



W. D. CROWDER FUNERAL HOME

1800 John L. Patterson Street
Springfield, Tennessee 37172
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Arrangements: Public Viewing and Visitation will be Sunday, January 24, 2021 from 10:00 am-1:00 pm at Springfield Civic Center 401 N. Main Street, Springfield, Tennessee; Private Funeral Service; Interment will be in Restlawn Memorial Garden; DUE TO COVID 19 MASK ARE REQUIRED TO BE WORN.

Funeral Service will be live streamed on W. D. Crowder Funeral Home Facebook page beginning at 1 pm.

With heartfelt honor, we celebrate the life and legacy of our dear mother, Pastor Carrie L. Darden, who was a true Giant in the Kingdom of God. Pastor Carrie L. Woodard, (Polk-Darden) was born on March 28, 1938 to the late James Woodard and Joella Williams (Woodard, Dowlen) in Louisville, Kentucky. She was a lifelong resident of Springfield, Robertson County, Tennessee.

Carrie attended grade school in Robertson County and graduated from Bransford High School. After high school Carrie worked as a home maker, did farming, and was a child care aide.

She soon was joined in Holy Matrimony to the late James Walter Polk, Sr., and from this union they had five children. Carrie was a member at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church for over forty years. She served under the leaderships of Pastor Whimbley, Pastor Coleman, Pastor Williams, and Pastor Dillard. There, she faithfully worked in many ministries of the church. She served on the Missionary Outreach Ministries at Antioch, as President and Vice President. She also founded the youth choir, served as their leader and mentor, as well as director of the combined choirs. She was one of the youth Sunday School teachers for many years, worked with the Willing Workers, and Pastors Aide Committees. Carrie was a devoted founding member, advisor, and Chaplain of the United Gospel Harmonettes. They traveled and worshipped in song from 1974 through the mid 1990's and became one of Robertson Counties most requested and powerful groups in their time. In 1973, Carrie was joined in Holy Matrimony to her late husband, Jimmy Lee Darden. From their union, one daughter was born. Pastor Darden, also worked in manufacturing, sales, and customer service. She spent many years in production at Hinkle Chair Company, and Acme Boot Inc. After production, Carrie worked as an astounding sales representative for Stanley Home Products for many years. Later, she also worked at Sears and Roebuck Inc. and Wal-mart where she was a team member, Assistant and Department Manager in the Fabric Department for over 10 years. After she retired from Wal-mart, the Lord Blessed her to become a business owner and founding creator of "Quilts & Things" located in Springfield, TN. There with her family, she was a seamstress, worked in binding, quilting, created hand sewn clothing, and household décor. As her health started to decline, she fully retired from business, but not from her one true calling, her missionary duties, and ministry. After laboring over four decades at Antioch Baptist Church, she accepted her call into ministry as a minister and was mentored by the late Margaret S. Coutts at Bethel Apostolic Temple in Springfield. On the first Sunday night of December 1993 she delivered her first message. An unforgettable, powerful and anointed sermon "What If." Souls were saved and fourteen family members were baptized. Pastor Darden served actively at Bethel Apostolic Temple for five years until the Lord called her into Pastoral-ship. In July 1998, The Temple of Love Church was born, where the motto is a great example of what she taught..."Live, Love, and Forgive!" Faithfully serving at the Temple of Love Church, Pastor Darden joined the (PMMW) Prophetic Miracle Ministries World Wide, under Presiding Bishop Leo Lewis Sr. of Montgomery, AL. Pastor Darden has served her members, in the community, and region doing the work of the Lord for more than sixty years. Her love for everyone will be remembered always, but the Legacy and teachings of Living, Loving and Forgiving will be carried on through all who labor in the work of the Lord! She will Always be remembered for her smile, her compassion, life lessons, her giving and stating "May the Works that I've Done, Speak for Me!"

She was preceded in death by her parents, James Woodard and Joella Dowlen; her in-laws, Henry and Lulu Polk; her brothers, Reverend Ben A. (Lula Mae) Williams and Robert Woodard; her son-in-law, Ron Austin; and her late husbands, James W. Polk, Sr., and Jimmy L. Darden; godchildren, Lena and Edward Gift.

Pastor Darden leaves to cherish her six children; Carolyn White (Bobby), Crystal Austin, Celisa Polk, James Polk, Jr. (Lisa), Conda Polk, and Secretia Turner (Robert); twenty-one grandchildren; forty great-grandchildren, four great-great grand children; sister, Mamie Lee Woods of Nashville, TN; brother, Keith Dowlen; sister-in-law, Cherie Woodard; and godson, Emmanuel Gift. She will greatly be missed by many...Heaven has truly gained a beautiful soul! Rest in Jesus, Pastor Darden, for your Labor is finished and your Reward is at Hand!