

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of



Shemaiah Tafari Kaya Grant

18 October, 1990 - 02 May, 2021

Shirley Kidd Memorial Hall at the John A Cumber Primary School

Saturday, 22 May, 2021

Service at 2:00 pm - Viewing at 1:30 pm

Officiating Ministers

Bishop McLaughlin

Pastor Charles Grant

Pastor Judith McLaughlin

Interment at St. Mary's Garden of Rest

Order of Service

Open Remarks Bishop McLaughlin
Prayer for the Family by Marsha Smith
Congregational Song How Great Thou Art
Scripture Psalm 46 Pastor Judith McLaughlin

Tributes

Mom & Dad read by Bernie Bush
Children read by Shakeina Bush

Siblings

Leah Grant read by Shakeina Bush
Adah Grant read by self
Grand Parent song dedication, "I know a Man Who Can"
Trilby Grant read by Pastor Judith McLaughlin
Anna Chin-Ortiz read by Lorraine Ebanks
Pat Smith read by Lorraine Ebanks
Wendy Richards and Family (also on behalf of all Aunts & Uncles abroad) .. read by Lorraine Ebanks

Cousins

Vana Bennett read by Christal Samaroo
Vince Chin Jr. read by Christal Samaroo
Susie Dunkle (also on behalf of all the Cousins abroad) read by Christal Samaroo

Friends and Community

Rafe Wunsch read by Rafe Wunsch
Randy & Nasaria Chollette read by Nasaria Suckoo Chollette
Coach Grizz read by Coach Grizz
Rememberance Slide Show song dedicated by Coach Roy
Eulogy read by Honourable Bernie Bush, MP
Special Song "I look to You" Shenna Scott
Sermon Pastor Charles Grant
Closing remarks Bishop Oral McLaughlin
Congregational Song God will take care of you (Minister Grant)
Benediction Pastor Judith McLaughlin

Pallbearers

Angelo Lezama
Dave Williams
Edward Jr Akers
Javee Dixon
Kevin Bryan

Kevin Ebanks
Matthew Brown
Solomon Ebanks
James Geary
Vince Chin Jr.

Honorary Pallbearers

Victor Chin
Vince Chin

Ushettes

Sophia Bryan
Lorraine Ebanks

Guest Book Attendant

Metichia Powery
Trudi Coombs

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!

God Will Take Care Of You

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
Beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.

Refrain:

God will take care of you,
Through ev'ry day,
O'er all the way;
He will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

Through days of toil when heart does fail,
God will take care of you;
When dangers fierce your path assail,
God will take care of you.

All you may need he will provide,
God will take care of you;
Nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.

No matter what may be the test,
God will take care of you;
Lean, weary one, upon his breast,
God will take care of you.

Shemaiah Tafari Kaya (“Sham”) Grant

Thank you for joining us today to celebrate the life of our beloved Son, Brother and Father, Shemaiah (“Sham”) Grant.

Sham was born a fighter. He was premature at 8 months on the 18th October 1990 and was the second child to Elsworth Grant and Cherry Chin.

He was a sweet, loving and happy child; a typical boy with an extra splash of curiosity for all things that roared, whether it was the sound of an engine or the roar of his favorite monster – Godzilla.

Sham grew to become an inspiration and role model for the youth in his community in regards to human rights and the Rastafarian faith. As a result of his case in 2001, where he fought to attend school with his dreadlocks, he paved the way for many young men so that they can now do the same. This was truly an important milestone in the history of Human Rights on the Island.

He attended John Gray High School and was an excellent athlete. He was a proud member of the U20 Cayman Rugby team led by Coach Grizz, and of Future Football Club lead by Coach Roy. He was also Champion Boy three times for the school’s Swim Gala.

Sham graduated from John Gray in 2007. He was well liked in school and was voted prom King. He was blessed to have made some great friends in high school and college.

