

*Celebration of the  
Life of*

*Sunrise:  
February 3, 1942*

*Sunset:  
February 28, 2026*

*Pastor Dorothy H. Stribling*

*Saturday, March 7, 2026, 2 o'clock  
Jerusalem Temple Church  
414 Ivy Street*

*Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
Bishop Clifton Jones, Officiating  
Beck Funeral Home, Directing*

# *Order of Service*

*Mistress of Ceremony.....Sis. Cassie Henson Hickman*

*Processional.....Music Selection*

*Old Testament Reading.....Reverend Sonny Houston*

*New Testament Reading.....Suffragan Bishop Stan Jones*

*Prayer of Comfort.....Suffragan Bishop Stan Jones*

## ***Music Selection***

*Poem.....Sis. TePaske Meredith Triplett*

*Acknowledgements.....Sis. Cassie Henson Hickman*

*Expressions/Reflections.....Four persons, up to 3 mins., ea.*

## ***Music Selection***

*Eulogy.....Bishop Clifton Jones*

*Recessional.....Music Selection*

## ***Beck Funeral Home Directors In Charge***

*Interment.....Donald Rest Cemetery*

*Repast.....Jerusalem Temple Fellowship Hall*

# Obituary

*"I will give you pastors according to mine heart which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding"*  
-Jeremiah 3:15

**Mrs. Dorothy Houston Stribling** was granted life, on February 3, 1942, as Dorothy Houston through the union of John Houston, a sharecropper, and Mary Grant Houston, in Neshoba County, Philadelphia, MS. She was the youngest of six children from this union.

Mrs. Stribling lived in the Poplar Springs Community from youth to adulthood. While in her youth, she joined Poplar Springs Baptist Church. Mrs. Stribling graduated from Longdale High School in 1960.

In following her dream and aspiration of becoming a teacher, Mrs. Stribling attended and graduated from Piney Woods Community College with an A.A. degree in 1962 and subsequently earned a B.S. degree from Rust College in Elementary Education in 1964. In 1964, Mrs. Stribling educated elementary children at Carver School, in Neshoba County, until desegregation of schools in Neshoba County occurred.

On June 10, 1966, Mrs. Dorothy Houston married Mr. Kermit "Mack" Stribling—a fellow educator who, at the time, lived in the Laurel Hill Community, Neshoba County. Through this union, four children—Angela Mia, Santario, Marcus, and Christol—were born.

In the spring of 1970, Mrs. Stribling began educating elementary children at Neshoba Central Elementary in Neshoba County Schools. While employed at Neshoba Central Elementary School, and with four young children, Mrs. Stribling earned a Master's of Arts degree from Mississippi State University in 1977. Over those years, she was a teacher of 2nd grade students and 4th grade students. Mrs. Stribling had been an educator of elementary children for 31 years until her retirement in 1996.

Mrs. Stribling had also been a member of New Prospect Baptist Church, Morning Star Baptist Church and later, Jerusalem Temple Church where she was baptized in The Name of Jesus and filled with The Holy Ghost.

Later, God called Mrs. Stribling to minister and evangelize. She was chosen to be in the weekly devotional rotation on WHOC Radio Station, which she deemed a privilege. Through her, being a vessel for Kingdom Work, God established Word of God Church where she served as Pastor until departure from her earthly life. Being Pastor of Word of God Church was a joy of Mrs. Stribling's life, and she was commonly and affectionately referred to as, "Pastor Stribling".

Mrs. Stribling was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. John Houston and Mrs. Mary Grant Houston; her husband, Mr. Kermit Mack Stribling; and six siblings: Sally Houston Fox, Brown Houston, Johnny Jim Houston, Annie Mae Houston Smith, Corene Houston Stingley, and Charles "Bob" Houston. She was also preceded in death by beloved nephews, beloved nieces, and a beloved great-niece.

Mrs. Stribling is survived by her four children: Angela Mia Blossom (**Christopher**) of Tuscaloosa, AL; Santario Stribling of San Antonio, TX; Marcus Stribling (**Tara**) of Philadelphia, MS; and Christol Stribling (**LeVon**) of Philadelphia, MS. She is also survived by seven grandchildren: Chrisangelo Hayes (**Tianna**) of McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma, WA; Josten Savage of Charlotte, NC; Javion Carter of Philadelphia, MS; Keilan Blossom, Kerry Blossom, and Kaleb Blossom, all of Tuscaloosa, AL; and Sydney Stribling of Sugar Land, TX. She is also survived by two grandchildren-of-love, Kenyon Hunter and TaNiah Kidd, both of Philadelphia, MS. Mrs. Stribling leaves to cherish her memories eight great-grandchildren: Tian Sewell, Trinity Sewell, Marcello Newson, Levi Hayes, Zechariah Sewell, Isabella Hayes, Brooklynn Hayes, and Jabari Savage. She is also survived by a sister, Ms. Isabella Epperson of Chicago, IL; a special beloved nephew, Tommye Houston of Atlanta, GA, who was like a son to her; and her godchild, Shanese Hunter Bowden (**Leroy**) of Tuscaloosa, AL. She also leaves a host of nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and great-nieces.

# Letter to Our Mother

Our Dear Mother,

An example of a virtuous woman, you were, of which The Word speaks (Proverbs 31:10). And it was your desire that all would have His salvation. You believed and was about The Work—The Work of The Father; you not only spoke it abroad, but you spoke and lived it behind closed doors. To serve The Father and to speak of Him brought you joy.

