Obituary of Sister Mary Griffin

I (Mary Griffin) was born on June 15, 1920 in Williamsburg County, Kingstree, SC. I am the second eldest of four children born to Mrs. Zola McClary and Mr. Lange Duke. My early foundation and nurturing came from my Grandparents Enoch and Mary McClary.

At the tender age of fourteen, I received Christ as my personal Savior. I attended Mt. Zion Holiness Church, Kingstree, SC, under Pastor and Founder, Reverends Mosely Boyd and Lee McClary, Co-Founder.

I decided to move from Wilmington, NC and on June 12, 1944, relocated to Harlem, NY. I had left my first love, Jesus Christ. I realized my life was in need of a spiritual change and was under strong conviction. I responded to the wooing of the Holy Spirit. At a Cottage Meeting conducted by the late Rev. Leon C. Dicks, on January 16, 1963, ‘Mama Griffin’, as I am now lovingly called, re-dedicated my life to the Lord. I not only received Salvation and peace, but my healing as well. I have been running for my life ever since.

I became a faithful member of the Apostolic Faith Mission, Brooklyn, NY, under the late Rev. Leon C. Dicks, and served with all of my heart.

I served for many years as President of the Usher Board, member of the Missionary / Outreach Department, an Altar Worker, on the Church Board, the Kitchen Staff, Rummage Sale Coordinator, and Nursery Department, a student of the Spanish Class and the Berean School of the Bible.

As the resident Gardener from 1965 until 1991, I loved working in the garden for the beautification of the church yard.

My special Ministry is handing out Tracts and reaching out to people wherever I go. I love telling people about the “Good News” of the Gospel and while witnessing, my leading statements to the person always is, “Is your heart right with God?” and “Are you ready to meet the Lord?” My
mannerism is firm, yet kind and gentle. The Lord has filled me full of wisdom, understanding and the Spirit of Discernment to say just the right words when that soul is in need of comfort or guidance.

1991, Mama Griffin continued to faithfully serve the Lord as a member of the Apostolic Faith Church at 553 De Kalb Avenue Brooklyn, NY under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Peterson Passade. For several years, Mama Griffin honorably served as the President of the Usher Board and had an active hand in the kitchen, Nursing Home Ministries, fundraising and in every other aspect of the church’s needs. In Mama Griffin’s daytime, her special ministry overflowed in New York and abroad, with a tract in every pocket. Although she no longer traveled in the company of ministers, she continued her voyage, but never alone.

As Mama Griffin’s night fell, she continued living her testimony of faithfulness, forgiveness and repentance to her multigenerational visitors. Whether she sewed you a pillow, sat you down to curl your hair or welcomed you for a night’s rest - God was in everything she did. After a brief illness, Mama Griffin answered the call and went on to receive her heavenly reward and eternal rest with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Mama Griffin was preceded in death by her older sister, Liza (SJ) Wilson, her younger sister, Lula (Linzay) Wilson, her younger brother, Cecil (Margaret) McClary and her beloved only son, Bernard Frost. Mama Griffin has enjoyed a lifetime of spreading God’s word through love and laughter with her surviving daughter, Lorraine Clarke, daughter in law, Connie (Bernard) Frost, grand children, Kevin Clark, Sherrise Clarke-Weston, Jacob, Daniel, Aaron, Jonathan Frost, Sha’Rhone (Chad) Monchery and Tyrone Cobb. Mama Griffin also leaves to cherish her memories a host of nieces and nephews, great grandnieces and nephews, great-grand children, one great-great grand daughter and a beautiful ever growing church family.