He attended the Marine Mechanics Institute at the Orlando’s University of Technical Institute campus and while on a short Christmas break in 2010, he was charged for having blue lights and fought the court a second time and won. He successfully explained that they were in fact factory installed white High Intensity Discharge headlights (HIDs). Thanks to Sham, other drivers were able to benefit from the decision of the Magistrate who adopted the position to allow white HID’s as long as it can be supported. Sham graduated in 2011 as a Marine Technician with several recognitions as Student of the Course with a near 4.0. He was well versed in many areas, especially Yamaha.

Upon returning home he was employed as a mechanic at Automotive Art. Shortly after leaving Automotive Art, he became an independent contractor for some time and was later employed by Avalon Marine as a Marine Technician. Sham was also ambitious enough to have started his own family mechanic business known as One Stop Motors Ltd.

Sham was blessed with 4 amazing kids, who he loved dearly. He is the father of 2 handsome sons: Kaeden and Raleigh Grant – ages 12 and 9 respectively, and 2 beautiful daughters: London and Adah Grant – ages 9 and 8 respectively. He worked hard to be able to provide for his children, and wanted to be the very best for them.

To his family circle, Sham was a leader, a trend-setter, a brother and a man of jokes. To the community, Sham was a helpful, humble and respectful young man. He tried his best to be a positive influence on the youth, and encouraged them to do their best, be unique and to aim high. He enjoyed spending time with his children, cracking jokes with family and friends, building and racing his Skyline - aka Godzilla, and fixing boats and vehicles, and boy did he love a good meal-- “Boomin’!” as he would say.

Sham is still with us, and he would tell us to keep smiling, stay strong and know that Jah always provides.

Sham will be missed dearly by his children, family members, friends and the community. He will be forever remembered in our hearts and minds, and we thank Jah for allowing us to be a part of his short but prosperous life.



Tributes to Shemaiah

Shemaiah you are known by the community, friends and family as “Sham” to MommeH you were Maiah or Mai-Mai and to DaddeH, Tafari. We remember the day you were born as if it was yesterday – born on your grandfather, Glarman Grant’s birthday, your DaddeH knew you were going to be a force to be reckoned with, and that the love of engines would be strong. The night after your birth, we did not have a name picked out for you as you had decided to greet the world early. However, as we read about a prophet of God named Shemaiah in 1 Kings 12:22 we felt it was a fitting name for you. Your name means “God heard”, and your father prayed for a Son to carry on the Grant name, since your Mom was adamant about the number of children she was willing to bear.

From a young child, you were full of confidence and seemed to know you had a purpose. While facing discrimination for your locks, and prohibited from attending school, it was amazing to us that at 5 years old you were so committed and up for the challenge, and in your small but strong voice you said “Dad fight”.

After finally winning the case and allowed to attend Middle School, we were worried about you fitting in but just as in preschool you told us to do the same and just drop you off. You were ready to go off on your own. You enjoyed your time at school, making many friends and was affectionally called “Big bird” because you towered over them. We will miss you telling us funny stories of your days at school on Island and while away at MMI.

We will miss seeing and talking to you each day and hearing how your day went and that when you had a problem engine how determined you were to not let it get the best of you. Or how excited you and the grand children would be over the shiny objects you placed into your Skyline. Or the fish you all caught on a weekend. We will miss hearing the roar of your engine about a mile away from home and seeing the grandchildren faces illuminate and the family pet get worked up with excitement knowing you were almost home. Everyone would count-down to when you would actually pull into the drive way. You would enter the house greeting everyone with your beautiful smile and kind eyes. Our mornings feel very empty as you are not here to greet us on your way to the boys room to wake them up for school while we’re leaving for work. We did not realize how much you actually accomplished each day from work to your own business in the same day, to helping your boys with homework, planning our weekday dinners and your Saturday night BBQs where you would let everyone know that the big steak was yours and the chicken was for everyone else. However, you would still cut a special piece off your for your little Sister and MommeH. You truly enjoyed life, its struggles and rewards. DaddeH is so very proud of you, as you not only outgrown and outdone him in stature but also in life. We took so much for granted thinking that you would always be here, your size 13 shoes seems a lot bigger now that you are gone and we are left to fill them. While we ask why and deal with our emotions, we know we must leave it in the hands of Jah to see us through. We know that you will forever be present in our lives and in our hearts. Rest now our Son as you have toiled, and Jah has called you to rest.

