

Suffragan Bishop Joe A. Hairston Sr.

Suffragan Bishop Joe Alexander Hairston, Sr., 80, of Lester, died Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009 in Raleigh General Hospital following a short illness.

Born April 21, 1929 in Gary, he was the son of the late Fannie Kathryn and Joe Dixie Hairston.

He attended Gary District School and received the Holy Ghost and then married Naomi Joyce Jones on September 3, 1949. To this union six children were born. He worked for United States Steel for 30 years and retired 1975.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Steven Hairston; sister, Julia Carpenter and brother, Sylvester Newbill.

Left to cherish his memories are his loving wife of 60 years, Naomi Joyce Hairston; his children Joyce Reeves of Atlanta, Ga., Janice Hairston of Beckley, Joe (Selina) Hairston Jr. of Bristol, Tenn., Deborah Wheeler of Dallas, Texas and Lydia Hairston (Donald) Birch of South Bend, Ind.; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a brother Wilfred (Thelma) Thompson of Detroit, Mich. and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws.

Home Going Service will be 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 10, 2009 at Greater New Jerusalem Holiness Church, Glen White, with Bishop Fred T. Simms. Burial will follow in Restlawn Memorial Park, Bluewell.

Friends may call from 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, 2009 at the church and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 10, 2009.

Condolences may be e-mailed to ritchie-johnson@suddenlinkmail.com

Arrangements entrusted to Ritchie & Johnson Funeral Parlor, Beckley.