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2015-01-10; Pamphlets; Redeemed A Celebration for Hazel Irene Gault

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Redeemed!

A Celebration for

HAZEL IRENE GAULT

June 20, 1931   January 3, 2015

Saturday, January 10, 2015 @ 11:00 am

LINWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST
2523 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO, NY 14214

JASON JOSEPH SR., MINISTER
Well the day has finally come; I have lost the most important person in my life. With the passing of my mother today I am in a place I have never been before. Since I can remember there was always my mother, Henry and myself. We started out in Mississippi and moved to Lackawanna and then to Buffalo. We lived in the Perry Projects from around 1957 until 1960. My mother met a wonderful man, McDaniel Gault, and like the song says, “Henry and I colored him ‘father’.” Then came my wonderful brothers and sister from that union. But beforehand there was always the three of us, and now I am alone.

Yes, I have a wife, children and grandchildren, but nothing can take the place of your mother. She was a loving woman who worked in other peoples’ homes so that she could provide for my brother and me. As a child I did not fully understand the pressure she was under (she was in her early 20’s). Things were not easy for us as I learned later, but she never let us want for anything. She kept food on the table and a roof over our heads. I can remember her walking from Lackawanna to Buffalo in a snow storm because she knew that we were home alone.

As loving as she was, she was also very strict on us because she knew the perils that were out there. She embodied the term “tough love.” I know now, how hard it was raising two black boys in the 50’s and 60’s. Thanks to her I made it through without ever going to jail or getting arrested. When I entered the U.S. Air Force and the drill sergeants would get in my face I would tell them, “You don't know tough,” as I thought of my mother’s discipline. I admit that I rebelled against her, but she stood strong. A demonstration of her determination was that she went back to school (she had quit school in 1948 when I was born) and got her high school, Bachelors and Masters degree after having 5 children.

She was raising Haile, Sayeeda and Ntare; all grammar school age, and working sometimes three jobs while attending classes. So as my family and I prepare to bury her my heart is heavy, but my love for her is enduring and I will find strength in knowing that she lived a full and wonderful life. I know that Henry is glad to see her again, and I will see the both of them again someday. Mother Dear, R.I.P.

Love,

From Your Son
Order of Service

Processional .......................................................... "Soon and Very Soon"

Reading of the Obituary .................................................. Haile Nkrumah Gault

Acknowledgements .......................................................... Dr. Erika D. Gault

Scripture Readings .................................................. Harry H. Haygood, Gen. Elder, House of God Church, Rochester, NY

Old Testament: Proverbs 31:10-31

Prayer .......................................................... George F. Nicholas, Minister, Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church

Selection: "Poor Wayfaring Stranger" .......................................................... Haile Nkrumah Gault

Reflections .................................................. Ernie C. Coleman (Representing the Patrick Family)
Modell Gault, Jr. (Representing the Gault Family)
Rev. George F. Nicholas (Representing the Community)

Selection: "His Eye is on the Sparrow" .......................................................... Sayeeda Gault-Dixon

Hymn .......................................................... "An Empty Mansion"

Selection: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" .......................................................... Bessie Patterson

Eulogy .......................................................... Jason M. Joseph, Sr., Minister

Recessional .......................................................... "Victory in Jesus"

Interment
Forest Lawn Cemetery
Buffalo, NY
Hazel Irene Patrick Gault
June 20, 1931 - January 3, 2015

Hazel Irene Patrick Gault was born the fifth of 12 children to the late Joe and Essie Myrtis Patrick in Newton County, MS on June 20, 1931. She laid her burden down and entered eternal rest at 3:30 pm on January 3, 2015 in Buffalo, NY surrounded by her loved ones. What she accomplished between these two dates she did with absolute zest and purpose!

Better known by her middle name, Irene moved north with her first husband, Eddie Lofton, and two sons to Lackawanna, NY in 1950. Widowed in 1956, she met her future husband, McDaniel, in the spring of 1957, and the couple wed in holy matrimony on July 2, 1960 in Buffalo, NY. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Depew, NY on July 2, 2010. To this union were born three beloved children. Irene professed her faith in Jesus Christ at a young age; she was a member of Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church in Buffalo for 29 years, where she served on the usher board and on various committees. On August 15, 1999 Irene, having heard and believed the gospel of Jesus, repenting of all her sins, and confessing Jesus as her Lord, was united with Christ by submitting to burial under water in baptism for the remission of her sins and to receive the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit [Romans 6:3-7]. The Lord added her to His eternal kingdom, and she was a member of the Linwood church of Christ in Buffalo for the rest of her life.