You stayed true to your tribal blessing “Genesis 49:19 “Gad, a troop shall overcome him; but he shall overcome at the last”.
MommeH and DaddeH

Mai-Mai I can’t believe you are gone and I am not sure how I can move forward without you. Writing this tribute is one of the hardest things I ever had to do; being here without you is almost impossible. I have so much amazing and valuable memories that I will forever cherish.

To the people around you was known as Sham; someone who is humble, respectful, helpful and a gentle soul, to me you were all that and so much more, you are my brother, best friend, my rock, my protector, my source of courage and a whole lot more. There was never a time that I needed you and you were not there; like the times at university and I was missing home, you would skype with me for hours. We would talk about everything including how your day was going how you was enjoying your classes, but mostly I would watch you play call of duty till one us had to go. Our skype sessions help me make it through the days at Uni as it was like we were back home going through one of our usual routines.

Maiah you are my source of strength and courage; you were fearless and brave. Watching you grow up against so much discrimination and trials; overcoming them all like they didn’t phase you. I am so proud of you and everything that you have become and accomplished. Sometimes it felt like you were the older brother, always being there and protecting me and Adah.

There are no words that can express the amount of pain I am in since you left or how much I am going to miss you, I am going to miss your smile, your laugh, your voice, your hugs and I am going to miss you explaining and talking about your passion and everything else. I have learned so much from you.

Family vacations, celebrations, outings and gatherings will not be the same without you. Maiah I am truly blessed to have you as my little brother. The bond we shared is unbreakable and you are the best brother that anyone could have or dream to have, and you were mine. You are my blessing from God in this world and I am going to cherish everything about you and hold you in my heart forever. I am going to ensure that you are never forgotten and that your kids know how much you love them and how much they meant to you.

Mai-Mai I have known you for your entire life and now I am going to spend the rest of mine missing you. I love you Shemaiah.
Your Big Sis, Lee Lee

To my brother and my protector, I love you and I will miss you endlessly.

I have never known life without you until that night but I know you will always be with me. I know that you will continue to protect me and guide me through to the last of my days. I am extremely proud to call you my bobo and I will hold the memories of you so close to my heart. I will certainly never forget how much I could rely on you, regardless of the situation. It wasn't too long ago that you brought me lunch after seeing how caught up I was with work. It wasn't too long ago that you were the first person to respond to my S.O.S when I had a random allergic reaction. I was on the road and you quickly came to get me. My dear Gentle Giant... I will miss you endlessly.

Your heart was so big and pure. I already miss your bright smile and your warm hugs. I will miss when we would wake n bake...I mean go to steak n shake. They had some really good burgers, right? I will miss the way you looked out for me and for always letting me have a taste of your food—even when it looked too good to share. But that's the blessing of being "Baby Sis". And no matter how old I got, you would still tell people, "yeah...that's my baby sis". Maiah...I will miss you endlessly.

My bobo, I love you so much. Thank you for always supporting me. Thank you for always helping me with my car problems while I was overseas at college. Thank you for staying true to yourself but mostly, thank you for just loving me. Oh, how I will miss you endlessly.

Now, for the song I have chosen as a tribute is not due to its lyrics, but to the fact that I would hear you sing it in the shower, in your room and in the car. This song reminds me of you the most.

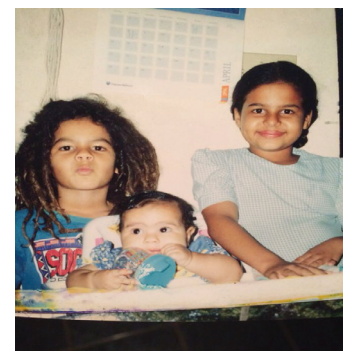
Your Baby Sis,
Adah

Daddy we love you and will miss you taking us to school every morning, taking us to the park and the beach. Every evening after school you would be outside working in the yard and we would ride our brand new bicycles up and down the road until it was dark. We will miss sharing pizza with you and watching Wicked Tuna and sleeper car racing on Youtube. We will miss you bringing home Sunday BK breakfast when our sister Adah was over to spend time with us and calling our sister London in London. Summer will not be the same cause we can't go to work with you and help you work on engines. You promised us we would go to Tampa on vacation, take us dirt bike riding and to watch the cars race—so many promises that we will not get to share with you, but Daddy we promise to keep your skyline(Godzilla) and will remember to start it every day. We will keep your truck too Daddy and do our best to make you proud.

