

Celebrating the life of
EVANGELIST
DEANNA V. NICKSON
A Devoted Woman of God & Career Educator

FEBRUARY 20, 1958 - MARCH 22, 2021

MEMORIAL SERVICE

APRIL 24, 2021 // 2PM

Triumphant Life Community Church
301 Euclid Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08609

Janice Williams // Officiant

Order of Service

WELCOME AND PRAYER OF COMFORT

Reverend Shaun Jacobs-Patterson
*Pastor of Triumphant Life Community Church
Chaplain of the Delta Upsilon Chapter
of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.*

HYMN OF COMFORT

When We All Get to Heaven
Congregation

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 14: 1-3

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONDOLENCES

Ayanna Lafleur
Beloved Niece

OBITUARY

Algeree Simon
Beloved Niece

MUSICAL SELECTION

If You Miss Me Down Here
Elder Michael Johnson
Beloved Cousin

REFLECTIONS (2 MINUTES)

Clergy, Family, & Friends

~ CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ~ DEANNA VALERIA NICKSON

featuring
Minister Shaun Palms
Beloved Friend and Former Student

REFLECTIONS FROM DEANNA'S CHILDREN

Saran K. Lucas
Dr. Khary J. Nickson

EULOGY

Elder Michael Johnson
Beloved Cousin

BENEDICTION

Pastor Perlie Mae Smith
*Calvary Pentecostal Church
Spiritual Mother*



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Obituary

Deanna Valeria Nickson was born on February 20, 1958, the sixth child to Namon and Catherine Johnson in Mt. Holly, New Jersey. Deanna was baptized at the age of 8 and accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior at an early age. Deanna learned of God's goodness under her parents' leadership, the late Bishop Namon Johnson and Mother Catherine Johnson, at Mt. Zion Commandment Keeping Church of the First Born.

Deanna was educated in the New Jersey public school system and graduated from Palmyra High School in 1976. She went on to attend Rider College, where she majored in Education. Later in life, Deanna earned a Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in Technology from Grand Canyon University.

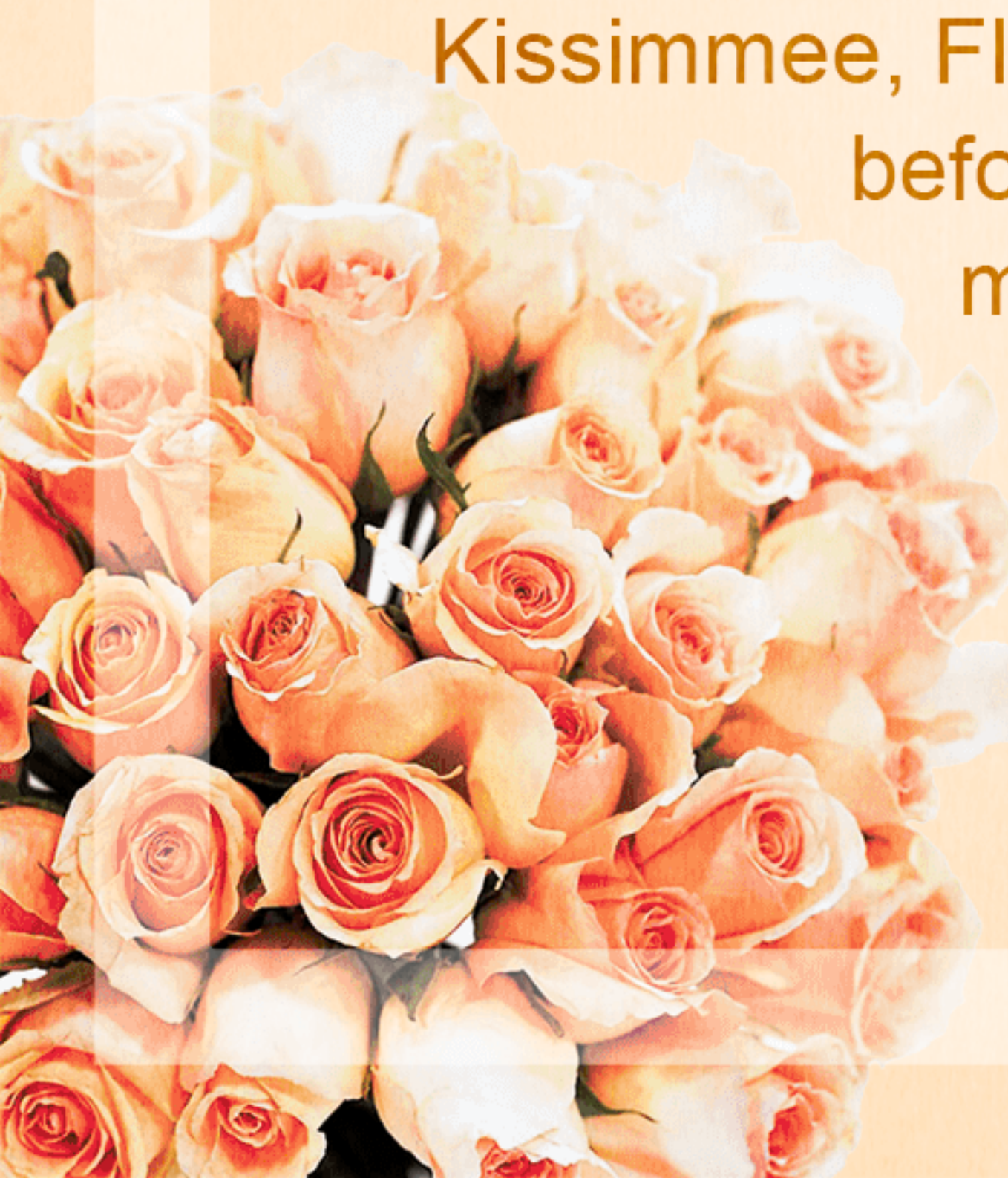
At Rider College, Deanna met and later married her "one and only sweetheart," the love of her life, James Nickson. Deanna and James united in holy matrimony on May 18, 1980, and had two children; Khary James Nickson and Saran Kai Nickson.