Mrs. Gault earned her General Education Diploma [GED] from Bennett High School, as well as her Baccalaureate degree in Anthropology from the State University of New York at Buffalo [UB], in 1975. She graduated with her Masters degree in Counseling Education from UB in 1983.

A herculean force in the Fruit Belt, Irene Gault’s impact as an activist could be felt throughout her community. Her family remembers her dashing off to attend meetings, engaging in rallies, and organizing public marches. She immersed herself in the Civil Rights Movement, working for organizations such as BUILD [Build, Unity, Independence, Liberty and Dignity] and PUSH [People United to Save Humanity] to help bring about equality for all people. Mrs. Gault worked tirelessly on the Buffalo campaigns of Arthur O. Eve, David Collins, James Pitts, George K. Arthur, Hugh Scott, and many others. She went door to door with stacks of petitions seeking to obtain enough signatures to get the candidates' names on the ballot.

She was employed at Geneva B. Scruggs, assisting young adult males who had fallen through the cracks. With steely resolve and audacious courage, Irene Gault fought for the safety of everyone in her community. Threatening a large-scale shutdown of the Kensington Expressway, Gault mobilized her forces to acquire the necessary funds to purchase the property to erect a pedestrian overpass near the end of the Kensington Expressway leading downtown. She cut the ribbon at the official opening of the now named Police Officer Robert McLellan Memorial Overpass standing alongside the late Rev. Bennett W. Smith and former New York State Assemblyman, Arthur O. Eve.

For a few years Irene was a school crossing guard for the Buffalo Police Department. She was also a Professional Guidance Counselor for the Buffalo Board of Education at Public School #37, #4, and at South Park High School. Irene was an employee liaison for the New York State Division for Youth.

Speaking of the youth, Irene Gault was exceptionally masterful at working with them and young adults! Her most dedicated work outside the home was for the beautification of the Fruitbelt, the neighborhood she lived in for over five decades, and for the betterment of the kids entrusted to her care and oversight. Mrs. Gault served as supervisor for the Mayor's Summer Youth Program for the Fruit Belt community, instrumental in introducing a bill to have the legal age requirement for workers to be lowered from age 16 to 14. The bill passed. Mrs. Gault was downright unrelenting with regard to the appearance of her district. She felt that living in the ghetto was no excuse to have a half-torn screen door, grass-less lawns or cracking porch steps. She was
president of the Fruit Belt Federation of Block Clubs, Fruit Belt Beautification Program, and the Rose Street Block Club, a post she held for 14 years. She obtained grass seed and top soil from the city, and spearheaded a massive campaign within the community to supplant the clay surfaces with grass, shrubberies, trees, and flowers. Irene inspired neighborhood kids, young adults and parents to join her in sweeping, raking, mowing and landscaping around their homes and throughout their community. She was a go-getter and she knew just how to motivate people.

Mrs. Gault was vice president of the Parent Teacher Organization; chairman of the recreation committee of Model Cities for the Masten and Ellicott districts; housing specialist for the Fruit Belt Redevelopment Program; a member of the Fruit Belt Homeowners and Tenants Association, Neighborhood House Association, and Citizens Advisory Committee, where she developed the Tot Lot program.

Irene would go into ferocious battle for her own children! Simply stated: You Did Not Mess With Her Kids! She was determined that her children would receive the same quality education as white children in the city, so she forced the school board to transfer her son Haile from his local school to an all-white one across town four years prior to court-ordered busing. Eventually she had children Sayeeda and Ntare bused there as well. When the school system pulled her son Willie back a grade after he had moved north from Mississippi, Irene coerced them to promote him not one grade, but two! When the principal at Hutch Tech High School attempted to prevent Irene's daughter, Sayeeda, from enrolling there, Irene called and gave an earful to that administrator until he relented. She was a tough taskmaster. She demanded respect and the best from her children.

This lovely lady was always the loudest cheerleader for her children at cross country and track meets, fashion shows, football games, speaking contests, graduations, and stage play performances! Her voice could be heard above everyone else's! She was so enthusiastic and she burst with pride at every event!

Later in life Irene was known for her very gentle heart and sweet spirit. She always looked forward to attending church Bible study and worship service. She savored being in the company of her brothers and sisters in Christ. She is known as Grandma to her grands, and Granny to her great grands. She loved them all! She grew in love with a neighborhood stray cat she named Francis. She adored that cat, and looked forward to their daily interactions. After a 15-year friendship Francis passed away in September 2014.

