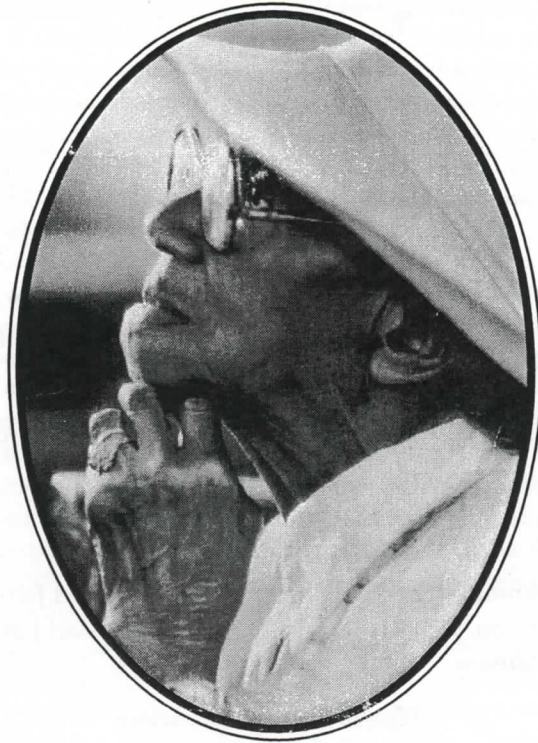


Celebration of the Life of
Mrs. Cora Lee Johnson

Sunrise:
January 11, 1902

Sunset:
January 5, 2006



Service Held:
Saturday, January 14, 2006
11:00 am
Second Baptist Church
1041 E. Jensen Avenue
Fresno, California

Officiant
Rev. Brian L. Brewer, Pastor

Obituary

Cora Lee Figg Johnson was born in Batesville, Mississippi, on January 11, 1902. She was the fifth child born to Paul and Clara Figg.

She received her early education at the Second Concord Baptist Church School and Macedonia Baptist Church School, which was later known as the Julius Rosenwald Consolidated School. The most dominant influence in her life was her grandmother, an ex-slave who instilled in her the value of learning and to whom she promised that she would "get an education."

She married John H. Johnson, Sr. and to this union was born nine children; Luther, Sr., Berniece, John, Jr., Annie Clara, Wilma, Clarence Dale, Paul Herbert, Spencer Lee and Gene Connell.

She was an active member of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Mississippi, she held the office of Church Clerk, sang in the choir and worked in the mission circle.

Ever seeking better opportunities, the family moved to Parkin, Arkansas, where she became a charter member of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. Several years later they moved to Gieseck, Arkansas and became members of Lansing Grove Baptist Church.

In 1941 the family relocated to Madera, California and ultimately to Fresno, California in 1942, where she joined Second Baptist Church under the pastorage of Rev. O.J. Pedeselaux.

Mrs. Johnson was a loving wife and mother, she managed to care for her family while working and caring for her husband after his stroke and until his death in 1959.

Mrs. Johnson worked at a variety of occupations before working at Fresno County General Hospital as a nurses aide. While there, she enrolled in a program which enabled her to become a licensed vocational nurse. At the completion of the LVN program, she secured employment at Fresno Veteran's Administration Hospital where she worked until her retirement in 1972.

Upon retirement, she immediately enrolled in Fresno City College and graduated in May, 1974 with an A.A. degree in Sociology. She then, at the age 72, enrolled at California State University, Fresno and received her B.A. degree from the School of Social Work in 1977, thus fulfilling her promise made to her grandmother many years earlier.

Mrs. Johnson enjoyed a variety of interests and activities. She was a prolific reader, possessed a phenomenal memory and outstanding oratorical skills. She loved to travel and was able to take many trips to various countries, including a world tour taken with her oldest son, Luther which included Paris, Rome, Greece, The Holy Land, Thailand and India.

She was the oldest living member of Second Baptist Church, Fresno. She was a past worthy matron of Razina Chapter #23, order of the Eastern Star and a charter member of Valhalla Chapter #56 of American War Mothers. She was also a member of the neighborhood council, a member of the Fresno-Fowler Opportunity Club, a Volunteer Teacher's Aide at Kirk School and a member of the National Council of Senior Citizens. She traveled with the group to Washington, D.C. to attend the NCSC Legislative Conference and meet with legislators about Senior Citizens' issues.

Mrs. Johnson received a number of honors and accolades. These included being featured on Ralph Edwards' ABC television program, "The Girl In My Life", The Fresno Chapter of the Links, Inc., Mother of the Year Award and one of the first Inductees of the State Center Community College District Wall of Honor at the African American Museum in Fresno, California.