

Service of Thanksgiving for the life of



Rupert Dydton Ebanks

12th October, 1934 – 8th August, 2021

Wesleyan Holiness Church

West Bay, Grand Cayman

Saturday 14th August, 2021 @ 3:00pm

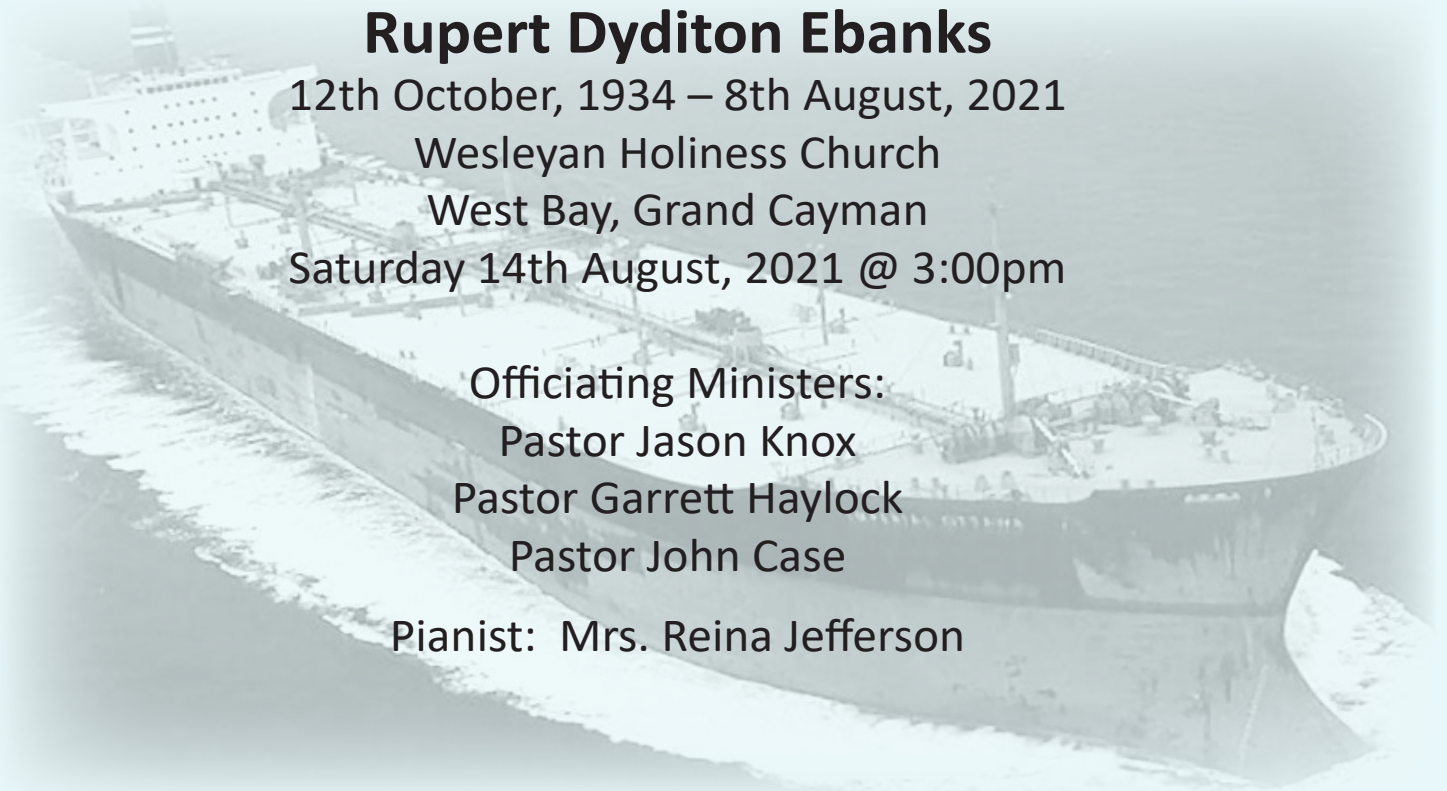
Officiating Ministers:

Pastor Jason Knox

Pastor Garrett Haylock

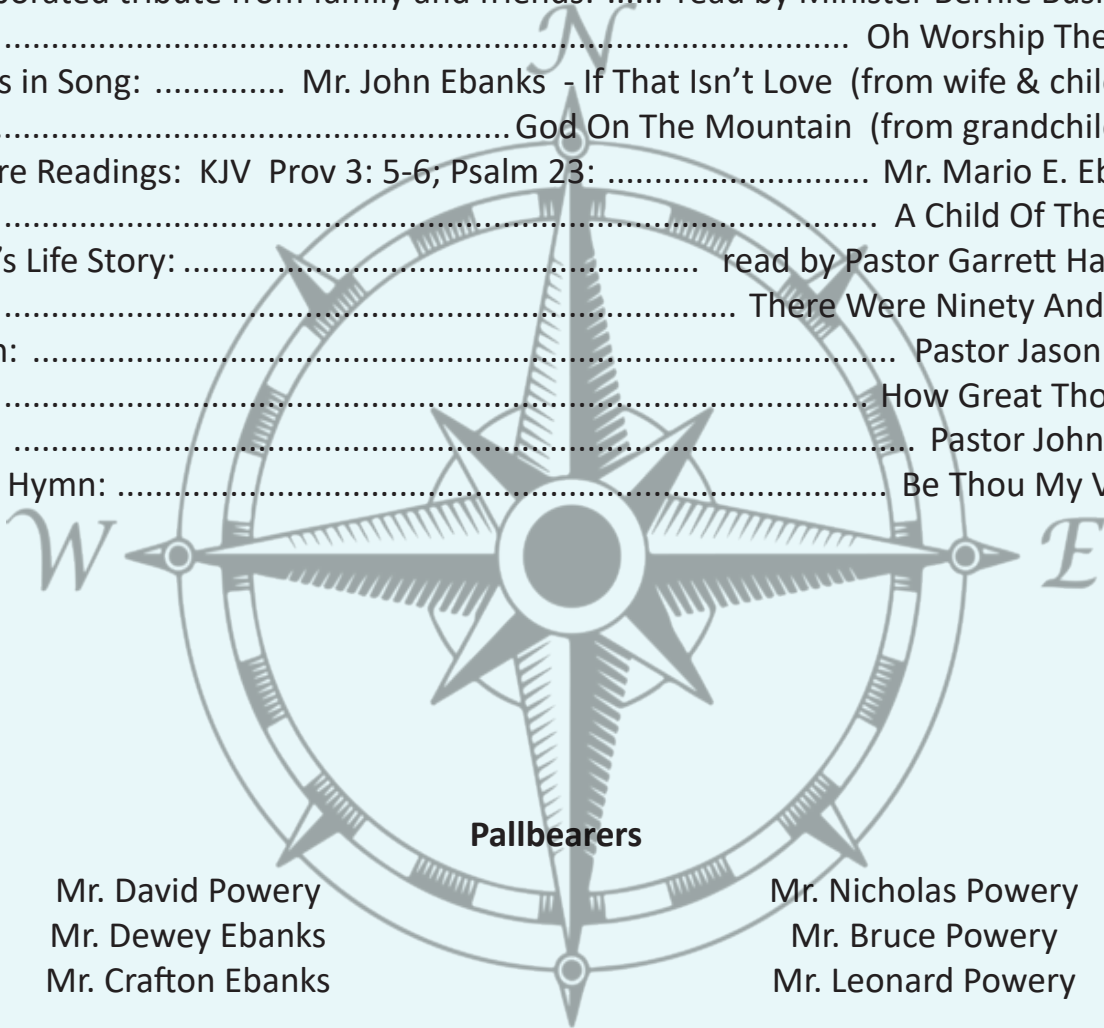
Pastor John Case

Pianist: Mrs. Reina Jefferson



Order of Service

Opening Remarks: Elder Carlon Powery, MBE JP
Opening Prayer: Pastor John Case
Hymn: To God Be The Glory
Scripture Readings: KJV John 3:16; John 14: 1-3: Mr. Mario E. Ebanks
Hymn: Now Thank We All Our God
A collaborated tribute from family and friends: read by Minister Bernie Bush, MP
Hymn: Oh Worship The King
Tributes in Song: Mr. John Ebanks - If That Isn't Love (from wife & children)
..... God On The Mountain (from grandchildren)
Scripture Readings: KJV Prov 3: 5-6; Psalm 23: Mr. Mario E. Ebanks
Hymn: A Child Of The King
Rupert's Life Story: read by Pastor Garrett Haylock
Hymn: There Were Ninety And Nine
Sermon: Pastor Jason Knox
Hymn: How Great Thou Art
Prayer: Pastor John Case
Closing Hymn: Be Thou My Vision