Irene loved herself some Jesus! She was crazy about her McDaniel! She loved jewelry, gardening, flowers, CBS soap operas, juicy fruit gum, fudgesicles, orange popsicles, banana sandwiches, cheesecake yogurt, egg mcmuffins, peanut butter, onion fried rice; but above these she'd always say, "I love my own cooking!" She was warm, tender, kissable, huggable, cute, funny, elegant, and overwhelmingly generous! She said at the end, "I think I did too much!" Yet it is written in Ecclesiastes 5:12, "The rest of a laborer is so sweet ..."

She was preceeded in death by her first husband: Eddie Lofton; son: Henry Lofton, Sr.; parents: Joe & Essie Myrtis Patrick; three sisters: Marlene Raine, Juverline Patrick, and Vera Mae Patrick; and three brothers: Leon Patrick, Dennis Ray Patrick, and Hubert Patrick. She leaves the sweetest memories to her cherished husband of over 54 years, McDaniel; one daughter: Sayeeda Makeba Gault [Reginald] Dixon of Buffalo, NY; three sons: William J. [Faustina] Lofton of Manhattan, KS; Haile Nkrumah Gault and Ntare Ali [Erika] Gault of Buffalo, NY; seven grandchildren: Henry Lofton, Jr. of Syracuse, NY; Nikkole [Brandon] Journey of Fishers, IN; Sarah Rathmann of Klein Rheide, Germany; Brigitte [John] Adu-Monroe of Manhattan, KS; Mandela Lofton of Washington, DC; Keema Dixon-Brooks and Anthony Dixon of Charlotte, NC; twelve great-grandchildren: Aria, Brenae, John Jr., Brianna, Kiara, Shawn, Michael, Jaime, Shamar, Lachelle, La Bella Rose, and Destyn; four sisters: Gertrude Williams of Los Angeles, CA, Clatie Bell Edison of Hickory, MS, Clairee Hicks of Buffalo, NY, and Maudie Nash of Union, MS; one brother: Joseph C. Patrick of Union, MS; one brother-in-law, Modell Gault Sr. of Buffalo, NY; two sisters-in-law: Edna Gault and Essie Gault of Buffalo, NY; as well as a multitude of dear nieces, nephews, cousins, church family, neighbors and friends, including Philippa Glover, Elaine Joseph, Kathleen Johnson, Deborah Gryzbowski, Brenda Hardy and Beverly Boyd all of Buffalo, NY.
The Start of a Journey
by Ntare Ali Gault

Let the drum beat slowly,
Let the piano play lowly,
And let the singers hum softly,
For today, the Angels are calling on one of their own.

Let the workers in the vineyard pause for a moment
Of silence,
Let the winds calm,
Let the doves fly a little higher,
Let the clouds open
And let the sunshine fall upon her face
As Irene's spirit ascends to the Mighty Throne.

Let us cheer the weary traveler,
Let us watch the storm pass over,
And let us celebrate the newest ancestor,
Because there is now nothing between
Her and her Savior.
Let us take a moment to weep,
But then rise up and rejoice!
For Mary and Martha are ringing the bells
The drum is beating slowly,
The piano is plays lowly,
The soloist are singing softly,
But the trumpet is blowing Victoriously!

For on January 3, 2015,
The Angels called on Hazel Irene Patrick Gault
Who is one of their own.
Precious Moments in Time
**The Remains of the Day**
by Haile Nkrumah Gault

Sunset yields cessation of thine beating heart;
Sunrise depicts consciousness at journey's start.
Meaningful exertion, or the lack thereof,
Hath no place but on earth to summon God above.

Prior to thine genesis you were known, but knew not;
Subsequent to thy last heave to dust you'll surely rot.
The interim holds the choice where free-will is existent.
The gate behind is closed; approaching: thine interment.

With measured audacity wield thy trust in God's way,
And until He returneth bear what remains of the day.

**Call Bearers**

Ntare Ali Gault       William J. Lofton
Reginald Dixon       Fred Edison
Almonte Patrick      Brandon Journey
Ernest Coleman

**For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. Now what waits for me: the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.**

**2 Timothy 4:6-8**

We, the family of Hazel Irene Gault, would like to thank each of you for the many loving and thoughtful acts of kindness shown during this most difficult time. May God bless each of you with His mercy and favor. We especially want to thank the staff of *Sister's of Charity Hospital* for their care of our loved one. These acts not only warmed our hearts, but honored her memory as well.

**Auspices**

Thomas T. Edwards Funeral Home
995 Genesee St,
Buffalo, NY 14211

**Interment**

Forest Lawn Cemetery
1411 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209