

*A Celebration of Thanksgiving
for the Life of*



*Melides Merindia Carrazana
October 10th, 1932 – December 19th, 2020*

*Church of God, Chapel
Town Hall Road, West Bay
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands*

*Saturday, January 2nd, 2021
10:30 am.*

*Officiating Minister
Rev. Stanwyck D. Myles, Cert. Hon*

Interment at Boatswain Bay Cemetery

Order of Service

Opening Remarks Pastor Stanwyck Myles
Opening Hymn - "How Great Thou Art" Congregation
Prayer Pastor Elizabeth Bowen
Scripture Reading - Romans 8: 35, 38-39 Emmanuelle Bodden, Great-Grandson
Life Story Mr. Mario Ebanks
Special Song - "Never Grow Old" Mr. Kenneth C. Ebanks, Son-In-Law
Tributes
Children Mrs. Rosa Davidson
Caregiver Mrs. Shellesha Clarke
Esther, Idania & Rollin - "The Prayer" Mr. Devon Edie
Sermon Pastor Stanwyck Myles
Closing Hymn - "Because He Lives" Congregation

Pallbearers

Israel Carrazana
Trey Carrazana
Kenneth C. Ebanks

Leonardo Farias Rodriguez
Eudar Contino Fernandez
Phillip D. Ebanks

Honorary Pallbearers

T. Charley Ebanks
Charley P. Ebanks

Rollin Ebanks
Michael Ebanks.
George Clarke, Jr.

Alfred Powery
Jesse Smith

Guest Book Attendant

Luisa Robinson

Ushers

Idania Ebanks

Liliana Rivers

Service Hymns

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder,
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joys shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!

Because He Lives

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He bled and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives.

Refrain: Because He lives; I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives; All fear is gone
Because I know, I know, He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives,
But greater still that calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross that river
I'll fight life's final war with pain,
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns.

**Life Story of
Melides Merindia Carrazana Ebanks
affectionately known as Mae-Mae**

Melides was born in the Isle of Pines, Cuba on October 10, 1932 to her parents Leila Hydes and Samuel Ebanks. Mae-Mae grew up in McKinley, with her parents and her brother Rollin, however, at an early age she went to stay with her Aunt Evelyn and her family as her parents had to take her brother to Havana for medical reasons. Thankfully, after a few years they were all reunited as Rollin's health had improved.

Mae-Mae received her education in English. Her teacher was Mr. Murray whom she loved and respected dearly. She loved to read and was very good with math, also.

Like so many other families at time, their life was one of few material possessions, but close family relationships and many fun times shared.

As Mae-Mae grew into a young woman, she was courted and was engaged to Norman Clarke. In 1950 they were united in marriage. To this union three children were born. George (now deceased), Elsie and Riselda. While destiny would have it that they were divorced, they remained friends throughout their lives.

A few years later, Mae-Mae, being still a beautiful and young woman, remarried to Amadeo Carrazana, and in 1962, a son, Israel Carrazana Ebanks was born.

In 1969 the entire family, except for her eldest son George, would travel to Cayman, which was the homeland of her father Samuel and her mother Leila who was also born in Grand Cayman.

Throughout her life she was a very sociable, friendly person. She was very hard working, punctual, and was an extremely clean and tidy person, who also liked to cook and bake light cakes (pineapple upside down, German chocolate, and strawberry cake with frosting and sprinkles were some of the favourites).

She worked as a domestic helper, and also at the Turtle Farm, in a jewelry store and then spent a long-time working at Brenda's Boutique (first for Ms. Brenda Quinn who became a close friend, and then for the McPartland's). Her final employment prior to retirement was at Kirk Freeport, primarily in their crystal and fine china boutique. It was from Kirk Freeport that she retired in late 2006.

After retiring she continued to be very active with all the household chores. She also enjoyed working in her yard, going to do the shopping, cooking and baking. She also raised two of her grand-children, Daniella and Trey and helped care for great-grandchildren Emmanuelle and Elliana.

