# Last rites for Dr. Josephine O. Young, burial Sunday in Virginia

## Second ceremony at cemetery on family farm in Courtland, Va.

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

Dr. Josephine Ora Young, a recently retired educator of 40 years teaching stand as a dedicated public servant, died Jan. 24 at St. Agnes hospital after a brief illness. She was 76.

Funeral services are set for 1 p.noon Saturday at Leadenhall Baptist Church with the pastor Dr. Eddie R. Wilson presiding.

The body will lie in state at the church from 9:30 a.m. Saturday until the 11:30 a.m. family hour.

Dr. Young will be buried Sunday in the Young family cemetery in Courtland, Va. with the Rev. Dr. Wilson presiding at the second service at the graveside. The land has been in the family for over 100 years.

The family has established a Josephine O. Young Scholarship Fund. Those who wish to contribute to her memory may address checks to Mrs. Lillie Walden, 2108 Kathland Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21207.

Dr. Young was born one of 14 children of the late Leah Sykes Young, the 1933 Virginia State Mother of the Year, the first of her race to carry the title in the Old Dominion. Her father was the late John P. Young who resided with his wife and family on their farm in Courtland, Va.

**HONORARY DOCTORATE**

Dr. Young's childhood and education were spent in Courtland. She earned the bachelor of science and the masters degrees from Virginia State University. Advance study was done at Cornell and Indiana Universities and Loyola College.

In May, 1980, Dr. Wilson conferred the Virginia Seminary and College Doctor of Humane Letters honorary Degree upon her as the testimonial given in her honor by her family in Baltimore.

At the affair attended by some 1,000 persons, Dr. Young received over 34 honors including the AFRO award and citations from Maryland's governor and Baltimore's mayor and from Baltimore city and Baltimore County Departments of Education.

Recognition also came from her talented and devoted family in poems and songs and the many organizations to which she belonged.

**INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM**

The Young family has been honored internationally in magazines, on radio, TV and in news stories. Dr. Young was frequently the representative of the 14 children and served as their spokesperson.

She was recently honored at a recognition banquet by the Virginia State University Alumni, Metro Chapter and numerous community and civic organizations. The May, 1980 affair by the family witnessed guests arriving from the 50 states.

A maiden lady who was widely known and respected as a Christian woman of highest standards, "Aunt Jo", as her nieces and nephews fondly called her, was a tireless worker for morals and youth achievement.

Dr. Young was a tireless worker and champion of the "Little People". Among her major concerns were register and vote campaigns and she was considered a firm supporter of the late civil rights crusader, Dr. Lillie Mae Jackson.

An ardent worker in educational field, Dr. Young sponsored many projects to encourage achievement of young people regardless of race.

**ORGANIZATIONS**

She was the holder of the Jimmie Swartz Medallion, an award that recognized those whose humanity and kindnesses helped other less fortunate.

Some of her organizations which honored her are Freedom House and the Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum board of directors whose members will serve as honorary pallbearers at the funeral Saturday.

Also, the National Council of Negro Women, the NEA, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, the American Association of University Women, FHA, NAACP and many others. Dr. Young taught Sunday School at the Wayland Baptist Church and Cylburn Home where she was known as a person "heaping up, pressed down and running over" with kindness and service to those in need.

A world traveller, Dr. Young returned from the Holy Land Dec. 15 only a short time before she was taken ill. The trip with the United Church of Christ Apostolic under Bishop Monroe H. Saunders was one of her life's dreams.

Her religious affiliations included the St. Johns Chapel Church of Christianity, Courtland, Va.; Oral Roberts Prayer Partners, Wayland Baptist Church, Forest Park Reformed Presbyterian Church and the First United Apostolic Faith Church.

**OVER 150 SURVIVORS**

Close kin who mourn Dr. Young's passing number over 150 persons.

The seven sisters surviving are Mesdames Flossie Jefferson, Bernice Brown, Maisy Moore, Lillie Walden, Joyce Gowman and Laverne Kelly and Miss Margaret Young.

The four brothers are James E., Hezekiah E., Estrell S., and Hosea H. Young.

Also surviving are 45 nieces and nephews and an aunt, Mrs. Lizzie C. Peace of Charlotte, N.C. and more than 100 great nieces and nephews and other relatives.

DR. JOSEPHINE ORA YOUNG in May, 1980 when she received the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Dr. Eddie R. Wilson a trustee of the Virginia Seminary and College.

