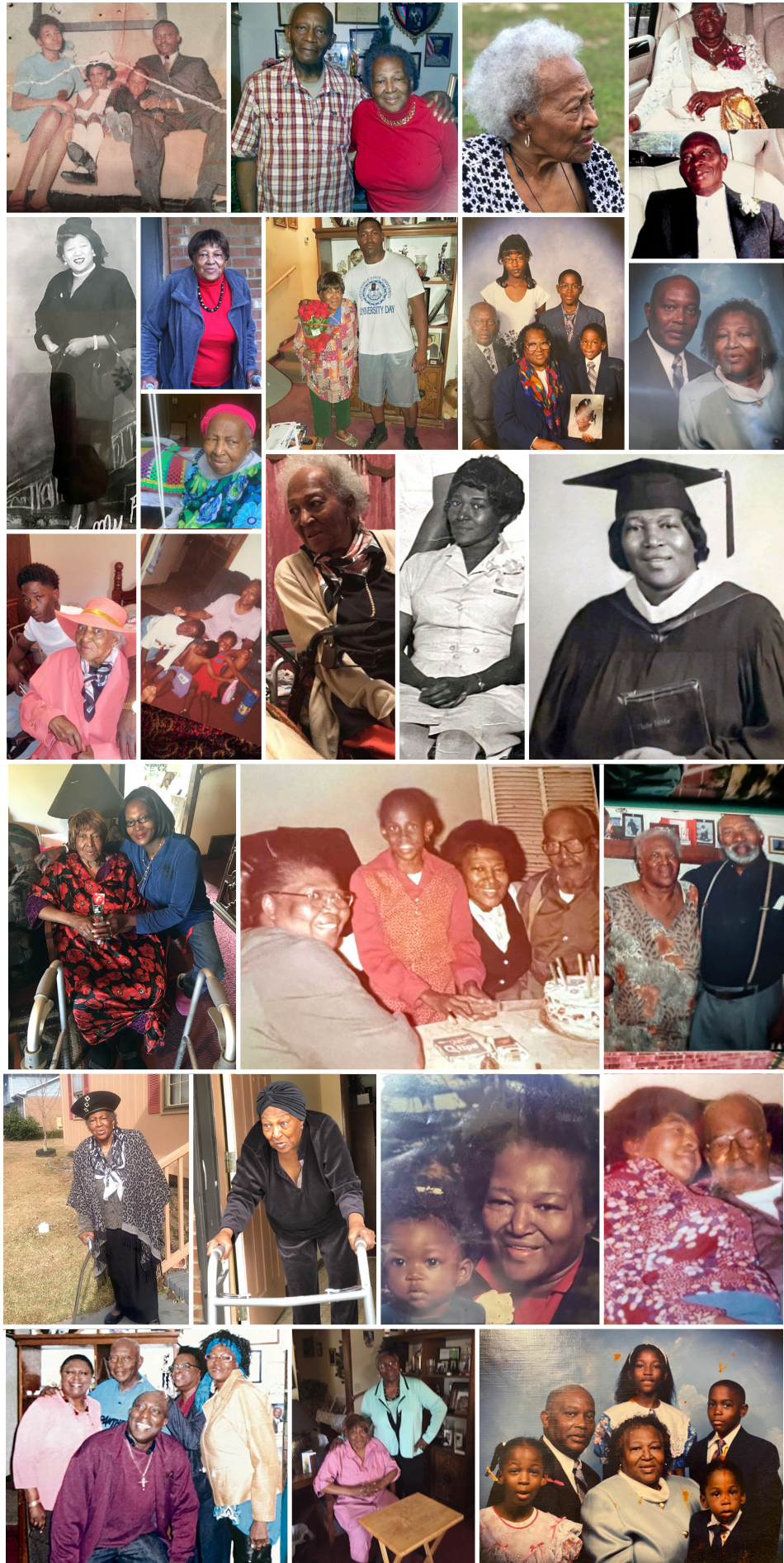


FOREVER LOVED...