Kaeden and Raleigh

Daddy London and Adah sending our love, we love you! We will miss you calling, we will miss your voice and seeing you on video calls, please know that we will always remember you and you will always be our Daddy and we will always be your "princesses and the most beautiful girls in the world" and do our best to make you proud. We love you Daddy.

London and Adah



"I can't help but to smile as I look back on the years gone by; I can't help but to smile even when tears flow as I cry, I can't help but to smile even when I know we'll never speak again.

I can't help but to smile even when my heart is throbbing with pain, that's the kind of amazing life and upbringing you've given me. That no matter how bad a situation, the beautiful memories I'll always see.

You were called away too early by the Heavens above, rest in peace Daddy, my friend and my first true love. You were ripped away by fate, torn apart mortally. We are separated by death, but loving you eternally".

Daddy, I love you! I will miss you calling me, I will miss your voice & seeing your face on the video calls. Please know that I will always remember you. You will always be my Daddy and I will always be your princess.

From your beautiful angel,
London

Bird,
I write this with a broken heart full of pain & memories for my brother we lay to rest today. Every single one of them is filled with the happiness of you, my brother Shemaiah Tafari Kaya Grant.

We shared so many experiences, we laughed, we cried, we fought, and laughed again. I can go on for hours talking about the kind of person you were but I know many of you here already know, Sham was the friendliest, the most comprehensive, and humble person you'll ever meet in your life. He was always worrying about the welfare of others with his kind heart and always going out of his way to help others.

Thinking back, he always used to crack me up when he said something funny about someone and they missed the joke, they would always ask me what he said and he would reply with his favorite quote : WORDS WITH LETTERS and that was followed by his unique laugh & my outbursts following behind it to make it worse.

You can shed tears that he is gone but I choose to smile because I know he lived.
My heart is full of joy because of all the memories we shared and he will always live on forever in my heart.

We were always in competition to see who would be the last one standing whenever we had a get together. Out of all the crew, him and I were always the only ones Left standing and we had to babysit the rest.

The bond we shared was like no other; we had a special call out so we would know when one of us was nearby or when we glimpsed each other. I am so happy we got to do one last shout out on that sad day we said our last goodbyes.

Sham, I'm going to miss everything about you!
I'm gonna miss the warmth of knowing you were just a call away.
I am going to miss the loud gunshot sounds your car muffler made to let me know you're outside, even when you show up without me knowing I would automatically know it was you outside.

I'm going to miss the revving of your bike which also told me you were right down the road, I'm going to miss the baseline of your car which told me to look through the window until you were outside. I'm also going to miss your laugh, it was so infectious, no one could help but laugh after hearing you laugh.
Most of all I'm going to miss my brother, my best friend, my partner in crime, my rider OTF WTF B4L Shemaiah Tafari Kaya Grant.

Although our time together has been cut short, I will forever hold on tight to and cherish all of our memories dearly. I send this special message to heaven above and pray for the angels to take care of you and give you all of my love. Until we see each other again Bad Boys For Life.

Ur favorite cousin – VJ



Dear Sham,

With a heavy heart and tears in my eyes I write these words for you. You were the Brother given to me by another mother; many confused as brother and sister. But that confusion will never be the same now that your gone. You will be sorely missed in my life. From your jokes, your helping hand, loving heart, and bright smile. The district will be so quiet without the sound of your bike 'n' car. We could always tell when you were coming or going. You always had your hands busy in some engine whether it was boat or car. I was so glad to know that you got your certification in Yamaha and was making way to do your own things to make a better life for you and your kids. You were their idol and hero. Our house will forever remain open to all your kids. You were such a wonderful father, cousin and friend to so many.

