

*In Loving Memory*  
of  
*Sister Elsie Lewis*



~ Memorial Service ~

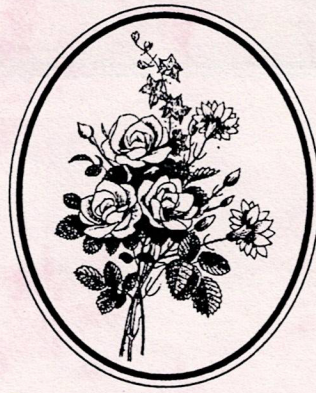
Saturday • June 17, 1995  
11:00 A.M.

**St. Miles Missionary Baptist Church**  
Liberty, Texas



*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son;  
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.*

*John 3:16*



### *Gotta Love Her*

As with most of us, **Sis. Elsie Lewis** faced obstacles. In fact, she faced numerous challenges during her lifetime, but through it all, she kept the faith. Despite losing most of those whom she loved dearly and undergoing the cancer which she called a “transformation”, **Sis. Lewis** remained a brilliant beam of light in the lives of those around her.

It is difficult to talk about this remarkable woman without making her sound like a saint, because she did saintly things. Besides, Proverbs 31 has already described her. During her lifetime, **Sis. Lewis** often performed private, selfless acts, too numerous to number, which affected the lives of many members of her family, church, friends, and even strangers.

Whether she was quoting Scripture, referring to Shakespeare, reciting poetry, or telling a joke, **Sis. Lewis** was one of the wisest, most dynamic people most of us will ever encounter. During the last week of a life roughened by loss as well as pain, **Sis. Lewis** found the inner strength to instruct those who would learn, encourage those who needed encouragement, appreciate those who needed appreciation, and laugh with those stunned by the realities of her illness.



When she told us, "Jesus is like Church's; gotta love Him", our tears were replaced with joy. When she struggled valiantly to get out of bed but couldn't, she simply chuckled, "I'm stuck like Chuck" instead of diminishing her testimony. In fact, throughout her ordeal, **Sis. Lewis** said with regularity, "The Lord is faithful". She believed this, she lived this, and she helped those who knew her further realize this blessed truth.

There was so much we did and could have learned from **Sis. Elsie Lewis**, for she was truly a remarkable woman. She even provided us with fascinating ways of looking at things. Her cigarette became her pacifier, her bed control became Donald's head-beater, and her life-support machinery, which was a faithful companion, was renamed her boyfriend. A boyfriend who sometimes refused to let her visit places of her choice. For this, she threatened to kick him out.

Instead of kicking her "boyfriend" or anybody else out, **Sis. Lewis** practiced compassion and patience with him. **Elsie Mae** never permanently kicked anyone out, deserving or undeserving. Instead, she obeyed Jesus Who teaches us "you gotta love Him", no matter what the circumstances. Somehow, **Sis. Lewis** managed to do this in such an inviting manner that we, too, gotta love her.

*All of us...seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.*

*2 Corinthians 3:18*





## *Obituary*

On December 7, 1914, **Elsie Mae Henderson** was born to Mr. J. P. and Mrs. Laura Henderson. She was the fourth of five children. Reared in a Christian home, **Elsie** committed her life to Christ as a youngster and joined the Baptist denomination.

When she became an adult, **Elsie Mae** married George "Bub" Lewis. They had one child, Donald Lewis. During this time, the Lewis family united with St. Miles Missionary Baptist Church. Joining St. Miles has a special significance to **Sis. Lewis** because her new church home was named after her grandfather, Robert Miles. As an active member of St. Miles Missionary Baptist Church, **Sis. Lewis** served in several departments for as long as her health permitted.

During her tenure there, both **Sis. Lewis** and her husband served on the usher board, and **Sis. Lewis** later became president of this auxiliary. Also, she served as general mission teacher and Sunday School teacher for many, many years. In addition to her official church titles, **Sis. Lewis** bore the unofficial title of "speaker of the house". Incredibly gifted, **Sis. Lewis** could speak with the eloquence of angels; in fact, she has been known to move both the unredeemed and the redeemed to contribute offerings to the church. Plus, as a Sunday School teacher, she could sweet talk a rebellious teenager into behaving sweetly. Along with a commitment to the Lord and her church, **Sis. Lewis** was a member of the Heroines of Jericho Lodge.

