

**DEACON MATTHEW LEWIS, SR.** was born in Cuthbert, Georgia on September 6, 1928, to the parentage of the late Mrs. Gussie Lee McClendon-Lewis and the late Mr. Elbert Lewis. After locating to Americus, Georgia, he met and later married, Ms. Minnie Littleton on October 20, 1945. To this union, nine children were born.

Matthew was a “jack of all trades” but had a true passion for farming and helping others. Whatever he grew, he happily shared with members of the community. He joined and attended Old Corinth Baptist Church of Cobb, GA, where he served as a deacon until his health declined.

In addition to his parents and wife, Minnie, he was preceded in death by five children: Annie Pearl Lewis, David Lee Lewis, Bobby Lee Foster, Catherine Dowdell and Sheila Dowdell.

He leaves to cherish his memory eleven children: Mr. Matthew (Liz) Lewis, Jr., Ms. Mary Taylor, Mr. Willie (Ethel) Lewis, Mrs. Gloria (Otis) Franklin, Mrs. Jannie (Willie) Jones, Mrs. Janice (Howard) Lusane, Mr. Clarence Lewis, Ms. Pamela Dowdell, Mrs. Evon (James) Gordon, Ms. Lucille Davis, and Ms. Carolyn Dowdell.

In addition, he has five adopted daughters that he loved as his own: Ms. Rosa Jones, Ms. Willie Lou Fuller, Ms. Queen Gibson, Ms. Wanda Stephens, and Ms. Ericka Stephens. He is also survived by a host of grandchildren, great-grand and great-great grandchildren as well as other relatives and friends to carry on his legacy. He also leaves behind devoted friends, David Searcy and Lewis Mercer; a devoted neighbor, Ms. Mabel Evans; and his devoted church family.