



## Mr. Michael Lorenzo Henderson

May 14, 2013

Celebration of Life Services for Mr. Michael Lorenzo Henderson, Jr., will be held at 11:00AM Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at Saint Philip A.M.E. Church 240 Candler Rd., Atlanta, GA 30317. Interment at Washington Memorial Gardens 700 Jordan Lane, Decatur, Ga. 30033. VISITATION 12-8PM Monday at our SCOTTDALÉ chapel location 351 N. Clarendon Ave, Scottdale GA. Michael memories will be cherished by his parents Michael Sr. and Nathanette Henderson and a host of other relatives and friends. Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Home 404-241-5656.

### THE WONDERFUL LIFE OF MICHAEL

After being born two months early on April 26, 1988 I brought Michael, my precious gift from God home from the hospital on the Saturday before Mother's day. He had a big head, hands, feet and eyes with skinny arms and legs and his aunt called him ET. Soon he was growing, cooing, turning and crawling. However Michael was a late bloomer for walking at 14months. I took him to get new shoes and suddenly he took off running through the store much to my surprise only to find out his old shoes had been too tight and upon learning that I was devastated and guilt ridden and cried like a big baby feeling like a horrible mother and had to be consoled by the sales clerk. Did you know that by age 4 Michael was a songwriter? Maybe you have heard one of his chart topping hits like "Let me put on my doll hair" inspired by his aunt's wigs or " I got my shoes on Lord" to the tune of "Cum ba ya" or as we

know it “ Come by here my Lord”. With a horse on a stick as a microphone and his old training potty as his stage he performed regularly to an audience of 3 his mom, his granny and his aunt standing ovations were guaranteed.

Michael and his “granny” Margaret Payton were the best of friends and travel companions they went everywhere together and visited with all her elderly neighbors, assisting them and visiting with them and making many friends. They truly enjoyed being together. Did you know that at age 6 Michael saved his granny’s life?? Michael called me at work and said “Momma I’m not going to go outside and play because granny don’t look good so I’m just gonna stay in the house.” So his granny blacked out and fell between the bed and cedar chest and broke her arm and he knew to call 911 and then called me back to tell me what happened. I called a neighbor to go to the house and rushed home to find paramedics looking after my mom and my son riding his bike in the driveway. He said he was riding his bike now because “he didn’t know what else he could do”. As a child he enjoyed playing basketball, karate, reading, going to school, playing with his friends and most of all music and hanging with his granny. They loved each other dearly and he missed her greatly.

We moved to Carrollton when Michael was in 8th grade. He began to show signs that he was not going to be an average teen in any way especially in his build. I could hardly keep him in shoes (right sized that is). At around 16 the school was very interested in recruiting Michael for the football team. Every day the kids, teachers, principle and coaches began to try and encourage him to play. So much so they even offered to pay him to play high school football. (Illegal right?) The coaches began calling and asking for my help and I got nowhere fast then I called his aunt Valerie and asked her to help and together we said “ don’t you want to play and get a scholarship and then drafted in the NFL and then buy your mom a big house and a new car and diamonds” and all we heard from him in his soft deep voice was “I don’t wanna play football”

and that was the end of that, he always knew his own mind and spoke his own truth.

Michael has been more than my son he has been my biggest cheerleader and my strongest supporter. He'd listen to me and be my confidant. He would encourage me whenever I was down and tell me "Mama don't worry it's gone be alright". He would make me laugh with all of his spot on impressions of friends and family and especially of his grandmother Pastor Woods. As a parent you try to teach your child what they should know right from wrong to love and serve God, love themselves and family and to treat people right so they can me a strong, confident and loving adult and they teach you that patience is truly a virtue and that unconditional love is a process.

During Michael's illness he learned about patience and his own strength. Michael would want you to know that he loved his mama and he was proud of his mama and that "you really don't know how strong you are until being strong is your only option.

"Mama and Dad don't worry it's gone be alright, I made it into paradise."

#### FROM MOTHER TO SON

Raising you Michael has been my greatest joy and you have made me so proud. You grew into a wonderful young man wise beyond your years, strong, funny, sensitive, compassionate, and stubborn as a mule, but loving. Michael, you are the greatest gift God has ever given me. God, I truly thank you for my child!!

I love you Michael with my whole heart and I will love you for as long as I live and beyond.

Love Always,

Mom

# Tribute Wall

MD

“ I met Michael many times on a job I was working on with his mother. He was always so soft soft spoken and kind. If you met him once you truly knew that he had a gentle soul. The family is in my prayers while dealing with their grief, however I have no doubts where Michael is now. Heaven has one more Angel today.

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**michelle dodson** - May 20, 2013 at 08:45 AM

BP

“ I offer sincere condolences to you all. Please keep in mind...God sent forth his only-begotten Son into the world that we might gain life through him." ~1 John 4:9. Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life." ~John 11:25. Continue to "draw close to God and he will draw close to you." ~James 4:8.

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**Beulah Parks** - May 18, 2013 at 06:43 AM

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“ With Deep Sympathy to the Family. The loss of a loved one brings much grief and pain. But the Bible talks about doing away with this pain at Revelation 21:4. May the God of love and of peace be with you.



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**Ann** - May 18, 2013 at 06:09 AM