Mae-Mae accepted Jesus, as Lord and Saviour, and was a member of the Church of God, Chapel, West Bay, for many years. Diana Mateo, who was very dear to her, would frequently chauffeur her along with her mom, Marrie, to church. Mae Mae and Marrie were very special friends. Marrie made her own journey from this life in September 2020.

As she aged, her family sadly noticed that her memory was starting to fail, however, she still had a zest for life and enjoyed time with family and friends. It was in August 2017 when it became quite apparent that some type of dementia was progressing. Her family worked together to keep her safe and comfortable at home, first with a caregiver/support during the day and later as the disease progressed additional support, to 24 hour care, to ensure that she could maintain the best quality of life possible for her. Her primary caregiver Shellesha (Shelly) was hired in early 2018, and lovingly cared for her throughout the remainder of her life – with support from Simone, Tricia, Lyrea, Maravi, Nellie, Winifred and Paula.

During the pandemic was when her health really started to decline, as she had more limited social interactions and outings, even though she continued to have loving care and support at home and safe interactions with some of her family. Over the second half of 2020 her health continued to decline. It was the third week of November when she was transported to George Town Hospital where she was admitted and treated for pneumonia. While inpatient a few other issues arose. These were treated, however, despite the best efforts of the team it became obvious that her body was getting tired. On December 12th the doctors advised that she had pneumonia again. On December 19th, 2020 Mae-Mae departed this life and started her eternal life with God.

Her Christian faith provides peace and comfort to her loved ones that her soul is now with the Lord. She leaves to cherish her memory in this blessed hope her children: Elsie, Riselda and Israel. Her Sons-in-Law: Kenneth and Charley and her daughter-in-law: Gladys. Her grandchildren: Charley Philip and his wife Carolina, Jacqueline and her husband Phillip, Daniella, Taneisha, George Jr., Trey, Raya, and Jairie. Great-grandchildren: Hannah, Hallie, Emmanuelle, Elliana, Erick, Carley, Jayce, Jaeya and River. Her baby sister, Lily, (who was adopted by her mom Leila) and her family who now reside in the United States. Her nieces Esther and Idania and her nephew Rolando and their families, along with many other relatives and cherished friends.

Tributes to Our Mother

As these few memories are shared, I am so thankful to God that you cooperated with His plan to bring me into this world. During our journey as mother and daughter you taught me many valuable lessons such as being honest, respectful, kind, obedient, punctual, hard working and in general a responsible person. And for all these lessons I'm eternally grateful to you.

Today, I, once again, thank God that you and dad made that very important decision to bring us to Grand Cayman, and despite the fact it was a challenging time in our lives adjusting to a new culture, learning English and many other obstacles you showed by example that it was going to be ok.

Thank God it did, and as destiny should have it that I met a young man named Kenneth Ebanks whom had some of the qualities that were important to me. We were engaged and married with your blessings. We gave you your first granddaughter Jacki, whom you cherished, and you were always so happy of her achievements. Then many years later, Jacki being married to Phillip gave you your first great-granddaughters Hannah and Hallie, whom you also adored.

Over the years, you and Ken became very close and you considered him to be your son, not merely an in-law. You shared your own special bond with him and were always fond of seeing him and having him assist you with various tasks and errands.

We all thank God for the many ways that you were a blessing to our family.
You will always be loved and remembered.

Elsie & Kenneth.

TRIBUTE TO OUR DEAR MOTHER (MS. MAE-MAE)

Our loving mother Ms. Mae-Mae today we reached another pinnacle in our life, where you will journey on and we stay back but only for a period to time. In reminiscing we would like to remember some of the highlights in our lives. My graduation from High School which you always spoke of it with joy, due to the fact that arriving here from Cuba with no knowledge of English, we never had in mind that I would be able to command the English language in a manner that would allow me to learn it and complete it in order to be able to graduate. I continued with my studies at college and was able to do Business English and other subjects which I completed and graduated, once again Ms. Mae-Mae (Mom) was very happy with my accomplishments.

