



Mrs. Lelia Gripper Thompson

January 20, 2022

Lelia Lucinda Gripper Thompson was born November 9, 1941, to the late Richard and Mary Jane Woodard Gripper in Ridgeway, South Carolina. She departed this life on January 20, 2022, at her residence.

Lelia was joined in holy matrimony to the late Vicque Thompson, Sr. To this union five children were born, all of whom survive her passing. After the passing of her parents, she served as matriarch for her siblings and later adopted two of her foster sons whom she raised from infancy.

She graduated from Hanberry High School and furthered her education at the University of South Carolina, where she received her Registered Nursing license in 1979. Her love and concern for helping others extended over a 30-year career as a registered nurse, working at Richland Memorial Hospital and the South Carolina State Hospital, retiring after a successful career of ministering to the health needs of her patients.

She joined Bethel Holiness Church and worked diligently in many capacities. The Lord joined her and Pastor Dorine Williams Attaway as spiritual sisters. They traveled across the state and southeast, having revivals, vacation Bible schools and witnessing for Christ. She began her Christian journey as a member and grew in her service, being elevated to the office of elder, and pastor of Holy Gospel Tabernacle and State Mother of the Holy Gospel Tabernacle, Inc. Movement.

Lelia spent her retirement years going to prayer services daily at various churches. She ran a food pantry from her home and did whatever she could to

assist her neighbors, family, and friends. She was on a true missionary journey, both in word and deed. She never met a stranger and through her faith in God she approached every act of kindness with humbleness and a genuine smile.

Her strong Christian convictions, coupled with her concern for others and her medical background, led her to become a certified foster parent to children in need. She loved having a house full of children and bringing love and stability into their lives. Her dedicated service in this capacity enriched the lives of many children, all of whom still refer to her as “Mama.”

She loved sharing God’s Word and visited many nursing homes, bringing her foster children, grands, and other family members with her to provide worship services, concerts, and Christmas celebrations. Everyone knew that at family gatherings there would be singing and giving praises to God for his goodness. Lelia served others. She volunteered as a homeroom mother at J. P. Thomas Elementary School, receiving several school and district awards, including Volunteer of the Year for her tireless service to the teachers and staff. She also received recognitions from Alcorn Middle School and Eau Claire High School for her dedicated efforts in providing meals and snacks for the athletic teams.

Lelia had a heart of love. She opened her home to many individuals and families in need until their circumstances changed. She loved animals of all kinds and was never without their companionship. Her love of gardening and flowers was often recognized with yard-of-the-month recognitions in her Haskell Heights neighborhood. She loved interacting with her senior friends in exercise class at the Greenview Park and with her Red Hatters friends. She gave a lot of herself, but her greatest love was living for Christ and sharing his love with others.

Lelia was preceded in death by her husband, Vicque Thompson, Sr., and brother James Gripper.

She leaves to cherish her precious memories her seven children: Toney (Renee) Thompson, Andrena Grooms and Barbara (Luther) France, and

Jordan Thompson all of Columbia, SC; Regina Faye (Terence) Lewis of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Vicque (Christalyn) Thompson, of Jacksonville, NC, and Kenneth Thompson, Lincolnnton; one sister, Cynthia (Benjamin) Bell, Hopkins, SC, and two brothers, Richard (Francina) Gripper, Columbia, SC and Chris Gripper, Virginia Beach, VA., a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, great, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many family and friends, all of whom will miss her dearly.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 27. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Friendship Baptist Church
1237 House St
Columbia, SC 29204

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Lelia Gripper Thompson*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *I
Miss her she was nice*

tangela - February 22, 2022 at 04:49 AM



“ *Shirley Riley lit a candle in memory of Mrs.
Lelia Gripper Thompson*



Shirley Riley - January 28, 2022 at 06:25 PM



“ *Maxine Javis Brown lit a candle in memory of
Mrs. Lelia Gripper Thompson*



Maxine Javis Brown - January 28, 2022 at 06:10 PM



“ *Rest you got your wings now fly my sister/cousin fly until we meet
again*

Maudistine Jackson-Atkins - January 27, 2022 at 12:54 PM

MF

“ *THE MEASURE OF A WOMAN ,Not how did she die?But how did she live? Not what she gain? But what did she give? These are the things to measure the worth Of a WOMAN regardless of the birth. Not what was her church? Nor what was her creed? But had she befriended those really in need? Nor what did the sketch in the newspaper say? But how many are sorry that she passed away?*

