

## Acknowledgement of Appreciation

With sincere appreciation, we wish to thank our many friends for their expressions of kindness during our bereavement for our loved one. We would like to send special gratitude to Phyllis Burton, Wynetta Finley, Truely Finley, Deborah Hamilton, Nequetta Richardson, Dr. Alanna Morris, Ashley Baker and Ti-shea Meadows. There are no words to express how thankful we are for all that you have done. May God bless each of you.

-The Higgins Brothers



Interment  
Mt. Lebanon  
United Methodist Church Cemetery  
LaFayette, AL

Final Arrangements of Loved One Entrusted To:



Vines Funeral Home, Inc.

211 B. Street S.W. | LaFayette, AL 36862

Phone: (334) 864-7128 | Fax: (334) 864-8184

Website: [www.vinesfuneralhome.com](http://www.vinesfuneralhome.com)

National Register of Historic Places, Est. 1952

Memorial Designed & Printed by: Jolanda L. Barnes 706.518.5569

A SERVICE OF MEMORY

# Celebrating the Life of



Mrs.

DWINDERLING FINLEY HIGGINS

Sunrise: September 3, 1957

Sunset: April 21, 2021

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Monday, April 26, 2021

1:00 PM CDT

Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church Cemetery

22455 Veterans Memorial Pkwy

LaFayette, AL 36862

Rev. Quinderus D. Jones, Officiating

# Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for His name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through  
the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil;  
my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



# Gone But Not Forgotten

Day by day  
I will think of you.  
How can all of this be true?  
I can't believe you are really gone.  
It's hard to accept it—  
Just the thought of you.  
Every picture, every letter,  
Though I know it will get better.  
I think of all the time we spent.  
In my heart you will always be.  
I would take your place if I had a choice.  
I miss you with all my heart  
And wish we never had to part.  
I will see you later,  
I will not say goodbye.  
I miss you, I love you.  
-Mama Della



# Obituary

Heaven celebrated the homecoming of Dwindering Finley Higgins on April 21, 2021. She peacefully transitioned surrounded by family.

Dwin, as she was affectionately known, was born September 3, 1957 in Chambers County, AL to the late Mr. J. T. Finley and Adella Copeland Finley. She was a dedicated member of the Seventh Day Adventist faith, where she served as treasurer, elder, and Bible instructor for over 30 years.

Dwin was a 1975 graduate of LaFayette High School. She advanced her education with a degree from Talladega College, where she also met the love of her life, Otis Higgins Jr. The two were wed in the summer of 1979. To this union, three sons were born.

Upon graduation, Dwin began her teaching career. After numerous years of educating children, she retired from Clay County Board of Education. Although she retired from teaching, her zeal for sharing knowledge with others never ceased.

Later, her political aspiration led her to run for Mayor of Camp Hill, AL and to become a member of the Camp Hill and Talladega Chapters of the New South Coalition. Rising from humble beginnings, Dwin was passionate about food insecurities and volunteered her time at the Isaiah House Hunger Ministry, where she worked tirelessly to make sure the least among us were served.

Dwin was preceded in death by her husband, Otis Higgins Jr., two sisters, Vivian Finley and Cozenue Finley, and one brother, Jedious Finley.

Mrs. Dwindering Finley Higgins leaves to cherish her memories: three sons, Jamerick Higgins, Bronx, NY; Jeris Higgins and Justin Higgins, both of Atlanta, GA; goddaughter, Deborah Hamilton, Wedowee, AL; three grandchildren: Raji Higgins, Pharaoh Higgins, and Myster Davu Higgins; two god-grandchildren: Miyana Hamilton and Terri Hamilton; mother, Adella Finley, LaFayette, AL; three sisters: Phyllis Burton, Dadeville, AL, Wynetta (Tommie) Holley and Truely Finley, both of LaFayette, AL; six brothers: Precator (Carolyn) Finley, Baltimore, MD; Atony (Yvonne) Finley, Michael (Sonya) Finley, both of Andalusia, AL; Romeo Finley, Olasta (Gwen) Finley, both of LaFayette, AL; and Urelles (Isie) Finley, Phenix City, AL; five aunts: Nezzie Holloway, Dorothy Shaver, Ruth Vines, all of Camp Hill, AL; Rosie Reese, LaFayette, AL; and Sarah Williams, Valley, AL; two uncles: John Copeland, Lanett, AL and Donald Copeland, LaFayette, AL; three brothers-in-law: Allen (Helen) Higgins, Roanoke, AL; Patrick (Amy) Higgins, LaGrange, GA; and Jimmy (Shantel) Higgins, Atlanta, GA; five sisters-in-law: Kay (Alfonza Sr.) Mitchell, Yvette Craig, Karen Higgins, all of Union City, GA; Princess (Richard) Jones, College Park, GA; and Ann Higgins, Warner Robins, GA; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