Pallbearers

Mr. David Powery
Mr. Dewey Ebanks
Mr. Crafton Ebanks

Mr. Nicholas Powery
Mr. Bruce Powery
Mr. Leonard Powery

Ushers

Ms. Eziethamae Bodden
Ms. Melanie Carter
Mr. Langlie Powery
Mr. James Parsons

Guest Book Attendant

Ms. Gilda Moxam-Murray & Ms. Susan Ebanks

Life Story of Rupert Dydton Ebanks

Rupert Dydton was welcomed by loving parents Martha & Chauncey Ebanks and 3 older siblings Beulah Mercedes (“Sadie”), Dozey Maria, and James Timothy (“Timmy”), on 12th October 1934. In the years following, 3 younger siblings Grace Azelda, Redell Ethlee & Loredell Vandene, would join the family in the beautiful community of upper Boatswain Bay. Rupert was a happy and loving child and willingly took part in childhood activities, including the mischief.

The world Rupert entered saw a Cayman with no electricity, no indoor plumbing, no telecommunications, no paved roads, and mosquitoes flew in swarms as thick as clouds. But there were beautiful moonlit nights, outhouses, sand yards neatly swept with rosemary brooms, and an abundance of marine life.

Scarce resources forced parents of those days to be exceptionally resourceful and creative. They found ways to feed and clothe their children by making use of what was available. Caymanians lived off the land and sea. As a young boy, Rupert learned how to fish and swing a machete to help cultivate the ground. Dusty, rough, and rocky terrain meant Rupert was no stranger to skinned knees and bucked toes. Back then, you walked everywhere you had to go unless you were able to borrow a bicycle.

Rupert’s wardrobe consisted of hand-me-downs. When needed, they were replaced by ‘new’ clothes made by his mother from chicken feed cloth or flour sacks. For those fortunate enough to have a pair, shoes were reserved for Sunday School and Church. Even though things were tough, there was a lot of love, and Rupert often spoke about the good times in his childhood home. He often spoke of his father being the most loving man in the world (a trait he obviously inherited). They say men look for wives like their mothers; this proved true in Rupert’s case. He would often reflect on how deeply grateful he was that his mother had been her family’s firm disciplinarian and strength.



Even back then, life had to be balanced, so all work and no play would have made Rupert a dull boy. Early childhood days were spent playing marbles (made of 'nickers' from the local Cat's Claw plant), spinning gigs, flying kites, catching cliff crabs & soldier crabs, and pelting rocks. This was usually done with his brother Timmy and cousin Garton, both of blessed memory.

Rupert started his school life at Teacher Redley Powery School at age six and then continued to Ms. Beulah Smith's ('Teacher Al Al') school. In his adult years, he would go on to do various academic courses through the community college.

Sunday School was as important in this household as was the school for academics. Rupert loved to go to Sunday School, mainly due to an older gentleman fondly known as Uncle Steven. Uncle Steven was such a kind and loving old man and such a godly example. Rupert always sat next to him and would often fall asleep in his lap. In honour of Uncle Steven's profound impact on his life, Rupert named one of his sons after this faithful and beloved man.

Back in those days, boys had to take on a lot of responsibility at an early age to help support their families. In November 1948, at the age of 14 years and 1 month, Rupert made his first trip to the Miskito Cays on the 'Antarus' captained by Mr. William ('Uncle Will') Powery. Rupert came to deeply admire, and respect Uncle Will, who hired him as a cook, the point from which his seaman's career began.

He made six trips to the Miskito Cays over some time. He then signed on with National Bulk sailing on various vessels, including the Ulysses, Ore Chief, Emperor, Sinclair Petrolore. This career took him to many ports worldwide, including the USA, Venezuela, Japan, to name a few. As a young adult, he got up to the usual mischief of most young men and soon became interested in the 'worldly' stuff. Despite this, he never forgot his Christian upbringing.



He continued his journey into adulthood and soon realized that he was ready for a new responsibility. He felt it was now time for marriage. On the 17th of October 1957, he married the love of his life, Esther Victoria Powery. Over 13 years, they welcomed 5 children into their lives, namely Esther, Rubert (known as Lonnie), Lydia, Steven, and Rebecca. Family life was essential to this couple, and they poured much love, effort, and sacrifice into raising their family. Rupert eventually retired from his seaman's career to not have to be away from his family. His future employment was all local and ranged from construction worker to immigration officer.

At a Good Friday service in 1961 (with their second child on the way), Rupert made his personal confession and commitment to serve God. The pastor was Rev. Walter Cross, who was influential in helping him transition into a life of serving God and being of service to the church. Rupert willingly served in whatever ways he could and assisted with numerous projects around the church. Rupert served as Sunday School Teacher for many years and became an Elder of the Church in the mid to late sixties.

