A Celebration of Life
of
Mrs. Trecia Yolivia Wilhite Rodgers

Saturday, January 11, 2003
1:00 P.M.
Tabernacle Baptist Church
1223 Laney Walker Boulevard
Augusta, Georgia 30904
Reverend Otis B. Moss, III, Pastor
I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God has laid 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 found peace at the end of the 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 time of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow,
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts, and share with me,
God wanted me NOW, He has set me free.
If you can keep your head when all about you,
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
But make allowance for their doubting too,
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don’t deal in lies,
Or being hated, don’t give way to hating,
And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream — and not make dreams your master;
If you can think — and not make thoughts your aim;
    If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
    And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you’ve spoken
    Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build ‘em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
    And risk it all on one turn of pitch and toss,
    And lose, and start again at your beginnings
    And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
    To serve your turn long after they are gone,
    And so hold on when there is nothing in you
    Except the Will which says to them: “Hold on!”

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings — nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much
    If you can fill the unforgiving minute,
    With sixty seconds worth of distance run,
    Yours is the earth and everything that’s in it,
    And -- which is more — you’ll be a Man, my son!

—Rudyard Kipling
Families' Tribute

We smiled darling daughter
At your first step, your first word
The way you eagerly embraced Life.

We laughed sweetest sister
At your kind and carefree nature
We watched you grow from a girl into a woman

We reflect, wonderful wife
On your love, your charity
This love will last until the end of time

We honor caring cousin, niece, and friend
Our connection to you and to each other
The way you have loved us, is how we must continue to love one another.

We celebrate, child of God
Your spiritual awakening in Christ
Your journey to the Father, the beginning of Life.

The Wilhite/Reed Families

Godparents' Tribute

Trecia, we bless the day we saw you,
With a smile upon your face
You reached out to hug us tightly
With a loving, warm embrace.

Yes, Trecia you fought a good fight. You kept the faith!
Tis no wonder that God spoke unto you these words:
"Servant of God, well done. The battle is fought and
the victory is won, Enter, Trecia, thy Master’s joy"

Our Love Always,
Your Godparents
James and Alice McRae
Husband's Tribute

The Brilliant thing about a life gone too soon,
Is the realization of how precious time is.
How many times did we miss opportunities thinking we could wait until tomorrow?
How many times did we argue over insignificant things that didn’t matter?
How many times did we overlook life’s most important things – the simple things?

God put you in my life – only for a season.
And although brief, at 33, I do not ponder the reason.
I will forever remember your smile that could brighten the most melancholy of days.
As if you are here today, I can still see how you looked at me.
I can still smell the perfume you used to wear.
I felt safe in your love –

My Angel here on earth – now God’s Angel.
And I understand why the heavens would be jealous –
Of course God wanted you there.
I find solace in the fact that you will hurt no more,
And comfort knowing only you and I really know our special love
I make no apologies – for you know my heart –
And I yours . . .

I will forever thank God for the opportunity to have known you.
And although short – I will forever treasure every second we had together.
Trecia, I love you yesterday, today and always.

Your Loving Husband,
Fred

Stepson’s Tribute

My Stepmom was very nice and good. We liked to color and she looked very nice at her wedding. If I were in heaven with my Stepmom, I would stay right beside her. I’m going to miss you very much.

Love,
Cornelius
Obituary

"...and the time has come for my departure
I have fought the good fight.
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith."

2 Timothy 4:6-7

Trecia Yolivia Wilhite Rodgers was born in Augusta, Georgia on June 4, 1969 to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry L. Wilhite. She quietly and peacefully departed this life on Sunday, January 5, 2003, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Trecia accepted Christ as her personal savior and was baptized at Tabernacle Baptist Church in March 1980. During her youth, she served as Sunday School Secretary, Pianist, and as an Officer for the C.T. Walker Choir and the Christian Youth Organization. She also represented the church in oratorical contests at the New Era Missionary Baptist Conference.

Trecia was a strong believer in community involvement. She was an active member of Girl Scout Troop #59, Jack and Jill of America, Del-Teens, and the Rosa T. Beard Debutante Club. She also loved to dance and performed with the Margie Bruker School of Dance as well as various performing groups at Davidson Fine Arts School. Trecia excelled academically as well. She was named Salutatorian at Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School for the Class of 1987.

After high school graduation, Trecia continued her education at Clark Atlanta University. During her tenure at Clark Atlanta, Trecia continued to receive several academic awards including membership in Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Fraternity and Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. She was also awarded the highest freshman average and the Top Undergraduate Student in the School of Business. In 1989, she pledged and was a proud member of the Alpha Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was awarded the Norma S. White Scholar Award and the Odessa Nelson Neophyte Award for the South Atlantic Region.

Trecia's success was not limited to the classroom. Trecia possessed the qualities of a queen. Always charismatic, outgoing, regal, royal and kind by nature, she was blessed to serve as queen of several distinguished organizations. She received her first crown in 1988 when she reigned as Miss Black for the Alpha Phi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Soon after, she was crowned Clark's Miss United Negro College Fund. In 1991, she
received one of the University's highest student honors via her selection and subsequent crowning as Miss Clark Atlanta University. Her platform, "A Role Model for Excellence with Vision" was an important philosophy throughout her life. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting.

After college graduation, Trecia served in several accounting positions. She started her career as an Accountant with Exxon Oil Company in Houston, Texas. At the time of her illness, she was employed as a Manager of Data Management Process Support with Turner Broadcasting Systems, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1996, Trecia met Fredrick D. Rodgers. They fell in love and were married at Tabernacle Baptist Church on September 30, 2000.