# Order of Service

## Song Service

### Scripture

*Old Testament*  
Elder Atony Finley

### *New Testament*

Rev. Terrence Hughley

### Prayer

Rev. Justin Freeman

### Reflections

Ministry – Sis. Edith B. Moon  
Political – Bro. Samuel Alexander  
Friend – Sis. Renee Jackson  
Friend – Sis. Vanessa Pearson-Lewis

### Poem

“My Life Speaks for Me”  
Author: Dwindering Finley Higgins  
Read by Sis. LaTrish Finley

### Song

Rev. Vincent T. Ellison

### Words of Comfort

Rev. Quinderus D. Jones

### Committal

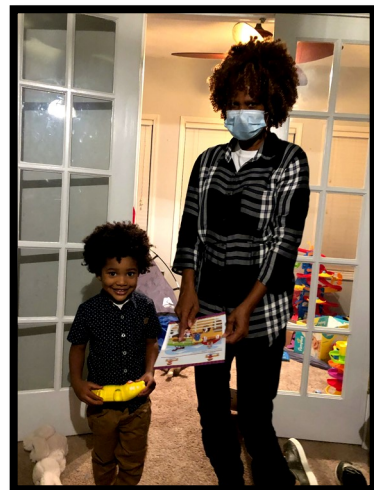
### Benediction



# Sisters' Love



# A Grandmother's Love



# My Life Speaks for Me

Author: Dwindering Finley Higgins

Every smile you smiled because of something I said;  
life speaks for me.

Every debt you owed me and I let it pass;  
life speaks for me.

Every heartache you had and my advice helped;  
life speaks for me.

Every tear you cried that I wiped away;  
life speaks for me.

Every need you had that disappeared because of some kind act I did;  
life speaks for me.

For the times I was mom and dad, all that you had;  
life speaks for me.

For as long as you remember that your life was better  
because of the God in me;  
I will live eternally.



# Salute to a Bible Worker

God gave to us this sheep of His  
to help us come to Him,  
He knew we would not at first—but our re-  
sistance would grow dim.  
He put her here to guide and explain,  
To help when things weren't so plain.  
To go into the dark regions of our country,  
She looks for no reward, just God's bounty.  
Her simple words, her direct facts  
are not always given in soft voice tact.  
But truth her words are and truth they shall be,  
She shall not change them to comfort you or me.  
The Bible is her choice of weaponry,  
And God is her referee.  
She started at home, work, and church,  
And gave all that she had, which was much.  
She started out at Mt. Zion to do her best,  
And now she's at Macedonia to do the rest.  
We miss her here at Zion, you see—  
But she must contain her Bible ministry.  
Her gift is a good one from God, it shows  
she amongst us all doth know—  
That to win souls for Christ  
you must never be still,  
For He went to Mt. Calvary's Hill,  
so that she and all the rest  
could come and enjoy God's very best.

We miss her here in her home church still—  
But she explained to us God's will.  
For her to continue on and to inspire  
many others the hope and desire—  
To render all to God right now  
And to help anyone else to know just how.  
For a Bible Worker's work is never done—  
It's not trickery or even a con.  
It's hard work to fight for Christ  
You can't take souls by robbery or heist.  
For salvation is a choice you see  
It's up to you and you and me.  
Some of us are blessed with a Bible Worker to  
help us to see the light  
and to help us begin to start the fight.  
The fight should always be for God, not man.  
For this was the first real plan.  
To in put knowledge is the hope of every Bible  
Worker from within,  
That's why we are so grateful God remembered  
us and sent to us  
DWIN.  
We love you.  
-Mt Zion Church Family

# Tribute to Mama

Our Mom was like a shooting star, you know...one of those once in a lifetime events you only get to witness if you're lucky. A burst of energy that can't be fully described, you just have to see it for yourself and if you do, you'll talk about it for years to come. As sons, we were blessed to be close to her light, to harness some of her energy, to gaze in awe at her celestial beauty, to follow her trail, to watch as she traveled into the distance, to be thankful we had a chance to enjoy her brilliance, to realize that, every now and again, the heavens open up and share something unforgettable.

We love you Mama. Thank you for being our super star!



