



*Celebrating the Life and  
Homegoing of  
Missionary Beulah Mae  
Jacobs-Ponder*

**SUNRISE**  
August 25, 1931

**SUNSET**  
August 18, 2019



**SERVICES**  
Saturday, August 24, 2019 — 11:00 a.m.  
**CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, C.W.F.F.**  
**TEMPLE#290**  
555 E. Wilshire Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105  
Overseer Alonzo L. Ponder, Jr., Pastor  
Rev. R.D. Jacobs, Pastor  
Jesus First Baptist Church  
Officiating



Obituary

On August 25, 1931, Joe and Leona (Holbert) Jacobs welcomed an Angel to the world in the person of their fifth child and second daughter, Beulah Mae Jacobs. Both parents; her brother, Jayel Jacobs; her sister, Hortense (Jacobs) Owens; her youngest son, Randy Ponder; and her husband, Bishop Alonzo L. Ponder preceded her in death.

**Beulah’s** happy, humble and highly disciplined upbringing on the family farm in Seward, OK taught her the value of spirituality, hard work and education. A lifelong member, she joined The Church Of The Living God (CWFF) at an early age, under the pastorate of then Elder Chester A. Lewis (now Bishop) and Chief Bishop F. C. Scott. Along with her blind father, mother, three brothers and sister, she worked hard on the family farm, producing crops and raising livestock. **Beulah** attended Seward public schools and matriculated at Langston University (LU).

**Beulah’s** kind spirit, intelligence and beauty led to her selection by the LU student body in 1953 as Miss Lion, Homecoming Queen, Kappa Sweetheart, and the “Most Beautiful Girl.” A proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education at LU, a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education from Southwestern Christian College in Oklahoma City, and an Associate Degree in Child Development.

**Beulah** met and married the man of her dreams and the love of her life, Alonzo Lafayette “Lonnie” Ponder, of Wewoka, OK. Their union on December 31, 1956, was further consummated with the birth of their four children—Debra, Alonzo, Jr., Larry and Randy—and perfected with the addition of six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. They were Godparents to Leah Nicole Wilson of OKC, Leonard Wesley Samuel, III of Philadelphia, PA, Maurice Herring of Los Angeles, CA, Jessica Sanders of Pensacola, FL, and Annasthaeyzsia Adrienne “Stacia” Samuel of OKC.

Following a brief teaching stint in the Elk City Public Schools, **Beulah** answered the call to public service with the State of Oklahoma where, as the first Black Secretary in state government, she served in the State Department of Education and for Governors Henry Bellmon and Dewey Bartlett. Soon after her arrival at the Capitol, she successfully advocated for the elimination of “colored” and “white” only bathroom facilities in the Oklahoma State Capitol. **Beulah Ponder** was cited and recognized in 1997 as the First Black Trailblazer to serve in the Governor’s office and a “Keeper Of The Dream.” A strikingly beautiful woman, with a life that spanned four scores and a career that spanned nearly four decades, **Beulah Jacobs Ponder** was a history maker whose life work will not soon be duplicated. The Church Of The Living God, Temple 290 proudly displays the August 9, 1964 Jet Magazine featuring her on the cover.

Together **Beulah** and Lonnie owned and operated three successful businesses—Oklahoma City Limousine Service, B & P Maintenance and Janitorial Corporation, and LLL Ponderosa Hog and Cattle Ranch. **Beulah** was a licensed Missionary and an outstanding Sunday School teacher. She served as Church National Recording Secretary, President of the District 1 Minister’s Wives Council, and Secretary of the Women’s Work Department. **Beulah** worked and served proudly alongside her husband, supporting him as Pastor at Temples in McAlester, Wewoka, Langston, Okmulgee and Temple 290—555 E. Wilshire—in Oklahoma City, OK, and Little Rock, AR. She also worked and supported him as Vice Chief Bishop of the Brotherhood of The Church Of The Living God for two terms. Their service was characterized by spiritual integrity and love.