At every turn I go I have memories of you. From the school, my yard, and the road. Your death is something that I will never get over or understand. But I will do my best to stay strong not only for myself, but for our kids. And I promise to do my best to keep your spirit alive in our house. I love you Maiah you will be greatly missed.

Cousin Vana

Sham, I don't know where to begin. So, I will start by Thanking you... for everything.

Thank you for being there for me when no one else was.
Thank you for being my go-to for Mechanic Advice, Girl Advice and Over-all Life Advice.
Thanks for drinking with me and thanks for smoking with me.
Thank you for showing me right from wrong.
Thanks for always having my back.
Thank you for being able to bring me closure when I was confused.
Thanks for Racing me.
Thanks for launching me and the boats when I needed a hand.
Thanks for picking me up.
Sham, Thank You for being You!
Thank you for being my Brother!
I love you more than words can ever explain!!
You will live on in my life, and no matter what, I will continue to do the things you loved and carry them on. I'm hoping to be a Pro like you some day.

If there was a more fitting word to describe the terms "family" or "blood", it would be YOU! You embody these terms and lived them. You are true one of a kind soul, I will do everything in my power to watch over your kids and the rest of our family.

ONE LOVE FAM.

Love,
Valo.

Nothing will ever be the same without you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Miah,
How do I even begin this?

I don't know where to start or how to even put these words on paper. I recall the many times we would hang out by your house nagging Uncle Grant to teach us the newest moves from his Karate classes. Or the boat trips we took whenever I would visit from England or that time I actually got you to put on dress shoes as you were never caught without your crocs on. It saddens me that I am not able to be there in person but it does make this that much harder, to say goodbye and accept that I will no longer be seeing you. Although you were my little cousin you were indeed a Gentle Giant with the sweetest and kindest personality. When you and VJ would begin with those infectious laughing outburst I couldn't help but laugh, sometimes until we were all in tears. You would share a certain story, o how we laughed for months about that. I will cherish every memory and will hold them close to my heart for the rest of my life little cuz. By blood we were cousins and by our hearts we were friends. I love you and miss you so much Miah. Ride in peace from your Big cousin Priscilla, and your little cousins Kingsley Jr., Brandan Jr., and Brennan.

Your life was a blessing
your memory a treasure
You are loved beyond words
And missed without measure.

These memories of you will always make me smile
If only I could have you back just for a little while
Then we can sit and talk again, like we used to do
You've always meant so much to us
And will always do too
The fact that you are not longer here will forever cause us pain
But you will be forever in my heart until we meet again.

Ride in Piece Sham
We now and love you always
Chanze Adrien & GeAnah

In loving memory of my little cousin
 If tears could build a stairway and memories a lane,
 I'd walk right up to heaven and bring you home again.
 No farewell words were spoken and there was no time to say
 Goodbye
 You were gone before I knew it and only God knows why.
 My heart still aches with sadness and secret tears still flow
 What it meant to say I Love You
 No One can ever know, But I know you'd want me to remember
 all The Happy times, as u left such Beautiful memories,
 Your love is still our guide.
 My little cousin, you'll never be forgotten so I Pledge to you today,
 A hallow place within my heart is where you'll always stay.
 Our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same
 But as God calls us one by one our chain will link again!!

I love & miss you dearly little cuz
 Ride in Paradise until We Meet Again -
 With All My Love
 Earlesia



In Memory of Beloved Nephew Shemaiah Grant

From you were Little, we knew you would be Courageous and Strong
 To fight the battles of life and turn the Grand Courts around
 The battle of justice for others to follow, was just one cause for you to cover

Gone too soon from all of us, your smile, your voice, your laughter and candor
 Still can't believe it's true; no time to say good bye or to even see or hug you

Our hearts still ache in sadness, our pain leaves us feeling helpless
 With tears of sorrow we must go on, taking one day at a time,
 Knowing that you would want us to remember the good times

This temporary time apart only leads to the future when all sadness and pain
 Will not even come up into our minds and hearts

In the meantime we must play our part and do what's right
 And always try to help others, to make a difference in the lives we cross paths
 For this we know you set the example, so willing, so able and responsible

Our hearts are broken our chests are heavy with pain
 Yet you were a great blessing; now our lives will never be the same

We miss you every day and love you forever more.
 Rest in peace until we meet again, the resurrection is sure to come.