RESIGNED SEMINARY PRESIDENT Dr. Benjamin W. Robertson is shown in Dec. 3, 1980 photo at the college when he became president. Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. A.C. D. Vaughn (L) and Acting President Dr. Willard L. Clayton (R) led the ceremonies.

## AFRO birthday lady dies here at age 88

MRS. CHARLOTTE E. CLARK in an early photo from the family album

The lady who was saluted in the AFRO's 88th Anniversary Edition in August 1980 died this week at age 88. She would have been 89 in August, 1891.

The salute was written by her son and now he writes her obituary as follows:

Mrs. Charlotte E. Clark, 88, a member of Sharon Baptist Church where Dr. James L. Moore has been pastoring for 35 years, passed quietly on the morning of Monday, Jan. 26.

She had been disabled by two strokes since the early part of 1978 and was eventually placed in the Jenkins Memorial Home and administered by the Sisters of St. Agnes Hospital on Caton Ave. from June 5, 1980 where she received excellent care.

Funeral services are set for Friday at Sharon Baptist Church with the family receiving friends from 7 to 7:30 p.m. and the last rites beginning at 7:30 with Dr. Moore presiding.

Burial is scheduled for Saturday morning in Arbutus Memorial Park.

The AFRO birthday lady was born in Westmoreland County, Va., Aug. 25, 1892 to Julia and George Clayton of the same county. She was graduated from the Northern Neck Industrial Academy in Richmond County, Va.

After passing the state examination, she taught school for about six years.

As a child, she was baptized in the Potomac River by the late Rev. Newman and was a member of the Potomac Baptist Church.

After coming to Baltimore in 1916, she became a member of the Sharon Baptist Church where the late William M. Alexander was pastor.

She was later married in November, 1917 to John T. Clarke of Smithfield, Va., whom she had met while at the Academy in Virginia. She had been a current and active member of Sharon right up to her hindrance.

She and her husband finally decided to buy their own home in 1919 and broke the color barrier by moving to 1410 Whitelock St. on old Sugar Hill. Blacks dared not to move here because they were practically barred from living above North Avenue at that time.

Soon afterwards there were to be born five children. Wilhelmina, Rosetta, Cora, John Jr. and Wardell. After all married except the latter, there were 16 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, all presently living.

Also surviving are a sister, Mrs. Naomi Clayton, Ankorage, Alaska; two brothers, David and Talmadge Clayton of Baltimore. Her husband John T. Clarke resides in a Baltimore senior citizens apartment complex and is looked after daily by his children.


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## Virginia Seminary president explains why he resigned

Dr. Benjamin W. Robertson wrote the following letter over his signature on Jan. 23 and mailed it to the Baltimore AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

The letter was addressed to Members of the Board of Managers of Virginia Seminary and College "From the President" states in exact words:

"This is to inform you that I believe that we have accomplished that which I came to do.

"I want to thank the Search Committee for recommending me and you for giving me the opportunity to serve in the highest position that the Virginia Seminary and College has for 4 months.

"I feel that the Search Committee has had ample time to find us a strong, full-time president.

"As I stated when you asked me to serve in this capacity that when my goals had been accomplished, I will notify you.

"1. We have funds in which to operate.

"2. Much good-will has been established.

"3. An improved Board of Managers.

"I am leaving the Office of Presidency as I cam in, with honor, dignity and humility.

"May God bless you and keep you.

"signed: Benjamin W. Robertson

Dr. Robertson who was inaugurated Dec. 3, 1980 in elaborate ceremonies in Lynchburg, Va. where the college is located, said previously he wanted only to remain in office long enough to help the 88-year old institution on the way to progress.

Dr. A.C.D. Vaughn of Baltimore, chairman of the Board of Managers, also received a copy of the above letter. He told the AFRO he was not previously notified before this week.

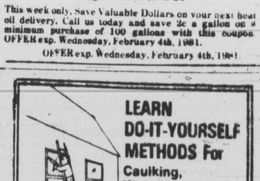
Learning later that "someone said" Dr. Robertson was speaking disparaging of the college and doubted it could continue to exist, Dr. Vaughn said, "There is no doubt that the school will remain open and progressive as we have intended."

The Baptist churches across the nation have supported the seminary all these 88 years and will continue do do so, Dr. Vaughn said.

When informed of a news release published earlier this week, Dr. Vaughn asked, "Who is the author of the release?"

The college has many distinguished graduates who are heading leading Baptist congregations nation-wide and hold positions on college and seminary faculties such as Moorehouse in Atlanta and Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Vaughn said February Term registration is in progress and applications may be sent to Dean Dr. James Thomas, Virginia Seminary and College, Lynchburg, Va.

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