# Dwin's Favorite Quotes

*"Do not put off for tomorrow what you can do today."*

*"If not you, then who? If not now, then when?"*

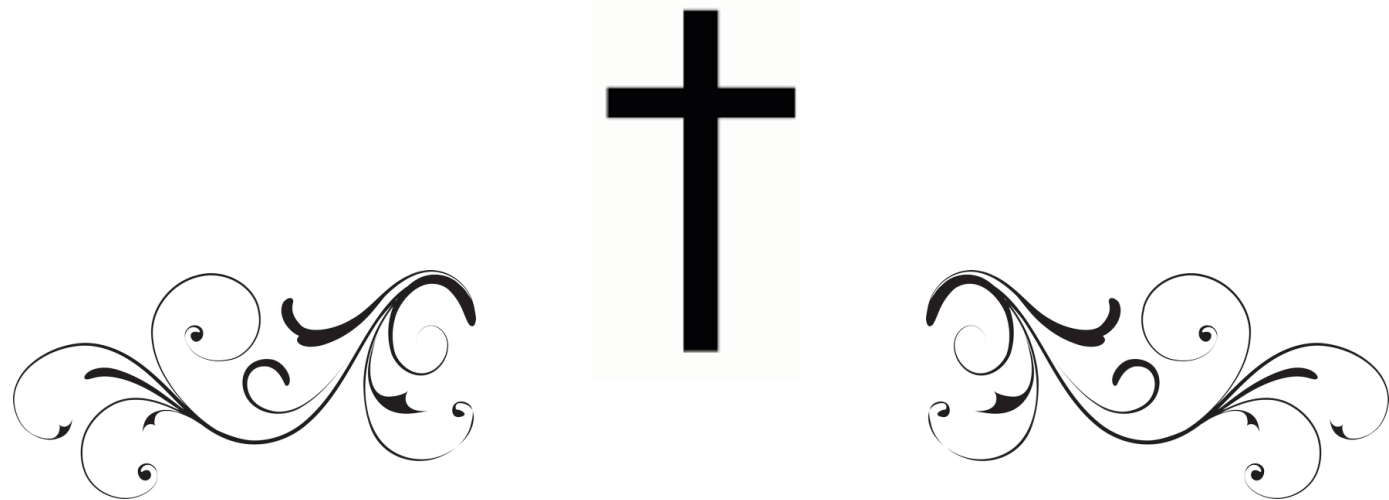
*"Do not ask other to do what you are not willing to do."*

*Then Peter came to Him and said,*

*"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me,  
and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"*

*Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times,  
but up to seventy times seven."*

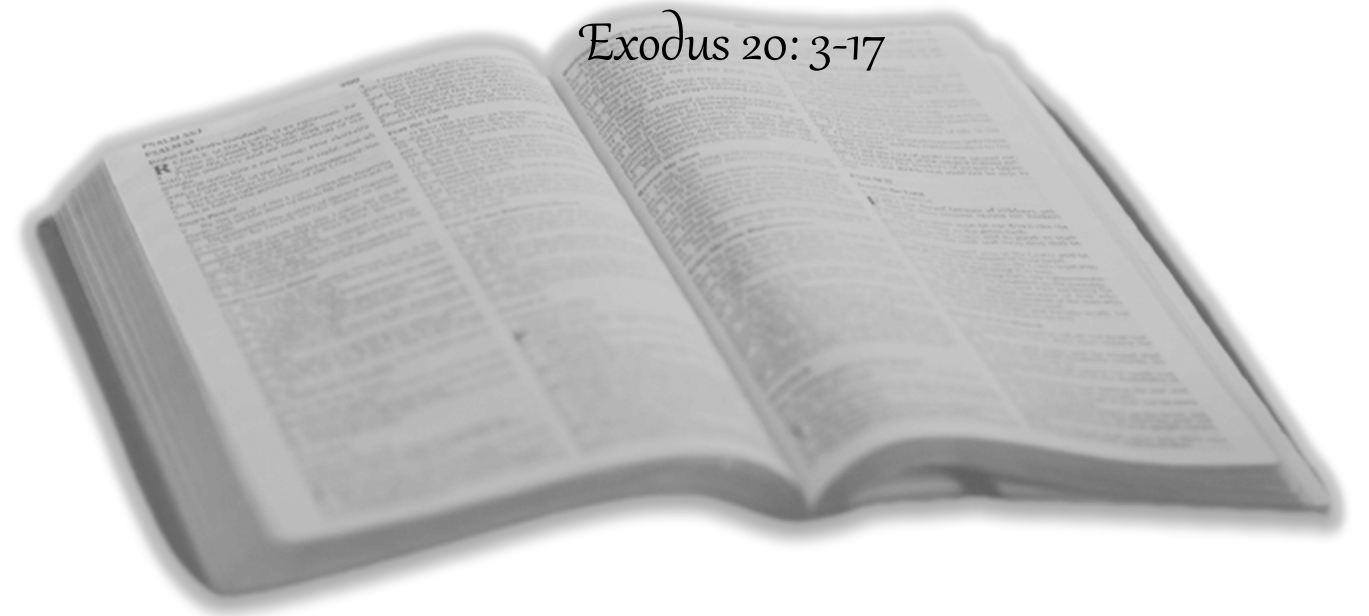
*Matthew 18: 21-22*



# The Ten Commandments

- I. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me.
- II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
- III. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- IV. Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.
- V. Honor thy father and thy mother.
- VI. Thou shalt not kill.
- VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- VIII. Thou shalt not steal.
- IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- X. Thou shalt not covet they neighbor's house.

*Exodus 20: 3-17*



# Precious Memories