**Beulah** was the founding director of the Wilshire Happy Day Head Start and Child Care Center for five years before returning to her Alma

Mater, Langston University, as an administrative assistant at the Oklahoma City Campus. Once there, she was again able to impact the lives of students through education. She retired in 2000, and spent her time loving on her grandchildren and her great grandchildren.

Following Bishop Ponder’s transition in 2000, **Beulah** continued to serve the Lord faithfully, with her son as her pastor, until her health challenges limited her church attendance. Even then, her family made sure she attended services whenever she could.

**Beulah** slipped away peacefully in her home on Sunday, August 18, 2019, one week before her 88th Birthday, to once again be united with those who await her in Heaven.

Celebrating Her Homegoing are her Children: Debra Denece Ponder-Nelson (Don), Daughter; Overseer Alonzo Lafayette Ponder, Jr. (Marvinette), Son; Larry Lamar Ponder, Son; Brothers, Joe Jacobs of Guthrie, OK and Lorenzo Jacobs of Chandler, OK; Grandchildren: Jocqueline Dyson (Dashaven), Alonzo “LP” Ponder III, Kristen Hawkins, Karmen Ponder-Moore, Randy Ponder II, and Larry Ponder, Jr.; Great Grandchildren: Natalya, Houston, Brooklyn, Alonzo (Lafayette) IV, Dashaven, Jr., Paris and Aiden; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



Order of Service



- Musical Prelude . . . . . Musician
- Processional . . . . . Minister, Funeral Directors, Family
- Prayer . . . . . Bishop Harry Hendricks, Sr., Pastor  
Church Of The Living God, Temple 44, Los Angeles, CA
- Musical Selection . . . . . COTLG, Temple 290 Reunion Choir
- Scripture Reading
  - Old Testament . . . . . Rev. K. Gerone Free, Pastor  
Greater Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
  - New Testament . . . . . Overseer Clindell Higgs, Pastor  
Church Of The Living God, Temple 39
- Musical Selection . . . . . The Jacobs Family
- Resolutions/Acknowledgements . . . . . Senator Connie Johnson
- Special Remarks . . . . . Senator Connie Johnson, Friend  
Mrs. Peggy Kennedy, Friend  
Rev. Lorenzo Jacobs, Brother  
Larry L. Ponder, Son
- Musical Selection . . . . . COTLG, Temple 290 Reunion Choir
- Solo . . . . . Rosalind Bowie-Hollaway
- Words of Comfort . . . . . Overseer Alonzo L. Ponder, Jr.
- Life Reflections Video
- Parting Glance . . . . . Temple & Sons Funeral Directors, Inc.
- Recessional

Active Pallbearers

Alonzo Ponder, III (LP) • Barry Jacobs • Randy Ponder, II  
Christopher Jacobs • Larry Ponder, Jr. • Frank Ponder

Honorary Pallbearers

Donald Paul Nelson • Rickey Jacobs • Steve Williams  
Leonard Samuels • Dwight Ponder • Elder Mark Morgan

Flower Bearers

Minister’s Wives, Church Of The Living God

Honorary Flower Bearers

Jocqueline Dyson • Kristen Hawkins  
Karmen Ponder-Moore

Interment

Arlington Memory Gardens  
3400 N. Midwest Blvd. • Oklahoma City, OK

*Please drive with your lights on for safety and fasten your seatbelts.*

Services under the direction of:  
**TEMPLE & SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.**  
2801 North Kelley Avenue  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111  
(405) 427-8321  
“We Care” — II Timothy 4:8

Acknowledgment

The family of Beulah Ponder expresses sincere gratitude to each of you for your kind expressions of sympathy. The food nourished our bodies, the beautiful cards and flowers lifted our spirits, your calls encouraged our hearts and your prayers increased our faith. Words cannot express our sincere appreciation. We praise the Lord for all of the wonderful care Mom received from Vanessa Lewis, Betty Kirk, Clara Wilson, Carolyn Wilson, Aniska Tolver, Pam Vetovitz, Kelsey Deckard and Sooner Hospice. Thank you and please continue to pray for us. May God bless you.