Auntie Anna

A grandson, son, brother, father, nephew, cousin, and friend.

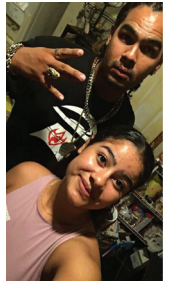
You mean so much to so many.

From the moment you entered a room, your kind heart shined through with your sweet smile and calm demeanor.

A true family man and a perfect, loving father to your kids.

You are loved endlessly and you will forever live on in our hearts and memories.

Love, Cousin Tyler

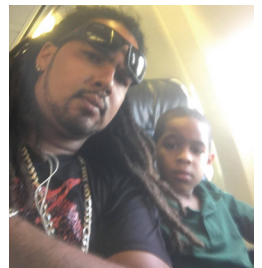
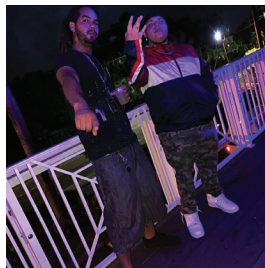


Maiah, Auntie Pat will miss you a lot, if anything went wrong with my car I just had to call you and you would say "give me a few minutes and I come to you shortly". I have no one to call now, I will surely miss you my Nephew and I dedicate this poem to you:

Of all the gifts in life
However great or small
To have you as my Nephew
was the greatest gift of all.

IN my heart you'll
Live forever because
I thought the world of you

Auntie Pat



No words can ever say
How sad and empty we feel today.
The angels came for you, much sooner than planned.
Now we try our best to understand.

In our hearts you will always stay
But why did you have to go away?
Why? We keeping asking why?
And then we cry.

We cry for the loss of your laughter, your light, your life.
We cry bitter tears for your lost years.
Stolen years.
We cry for our loss.

Our family has lost a beloved grandson, son, father, brother, nephew, cousin, and friend.

Our memories will have to carry us until we meet again.

Love,

Wendy Richards and Family (also on behalf of all Aunts & Uncles abroad)

King In Waiting

...king in waiting she called you

Tall like an unyielding coconut palm
you weathered storms with a quiet controlled peace
Likely learned from your giant father
Fiercely protected by that tiny Lioness who fed you milk and honey

and flanked by two centurion Eves

You, rooted in this sandy terra firma
now caught up in the firmaments
We shall have to seek you in the winds

Gentle eyes closed now
ever open in our hearts

So blessed to have have been spiritual aunt and uncle, Little Lion

Forever linked in loss and love
We shall catch a glimpse of you while watching over little feet
as they grow
your tiny kings and queens in waiting.

Blessed Love,

Nasaria and Randy

Maiah

I know for a fact that God made us all cousins because our mothers couldn't handle us all as siblings. From the mischief, we were always up to alone... raiding Grama's fruit trees and hiding from her, non-stop running in and out the house in one of our many hide n seek games, or waking the whole house with you and VJ crazy but infectious laughs when we would have one of our many sleepovers. Or that time we took apart the whole front grill of my new brand car just to install this "cool sounding Air Horn" that you told me about.

I will cherish all of our memories and tell those stories to the kids so they could laugh at the stuff we used to do.

You were that friend that God connected me to through family.

I will miss you dearly my big little cousin. We love you and miss you so much. Rest In Peace Until we meet again Maiah.