Thereafter we shared the time/phase of boyfriend time, which she looked at very zealously and when final time to choose a husband Ms. May-May gave her full approval of my choice. And throughout life, even to the very final times that she had knowledge of what was going on she loved Charley and they had a very special/good relationship.

Now, I take great pride in confessing that I have never seen a more hard-driven individual. She was at the helm of all matters, working out, coming home cooking, washing, raking yard, and encouraging us to complete our homework she just didn't stop. All things had to be done.

You go Mom, it is time to rest now. We will certainly miss you. Charley would miss you singing with him and Ms. Mari – Santa is looking for a wife, sharing stories when he happily took you to dressing-making appointments, or at times doing her banking and many other matters that arose, they shared those times with great zeal and happiness.

I could go on and on but perhaps it is best to end now guard many memories in my heart, but I would say that she was usually a happy camper when we went out to a celebration and enjoyed herself to the fullest.

My dear Mama, I look forward to meeting you some day and it will be time to serve our Lord and maker Jesus Christ.

Would always love you and God's willing will always write/share a few more memories with those of us left behind, therefore this is not a GOOD-BYE BUT ONLY A SO LONG.

Until we meet again, we remain yours lovingly,
Charley and Riselda.

TRIBUTE TO MAMA FROM ISRAEL

Mama I am struggling knowing that the other part of your journey has started. I miss you so much that I have no words to express the pain in my heart and the lowliness which I feel.

I will always remember the advice that you gave me and even though at times I overlooked that good advice, I am truly sorry for it. I will always remember the food that you cooked especially something that I truly liked. You made me feel very special, after all you always reminded me that I was your baby, I feel very fortunate to have you as my mother...

Mama I will always carry you in my heart, I feel that our Lord and Saviour will receive you into His Father's house. I will continue to serve our Lord and Saviour, so that one day we will meet again.

So long my darling Mama, there will be many things that I will ponder on and you will always be the primary person in my life. God be with all of us I will try very hard to carry out and build in your legacy of honesty, hard work and love for one another.

Always your son and baby, Israel (aka Papito)

This tribute to Mae, better known to me as Gramma, is not to be a mournful one but rather a celebration and testimony of her life as I know it. I remember every time I was at her house the first place I would go was to the kitchen and she always had something for me to eat! Maybe I shouldn't have gone there so often, in hindsight. Always kept me a "solid" child growing up!

Gramma always showed me a pleasant, kind demeanor, but never spared the spanking when it was necessary. She would always send me to Mr. Lincoln shop to buy patties and cool drinks as she called sodas but always stood by the gate to watch over me.

She was always there to ask if I was ok, and even when I became an adult with my own family that same sweet kind demeanor remained. Never changed, always offering a place of comfort to relax from the stress of adulthood!

Gramma you were one of my true comfort zones where I could be at peace. Well, now it's your time to be at peace. The short time that you spent with my wife and our kids were a blessing to my family. Now we must send you on your next journey to meet up with Ms Mari and Grandfather Norman and others.

This is not goodbye though, it's just until we meet again.

Love, Charley Philip, Carolina, Erick, Carley, and Doña Argentina

Over the years you were addressed by our family by various names: Grandma, Grams, Grammie, and once Hannah and Hallie came along Goot-Gamma. And although the words varied, they were all spoken with love and respect.

We were so blessed to have you for so many years and these years are filled with many happy memories. You loved to cook and bake and I always loved to eat, so we were a perfect match. When I was younger you always made sure to have my some of my favourites. To this day I talk, very longingly, about your pancakes (sweet and solid and not to be mistaken with panckes -the light fluffy variation), cheecharos, bread pudding and the many birthday cakes you baked me over the years, especially strawberry with vanilla icing and sprinkles.

One memory that sticks out in my mind from when I was a little girl was when you broke your leg, and you came to stay with us. You weren't so nimble on your crutches and some days I decided that it was my job to feed you. I was very limited in my kitchen skills, but I made numerous bologna and cheese sandwiches with just a little bit of sandwich spread, or peanut butter and banana sandwiches and presenting them to you with such flourish. I'm not sure if you actually enjoyed them but you ate them all up.

