

A CELEBRATION OF LOVE

Remembering the life and Legacy of

Bessie Irene Atlas



Sunrise: October 10, 1928

Sunset: February 14, 2011



“I must work the works of him who sent me while it is day: the night is coming
when no one can work.” John 9:4 (NKJV)

Saturday, February 19, 2011

11:00 a.m

River of Life Christian Church

St. Paul, MN



◆ Order of Service ◆

Processional.....	Clergy and Family
Scripture	
Old Testament.....	Reverend Nathaniel Rodgers, Nephew
New Testament.....	Evangelist Tamara Otey, Great Niece
Prayer.....	Bishop Joseph Sutton, MBIC Church
Solo “Swing Low Sweet Chariot”.....	Thomasina Petrus
Reflections.....	Lorraine Scott, Sister Deaconess Joyce Black, Niece Mother Jennie Townsend, Friend Reverend Willa Mae Demmings, Sister-in-law Dr. Rose Mullen, Friend
Praise Dance.....	Expressions of God, River of Life Church
Spoken Word.....	Ella Mae Brown
Music: Old Time Gospel Medley.....	Family and Friends
Condolences.....	Evangelist Earline Lee, Niece
Obituary Reading.....	Kescia Hammond-Atlas, Granddaughter Raichel Brown, Granddaughter
Special Tribute.....	Children, Grandchildren, Great-grandchildren
Solo “Move on up A Little Higher”.....	Ava Brown (Atlas), Daughter
Eulogy.....	Pastor Carolyn Berry
Benediction.....	Pastor Jonathan Graham, Nephew
Recessional.....	Clergy and Family





Bessie Irene Atlas was born October 10, 1928 in Little Rock Arkansas to the late James “Jim” and Loreana Demmings. She was raised in College Station with her eleven brothers and sisters and attended the Little Rock School District. Her family attended College Station Mission Church, led by the late Pastor E.F. Graham.

Bessie had a love for country living and gardening. She worked on the farm in rural Arkansas where she picked cotton and enjoyed farming with her family. As a young girl, Bessie also developed a passion for doing hair, which she learned from Ms. Aliene White, a family friend.

In 1945, her family moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota and Bessie later joined them in 1946. In Minneapolis, Bessie attended Graham Temple (now known as First Church of God in Christ) under the leadership of late Bishop JW Graham, and later served under her brother the late Reverend Earl Demmings, pastor of First Church of God in Christ. Most recently she was a member of the River of Life Christian Church led by the late Apostles Arnold and Betty Williams, and now under the leadership of Pastor Carolyn Berry.

In 1953, Bessie married the love of her life, Preston Hawkins Atlas and from their union eight children were born.

Bessie had a strong work ethic. She worked as a beautician, domestic, cook and worked for the Minneapolis Public School system as a paraprofessional where she retired in 1989.

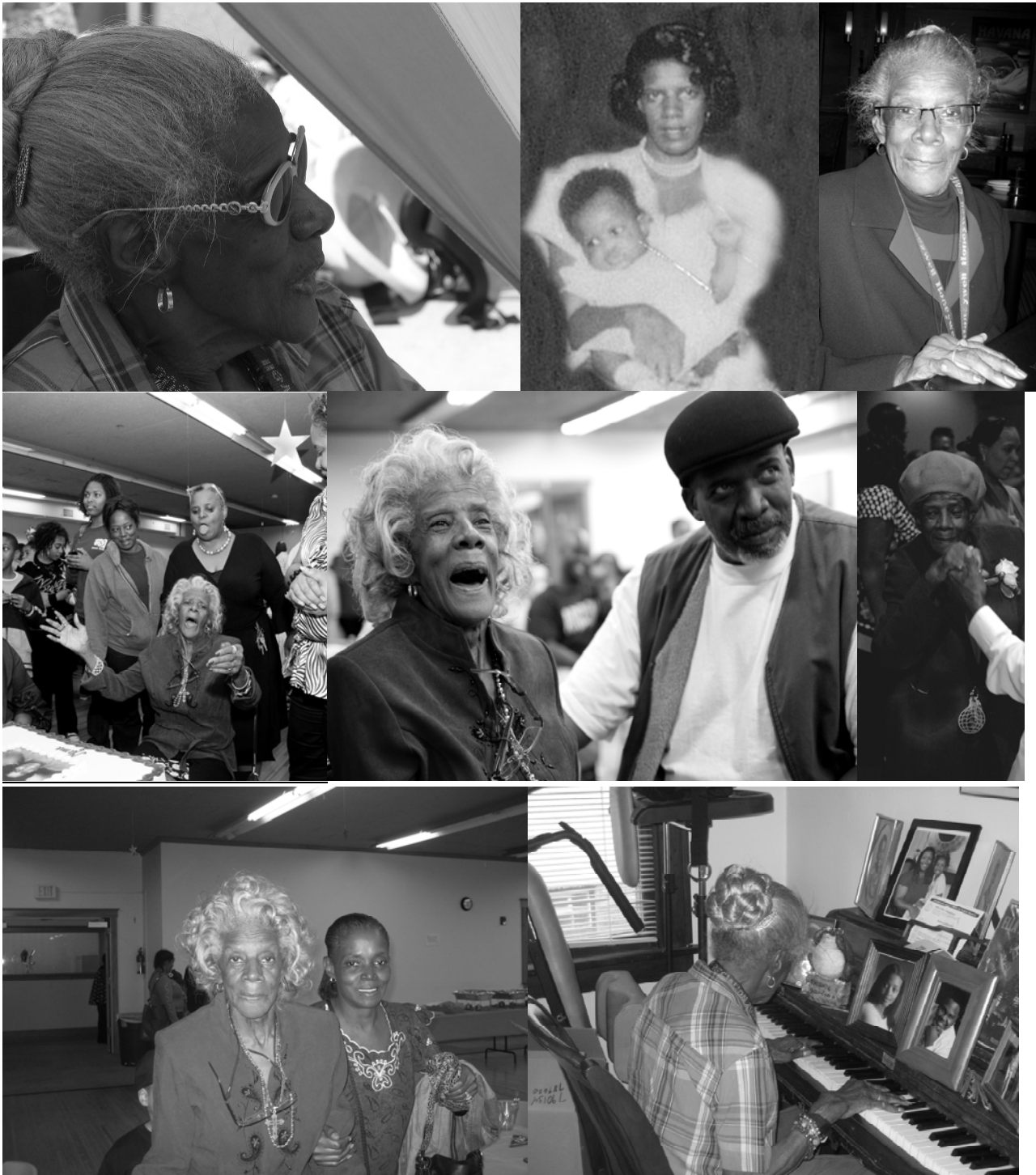
Those who knew her would say she was a loving and giving woman. Her giving heart not only touched the lives of her family but also extended to her community. She often opened the doors of her home to the homeless. Although in tough and meager times, she cooked meals that not only fed her family but those in need. Bessie was an active citizen who believed in the political process, exercised her voting rights and was a member of the Democratic Farmer Labor Party.

