

Life's Journey

On January 9, 1951, God reached into heaven and picked a quiet shining star, wrapped it in a mortal blanket and sent it to Earth to be loved and nurtured by his parents Lester and Lennie Benford. They named that star Charles Michel Benford. When he accepted Christ at an early age, his light began to shine brightly in the choir and all youth activities.

This star was so bright that he was noticed by Pearl Benford and on May 22, 1982, they united in Holy Matrimony and they reared three girls.

Charles' star continued to shine for many years. His light touched the lives of family and friends in the church and the community. Early in the morning on November 30, 2015, that shining star returned to heaven to be with the Lord.

Charles was a man of many talents: he loved singing, loved gospel music, sports (He was the first black to play basketball at the Fordyce High School where he graduated in 1966) and he loved dancing and having fun with his family and friends.

Charles continued his education at AM & N College in Pine Bluff and Southern State University in Magnolia, AR

After serving two years in the United States Army, he returned home and his light began to shine brightly again in the Greater Mt. Olive Church. He was a member of the Deacon Board, he sang in the church choir where he served as President until his death. Charles was also a member of the Greater Bradley District Male Chorus.

Waiting to collect his light rays are his parents: Lester and Lennie Benford, his daughter Janice, his brother Allen, and his sister Barbara Owens.

His light will continue to shine in the hearts and memories of his wife: Pearline, his two daughters, Margaret Bush & Ashley Benford, two grandchildren: Traeveon Jenkins and Whitney Jenkins (He raised his grandchildren as his own). Eleven sisters: Gloria Harris, Debra Jackson, Linda Walters, Shawn Harris, Jan Harris, Annette Merricks, Marsha Gaines, Sharon Thrower, Jacqueline Thrower, Debra Thrower, Jacquelyn Peterson, four brothers: Elijah Timothy Thrower, Jr., Michael Thrower, James Sterling Thrower and Stephen Thrower, two sister-in-laws, Catherine Jenkins and Corrine Jones, one brother-in-law; Earl Jones, a host of cousins, relatives and friends.