A Christian, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt, a cousin, and a friend, indeed, **Sis. Lewis** leaves many mourn her loss as well as celebrate her home-going. **Mrs. Elsie Lewis** is survived by her son and daughter, Donald and Diamond Lewis; two grandchildren, Marquette Lewis and Kevin Mask; a daughter, Lillie Pearl Gradney; and a brother, Charlie Henderson.

In addition to her immediate family, **Sis. Lewis** is survived by nine nephews, five nieces, and numerous relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Mr. George Lewis; brother, Mr. Jerry Henderson; sisters, Mrs. Evelyn Baldwin and Mrs. Rosie Genus.

*For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace.*

*Isaiah 55:12*



neither height; Death can separate me

# Order of Service

## Ministers of Music

Sister Bobbie Fruge & Henry Dugat, Sr.

Processional *walk with me Lord*

Opening Selections *I will Trust in the Lord*  
*Oh I want to C Home*

Scripture Readings:  
Old Testament *Job 19 - when the skin worn*  
New Testament *Phil 3 - I count all things but loss*

Prayer - *Rev*

Selection - *I dreamed of a city called Heaven*

Obituary

Expressions

Solo *I moved out to a Broad New Home*  
..... Sis. P. J. Walker  
*Peace In the valley*

Eulogy *1 Cor 9: 24*  
..... Rev. H. Clayton, Jr.  
*The importance of finishing well*

Closing Hymn *peace with valley*  
*at peace with self*

Recessional  
*Closure*  
*Phillipian*  
*Rhilema*  
*greeted me with joy*  
*2 Tim*  
*demer left*



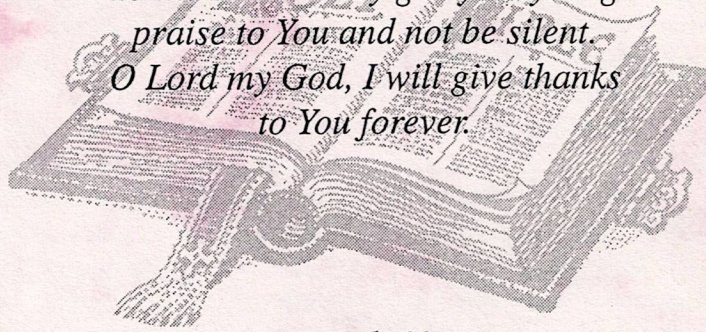


## *Excerpted Personal Favorites*

### *Psalm 30*

*Weeping may endure for a night,  
But joy comes in the morning.*

*You have turned for me my  
mourning and dancing;  
You have put off my sackcloth and  
clothed me with gladness,  
To the end that my glory may sing  
praise to You and not be silent.  
O Lord my God, I will give thanks  
to You forever.*



### *Mark 11*

*For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain,  
'Be removed and be cast into the sea',  
and does not doubt in his heart,  
but believes that those things  
he says will; come to pass,  
he will have whatever he says.*

*Therefore I say to you,  
whatever things you ask when you pray,  
believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*



Active Pallbearers

Gerald Arceneaux  
Keith Farr  
Wilson David  
Forest David  
Willie Stroughter

Rev. Robert Jackson  
Louis McBride  
Gerald Arceneaux  
Elroy Sexton  
Dennis Stewart

John Fruge

Honorary Pallbearers

Rev. Robert Henderson  
Preston Bartice  
Lionel Henderson  
Michael Henderson

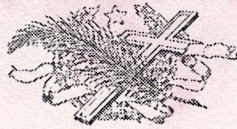
Charlie Hanks  
Alton Henderson  
Jerry White Henderson  
Ronnie Henderson

Gerry Torrence

Acknowledgment

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair;  
Perhaps you sent a floral piece, if so we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say  
Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day.  
Whatever you did to console our hearts  
We thank you so much - whatever the part.*

*-The Family*



Interment

Wells Memorial Cemetery



**Final Arrangements Entrusted to:**  
*The Professionals of*

*Wells Mortuary, Inc.*

300 Alabama Street  
Liberty, Texas 77575  
(713) 659-7618

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