Minnie M Johnson and Family - January 27, 2022 at 12:41 PM

BM

“ *NORTH COLUMBIA CIVIC CLUB*

*To Mr. and Mrs. Toney (Ida) Thompson and family,
We, the officers and members of North Columbia Civic Club, were saddened to learn of the passing of your dear mother, Mrs. Leila Thompson. Our prayers are with you, that our loving God strengthen you during your loss. May He sustain you with his peace, and comfort you with loving memories and the wonderful knowledge "absent from the body, present with the Lord".*

*Sincerely,
Bernetha Moultrie
Chaplain*

Bernetha Moultrie - January 27, 2022 at 08:40 AM

BM

“ *To Mr. Toney and Ida Thompson and family,
We, the members of the Greenview Reunion Foundation, extend our sincere condolences and prayers to you in the loss of your dear mother, Mrs. Lelia Thompson. May the comforting peace of our loving Heavenly Father surround you today, and in the days ahead.*

*THE GREENVIEW REUNION FOUNDATION
Helen Spencer, President
Bernetha Moultrie, Chaplain*

Bernetha Moultrie - January 27, 2022 at 08:30 AM

TS

“ Theresa Scott lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lelia Gripper Thompson



Theresa Scott - January 27, 2022 at 12:29 AM

JS

“ My condolences to the Thompson Family.



Juan M Sims - January 26, 2022 at 05:16 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lelia Gripper Thompson.



January 26, 2022 at 01:56 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lelia Gripper Thompson.



January 26, 2022 at 01:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lelia Gripper Thompson.*



January 26, 2022 at 12:42 PM



“ *Murray Suite- Prisma Health purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Lelia Gripper Thompson.*



Murray Suite- Prisma Health - January 26, 2022 at 10:28 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lelia Gripper Thompson.*



January 26, 2022 at 09:21 AM



“ *From: Holy Ghost Temple, Savannah, Georgia. Far if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. Condolences, Shepherd Tillman*

Martha Tillman - January 25, 2022 at 09:34 PM

BB

“ *My Prayers and Condolences to the Family May God Bless You'll*
🙏 🏛️ 🙏 🌹 🌹 🙏 🏛️ ❤️ YOU!!!

Barbara Branch - January 25, 2022 at 04:57 PM

BB

“ *Barbara Branch lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lelia Gripper Thompson*



Barbara Branch - January 25, 2022 at 04:54 PM

SS

“ *A mother, A grandmother to me, A pastor to me💔, the love you gave, the smiles you made are unbelievable. You made an impact on my life things that will forever be apart of me and for that I'm thankful for you ❤️🕊️ get your rest I love you Pastor Thompson*

Shakihla Smalls - January 25, 2022 at 04:00 PM

MD

“ *My friend from State park to Dean Buddy and Chris so sorry for your loss my first job was baby sitter for her brother Chris*

Myrtle Dinkins - January 25, 2022 at 02:02 PM

MF

“ My sincere condolences and heartfelt prayers for my extended family. Pastor Thompson will forever hold the title mother and pastor for me and my family. Her teaching, guidance, unconditional love was lived and taught as she lived her earthly life for God. Take your rest pastor. Forever in our hearts. Mission complete. Minister Barbara Gilmore and Family.



Minister Barbara Gilmore and Family - January 24, 2022 at 09:23 PM

CT

“ My Mother in Love was a phenomenal woman! One who feared the Lord and love her family, friends and church. The love we have for her is beyond this life!!! Rest for your labor my Mother in Love, we will miss you greatly!



Christalyn Thompson - January 21, 2022 at 05:45 PM

FG

My sister-in-law my sister has left this earth i will miss her my heart love forever i know she will be in heaven

Francina Gripper - January 23, 2022 at 05:22 PM

AJ

Mrs. Thompson was a good nurse and loving, kind to the population she served and to anyone who needed aid or emotional support. I really enjoyed working with her and I will miss her. I had not seen her in years but the memories Will always. Be there.

Addie J. Moultrie - January 24, 2022 at 11:41 PM

CT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Christalyn Thompson - January 21, 2022 at 05:40 PM

CT

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Christalyn Thompson - January 21, 2022 at 05:38 PM