Your Little big cousin Terri and baby cousins Taylor and Leila

Shemaiah, we knew you from the time you were a lovely little boy. We watched you grow up to be a really lovely man. Honest, decent, hardworking, funny, brave. You were blessed to know the value of family and hard work. Life threw you some pretty tough situations to deal with from an early age. You faced them head on, no complaining, no whining. You dealt with situations with courage and grace, never changing your attitude or personality. We called you many times to help fix boats, cars, trucks. You always came when you could, no matter the time or day. You did a great job, Often, not even wanting to charge anything. You were a true asset to your family, a great dad, son, brother, cousin. Your children were your priority and you worked so hard to support them in every way you could. Shemaiah the world needs more men like you. We were proud to have known you and honored to be friends with you and your family. We are so sad that you are gone. You will live on in our hearts and memories forever. This world seems a darker place since you left so suddenly. We are sure your light is shining even more brightly in heaven, as you ride across the skies on your heavenly jet ski, all the while watching over your precious family below,. R.I.P. dear friend. Ronald, Jean and Matthew

My friend, always surrounded by fun and happiness, with an easy going, warm, friendly and welcoming smile. It's reassuring to know that sometimes we still come across the wonders of life incarnate, right here, in a person.

If you ever interacted with Sham and saw the joyous sparkle in his eye, you will know you have been lucky enough to witness life's pure force, free of boundaries and oppression, yet so fully a part of everything good around us.

fsh

He represented his country at Rugby with such pride and passion, and to the highest levels possible. His locks, height and fierce determination made him a talisman for his team, and he was a guardian of his fellow Caymanian team mates, until the final whistle when that smile and sparkle would return, and all would be well in the world again.

I've lost count of the times I called to say 'Hey Sham, I got a boat problem'. Sham would laugh and tell me 'You sure do, you need a new one'. He showed up, fixed what he could, rarely took payment and always left having made me hopeful that someday I might just get that new boat.

That is Shemaiah. He changed everyone he touched for the better, and all of us who knew and loved him carry that with us in everything we do and everyone we touch. That is the pure wonder of life Shemaiah taught me to appreciate. Thanks Sham.

Coach Grizz

To my gentle Giant – Shemaiah

Shemaiah I looked forward to you coming in Parkers, saying "Hey Auntie Tee" and I would reply – "Hey Baby Boy". After you took care of your business, we would talk about the boys, the family and what we couldn't fix—but that laugh was priceless. Then you would tell me what you wanted me to prepare for the weekend for you and you'd know it would be ready for you to pick up, and you would say "OK Auntie Tee, later" ...but it's not, baby boy. Rest in peace until we meet.

Love,

Auntie Tee

Written by Rafe Wunsch, Owner of Avalon Marine.

We are all in deep and profound pain today and have been since this month began with the tragic loss of our friend and colleague Sham Grant. Having had a few weeks to process this loss has done little to dull the shock and disbelief, the sadness, and the grief of this sudden and unfair loss. This is not how things are meant to go. Parents should not lose their child, young children should not lose a parent and young men and women in the prime of their lives should not be mourning the loss of their contemporary, their friend, their sibling. Yet here we are facing the stark reality that life is fragile, and precious, and sometimes tragically short.

I think I speak for all who knew Sham when I say that these thoughts have been revolving around in our minds endlessly these past weeks. However, I feel compelled to remind myself that we should not only be thinking about loss, but also be intently focused on gain. What did we each gain from having Sham in our orbit, in our lives? What did we share? Each of us has a different perspective, and the answers will vary, but it is safe to say it will be a long and enlightening list given the wide range of circles Sham travelled in professionally, personally, and recreationally... If it had a motor in it, Sham was probably part of a group that was devoted to it! The messages I have received seem almost endless and come from every corner of Cayman and all over the world. Messages from all types of people, young and old, and from all walks of life.

In our circle at Avalon Marine, what we gained when Sham was with us was obvious to all who worked with him. It was simple really. There was a guy on staff who everyone liked, and everyone felt better when he was around. For some it went much deeper than that as he had dear, close friends at work. Reflecting on my own experiences and speaking with our current and past team members, a clear picture comes into focus of a young man who was confident, fiercely loyal to his friends, supportive of his co-workers, always willing to teach, and always eager to learn. Sham brought calm to the room, and almost always humor. He liked to have fun. Sham found common ground with all his co-workers, which is not always easy. Personally, Sham and I shared a love of the water and watercraft. We shared a love of family and frequently talked about the kids when he was in the office. And of course, dogs. Always some chat about dogs.

