



The Life of
MRS. ARLENA WILSON SPANN

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith...

II Timothy 4:6-7

Arlena Wilson-Spann entered into life on November 30, 1936, in Bordeau, Kentucky, to the union of Reverend James Maylon and Willie Mae Tucker-Wilson, being the third child born at that time.

Early in life, her family relocated back to her father's birthplace in Lee County, Virginia. They lived there for several years until her parents and seven siblings moved to Loudoun County, Virginia seeking a better way of life for their family. **Arlena** received her formal education in the public school system of Loudoun County. She was baptized at the family church in Loudoun County, VA. **Arlena** faithfully attended church along with her parents and siblings. It was during one of these attendances that she met a young man in a gospel quartet who had a guest appearance one Sunday evening, whom she later married on July 14, 1952, by the name of Willie Lee Spann, Jr., making her **Mrs. Arlena Wilson-Spann**. After marriage, they moved to Washington, D.C., and of this union seven children were born; Willie Lee Spann III, David Lee Spann, Quintin Spann, James Edward Spann, Gary Andrew (Linett) Spann, Donald Lee Spann and their one & only daughter, Novella Spann-Isaac, preceded her in death. Most of their children were born in Washington, D.C., eventually, Mr. and Mrs. Spann moved to Prince George's County in Maryland, where their remaining children were born.

While raising her seven children, **Arlena** found time to incorporate her work ethic along with parenting. She worked from approximately 1959 until 1964 at the Prince George's General Hospital. After leaving there **Arlena** sought work at the Magnolia Gardens Nursing Home in Lanham, Maryland until she and her family relocated to Manning, South Carolina, where **Arlena** worked for several years at the Hampton Nursing Home. Eventually, she left that profession and began private duty work in a couple of homes in South Carolina. As a result, **Arlena** ended her career to remain at home with her husband who retired several years prior. Until her health failed, Arlena enjoyed her membership at Friendship A.M.E. Church.

She was preceded in death by, in addition to her daughter, six siblings, James Howard Wilson, Chester L. Wilson, Violet Wilson Walker-Thompson, Evelyn Wilson Tate-Merchant, Eva Wilson-Holmes and J.T. Wilson; one son-n-law, Luscious Isaac Sr.; one sister-n-law, Katie Massenburg; three brothers-n-law, Joseph Spann, Clarence Spann and Leroy Chatman.

Arlena is survived by her husband of the home; six sons; eight grandchildren, La Shana Spann of Burbank, CA, Curtis Spann of Boston, MA, Luciana Denise Isaac, LaKeisha Isaac, Bruce Anthony (Carletta) Isaac and Troy Green all of Columbia, S.C., Shiza Athena Isaac, Luscious Isaac Jr. and Shameeka J. Spann all of Sumter, SC, Keyonna Ravé Spann and Kendra Andrea both of Bishopville, SC; siblings, Mary Kathleen Wilson McGill-Tart of New Britain, CT, Lester (Barbara D.S.) Wilson of Washington, D.C., Jewel Wilson of Riverdale, MD, and Patricia V. Wilson of Temple Hills, MD; six sisters-n-law, Eleese Tindal Davis, Carrie Stukes and LouBertha Parker-Nelson all of Paxville, SC, Louvenia Dickson of Forestville, MD, Henrietta Patterson, Ulease Goines both of Sumter, SC; three brothers-n-law, Johnnie (Betty) Spann of Washington, DC, Samuel (Ruby) Spann of Winston Salem, NC and Alex (JoAnne) Spann of Sumter, SC; special thanks two special cousins, Thad Tucker & Sillus Tucker; a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins in the Wilson and Spann lineage, other relatives and friends.

Very special thanks to Terry Chatman who was the backbone of showing love and care to our Mother.