Deanna was employed as a Marketing, Business, and Computer teacher in the Trenton Public School District for 33 years. Deanna was a stellar educator. She led the Marketing Education and "School Store" Program at Trenton Central High School in Trenton, NJ, for 14 years where she provided guidance and hands-on experience for her students as they studied the ideas and principles of Entrepreneurship. Mrs. Nickson was a great inspiration to her students and colleagues; organizing Annual Black History Programs, taking students on entrepreneurial-based field trips, preparing her students for DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) competitions, and sponsoring the Annual Entrepreneurship Day at Trenton Central High School.

Deanna served faithfully at Mt. Zion Commandment Keeping Church of the First Born in Mt. Holly, NJ, as Church Secretary and Junior Sabbath School Teacher. She served with joy and dedication beside her husband, Elder James Nickson, who served as Assistant Pastor; with her mother, who served as Senior Sabbath School Teacher; and under her father's guidance, who served as Bishop and Pastor. In 1998, James and Deanna were consecrated Bishop and ordained Evangelist, respectively, and called to found Commandment Keeping Church of God in Christ Ministries, Inc. of Willingboro, NJ.

Deanna enjoyed serving the Lord, traveling with her family, hosting gatherings, helping whomever she could, and spending time with her grandchildren. After retiring from education, Deanna moved to Kissimmee, Florida, in 2015 to live out the dream that she and James had planned for retirement before James' untimely passing. Deanna made many friends in Florida and positively touched many lives. Deanna attended Restore Orlando House of God under the leadership of Pastor Lurine Love.

Deanna Valeria Nickson, age 63, departed this life on Monday, March 22, 2021, at approximately 12:20 AM at AdventHealth Kissimmee, located in Kissimmee, Florida. Deanna had the courage and fortitude to retire to Florida alone. However, she did not live



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Obituary (cont.)

life in Florida alone because of the many friends that she made. Deanna also did not leave this earth alone as her son and daughter held both hands and helped usher her into the precious arms of the Lord, where she will continue the next phase of her journey towards paradise.

Evangelist Deanna Valeria Nickson was preceded in death by her husband of twenty-eight years, Bishop James Nickson, her father, Bishop Namon Johnson, and eldest brother, Abraham Johnson.

She leaves to cherish her memory; her son, Dr. Khary James Nickson; her daughter, Saran Kai Lucas; son-in-law, Jordan Lucas; six grandchildren, Kaden, Landon, Abdul-Zahir, Saafi, Najaah-Hidayah, and Jari; her Mother, Mother Catherine Johnson; brothers, Paul Johnson (Renee), Ronald Johnson (Wilma), David Johnson, Benjamin Johnson (Renata); sister, Naomi Johnson-Lafleur; sister-in-law, Terry Nickson; sister-in-law, Ernestine Johnson; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends.

*If I can help somebody as I pass along, If I can cheer somebody with a word or song;
If I can show somebody they are traveling wrong; Then my living will not be in vain.*

Lovingly Submitted,
The Family



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*To those whom I love and
those who love me...*

When I am gone, release me, let me go. I have so many things to see and do. You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many tears, but be thankful we had so many good years. I gave you my love, and you can only guess how much you've given me in happiness. I thank you for the love that you have shown, but now it is time I traveled on alone. So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must. Then let your grief be comforted by trust. It is only for a while that we must part.

So treasure the memories within your heart. I won't be far away for life goes on. And if you need me, call and I will come. Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near and if you listen with your heart, you'll hear all my love around you soft and clear. And then, when you come this way alone, I'll greet you with a smile and say... "WELCOME HOME!"



**The family would like to express their gratitude and appreciation for the many prayers, cards, calls, visits, and other acts of kindness extended to all of them during this time of bereavement.
To all of you, we will be eternally grateful.**

Thank you and God bless you.

The repast will be held in the church fellowship hall.

Special thank you to the:
Trenton Education Association
&
The Brothers of the Delta Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Program design by Khary James Nickson in loving memory
of Deanna Valeria Nickson; my beloved Mother.