The morning after Sham passed, I publicly posted a short tribute which I would like to close with a paraphrased portion of it. Sham was a wonderful human being. He was compassionate, funny, and easygoing. A true gentle giant. Sham was a highly skilled mechanic who was passionate about motorsports and he was lucky enough to have found a career doing the work he loved. Sham was universally liked and respected by all who worked with him at Avalon Marine. I know that all our customers and others in the industry here in Cayman felt the same. This is a huge loss to us all, but it pales in comparison to the loss his family is suffering. He was beloved to his family and friends and he was a wonderfully devoted dad. Please keep Sham's family in your thoughts. Especially his four children, Kaeden, Raleigh, London, and Adah

All our love and our warmest thoughts are with Sham's family.

Maiah,

Don't think of how he died, think of how he lived.
Not, what he has gained, but what did he give.
Not, what was his church, nor what was his creed.
Think of how he helped those really in need.
Not, what did the sketch in the newspaper say,
But how many were sorry when he passed away.

These are the units to measure the worth,
Of a person as a person, regardless of birth.
He was always ready, with a word of good cheer.
To bring back a smile, to wipe out a tear.

Don't think of him as gone away,
Just think of him as resting,
From the sorrows and the tears,
Holding our hands still, through our deepest fears,
And think of him as living, In the hearts of those he touched.
For no one loved is ever truly lost,
And he is loved so much.

Maiah our brother, our cousin, our friend,
Please know our love for you will never expend.
Your memory is with us, even though you are gone,
We promise to cherish and carry you in our hearts from here on.

Susie Dunkle (also on behalf of all Cousins abroad)

Shemaiah, losing you has impacted so many people. You were such an influential member on our community and country. Amongst the youth, racing community, and all gear heads alike. I know so many who would venture to BT racetrack JUST to witness your awesomeness.

You are like the backbone to your immediate and extended family. You are an awesome father who has done everything he possibly could for his children. Each of them loves you in an seriously indescribable way, I can only pray to know love like that one day. Sham, I had the pleasure of growing up along-side You and Adah in our small Queensgate Family. Now, I have the honor to be welcomed as part of the Chin clan, I will personally ensure Mama Cherry is well taken care of always. Your memory will live on for generations to come!
ONE LOVE!

-Brittney Bodden

Dear Sham,

You were a brother and role model to me. You were the most humble and loving person I've ever met -- anytime I needed help you were always there for me. I never heard the word no from you. It was always "Yeah" or "Check me later". You taught me so many things. If it wasn't something to do with mechanics, it was just common things. We had big plans. I remember talking about the race track, your future house, and how to make your mechanic business better.
Sham you were an amazing son, father, brother, cousin and friend who will be missed forever. I'll miss coming over and seeing you on that porch with Eddie, and the debates we would have, like who would see who's tail lights at the track, and who would win out of Godzilla and King Kong. I know you're watching over us and we will carry your name forever.
-- Sean





Graveside Service

Song	<i>What a Friend We Wave in Jesus</i>
Scripture Psalm 23	Bishop Oral McLaughlin
Encouragement	Pastor Judith McLaughlin
Instrumental Song	<i>A Mothers Love</i>
Song	<i>When We All Get to Heaven</i>
Committal	Bishop Oral McLaughlin
Lowering of Casket	Father-Elsworth Grant
Song	<i>In the Sweet by and by</i>

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

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.

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.

Acknowledgement

The family of the late Shemaiah Tafari Kaya Grant would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the out pour of sympathy, love and support shown to us from family, friends and the community here and abroad. There are not enough words to fully express our gratitude for the generosity and love we have received during this difficult time—we cannot thank you enough. Special thanks to:

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We are forever grateful for the shoulders to cry on and uplifting of words of comfort.