Rupert often expressed his gratitude for God's blessings. He was thankful for and to everyone who touched his life. He acknowledged that his accomplishments in life resulted from people caring. He helped with the care of his parents until their passing. The unwavering support of his wife of almost 64 years was a pillar of strength throughout Rupert's adult life. Victoria's place in his heart and life is beautifully symbolized in the wedding ring that could not be removed from his finger. They rode the waves of joy and sorrow together. In 2015, the loss of their son Steven was devastating, but their faith in God's mercy and grace remained steadfast.



Rupert was a loving and caring person who prioritized taking care of his wife and children. They enjoyed many fun times together, including family picnics, church activities, travels abroad, and family gatherings. In time, his family grew with the arrival of grandchildren. A more doting grandfather could not be found, and Rupert's delight in having them around was obvious.

Rupert and Victoria tried to ensure that their home was always safe and happy. Children congregated there frequently and often stayed for a while. Cousins Deserene and Faith Amaryllis were taken in for longer periods and became extended family members. But their home was also a place where everyone from near and far received a warm welcome. They treated everyone with respect. Whether you popped in for a drink of water, something to eat, the use of the telephone, or to ask for freezer storage, Rupert and Victoria did their best to facilitate that need. Rarely was anyone turned away.

Rupert was also heavily involved with his community in different capacities ranging from the Church, Parent Teachers Association, and Community groups. Along with the late Rev. Jonas E.C. Shepherd, he met with a Delegation from the United Nations to present views of national importance. Rupert even threw his hat into the political ring twice and remained deeply concerned about the direction in which he perceived his beloved Cayman to be moving. Rupert was not afraid to stand alone when he believed he was in the right, and could often be heard expressing his views.

Throughout his life experiences, Rupert often said that God has been good to him, and despite the challenges and hardships he had to face, he declared that God remained faithful. Rupert saw himself as highly blessed all his life with a loving and supportive family, church family, and many dear friends. Even though age and physical challenges slowed him down, Rupert continued to serve to his best ability right to the end. Rupert loved people, and people loved Rupert, and many good and strong friendships have been formed over the years.

Over the years, Rupert had numerous medical issues. He always seemed to bear them well, remaining positive and grateful, and always had a beautiful smile and wave for everyone he met. On the night of 30th May 2021, he suffered a massive stroke while at home with his family. Yet through this event, in his trademark calm demeanor, with a smile on his face, Rupert kept repeating, "I'm okay, it's going to be alright."

Over the next ten weeks, Rupert put up a brave fight, even after the setbacks of another stroke and the experience of being in the same hospital room as his dying cousin. His family worked diligently to get him home. Finally, back to his “best place on earth” in Boatswain Bay, Rupert was surrounded by the love and comfort of his family. On the 6th of August 2021, Rupert was able to hear the first cries of his newest great-grandchild. The following day, 7th August, Rupert’s family was blessed to have him with them as they celebrated the birthday of his first-born, Esther. In the early hours of 8th August 2021, in the comfort of his home and attended by his family, Rupert passed peacefully.



Preceding him in death are his parents - Chauncey & Martha; son – Steven; siblings - Sadie, Dozey, Timmy, Gracie and Redell.

Left to keep his great memory alive are his wife of almost 64 years – Victoria; children - Esther Rivers, Rubert (Lonnie) Ebanks, Lydia Barrett, and Rebecca Ebanks

Daughter-in-law: Aida Ebanks; son-in-law: Gary Barrett

Grandchildren: Don Rivers, Robert Rivers, Evans Rivers, Lydia Ebanks, Rory Barrett, and Victoria Ebanks

Sister: Loridell Carter

Brothers-in-law: Varion, Abel, Creswell, Creston, Carlon, and Collie

Sisters-in-law: Annadean, Koneray, Erlene, and Ella K.

Step- Grandchildren: Gregory, Andrae & Krystle

Great Grandchildren: Annissa, Miguel & Khasar

Bonus daughters: Deserene Miller & Faith Wright

Nieces & Nephews

Brothers & sisters-in-law, Boatswain Bay Presbyterian Church Family

Host of family & friends in Cayman and overseas

Rupert loved much, lived well, and laughed often. A tremendous void has been left in the lives of those who knew him and loved him. May his sweet soul rest in peace.



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Acknowledgements

The family of Mr. Rupert D. Ebanks wishes to thank you all for your prayers and outpouring of love and support. Our thanks and gratitude also to the caring staff at the Health Services Authority (of special mention, the Dialysis Unit), Health City, Jasmine, and Bodden Funeral Service.

May God bless you all!