

## A LETTER FROM HEAVEN

To my dearest family some things I'd like to say  
But first of all to let you know that I arrived today,  
I'm writing this from Heaven. Here I dwell with God above  
Here, there's no tears of sadness. Here is just eternal love.  
Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight  
Remember that I am with you every morning, noon and night.  
That day I had to leave you, my life on earth was through  
God picked me up, hugged me and He said "I welcome you,  
It's good to have you back again,  
you were missed while you were gone,  
As for your dearest family, they'll be here later on.  
I need you here badly, you are part of my plan  
There's so much that we have to do to help our mortal man."  
God gave me a list of things that he wished for me to do  
And foremost on the list was to watch and care for you  
When you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight  
God and I are closest to you in the middle of the night.  
When you think of my life on earth and all those loving years  
Because you are only human, they'll surely bring you tears  
But do not be afraid to cry, it does relieve the pain  
Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was rain.  
I wish that I could tell you all that God has planned  
If I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand  
But one thing is for certain though my life on earth is o'er  
I'm closer to you now than I ever was before.  
There are many rocky roads ahead and many hills to climb  
But together we can do it by taking one day at a time.  
As you're walking down the street and I'm on your mind  
I'm walking in your footsteps, only half a step behind  
And when it's time for you to go from that body to be free  
Remember you're not going, you're just coming here to me.

© Ruth Ann Mahaffey

## PALL BEARERS

Classmates & Friends



## FLORAL BEARERS

Classmates & Friends

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A sincere and heartfelt thank you from Willie's family to all for the many prayers, kind deeds, and words of encouragement.

LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE



PROFESSIONAL CARE & SERVICE OF COMFORT PROVIDED BY:

*Swinson Funeral Service, Inc.*

208 East Blount Street  
Kinston, North Carolina 28501  
Telephone (252) 527-3779

View online condolences at [www.swinsonfs.com](http://www.swinsonfs.com)

Hart2Hart

## HOMEGOING SERVICE FOR

*Willie C. Dawson*

Alpha  
November 28, 1946

Omega  
March 9, 2010



Friday, March 12, Our Lord's Year 2010

1:00 PM

ST. JAMES A.M.E. CHURCH  
402 East Shine Street  
Kinston, North Carolina 28501

Pastor A. O. Carmichael, Jr., Officiating  
Reverend George W. Maize, III

## The Order of Service

Prelude  
Processional  
Hymn of Comfort.....St. James Choir  
    “When Peace Like A River”  
Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor A. O. Carmichael, Jr.  
Prayer of Response.....St. James Choir  
Scripture.....Reverend Dr. Joseph Walton  
    Psalm 23  
Solo.....Reverend George W. Maize, III  
Remarks.....Jimmy Coples  
Obituary.....Read Silently  
    “Great Is Thou Faithfulness”  
Solo.....Joseph Haynes  
Eulogy.....Reverend George W. Maize, III  
Mortician’s Brief.....Swinson Funeral Service, Inc.  
Recessional.....St. James Choir

### Interment

Westview Cemetery  
Kinston, North Carolina



### Repast

St. James A.M.E. Church Fellowship Hall

## The Obituary

On March 9, 2010, Willie C. Dawson passed into eternal rest at home in New Bern, North Carolina. He was born November 28, 1946 in Lenoir County to the late Lena Mason Dawson Coples and Andrew Dawson. He was raised from age two by his mother and stepfather, the late James Coples. Willie was educated in the Lenoir County School System (Kinston, North Carolina). He served in the United States Army from 1966 to 1969 and spent most of those years in West Germany. He attended Lenoir Community College for two years before transferring to the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill, North Carolina) in 1971 where he received his undergraduate degree in Sociology/Psychology with honors in 1973. In 1976, he received his Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

At an early age, Willie accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, was baptized, and joined Antioch Freewill Baptist Church in Kinston, North Carolina. Later, after moving back to Kinston, he joined St. James A.M.E. Church.

On June 2, 1975, Willie was united in holy matrimony to Shirley Savannah Hairston. To that union was born one daughter, Ursala Monique Dawson.

In 1976, Willie began his professional career as an attorney with Legal Aid in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In 1981, Willie moved back to Kinston and established Pamlico Sound Legal Services in New Bern as the Executive Director, a position he held until 2001 when he retired. After retirement, Willie served on numerous boards and received numerous

awards, among which was his induction into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor James Hunt for his work in helping to develop affordable housing for low income families.

Willie is survived by his wife, Shirley Dawson (New Bern, North Carolina); one daughter, Ursala Dawson (Raleigh, North Carolina); one sister, Edna Faye Washington (Kinston, North Carolina); a brother, Jimmy Coples and his wife, Susan (Stockbridge, Georgia); Delois Hawkins (Newport News, Virginia), the wife of his late brother, Jasper Hawkins, who preceded him in death; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. Numerous *earthly guardian angels* also mourn Willie’s passing, in particular, Corey and Tiffany Purdie and Bryant and Gwen Davis.

### The Lord’s Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.*

Amen