



## Missionary Barbara Jean Freeman

June 4, 1940 - September 11, 2024

“Let The Works I’ve Done Speak for Me”

DOUGLASVILLE, GA/UTICA, NY – Missionary Barbara Jean Freeman, age 84, passed away on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born in Albany, NY on June 4, 1940, Barbara was the daughter of the late McKinley and Alberta M. (Charles) Cunningham. She was the oldest of seven children.

In 1958 she graduated from Philip Schuyler Senior High School in Albany. In 1961 she became the first Black nursing student to graduate from Utica State Hospital School of Nursing. She received her Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing from Syracuse University in May of 1973 and her Master of Science in Public Service Administration from Russell Sage College in Troy, NY, in May of 1991.

Missionary Barbara Freeman was employed at Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center for 34 years as staff nurse, head nurse, nurse administrator, and intensive case manager.

She served faithfully in several organizations in the community as well as at

St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ. She was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Vice President of Central New York Scleroderma Foundation, a Red Cross First Aid Instructor, and a member of CORE Advisory Board.

At St. Matthew's Temple COGIC she served on the Missionary Board, as President of Christian Women's Council, President of the Youth Department, President of the First Aid Club, a Senior Choir and Women's Choir member, and a Senior High School Sunday School Teacher. She was the recipient of the New York Western First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction's Outstanding YWCC Member and the YWCC President Awards and the Women of Merit Award from the Oneida County Historical Society. Missionary Freeman highly valued the education of our youth and founded the College Prep Club at St. Matthew's to prepare young people for college, trade school, life, or any path that would guide them toward a positive future. Missionary Freeman, although ill with Scleroderma, continued to encourage and help others faithfully. She had a special love for children and young adults, always seeing their gifts and their potential.

She had many sayings and scriptures such as "Take can't out of your vocabulary and say I can," "You can achieve, you might have to work harder, but don't give up", and her favorite scripture was "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" - Philippians 4:13 NKJV.

She leaves to cherish her memory her loving and devoted husband, Henry C. Freeman whom she met in 1961 and married in 1963; her devoted children, Alyce Yvonne Samuel (Donald), and Mark Henry Freeman (Anesiha); Jeffery Coleman, Christopher Freeman (Laconduas), her nephew who she always claimed as her son, Vivian Tucker and Judy Brooks, whom she lovingly referred to as her daughters; grandchildren, Justine M. Samuel (Kelvin Ampofo), and Christine A. Samuel, whom she called her "two good doses of

medicine,” Danielle Brooks, Denajhae Clyde, Johnathan Jackson, Raymond Brooks, Rod Jackson, and Merv Smith, who came to her later in life to love; and great-granddaughter, Frankie Ampofo, who put a twinkle in Grannie’s eye whenever she visited and during Facetime visits too. Frankie could give her a boost of energy or get a chuckle out of her, catching a ride on the back of Grannie’s rollator “helping Grannie.” She will also be remembered by her sister, Joyce Reese; and brother, Timothy Cade (Laverne). Goddaughters, Michelle Williams, and Tamika Blair; godsons, Todd Crenshaw (Shannon), Charles Roshon Braddock, Al Henderson Jr., and Kyle Lamar Jones; loving sisters-in-law, Mamie Dell Martin, Mary Dean Butler, Lily Freeman, Deborah Freeman, Mary Freeman, and Laverne Cade; brother-in-law, Zelmon Crenshaw; spiritual children, Gwendolyn Jones, Darlene Mack-Brown, Pamela Martin, Ernest “Bub” Brown, and Derrick Brooks; spiritual grandchildren, Kendra Frazier, Vanessa Tucker, Krystal Brown, Emma Monroe, Jia Mack, Cynthia Monroe, Stasha Dunkley, John Enoch, Nigel Dunkley, D’sean Mack, and Jiquel Dunkley; as well as a host of additional nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

She fondly remembered her siblings who preceded her, Sandra A. Crenshaw, Leatrice Jackson, Cynthia R. Cade, her sister Sandra’s twin brother who passed away at birth, and Velton Lorin Cade; her beloved grandparents, Alice “Nana” Harmon, and Jesse “Daddy Harmon” Harmon; her loving father-in-law and mother-in-law, Freddie and Ruby Freeman; sisters-in-law, Betty Freeman, and Everee McKay; and brothers-in-law, Milton Butler, Quincy Freeman, Willie “Billy” Freeman, Charles “Bubble” Freeman, George Freeman, Bobby Freeman, and Raymond Freeman.

Faith and family meant everything to Grannie.

A special thank you to Evangelist Linda Garner-Smith for her love, care, and

dedication in assisting with Mom's care over the past year. Thank you so much.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's Temple COGIC, 110 Washington Street. Barbara's Going Home Service and Celebration of Life will commence at 1:00 p.m. at the church. Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of floral offerings, memorial contributions in Barbara's honor may be made to the National Scleroderma Foundation online at <http://national.scleroderma.org/goto/HonoringBarbaraFreeman>; envelopes will also be made available at the service.

