

*Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of*



James Leonard Watler-Rankin

Sunrise:

13th August 1937

Sunset:

24th December 2020

Church of God (Universal)

Walker's Road, George Town

Saturday, 2nd January 2021

1:00pm

Viewing: 12:00pm—12:45pm

Officiating Minister: Pastor James Arch, JP, Cert. Hon (Ret)

Pianist: Sis. Esther Jackson

Organist: Sis. Ruth Rankin

Internment: Prospect Cemetery

Order of Service

Opening RemarksPastor James Arch
Prayer.....Bro. Duane Jeffries
Hymn.....When the Roll is Called Up Yonder
Scripture Reading: Psalm 23.....Counselor Barbara Conolly

Tributes:

Loving Wife.....Veda Ebanks
Children.....Linda Baker
Song from Children.....Pre-recorded.....There aren't many songs about Fathers
Grandchildren.....Kim Watler

Slideshow

Song: Halleluiah Square.....Bro. Glarman Grant
Special Song.....Sunday School Students
Seafarer's Association.....Denniston Tibbetts

Tolling of Seaman's Bell

Obituary.....Hon Kurt Tibbetts
Sermon.....Pastor James Arch
Closing Hymn.....Precious Memories
Closing Prayer.....Bro. Roy Fearon

Pallbearers

Mr. Ealey Watler - Son
Mr. Kirk Watler - Son
Mr. David Watler - Son
Mr. Chris Watler - Son
Mr. Adam Watler - Grandson
Mr. Mark Ebanks - Son-in-Law

Ushers

Mr. Carlton West
Mr. O'Leary Cranston

Guest Book Attendants

Mrs. Juanita Powell
Mrs. Marvia Rankin

Honorary Pallbearers

Tony Archibold

Ken Bodden

Jason Carter

Jerrin Carter

Anthony Ebanks

Juwan Ebanks

Malique Ebanks

Ricky Ebanks

Tevin Ebanks

George Lobo Ebereth

Eric Gould

Leon Gould

Andrew McLaughlin

James McLaughlin

Jonny McLaughlin

Roger McLaughlin

Wesley McLaughlin

Denzil McLean

Duane McCoy

Shane McCoy

Phil Rankin

Aron Santamaria

Casey Santamaria

Kyle Santamaria

Anthony Shelley

Hank Shelley

Tony Shelley

Joshua Watler

Kevon Watler

Kieron Watler

Simon Watler

Tristan Watler



The Life Story of James Leonard Watler-Rankin

James Leonard Watler-Rankin was born in Spot Bay Cayman Brac on August 13th 1937. He was the last of five children born to William Napoleon Rankin and Lottie Watler. His parents hailed from the district of East End, but had gone to Cayman Brac before his birth to see what life there had to offer. Both parents and his four older sisters preceded him in death.

They lived in the Brac for a while after James was born, but they had moved back to East End by the time he had reached the age to attend school. The years of schooling were spent at the East End School under the tutelage of Mr. Allen McLaughlin, or Allen Mac as he was known to everyone.

When he had finished school, he quickly sought employment. The best prospects were in the capital, George Town, so James set out, and found work fairly soon with Mr. Ellery Merren. He was still a teenager at that time.

Like most young men of the day, James spent some years at sea with National Bulk Carriers, but his seafaring days did not extend beyond a decade. He was always very industrious, and learnt well the art of all aspects of building and building maintenance. This he learnt both during his time at home and during his seafaring years.

For some time after he began to work in George Town, James lived with the Jackson family on North church Street, nearby Mr. Berkley & Miss Dim Bush, and it wasn't long before he was able to acquire one of those 28" fixed wheel "Man" bicycles with a big Jangler on the handle bar. This was to become his mode of transportation for quite some time.

Late in 1965, he noticed in his travels to and from work a beautiful young lady who immediately made his heart skip a beat. He quickly learnt that she hailed from the Boilers area, and she was Judy Ann McLaughlin, the daughter of Mr. Audrey Hutching McLaughlin. It didn't take him long to realize she had similar feelings. This put a new bounce to his step, a new shine to his bicycle and more trips to Merren's Branch store to stock up on Old Spice After shave lotion, the kind you just splash on.

Every evening you could see him riding up Meringue Town Road, that's where Judy Ann lived, and from the time he crossed Dr. Roy's house on the corner you could hear the bicycle Jangler ringing as loud as he could get it to ring.

James quickly concluded that this was who he wanted to spend the rest of his life with. But she was only 19 years old, so he had to get cross her father before he could make any plans. He was determined, as he built up the courage to ask for her hand in marriage. Hutchings response was, "the only hand you going to get is a hand full of 12 gauge pellets." But he didn't give up, and every evening he still rode across Meringue Town Rd, bell ringing, and full of old spice. Eventually her father was satisfied that James meant well, and he relented. The couples were united in marriage on August 17th, 1966. The union was blessed with 5 sons and 1 daughter, Ealey, Kirt, Rodney, David, Chris and Desiree.

The couple lived in Judy Ann's uncles house behind KFC for a time, then they moved up to Mr. Brown's apartments right next to where Judy Ann grew up.

All this time both were working, and their children were being born. Humble beginnings, but James worked hard to be a good provider, and Judy Ann supplemented the family's income by working in the days and still being a good home maker.

Throughout all of this, James had the fervent desire to have their own place that he and his family could call home. They worked tirelessly to achieve this, and finally in the early 80's they moved in to their own home in the Windsor Park area; this remains the family home today. James did most of the work himself, with help from friends in the business of building.

