled and completed a CNA course. The certificate course opened many doors for me in the health care system. It allowed me to obtain a full-time position at the Saint Barnabas Medical Center. I can remember the day I became an employee, September 7th, 1999. That's when I developed my interest to further my nursing career.

The first time I truly touched a person's life, although the encounter was brief it was surprisingly fulfilling. A strong

feeling of accomplishment and self-worth spread rapidly throughout my heart and soul that no average “good deed” has ever accomplished after each experience. That one moment left me with such an over struck attitude of purpose, knowing that I am needed in someone's life.

Working in the hospital as a CNA has allowed me to realize that I can make a difference in many lives. The doctors and the nurses have inspired me to return to school and further my nursing education. Nursing is a commitment to care for others. At this present time in my life, I am ready to take the next step.

Who am I? I am that Woman, that Mother, that Wife, that Daughter, that Sister, that Elected-Woman of God, who has chosen to become a nurse, but realized that nursing had already chosen me. So, as they say in the theaters, “Coming soon to a hospital near you... Tawanda G. Harris RN 2011”

THE EVANGELIST

She had a desire to share her faith in God with others. She wanted others to have a closer relationship with God spreading the Christian message. Her message shared with others was authentic and impactful. Yes, she studied the Bible which helped her develop a theology that supported her Evangelism, and she was able to engage in thoughtful discussions about her faith. Christ himself was an Evangelist. She had a deep love for God, this was evident in her words and actions, drawing people to Christ. Yes, she articulated the Gospel clearly and concisely, and was able to communicate complex theological truth in a way that was easy to understand. Oh yes, she definitely was bold and fearless, not afraid to declare the truth even in the face of opposition. Tawanda was full of joy, living out the hope of the Gospel in her own life. This was done with urgency. She was an ambassador in the army spreading across the world with a vision to reach her own people for Christ... God gave her the message and she was faithful to every word.

THE CHEF

She enjoyed cooking for others and felt really good about it. She realized that cooking brought us together; family, church, community and with cooking came feelings of connection and happiness. On various occasion, Tawanda hosted catering events while her close friend Kendra assisted with the events decorations. Tawanda knew the psychological benefits about cooking - there's a cumulative effect, it’s self-care, it's taking care of others, it's physical care, it's mindfulness, and she knew it hits on meeting basic needs for herself and others.

THE NURSE

Tawanda was employed at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, NJ for over 20 years as a Nurse Assistant. She also worked in the emergency room during COVID-19. She was a compassionate caregiver, an advocate and leader as she made significant contributions to improving her patients. Her diverse skill set, dedication and commitment to excellence was instrumental in her ensuring high quality to all her patients. Returning to school, Union County Nursing School Program, was a long journey for Tawanda. When it was time to take the final exam, her sickness thwarted the process - only one day to join Deborah and Shiprah, two women in the Bible who prevented a genocide. Exodus 1:15-21.

Receiving many awards and honors just to name a few. Just recently she was honored by Pastor Donald C. Francis, First SDA Church of Paterson, for being a healthcare worker during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was also awarded The C.A.R.I.N.G Team Award for Excellence from Saint Barnabas Medical Center. She was “Nurse T” for all her family and friends. Prescribing care for each one of us.....

THE WRITER

A Few excerpts from selected writings of Tawanda...Analyzing the Poem “Still I Rise” by Maya Angelou Though her oppressors might think they have ended her in subjecting her to poverty, she still walks like she has all the wealth in the world. She sent me a message of faith, strength and hope...

THE UNFAIR TREATMENT TO WOMEN IN SOCIETY

“Then and now things are still the same. The law reads the same for men and women, but the application loses something in translation where women are concerned. It sounds very familiar, we've come a long way baby and we've got a long way to go.”

INTEGRITY IN THE PULPIT

God doesn't call perfect people to the pulpit. He doesn't magically make you perfect once you accept a leadership position in the church. God uses people who have lived, loved and lost. Leadership doesn't make you immune to rejection or failure. It doesn't erase feelings of insecurity and low self-worth. God knows better than we do how people in general will seek out “irresponsible ways of living as a means of defending against feelings of insignificance and insecurity.” (Crabb) When leadership can look through the eyes of truth, strip away the veneer, and confront their dark side, then we will see change and the world will see change. Integrity will be restored to the pulpit if Christians everywhere, not just leadership, would pray and live and eat and breathe and walk in truth.

THE VOCALIST

One respected her expertise and dedication to delivering unforgettable singing experiences leaving most people in awe. Her vibrant voice so expressive that it touched your soul and brought life to the songs. Known for her passionate performance, dynamic range, as we appreciated the diversity and richness she added to the world of melodies. The stage was always hers. Everyone was always locked in her performance, conveying emotions extremely well. Her passion and talent could be seen from miles away and the way she sang the lyrics it's like they were tailored-made for her. Always emotionally invested in her songs (one would have goosebumps) the entire time. She had the ability to connect with every single person in the room. Her commitment to the lyrics, her professionalism and her technique just shined. Let's name a few words used to portray Tawanda vocal prowess and artistic charm: talented, melodious, versatile, expressive, captivating, charismatic, enchanting, soulful, dynamic, resonant, magnetic, rhythmic, graceful, angelic, powerful, euphonious, symphonies, harmonious, mellifluous, eloquent, awe and how she loved her gospel music.

MOTHER/GRANDMA

Mother- Selfless and unconditional love... the check in everyday kind of love even when there was nothing important to update. Being there at a moment's notice, no question asked kind of love. Nothing was too big for Tawanda to give up and do for Nay Nay no matter what wrongs she might have committed through the years or what hurts she might have caused , she would write it in the sand where the tide can come and go to wash it away and be forgotten. When Nay had did good she gave Tawanda moments of joy and pride. She carved these in stone where it will stand strong weather, all storms and always be remembered. She made Nay feel like the luckiest human on the planet to have the mother she had. She was blessed to have a Godly mother growing up watching the way she strived to reach her goals. Fun times, serious times, bad times, whatever it was, she guided Nay through it. She gladly and joyfully gave all she had and sacrificed over and over again expecting nothing. A warm, safe, constant in Nay’s life.

Grand ma-Nina Jhene Jones entered this world on December 21, 2023, which brought pure joy to grand ma Tawanda- her first grandchild. To say that Tawanda was excited would be an understatement.She was excited times infinity. What a Blessing from God!!!!

WIFE

She was indescribable, Steven’s rock, confident, and his best friend. They possessed an unwavering strength and unwavering love that never failed. From empathy and communication to resilience working together, these attributes nurtured them a foundation of a lasting bond. Her warm interest in all his affairs and her counsel at every point made Steven strong for every duty and every struggle. She was to him an unfailing inspiration toward all that was Christlike. Her fidelity, her affectionate, her warmly sympathy her beauty of Soul, made her to him God’s Angel, indeed, sheltering, guarding, keeping, guiding and blessing him.