You were always very proud of all of us grandchildren and later your great-grandchildren and our accomplishments. You took great interest in our schooling, attended various events – concerts, graduations, weddings etc. When I went off to school in Canada, and then to university in the United States, I could see the pride in your eyes and hear it in your voice whenever I would come home.

Your presence at any occasion was generally accompanied with a sweet treat and a card with your careful and neat cursive penmanship, "May God Bless You Always, Love Gma Mae" and a little monetary gift. When we were teens/young adults you would often take me aside and whisper, "I'm sorry it couldn't be more, but I love you so much, you hear?!" You also loved receiving gifts and I relished returning the sentiment to you, whispering the same thing back to you. You would wink and then quickly tuck whatever gift I'd given into your handbag.

One thing that the entire family could rely on you for was 'news'. Somehow you always managed to know ALL the details of the goings on – from West Bay to East End, happenings in Cuba and Florida and everything in between. You and your telephone were a force to be reckoned with. Even when your memory had started to falter a bit, you would often call our house phone – even if you were intending to call someone else, you would simply chuckle at your mishap, and launch into whatever was on your mind.

I could go on and on but space is limited, so we'll close at this point. Our family will miss you very much and we will always remember you fondly and cherish the memories of times shared.

Love is forever,

Jacki (always your favourite first grand-daughter - another one of our inside jokes), Phillip, Hannah & Hallie

To a Special Grandmother

Dear Mama,

There are no words that can express the sadness my heart holds when I was told that God took one of his special angel's home. You were like a mother to me when I needed one the most. Your loving arms, cared for me; your gentle smile, comforted me and your motherly ways, protected me. Everything you taught me as a child will stay with me throughout my life and I will pass on your lovingly ways to my kids so your memory will live on.

I will always remember how you loved to clean and keep your house in order, you always used to say, "cleanliness is next to godliness and this is why you must always keep clean". I loved your famous bread pudding for our special gatherings, obviously without the raisins and that is why I used to help to ensure that you wouldn't add the raisins. I will always remember how you would love to bring your special strawberry cake with vanilla icing and rainbow sprinkles that we had to get from the store every time we would have our family dinners. I will always remember your cheerful, fiery personality and caring smile and the times you helped me with the kids when motherly duties became too overwhelming.

I will always remember you and everything you did for me, I thank you truly for being there for me and showing me that you cared. You will forever and always be in a special place in my heart along with these happy, fond memories until we meet again.

Love always,

Daniella, Emmanuelle, Elliana and River

Tribute to my Grandmother, "Mama", from Grandson Trey

To my grandmother, my "mama" may you Sleep in Peace, because your job as the best maternal figure a person could ask for has come to an end.

I couldn't have imagined a life without you. From birth, you have been by my side, like my mother, my father and as my grandmother. You taught me everything you knew, which made who I am today. Unfortunately, there is just one thing you did not teach me, which was how to tell you goodbye. I understand that it is a part of life to do this, but until we meet again I love you and cherish every waking moment we had together. I will always uphold your beliefs and values that you instilled in me from a young boy. From the ups and downs in our relationship, I love you.

May you rest in eternal peace mama. I love you deeply, and you will never be forgotten.
From your grandson Israel Trey Carrazana

Tribute from Shellesha Clarke –
primary caregiver to Melides Carrazana

Good morning everyone, I'm Shellesha Clark, known by most as Shelly. I have been the primary caregiver for the late Melides Carrazana for nearly three years.

M – Memorable
E – Easy going
L – Loving
I – Intelligent
D – Determined
E – Energetic
S – Sympathetic

C – Caring
A – Ambitious
R – Respectable
R – Reliable
A – Amiable
Z – Zealous
A – Affectionate
N – Noble
A – Adorable



When you put all these descriptive words together, I speak of a virtuous woman, Melides Carrazana. "My Mae-Mae" whom I first met in early 2018. Upon meeting this beautiful lady, she had displayed attributes of a God-fearing woman.