We are very proud of the legacy, through you, that was granted to us. You helped to ensure that we had a foundation in many respects. You were there for us; you were a loving mother. While growing up, you helped to provide for us so that our needs were met. An advocate and protector for us from our youth up, you were, and your love for us surfaced in these, and many other respects, over the years of our lives.

Life isn't always kind, but you endured it like a good soldier, knowing and believing from whom your help came. An example of strength and holiness through turbulent times, you were, so that we also learned how to endure. You served as a living reminder of from whom our help comes.

We will miss the talks about the goodness of God and your prayers for us; it is a blessing to have a praying mother. It was our privilege to be a part of your happiness, your joy, and we thank The Father for you being our mother; He chose you for us. Rest on in that glorious rest—the rest that surpasses all other rest; it is a rest like no other.



I know that you had no doubt that we will be comforted. For you preached that, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I [The Lord God] comfort you". —Isaiah 66:13.

Your place in our lives is appreciated and the blessings of you, as our mother, did not go unnoticed.

"Life is like a vapor; it is here for a brief while, and then it is gone" (James 4:14). With that being said; a path has been made for us to meet again in due to time, Dear Mother. We love you and you are certainly missed.

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that I will seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life...". (Psalm 27:4)

With a great, great depth of love,

Mia, Sandy, Marc, and Christol



*Children to Mother:*

*You finished your life's course the other day.  
You closed your eyes and went quietly away.  
It is hard to realize, but it is true.  
That our lives must continue without you.*

*You left us, yes.  
That, we can't undo.  
Even though you can't come back to us,  
A path was left for us to come to you.*

*Love,  
Mia , Sandy, Marc and Christol*



*Mother to Children:*

*I finished my course the other day.  
I closed my eyes and went quietly away.  
I know it is hard to accept, but it is plain to see,  
That your lives must go on without me.*

*Although I cannot come back to you.  
Thank God a path was left for you come to me.*

*Love,  
Mom*

*I Never Saw Your Wings  
By an Unknown Author*

*How is it that I never saw your wings when you were here with me?*

*When you closed your eyes and soared to the Heavens I could hear the faint flutter of you wings as you left.*

*Your body no longer on this side  
your spirit here eternally I see  
your halo shine.*

*I close my eyes and see the multi-colored wings surround me in my saddest moments and my happiest times.*

*Mother my angel God has given you your assignment*

*always my mother forever my angel.*

*You fly into my dreams and when I am asleep*

*I feel your wings brush against my face wiping away*

*the tears I shed since I can no longer hold you in my arms but in my heart.*

*You earned those wings dear mother and you will always be me angel eternal.*

*From Marc and Tara*



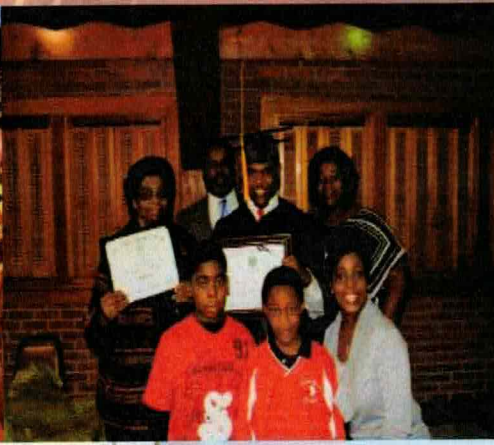
*Mama,*

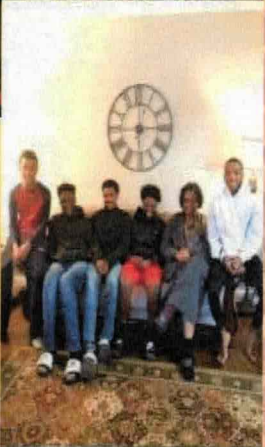
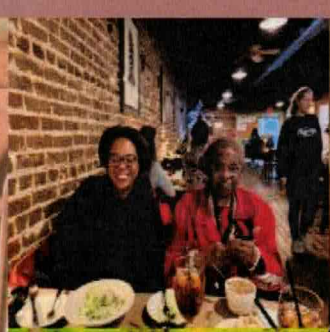
*Thank you for raising me as if you birthed me—  
for the love and care you poured into me,  
a gift I will carry always.*

*Thank you for loving me unconditionally.*

*With love,  
Shanese Bowden*







# *Pallbearers*

*Chisangelo Hayes      Cepeda Moore  
Javion Carter      Kenyon Hunter  
Josten Savage*

## *Acknowledgements and Gratitude*

*The Family of Mrs. Dorothy H. Stribling would like to express our sincere gratitude to Suffragan Bishop Stan Jones and Jerusalem Temple Church members for their hospitality, kindness, assistance, and generosity.*

*We would also like to thank Beck Funeral Home and staff for their service with thoroughness, professionalism, communications, and assistance during our difficult time.*

*Further, we would also like to thank Mr. Tony Stewart and Mrs. Peggy Stewart, Mrs. Ruthie Nash, Brianna Odom, Javion Carter and Kenyon Hunter for being there, with assistance to our mother, as she was departing. We also extend special thanks to Hairstyles Unlimited by Vetty Gates for her services, Sharon Ricks for the family flowers, and Melinda Riddle for her untiring assistance.*

*A special thank you goes to Mrs. Tara Nichols, our sister-in-law, for her assistance and hospitality, as well.*

*We also are very appreciative of the kind thoughts, cards, flowers, donations, expressions of condolences, sympathy, and prayers from others in our time of great loss.*

## *Arrangements*

*Beck Funeral Home, Directing  
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Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350  
(601) 656-1191*

*website: [www.beckfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.beckfuneralhomeinc.com)*