She enjoyed music, singing and dancing. Her favorite types of music were “old time” gospel, jazz and blues. She also enjoyed fishing, traveling, driving, rummage sales and cookouts with her family.

Bessie was preceded in death by her husband, Preston Hawkins Atlas, parents James and Loreana Demmings, ten siblings, daughter Culese Campbell, grandson Richard Lee Atlas and great-grandson Preston T. Atlas. She leaves to cherish her memory, children: Rose Marie Atlas, Frank Edward Atlas, Barbara Ann Atlas, Betty Gene Atlas, Linda Carol Atlas, Ava Lavonne Brown (Atlas) and Toney Lee Atlas, of Minneapolis; her younger sister Lorraine Scott (Willie Scott) of Houston, Texas, sister-in-laws Willa Mae Demmings of Minneapolis, Ella Mae Demmings of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Marie Atlas of San Bernardino, California and Virginia Atlas of Riverside, California, twenty-three grandchildren, thirty-three great-grand children, three great-great grand children, and a host of nephews, nieces and cousins.



Remembering Mama...



"I love you mom and will miss you, you will always be in my heart" – Rose Marie Atlas

"Mom I love you and will miss you very much" – Frank Edward Atlas

"Mama the breakfast club is over for now, but we will be back together soon" Barbara Ann Atlas

"Mom I love you and you are my best friend, I'm going to miss you" – Betty Gene Atlas

"Bessie Irene, mama I love you I will miss your voicemails" – Linda Carol Atlas

"Mama thank you for paving the way for me, I will honor you every day of my life, I love you mom" – Ava Lavonne (Brown) Atlas

"Mama I am going to miss fishing with you" – Toney Lee Atlas

We'll always love you, Mama...



Preston & Bessie

Always and Forever



Together in paradise...

Pallbearers and Escorts

Andre Atlas
Will Atlas
Dominic Campbell
Jamar Young

Mike Atlas
Kitoi Atlas
Laroy Campbell
Tymon Young

Honorary Pallbearers

Frank Edward Atlas
Alonzo Atlas
Robert Thomas Atlas
Nevin Atlas

Tony Lee Atlas
Robert Brown III
James Earl Atlas
Marcus Trotter



Special Thank You to:

Sister Phyllis Montgomery
Mother Ocriea Berry
John Robinson of HCMC
Carla Counters of HCMC
Holding Forth the Word of Life Women's Ministry
River of Life Christian Church

Internment

Lakewood Cemetery
3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

She's being received by the great clouds of witnesses

Repass

Arnold P. Williams Community Center
999 Selby Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Funeral Arrangements by: Estes Funeral Services

My Queen, Bessie Irene

Here is to your, your warm embrace
Here is to your, your mustard seed faith
I am stronger right now cause the pain you
endured.

Here's to my Queen Bessie Irene
I love you my Queen Bessie Irene

The road that you paved
with the love that you gave
a love that is so pure
I could never repay

The Christ that's in you,
You gave Christ to me
And because of his love
my soul is set free

You're my grandma
And no one can take your place
When I get to heaven I will see your face

I love you,
You know I really do
You're in a better place
But I still miss you

I love you...
Yes! I miss you...

Here is to your, your warm embrace
Here is to your, your mustard seed faith
I am stronger right now cause the pain you endured.
Here's to my Queen Bessie Irene
I love you my Queen Bessie Irene

Song by: Grandson Bobby "Bob Cat" Brown, III