This tribute to Missionary Barbara Freeman's life was lovingly written by her family.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida St  
Utica, NY 13501-6006  
(315) 735-2701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 24. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ  
110 Washington Street  
utica, NY 13502

## Home Going Service

SEP 24. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Matthew's Temple Church of God in Christ  
110 Washington Street  
utica, NY 13502

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ *Lonnie Brown lit a candle in memory of Missionary Barbara Jean Freeman*



Lonnie Brown - December 14, 2024 at 04:33 PM

VT

“ *Ma Freeman will always be special to me, I have known her my entire life, she played a huge role in my youth, she motivated me, encouraged me, even as an adult she was still present, our bond grew even more once I moved to Ga, we enjoyed dinner, concerts, home visits, church gatherings, holidays, she was "mom" away from home. My family and I were blessed to have her in our lives, I will never forget the beautiful memories we shared, will miss her very much.*



Vivian Tucker - September 26, 2024 at 05:54 PM

PP

“ *My condolences go out to the Freeman family. I have lasting memories of Barbara Freeman , that will stay in my heart. She was such a loving and encouraging person. She has gained her wings.*

Patricia A Pierce - September 24, 2024 at 07:05 AM

MW

“ *Our sincere condolences to the entire Freeman family! Praying that God will comfort you during this difficult time! Mary and Bobby Wells!* 🙏🙏🙏

Mary and Robert Wells - September 23, 2024 at 04:27 PM



“ Aunt Bobbie, you were such a beautiful soul! I never met a woman as sweet and stylish as you! I know God is pleased with your work here and welcomed you home with open arms! I love you!

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**Ronda McLeod** - September 20, 2024 at 02:31 PM

EM

“ Our sincere condolences to the family we are praying for God to give you strength in this time of Sorrow. The Steele Family Alexander, Willie Jewel, Eleanor, Donald Bowwns

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**Eleanor McDonald** - September 19, 2024 at 04:24 PM

KM

“ Our deepest deepest condolences 🌸 to the Freeman family. Praying Gods comfort upon you during this difficult time. ❤️🙏

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**Keith and Angela Webb, Southaven Ms.** - September 19, 2024 at 12:29 PM

JJ

“ TO THE FAMILY AND ST MATTHEW TEMPLE COGIC: WE CAN DESCRIBE SIS FREEMAN WITH SO MANY WORDS: PURE IN HEART, FULL OF FAITH, SPOKE WISDOM, TEACH KINDNESS, GODLY MOTHER, FEARS THE LORD AND LOVING THOSE WORDS ARE THE DEFINITION OF A VIRTUOUS WOMEN AND THAT SHE WAS. SHE CAN REST NOW AND SHE WILL BE MISSED DEARLY. I WILL KEEP THE FAMILY AND CHURCH IN PRAYER

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**JUDITH L JONES** - September 19, 2024 at 12:14 PM

CB

“ I can remember Missionary Freeman and my mom (Rose Moore) Working side by side at St Matthew's Temple. And that special friendship they had. She was a very special lady With a kind heart and spirt. Rest easy Missionary.

Carolyn Moore Bivens - September 18, 2024 at 08:40 AM

DW

“ Sending lur Love & Prayers To The Families On The Loss Of This amazing Woman Thank You For All Your Encouragement Woman Of GOD We Will Miss You Always In Our Hearts



Dolores Workman - September 18, 2024 at 01:55 AM

SJ

“ I know of Mrs. Freeman through The Samuel Family. Her “doses of good medicine” are certainly that to the community here in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area of AZ in which they exemplify her dedication to faith, family and service. Her memory will continue to be a blessing and testimony.

Sarah E James - September 17, 2024 at 05:44 PM

DW

“ To Barbara Freeman family SO sorry for the loss of your wife brother Freeman and your mother. Barbara was an inspiration to all who knew her. She was loved by anyone who made contact with her. Sending hugs and prayers to her family. Deepest sympathy 🙏



Dawn Winston - September 17, 2024 at 04:52 PM

MP

*My condolences to the freeman family Barbara was a beautiful lady my deepest sympathy 🙏*

**Melanie Pierce** - September 18, 2024 at 05:09 AM

JR

*SEE YOU ON THE STREETS OF GOLD MY BIG SIS. SHE HAD THE SWEETEST SPIRIT.*

**JOYCE REESE** - September 21, 2024 at 10:39 AM

ML

*My heartfelt condolences to the entire Freeman family in the loss of Missy Barbara Freeman. I have so many fond memories of this "jewel".  
RIH*

**mary landry** - September 24, 2024 at 12:03 PM