

*The Home-Going Celebration  
of  
Mother Inez Porter*

(May 4, 1922 - March 26, 1999)



**Wednesday, March 31, 1999  
12:00 Noon**

***Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
14204 Lucas Ferry Road - Athens, Alabama 35611  
Reverend Damon Betts, Pastor and Officiant***

## *The Obituary*

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

*John 11:25-26*

*Mother Inez Fuqua Porter* was born May 14, 1922 in Lauderdale County, Alabama as one of fourteen children born to the late Ed and Mattie Fuqua.

She confessed hope in Christ at a young age and united with the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend Cowley. Later she moved her membership to Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

Mrs. Porter moved to Cleveland, Ohio in 1950 with her former husband, Willie D. Stover, with whom seven children were born; three of whom preceded her in death, two as infants and William D. Stover on January 8, 1999.

While in Cleveland, she remained true to her faith by staying active in the church. She was also active in social and community service organizations in her neighborhood. Mrs. Porter was a housewife during most of her years in Cleveland. But, when her children became adults, she decided to go to work. She was employed as a Dietician at one of the Cleveland Public Schools.

In 1973, she married Manuel Porter. They moved to Athens, Alabama in 1974 where she resumed her membership in Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church. At the church, she was a member of the Usher Board and Mothers' Board. She also kept working at the Ramada Inn where she retired in the mid 80's.

Mrs. Porter was a member of the NAACP and the Faithful Few Club. However, her favorite activity was fishing. "Many days, we would be bundled up on the creek fishing," her husband said.

Mrs. Porter passed this life on Friday, March 26, 1999 at her home in Athens, Alabama after a long illness. She was seventy-six years old.

She is survived by her husband of twenty-five years: Manuel Porter of Athens, Alabama; four children: Elgie (Emma) Stover of Hilton Head, South Carolina; Marie Stover Williams of Athens, Alabama; Kenneth Stover and Alma Stover, both of Cleveland, Ohio; one step-son: Charles Woods of Phoenix, Arizona and one step-daughter: Denise (Larry) Hoover of Manassas, Virginia; two sisters: Eddie C. (Ezell) Caldwell of Athens, Alabama and Ella Pryor of Cleveland, Ohio; two sisters-in-law: Laura F. Walker of Indianapolis, Indiana and Attrice Porter of Buffalo, New York; three brothers: Herbert Fuqua of Athens, Alabama and Alonzo (Ida Mae) Luster and Walter B. Luster, both of Lima, Ohio; twenty-three grandchildren; a number of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

# *The Order of the Celebration*

\* THE PROCESSIONAL ..... Soft Music

SONG ..... The Choir

SCRIPTURE ..... Reverend Deborah Williams

SONG AND PRAYER ..... Deacon James Peoples

SONG ..... The Choir

AS A MOTHER ..... Mother Ruby Betts

TRIBUTE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ..... Sister Lillie Bledsoe

SONG ..... The Choir

OBITUARY ..... *Read Silently*

SONG ..... The Choir

EULOGY ..... Pastor Damon T. Betts

SOLO ..... Deacon Arthur Jordan

CLOSING PRAYER ..... Reverend Larry Lockett

\* RECESSIONAL

\* Those who are able, please stand

- *Ball Bearers* -

Grandsons

Dereck Stover  
Darren Harris  
Isaac Peoples (*Friend*)

Kenneth Stover  
Alshah King  
James Yarbrough (*Friend*)

- *Honorary Ball Bearers* -

Deacons of Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church

- *Flower Bearers* -

Angela Harris  
Elanda Williams  
Sister Tmpia Boudin (*Friend*)  
Brenda Dobbins

Elanda Underwood  
Ineka Jones  
Nekoyia Stover

- *Honorary Flower Bearers* -

Mothers of Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church

- *Acknowledgement* -

*"Friendship is like a light in the lighthouse. It shines brightest when all is dark."*  
We could not have borne our grief without the love of God and the help of each of you, our friends. Your visits, cards, telegrams, flowers, telephone calls, prayers and all other acts of kindness have sustained us through our bereavement. May God bless each of you.

The Family of Mother Inez Fuqua Porter

- *The Interment* -

Thatch-Mann Cemetery - Athens, Alabama

Final arrangements intrusted to:

**People's Funeral Home**

12060 Highway 31 South - Athens, Alabama

*"Service within the means of every family"*

## *A Final Thought From Inez*

*May I Go?*

*May I go now?*

*Do you think the time is right?*

*May I say good-bye to pain filled days  
and endless lonely nights?*

*I've lived my life and done my best  
an example I tried to be,*

*So can I take that step beyond and set my spirit free?  
I didn't want to go at first. I fought with all my might.*

*But something seems to draw me now  
to a warm and loving light.*

*I want to go. I really do.*

*It's difficult to stay.*

*But I will try as best I can  
to live just one more day...*

*To give you time to care for me  
and share your love and fears.*

*I know you're sad and are afraid  
because I see your tears.*

*I'll not be far.*

*I'll promise that, and hope you'll always know  
that my spirit will be close to you,*

*Wherever you may go.*

*Thank you so far loving me.*

*You know I love you too,  
That's why it's hard to say good-bye  
and end this life with you.*

*So hold me now, just one more time,  
and let me hear you say,*

*Because you care so much for me,  
You'll let me go today.*