Trecia was diagnosed with colorectal cancer in May of 2001. At 33 years of age, Trecia "fought the good fight" and departed this life to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Trecia was preceded in death by her father, Jerry L. Wilhite. She is survived by her husband, Fredrick D. Rodgers of Lithonia, GA; her mother, Lizzie R. Wilhite of Augusta, GA; her sister, Kaci Y. Wilhite of West Palm Beach, FL; a stepson, Cornelius Stanback of Milwaukee, WI; paternal grandmother, Annie L. Wilhite of Gladewater, TX; maternal aunts, Callie R. (Clema) Gray of Dallas, TX; Verleader R. Gray of Los Angeles, CA; Mattie R. (Cartress) Johnson of Ruston, LA and Elaine R. (Thurman) Thompson of Inglewood, CA; one paternal aunt, Jeanette W. (Freddie) Butler of Chandler, TX; maternal uncles, Will C. (Gloria) Reed and MacArthur Reed, both of Los Angeles, CA; E. J. (Barbara) Reed of Lancaster, CA, and Clarence Reed of Cerritos, CA; paternal uncles, Bedford R. (Faye) Wilhite, Donald Wilhite, Douglas Wilhite, all of Dallas, TX; and Keithland Wilhite of Denver, CO; and Robert L. (Martha) Wilhite of Lawtell, LA, sisters-in-law, Jolinda R. (Ansel) Haughton of Decatur, GA, Natali Rodgers of Decatur, GA, Crystal Rodgers of Rialto, CA; and Camesha Rodgers of Tulsa, OK; Godparents, Mr. and Mrs. James A. McRae, Jr. and Margaret Morgan of Augusta, GA; Godbrothers and Godsisters, Travis (Nyleeche) McRae of Augusta, GA, Deidra McRae of Savannah, GA, Dr. Charles Morgan of Edgewater, NJ, and Tangy Morgan of London, England; a Godchild, Courtney Joy G. Carter of Las Vegas, NV; adopted grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jordan Wright of Augusta, GA; Kaci's fiancé, Travis Jones of West Palm Beach, FL; devoted cousins and friends who assisted Trecia through her illness; Mr. and Mrs. Alphonso (Jodonna) Baker, Mr. and Mrs. William (Latalya) Cliett, Angel Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. Rickey (Debora) Gray, Deidre Gomez, Lorrie M. Harrison, and Carron McDuffie.

"God is my guiding light. What they see is Him shining through me. I am a beacon for Him. He has given me a great deal, and it's for this reason that I seek to inspire others to be the best that they can be."

– Trecia W. Rodgers
Order of Service

Prelude.........................................................................................................Mrs. Brenda Pollard

Processional ..........................“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” ..............................Dr. Wanda Richardson

Selection ...........“Oh Lord, How Excellent Is Thy Name” ..........Tabernacle Music Ministry

Scripture Readings: ................................Isaiah 53:4-5.............................Minister Joan Harrell
................................Luke 21:29-33

Solo.............................................“C. T. Walker Choir Medley” .................Mrs. Jo Nevia Kimble

Reflections (2 minutes)

As a student at Davidson Fine Arts - Mr. Ronnie Harrison,
Augusta State University Instructor

As a church youth - Mrs. Margie R. Burton, Tabernacle Baptist Church Youth Director

As a student at Clark Atlanta University - Dr. Thomas W. Cole, Jr.,
Clark Atlanta University President Emeritus

As a manager - Davey Thrash, Turner Broadcasting Systems, Inc.

As a mentor and friend - Ms. Raquel Olivier

As a niece - Uncle Bedford

Acknowledgements.............................Ms. Lorrie M. Harrison

Family Tribute ........................................Mr. Derrick Warren

Solo.............................................I Love the Lord.............................Mrs. Aliciadine S. Oliphant

Eulogy .............................................Reverend Otis B. Moss, III
Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church

Recessional ..................................Clark College/Clark Atlanta University Alma Maters

Interment .......................................Hillcrest Memorial Park

Repast
Tabernacle Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
Insert from Trecia Wilbite Rodgers’ 1987 Graduation Address
for John S. Davidson Fine Arts School

We have all wished and dreamed of a better world; however, changes will not occur until we as a whole act on those dreams and seek to make those dreams come true. Having big dreams and setting high goals are not sufficient unless one has the diligence and determination it takes to make them reality. Consequently, it is not sufficient only to have great dreams and goals; however, it is sufficient when one makes proper use of them.

. . . Unfortunately, in many cases one does not feel that he is thoroughly successful unless he has made achievements on his own. Thus, it is rare that one thing or one person can make for success individually. It takes people coming together, working together, holding hands, merging together as one - striving for one common goal: SUCCESS. Often, everyone wants success, but few desire to work for it. Now, it is time for us as a whole to face reality; progress will never occur until we unite to seek the common good, equality, peace, and justice for all mankind.

Today, plan for a better world—For without plans, there is no direction.

Work for a better world—For without hard work and conscious effort, improvement is impossible.

In the future, live in a better world—For with careful planning and exceptionally hard work, nothing is impossible.

Keep dreaming . . . keep believing . . . keep a rainbow in your heart!
Acknowledgements

The family gratefully acknowledges with sincere appreciation, the kindness, comforting expressions offered to us by the clergy, members, and friends through flowers, cards, messages, visits, and all other forms of consolation during our bereavement.

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