Homegoing Celebration

for the life of

Mary Haynes Clay



Sunrise
December 8, 1942

Sunset
October 29, 2026

Thursday, November 5, 2026 • 2:00 p.m.

Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church
257 Carver Street
Philadelphia, MS 39350
Pastor John W. Smith Officiating

Order of Service

Prelude	Piano/Choir
Mistress of Service	Barbara Pickens
Scripture Reading	Pastor Smith
Prayer	Pastor Smith

Booker T. Washington School
Class of 1961

Song	Choir
Acknowledgements	Barbara Pickens

Brief Remembrances

Solo	Robert Bohannon
Reading of Obituary	Silent
Eulogy	Pastor Smith
Solo	Coby Clay

Recessional

Interment:

Donald Rest Cemetery

Pallbearers:

Leon Chapman, Harold Dennis, Ray Hudson,
Johnny Wayne Pickens, Mark Stribling, Scottie Wilson

Obituary

There are some people whose lives are not simply lived, but poured into others. Mary Haynes Clay was one of those extraordinary souls. A woman of unwavering faith, remarkable strength, timeless grace, and boundless love. Mary lived her life with one purpose above all others: to love and serve her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to share His love with everyone she encountered.

Born on December 8, 1942, to the late Rev. O.D. Haynes and Addie B. Haynes, Mary grew into a woman whose faith would become the very foundation of her life. She was a devoted member of Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church and an ordained evangelist. But Mary's ministry was never confinel to the walls of a church. She carried the love of Christ wherever she went, ministering not only through her words, but through her kindness, compassion, generosity, and the way she treated others.

For nearly 30 years, Mary faithfully served as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Neshoba General Hospital. To Mary, caring for others was never just a job; it was a calling. She gave her whole heart to those entrusted to her care, offering comfort, dignity, and compassion to people during some of their most vulnerable moments. Her healing touch extended far beyond her profession, she possessed a God-God-given ability to meet people exactly where they were, without judgment and always with love.

Above all, Mary was a mother and grandmother whose love knew no limits. Her children and family were among her greatest earthly blessings, and she loved them fiercely. She was their rock, their steady foundation, their source of wisdom, and their constant reminder of God i's faithfulness. Through every season of life, she remained a woman of strength, offering encouragement, guidance, and a love that never wavered.

Mary was also the very definition of a class act. She carried herself with a quiet elegance and dignity that could never be purchased. Whether dressed in her Sunday best or wearing a treasured find from the thrift store, Mary was always a lady of grace and style. Her beauty was never bur measured by what she wore, but by the remarkable spirit of the woman wearing it.

She had a rare gift for making people feel seen, heard, and loved. She could meet someone in the middle of their struggles, offer a word of encouragement, and somehow leave them feeling a little stronger and a little closer to God. Her faith was not merely something she confessed; it was something she practiced every single day.

Mary was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Rev. O.D. Haynes and Addie B. Haynes; her brother, Jimmy Dale H. ynes; and her daughter, Wanda Faye Banks.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory her loving children, Terry Haynes Myers, Coby Darnell Clay (Danielle), and Dianne Baldwin; her beloved grandchildren, Chelsea Clay, Christian Myers, Jordan Clay, and Kourtney Clay; her sister-in-law, Ruby Haynes; her nieces, Tesha Crouther and Robert Roberts; her nephews, Jeremy Haynes (Shemeshe), Roderick Clemons (Alicia), and Antwan Dupree; along with a host of great-nieces, great-nephews, extended family members, dear friends, and countless lives made better simply because she was part of them.

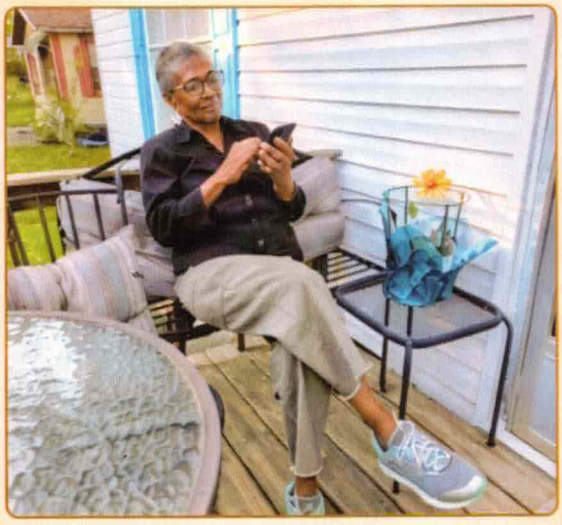
While our hearts grieve her earthly absence, we find comfort in knowing that the faith she so boldly lived has now become sight. The hands that spent a lifetime serving others can finally rest, and the woman who spent her days telling others about the goodness of God is now in the presence of the Savior she loved so dearly.

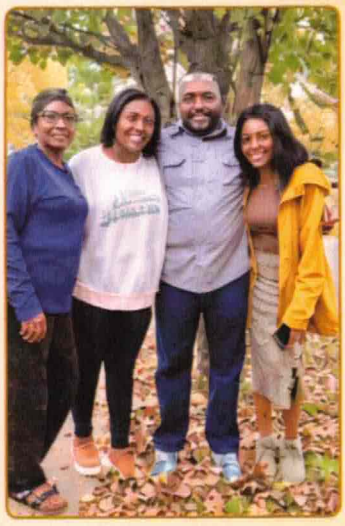
And through it all, she was always, always a lady.

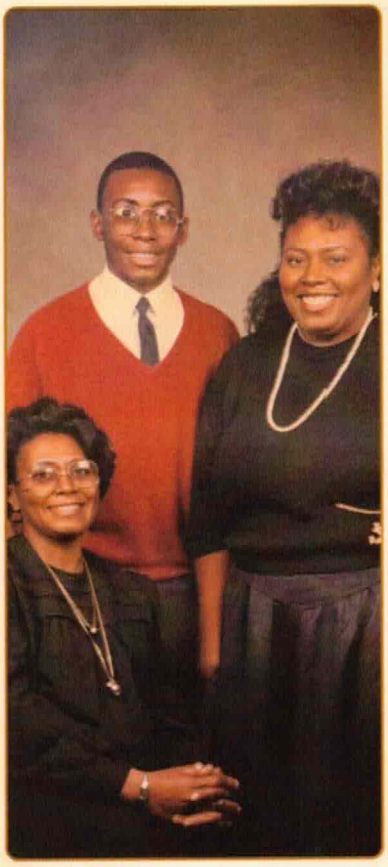
"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Matthew 25:21



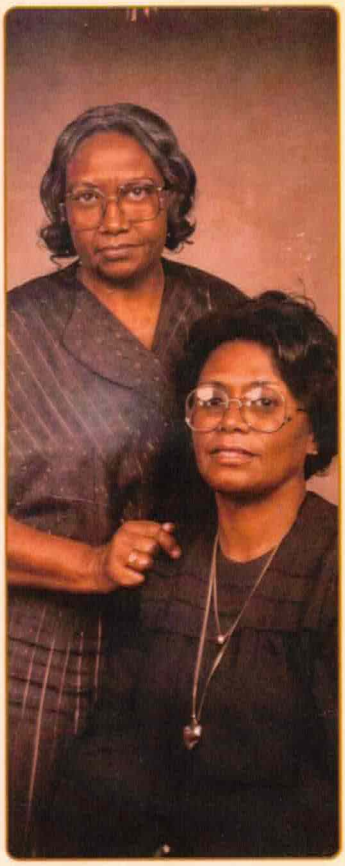


















"Lord, You can do anything but fail." - Mary