He was always seeking to better his lot, making sure to provide for the needs of his family. Besides working as a subcontractor for private homes, he had become a jack of all trades, and worked for a time with Mr. Burns Ruddy doing maintenance on his various businesses. Then in 1991 James took up employment with Mr. Ran Moser, working with him on various projects until he retired in 2001.

This was a turning point in his life, and in December 2001 during convention time he decided to give his life to the Lord. After that he was a faithful member of the Church of God (Universal). He served his God with all his might until 2014, when ill health prevented him from continuing. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

As Time passed he slowly deteriorated, and he got to the point where he did not even know his own family members. He did not know his own surroundings, lost his ability to talk, then to walk. Throughout all of this, he was lovingly and patiently cared for consistently by his loving wife.

Even though he got the best care and attention his health continued to decline. Eventually on December 14th last, he had to be taken to the George Town Hospital where the diagnosis was blood clots in the Lungs and Legs, and he had developed pneumonia.

On the 15th he was transferred to Health /city for further tests. The family were hopeful, but he was returned to George Town. There was nothing more that could be done. He remained there, slowly going down, until Christmas Eve, December 24th surrounded by his loving family, James Leonard Watler-Rankin went home peacefully to be with his Lord and Saviour.

James was proceeded in death by:

His parents: William Napoleon Rankin and Lottie Watler

Siblings: Thelma, Aldis, Tina, and Hazel.

Left to mourn his passing are:

His loving and dedicated wife of 54 years: Judy Ann Watler

5 Sons: Ealey Watler, Kirt Watler, Rodney Watler, David Watler, and Chris Watler

1 Daughter: Desiree Ebanks

1 Daughter-in-Law: Tina Watler

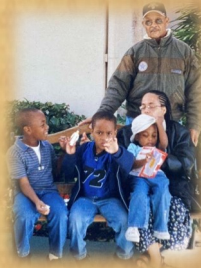
1 Son-in-Law: Mark Ebanks

20 Grandchildren, 10 Great- Grandchildren, Nieces, Nephews, Grand Nieces, Grand Nephews, Church Family, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Heaven gained a wonderful Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, Uncle and friend.

May his soul rest in sweet peace.

Precious Memories



Precious Memories



Church Service Songs

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Chorus:

When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of his resurrection share;
When his chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. [Refrain]

Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun;
Let us talk of all his wondrous love and care.
Then when all of life is over and our work on earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there. [Refrain]

PRECIOUS MEMORIES

Precious memories, unseen angels,
Sent from somewhere to my soul;
How they linger, ever near me,
And the sacred past unfold.

Chorus:

Precious memories, how they linger,
How they ever flood my soul;
In the stillness of the midnight,
Precious, sacred scenes unfold.

Precious father, loving mother,
Fly across the lonely years;
And old home scenes of my childhood,
In fond memory appear. [Refrain]

As I travel on life's pathway,
Know not what the years may hold;
As I ponder, hope grows fonder,
Precious memories flood my soul. [Refrain]



Graveside Service Song

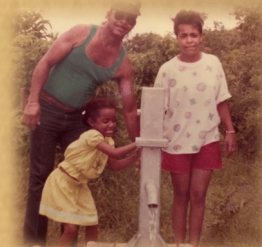
WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE

There is coming a day,
When no heart aches shall come,
No more clouds in the sky,
No more tears to dim the eye,
All is peace forever more,
On that happy golden shore,
What a day, glorious day that will be.

Chorus:

What a day that will be,
When my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon His face,
The One who saved me by His grace;
When He takes me by the hand,
And leads me through the Promised Land,
What a day, glorious day that will be.

There'll be no sorrow there,
No more burdens to bear,
No more sickness, no pain,
No more parting over there;
And forever I will be,
With the One who died for me,
What a day, glorious day that will be.



Graveside Service

Prayer & Scripture.....Pastor James Arch

Song.....I am Redeemed

Laying of Family Floral Tributes

CommittalPastor James Arch

Songs

Benediction..... Pastor James Arch

MANSION OVER THE HILLTOP

I'm satisfied with just a cottage below
A little silver and a little gold
But in that city where the ransomed will shine
I want a gold one that's silver lined

I've got a mansion just over the hilltop
In that bright land where we'll never grow old
And someday yonder we will never more wander
But walk on streets that are purest gold

Though often tempted, tormented, and tested
And like the prophet my pillow's a stone
And though I find here no permanent dwelling
I know He'll give me a mansion my own

Don't think me poor or deserted or lonely
I'm not discouraged I'm heaven bound
I'm but a pilgrim in search of the city
I want a mansion, a harp and a crown.

I AM REDEEMED

Daddy's favourite chorus

(Please repeat 3 times)

I am redeemed and I'm bought with a price,
For Jesus has changed my whole life.
And If anybody asks you, just who I am,
I want you to tell them that I am re-deemed.

Welcome home my child. You have fought a good fight. You have finished your course.

The family of the late James Leonard Watler-Rankin wishes to express our deepest gratitude to all friends and well-wishers who called, visited, prayed, contributed to the many blessings we have received during this time.

To the Doctors and Nurses at the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority for their tireless devotion and care, and caregiver Annmarie, we will forever be grateful. May God continue to bless you and your families. Your kindness and sympathy are more appreciated than words can ever express.

Thank you all!!