It's often said, however, that one mustn't judge a book by its cover. If had judged her at first sight or based on our initial interactions, my life wouldn't have been blessed by knowing her. You see, we started off on a rough, patch path, but as time went by and being around her and spending more time with her, I came to know the true identity of this no-nonsense angel. Over the nearly three years that I spent with her, she caused my heart to overflow with nothing but true love... in fact, she became my mother, my guarding angel and taught me how to love care and treat people.

Staying around Mae-Mae was never a dull moment... she often said to me, and I quote, "Everyday you waling around in the house with your big boobies and your big butt like you no boss in here!!" End of quote. Each time that she repeated those words, I would just look at her and smile.

Taking care of her was a great pleasure, one that I will forever remember and cherish. I looked forward towards preparing her sumptuous meals, dressing and grooming her, reading to her and ensuring that there's always a smile on her face.

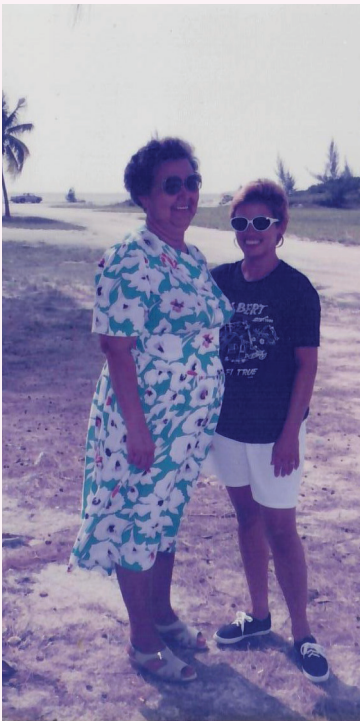
The days leading up to her final moments, pains and aches started to take over her body, and her body wasn't strong anymore to overcome. So on December 19, 2020 at approximately 11:25 her body gave in. My heart was broken... torn apart to know that my Mae-Mae had gone to take her rest.

There will be no more Mae-Mae melodious singing in the walls of the house, no more beautiful smile to light up the place... no more Mae-Mae! I love you in life and in death. You are my hero, my mom, my motivator, my confidant, my one in a billion... you will be sadly missed. Nothing or no one will be able to occupy that empty slot in my heart.

I've had sleepless nights, days of tears, questioning why Mae-Mae but I'm comforted by the words of a famous writer that wrote, "God always takes the best out of life's garden." Sleep on in peace!

Thank you!







Graveside Service

Opening Remarks Pastor Stanwyck Myles
Prayer Pastor Stanwyck Myles
Scripture Reading - John 11:25-26 Jacqueline L. Ebanks
Committal Pastor Stanwyck Myles

Songs of Celebration of Life Eternal Led by Liliana Rivers

Amazing Grace ~ In the Sweet By and By ~ It is Well with My Soul ~ When We All Get to Heaven

Benediction Pastor Stanwyck Myles

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

In the Sweet By and By

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

Refrain: In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,

We shall meet on that beautiful shore.
We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

It Is Well With My Soul

When peace like a river attendeth my way;
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say;
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:
It is well with my soul; It is well,
it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come;
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin... Oh the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Oh my soul.

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life;
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
the sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh trump of the angel! Oh voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest for my soul!

And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend.
Even so it is well with my soul.

When We All Get To Heaven

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace
In the mansions bright and blessed,
He'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain:
When we all get to Heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!

While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
clouds will over-spread the sky
But when traveling days are over,
not a shadow, not a sigh.

Let us then be true and faithful,
trusting, serving every day
Just one glimpse of Him in glory,
will the toils of life repay.

Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold.





Acknowledgements

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to her caregivers: Shelly, Allison, Trisha, Maravi, Lyrea, Nellie, Winifred, and Paula. Thanks also to her healthcare team, especially Dr. Christian from the West Bay Clinic, Dr. Price and all the Nurses and Assistants on the Medical Ward of the George Town Hospital who cared for her during her period of illness, right up until passing. Mario and Lovenia Ebanks; Mr. Ruby and the staff of Bodden Funeral Services who handled the arrangements of her services, and all who have visited, extended their condolences, love, and prayers during this time.