

SERVICE OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING
For The Life OF AN OUTSTANDING MAN

CAPTAIN FRANK SIRLON EBANKS



April 2, 1935 – January 2, 2022

*For I Know The Plans I have For You Declares The Lord, Plans To Give You Hope And A Future:
Jeremiah 29:11*

WESLEYAN HOLINESS CHURCH
150 Northwest Point Road
West Bay, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Saturday, January 22nd, 2022
Service: 2:00 p.m.

OFFICIATING MINISTERS
Pastor Stanwyck Myles, Cert.Hon
Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.

ORGANIST
Mrs. Leonora Hydes

Interment at the Boatswain Bay Cemetery

Order of Service

Opening Remarks & Words of Comfort	Pastor Stanwyck Myles, Cert. Hon.
Opening Prayer	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Opening Hymn "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"	Congregation
Scripture Reading Matthew 14:22-33	Ms. Shena Anglin
Life Story.....	Pastor Alson Ebanks, Cert. Hon.
Tributes	
Wife, Mrs. Kate Ebanks - In Song.....	Pre-Recorded
The Cayman Islands Ministry of Tourism	Hon. Andre Ebanks, MP
Cayman Islands Seafarers Association.....	President, Mr. Denniston Tibbetts
Brother, Capt. Gleason Ebanks & Nephew Kirk	Mrs. Keisha Syms
Brother, Capt. Crosby Ebanks & Family	Ms. Erna Jane Ebanks
Brothers, Nephews and Friends "Ship Ahoy"	Mr. Rudy Myles, Cert. Hon.
Nephew	Mr. Darvin Ebanks
Niece, Ms. Erna Jane Ebanks	Ms. Erna Jane Ebanks
Niece, Mrs. Dolcy Powery & Family	Mrs. Keisha Syms
The Late Brother Joseph's Family	Pastor Mitzie Bailey
Sister's-In-Law - In Song	Pre-Recorded
Hymn "Let the Lower Lights be Burning"	Congregation
Sermon	Pastor Stanwyck Myles, Cert. Hon
Prayer for the family.....	Pastor Stanwyck Myles, Cert. Hon
Closing Hymn " Give Them All to Jesus"	Congregation
Recessional.....	Pastor Stanwyck Myles, Cert. Hon

Pallbearers

Mr. Martin Bodden
Mr. Clinton Ebanks
Mr. Andrew Ebanks

Mr. Glen-Kirk Ebanks
Mr. Nicholas Powery

Mr. Michael Hayman
Mr. Ian Burton
Mr. Darney Kelly

Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Gleason Ebanks
Mr. Crosby Ebanks
Mr. Darvin Ebanks
Mr. Danny Ebanks
Mr. Kenneth Ebanks
Mr. Aster Ebanks

Mr. Gernal Ebanks
Mr. Duke Ebanks
Mr. Rene' Timothy
Mr. Creston Powery
Mr. Varion Ebanks
Mr. Aundre Ebanks

Mr. Bob Parchment
Mr. Peter Harley
Mr. Luis Thomas
Mr. Luis Caban
Mr. Deion Moore
Mr. Erwin Ruis-Laban

Ushers

Mrs. Eziethamae Bodden, MBE
Miss Simone Williams
Miss Jennilyn Torres

Guest Book Attendants

Miss Marzeta Bodden
Miss Martina Bodden
Pastor Mitzie Bailey

The Life Story of the Late: Frank Sirlon Ebanks (as prepared by his wife and nieces)

Born on the 2nd April 1935, Frank was the last of seven children from the Union of Elvin and Florence Ebanks of Boatswain Bay, West Bay, Grand Cayman

Frank grew up in Boatswain Bay where he attended Teacher Redley Powery's All-Age School and attended the Boatswain Bay Presbyterian Church as a young boy.

