

# Detroit Poet Maker Of Religious Verses

By JOCELYNN BROWN

One of Detroit's most creative artists of self-expression is a poet by the name of Johnnie Rivers whose second book of poems entitled "Before the Sun Goes Down" was recently published. The urgent need for mankind to establish a closer relationship with God before it's too late was the everlasting thought of action which prompted her to give the book its title.

As a maker of religious verses, Ms. Rivers relates that writing gives her a feeling of emotional relief.

"My writing which is brought about by inspiration from God is an expression of my inner-most feelings about my past and present experiences," said Ms. Rivers.

She continued, "In addition to placing me closer to God, I've discovered that writing enables me to gain a sense of inner peace and convey meaningful thoughts which are much needed in order for the world to exist in a state of



JOHNNIE RIVERS

tranquility."

Reminiscing back to her childhood, the impressive poet recalls having had a burning desire to someday become a writer. However, she failed to follow through with her dream until two years ago when her brother, the late Rev. Robert L. Holding, encouraged her to develop her writing ability after reading her first poem entitled "Why Didn't You Tell Me?" Due to its overwhelming degree of meaning about a child's sudden discover of the

Bible, Ms. Rivers was asked to recite it on WJLB-FM. The poem appears in her first book of poems entitled "Poems for Better Living from God."

Ms. Rivers who refers to each of her poems as "soul food from God" is presently working on her third book of poems which will bring to life the "misery and suffering which prevails throughout the ghetto."

Defining the term poet as "one who expresses his feelings from within", Ms. Rivers points out that "every poet is different because his lifetime experiences are like those of no other poet."

Several well-known poets have asked Ms. Rivers to consider having her books translated into foreign languages so that people everywhere can benefit from what she has to say.

The daughter of a Baptist minister, Ms. Rivers was born in Decatur, Ala., where she graduated from Decatur High school.