

*A*bidel (Gipson) Champion Battle was the sixth child born to the late Annie

Rose Champion Gipson in Smithville, GA on June 10, 1942. When Abidel was seven years of age, her mother passed but fortunately God blessed her and her younger sister to be adopted by their mother's brother, the late Reverend Dock Champion, Jr. and his late wife, Willie Mae. Abidel grew up on the family's farm and often talked about the fun she and her sister had completing their many chores before heading out to walk to school each morning. It was hard work, but it strengthened her for the days ahead.

Abidel grew up in a loving and God-fearing family and was an active member of Zion Hope Baptist Church where she served in numerous capacities including Sunday School Teacher, choir member and program coordinator. She was educated in Sumter County, attending Shipp Training School, and later graduating from Sumter High School. She was a fast learner and always had the desire to work in business. Her desires soon became reality as she was employed by the local school system first as a paraprofessional and then as the office manager at the high school. While working, she decided to return to school to fulfill another dream of becoming a licensed cosmetologist. As that dream came to fruition, she decided to hone her entrepreneurial quest and became a business owner by opening the Step-In-Salon in Smithville, GA. This was a perfect fit for her as it opened the doors to freedom of time and place.

Abidel was as unique as her name. She had a gentle and loving spirit, always promoting positivity. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend who was sincerely interested in the well-being of youth. She had a special connection with and desire for young people to make God-led decisions. Abidel had a major love for her family and enjoyed spending time with them. She wore a smile that was contagious and had a unique sense of sharing unspoken words that allowed the receiver to know what she meant without verbalizing. She was very inquisitive and thoughtful and had a no-nonsense attitude when it came to doing what was right with integrity. She believed that work promotes and supports self-sufficiency and that we should rely on God's many provisions for everything. She loved the outdoors and rejoiced in God's natural instincts. She was strong, beautiful and readily shared unconditional love!

In addition to her parents, Abidel is preceded in death by her siblings: Freddie, Cephas, Bertha, Rudolph, Elizabeth, and Wilma. On Saturday, September 4, 2021, Abidel met God's call from labor to rest as she quietly slipped away.

Forever to celebrate her life, she leaves her husband, Rev. Jacob Battle, Leslie, GA; her devoted and faithful daughter and son-in-law who were her primary caregivers, Sharon and Minister Ansley Jackson, Americus, GA; her beloved grandson, Kyle Champion, Hoover, AL; a special granddaughter, Ashley J. (Cedric) Lewis, Powder Springs, GA; her loving brother and sister-in-law, Thomas and Jean Gibson, Smithville, GA; her bonus mother, Edna Champion, Buena Vista, GA; sister-in-law, Mildred Gipson, Stuart, FL; bonus children whom she helped to raise: Jacob (Felecia) Battle, Jr., Lionel (Samantha) Battle, and J. Suzette Bostic; nieces and nephews who brought her much delight: Gilda, Dale, Celia, Cheryl, Karen, Cephas, Ricky, Ivey, Gary, Rudy, Kenny, Terrance, and Eric; extended family, Dennis (Mary) Baker, Donna (Willie) Tennison and Deidre (Aaron) Sterling, a host of great nieces and nephews, cousins, family and friends including: Karen Moses, Sonja Pride, Tracy Wilson, Linda Ross, Carolyn Reddick, Vanessa Jackson and Carolyn Brown who checked in with her daily. To God be the Glory!!!