*A piece of our heart lives in*  
**Heaven**



LIFE IS BUT  
*A Stopping Place*

*Life is but a stopping place, a pause in what's to be,  
A resting place along the road, to sweet eternity.*

*We all have different journeys,  
Different paths along the way,  
We all were meant to learn some things,  
but never meant to stay...*

*Our destination is a place, far greater than we know.*

*For some the journey's quicker,  
For some the journey's slow, and when the  
journey finally ends, we'll claim a great reward,  
And find an everlasting peace,  
Together with the Lord.*

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

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*Sunrise  
April 14, 1930*

*Sunset  
April 1, 2022*

DR. EVANGELIST  
**Mary Ann  
GOURDINE SMITH**

Friday, April 8, 2022 • 12:00 PM

**LEWIS CHAPEL MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

5422 Raeford Road  
Fayetteville, North Carolina

*Rev. Dr. Christopher D. Stackhouse, Sr., Eulogist*



## Order of Service

# THE LIFE OF *Dr. Evangelist Mary Ann Gourdine Smith*

APRIL 14, 1930 – APRIL 1, 2022

**G**od sent an angel to tell the world of his glory. Holding dear to her heart the vision of Christian excellence was **DR. MARY ANN GOURDINE SMITH**. She was a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who earned distinction as a religious scholar, a public servant, and most importantly, a steadfast servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

She was born in Pineville, SC to Robert “Doctor” Gourdine (deceased) and Emily “Sessie” Gadsden Gourdine (deceased). She was the fourth of eight children born to this union. Having received her primary education in the segregated schools of Berkeley County, South Carolina, Mary Ann learned early in life that a prime responsibility of every person was to strive to better their condition in life. Subsequent to bearing Emily Jeanne Gourdine (Jacksonville, Florida) she moved to New York City in 1949 where she worked as a housekeeper and nurse’s assistant. She met and married the love of her life, Nathaniel Smith, Sr. and to that union three children were born: Dedra Simmons (Rudolph) - Greer, SC; Denise Smith Callaci (Anthony-deceased) - NY, NY; and Nathaniel Smith, Jr. (Jewel) - NY, NY. While residing in New York, her humanitarian efforts were constantly on display, for she left her home with her newborn and returned to South Carolina to care for her parentless nieces and nephews for eighteen months.

From her many challenging experiences, she continued to believe that education and hard work were the two most powerful strategies that a Black woman could use to better her conditions in an unjust society. She, therefore, obtained two academic degrees - a B.A. in Psychology (1986) from the College of New Rochelle and a Master of Science in Gerontology (1989) from the College of New Rochelle. In addition, she received two theological degrees - a Doctor of Sacred Letters Degree (1983) from Eastern American University and a Master of Bible Theology Degree (1986) from the International Bible Institute and Seminary.

In 1992, **EVANGELIST SMITH** and her husband, Nathaniel Smith, Sr. retired and took up residence in Fayetteville, NC with four grandchildren: Nicole Smith-Dayes - Statesville, NC, WO-1 Marcus J. “Daniel” Smith (Tamika) - Savannah, GA, John Mark Smith (deceased), and Tnijah “Toni” Smith - Orlando, FL. Her other two grandchildren are Rudy Simmons (Mindy) - Alabama and Shannon Simmons - Greenville, SC.

**MARY ANN** loved her siblings, in-laws, nieces and nephews to include her brother, Bishop William “Dempsey” Gourdine (deceased); brother, Robert Gourdine, Jr. (deceased); brother, Louise Edward Gourdine (deceased); sister, Ernestine Williams (deceased); sister, Lillian Brown (deceased); sister, Pauline Prioleau (deceased); sister, Inez Barksdale (deceased); brother-in-law, Henry Smith (deceased); sisters-in-law, Carrie Gourdine - Matthews, NC and Marian Gourdine - Rock Hill, SC.

She also leaves to mourn not only her children and her grandchildren but also her great-grandchildren: Demayon Leroy Calhoun, Zarai Anthony Dayes, Neyam Anthony Dayes, Kairo Alexander Thompson, Mckenzie Simmons, Justin Simmons, Jordan Smith, and Xavier Smith. She also leaves behind a host of neighbors and special friends including Yolanda (Texas), Jackie (NY), Elias Doiley (SC), and Mr. and Mrs. Simmons, Fayetteville, NC.

**DR. EVANGELIST MARY “ANN” SMITH**, rest in peace and know that your sweet memories will live forever in the hearts of your family and friends!



### *Acknowledgement*

*The family wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation to everyone for their support. Your kindness shall never be forgotten. Please accept our thanks for the cards, food and most of all your prayers. May God bless and keep you.*

THE FAMILY

