A Celebration of Life
For
Mother Willie Mae Danford Miles

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

A Time To Be Born
Willie Mae Danford was born on October 15, 1912 to the Rev. and Mrs. A. C. Danford of Macon, Georgia. Her brother, Johnny, preceded her in death.

A Time To Die
God called Mother Willie Mae Danford Miles, His beloved and faithful servant, wife, mother, mama, grandmother, scholar, educator, leader, builder, mentor, humanitarian and Christian disciple to rest on August 23, 2010 at 2:00 a.m. at the Miracle Hill Nursing Home.

A Time to Love
Willie Mae loved strongly and deeply. After dating two weeks, she and Moses General Miles, of Lakeland, FL were married June 7, 1943. Within this union, of nearly 55 years, two children, Andrea Cheryl (who preceded her in death) and Keith Alexander were loved, nurtured and reared.

A Time to Build
Willie Mae served tirelessly and faithfully along side her husband, Rev. Moses Miles, as first lady of Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church beginning in 1948 when he became pastor. Her quiet, calm and regal demeanor helped build the church and the Florida State Primitive Baptist Convention, where Miles, as she affectionately called him, also served for 34 years as president. Under his leadership the State Convention built and operated the Miracle Hill Nursing and Convalescent Home and acquired the Primitive Baptist Church Camp at Worthington Springs, Florida which still serve as monuments to his vision. She was the proud founder of the Matron’s Auxiliary at Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church.

Willie Mae was one of the first initiates of the Gamma Eta Sigma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, which later became the Tallahassee Alumnae Chapter. She became a Delta on November 17, 1946, eventually serving as chapter president from 1965 – 1967 and a devoted advisor of the Beta Alpha Chapter at Florida A&M University for many years.
A 1943 graduate of Morris Brown College, she was often mistaken as a FAMU graduate because of Miles’ strong ties to the university as an administrator and later as one of its most powerful National Alumni Association presidents. The Miles’ household was never quiet when MBC beat FAMU on the gridiron, which was a rarity. She, and Miles’, both received their Masters degrees from the Ohio State University in 1952.

The New Philadelphia church was built in 1972 and the membership grew tremendously. In 1984, the church mortgage paid off its mortgage.

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**A Time to Sow**

Willie Mae was a strong supporter of her husband, who was a founding member of the FAMU Foundation, Inc. and became its president in 1985. During his administration, he supported President Frederick S. Humphries vision in developing business partnerships. Records show that under their leadership revenues grew beyond $30 million in eight years.

Additionally, Willie Mae taught many Tallahassee area children at Lucy Moten Elementary School a part of the Florida A&M University Developmental Research School. She was loved by her former students who were frequent visitors at Miracle Hill. They could always get a smile out of her by re-telling stories of her teaching days. She loved teaching and loved her students.

Willie Mae, although not an alumna, was a life member of the FAMU National Alumni Association and member of the Leon County FAMU Alumni chapter.

**A Time for Peace**

Now that Willie Mae Danford Miles has been called to rest, we celebrate this virtuous woman of God who touched the lives of thousands of people throughout the nation. She is credited for providing a special word or help that made a difference in people’s lives. She was often the calming spirit that pushed those she touched on to success. Those that will cherish her memories include: a devoted son, Keith Alexander (Kaylor); four loving grandchildren, Lorian Patrice; Khristin Alexandria; Korbin Alexander Barge and Taylor Alexis; three nephews, Edward Miles of Gainesville, FL; James Miles of Lakeland, FL; James Miles (2) of Gainesville, FL; three nieces, Winifred Walker, Forsyth, GA; Dorothy Bryant (Hubert) and Claudette Chatmon both of Lakeland, FL; a first cousin, Elliott Thompson of Detroit, MI; a number of great nieces and nephews, Anquanetta D. Woodard of Lawrenceville, NJ; Katina and James Miles, Jr.; Bernetta Miles Lilly, Pamela Miles, Alton Miles and Timothy Miles of Gainesville; John Danford, Cleveland, Ohio, Livingston Moses Chatmon and Patrick Raymond Smith of Lakeland, FL; a god-daughter, Juanita Johnson of Cocoa, FL; a god-son, Alphonso Whitaker, Jr. of Philadelphia, PA.,and a host of cousins, close friends and former students whom she loved dearly.