At the tender age of fourteen, Frank decided that it was time to leave school and to start out as a man, so he went on his first voyage to the Miskito Cays, to work on a turtling vessel as a Cook and a Camp Watchman. However, during these voyages his young entrepreneurial brain was already at work as he had befriended the Local Indians and bartered with them for turtles and turtle shells in exchange for small portions of coffee, sugar and flour from the galley.

Upon returning to Cayman from his voyages he would in turn sell his turtles and shells directly to the big companies for the full market value. He would later boast of earning more money from his voyages than even the ship's Captain.

Frank had a difficult life growing up, and he quickly learned the value of working hard and saving harder, so in between his various trips on the turtling vessels and being at home he learned the skills of roof thatching, rope making, barking trees, and his favorite skills of fishing and diving for conch and lobster in the North Sound. This is how he would make a living, while he was awaiting the turtle vessel to return to sea. He led this life for several years, until he acquired his first boat, which he also obtained from bartering with the Miskito Cay Indians.

In exchange for his suitcase, a pillow, a pillow-case and all his clothes except for what he was wearing, he acquired his very first boat, a rotten-wooden Dory. He would return from this voyage as an independent business man, and that was his last voyage to sea working for someone else.

Upon returning to the Island from that voyage Frank told his mother, whom he affectionately called "Aunt Florrie" what he had done with his clothes, and she declared "thank God you are a man now and I no longer have to stitch your clothes".

Around this time having been born with poor eye-sight, a then young Frank traveled alone to Jamaica to seek medical treatment for his eyes. As a result of having cataract surgery on both eyes he ended up staying in Jamaica for several months while recuperating.

His Marriages:

It was during this stay in Jamaica for medical attention, that Frank met and married Lorraine Gayle who was lovingly known by many as Nurse Gayle. She preceded him in death.

Frank was united in marriage on January 19, 1994 to his beloved wife Kate Ebanks (nee Williams), who attentively and lovingly stayed by his side until the very end.

Boat Building:

Upon returning home from his medical treatment in Jamaica in the early seventies, Frank would later repair, modify and perfect his dory, as best as he could with the limited amount of supplies that were available to him at the time. It was with this dory that he made his humble start of taking trips out to the North Sound. He later would build the Shalma a "40-Foot wooden-sailing boat" and it was on the Shalma that he would return to the Miskito Cays as a Captain sailing his own vessel.

Frank made several voyages to the Miskito Cays on the Shalma, however, on his last voyage to the Miskito Cays he narrowly escaped being captured by the Nicaraguan Navy, as unbeknownst to him a band on the Turtling Trade was declared between the Cayman Islands Government and the Nicaraguan Government (2) two days after he set sail from Cayman to the Cays.

After returning from this voyage empty-handed and with not much available work for young men to do on the Island at that time except for fishing, or going away to Sea on the National Bulk Carriers Company. Due to his poor eye-sight Frank decided to not sign up to go to sea on the National Bulk Carrier, but instead he decided to stay at home. It was during this time that he opened a small grocery store, next to his home in Boatswain Bay. He would attend to his shop during the day and go fishing at nights; This was difficult, as he did not own a car, and he could not afford to hire a taxi, so Frank customized his bicycle with three carrying baskets, and so, very early in the mornings he would ride his bicycle to George Town to collect the supplies for his little grocery store and ride back to Boatswain Bay in time for his customers to purchase supplies for their family's breakfast and dinner.

Frank did this for several years while he practiced "stationary" driving on an old abandoned, broken down car that belonged to the Minister of the Presbyterian Church.

After saving up enough money to buy an older car, he still could not get his driver's license as he was told that his eye-sight was too poor for him to drive a car.

But Frank did not give up, he persevered and after assisting a visiting Naval Officer to carry supplies from the George Town Harbour to his Barracks on a dark, rainy night he later received a letter of recommendation from the Naval Officer for him to obtain his Driver's License. The officer wrote "if Frank can see to walk in this pitch dark, he can see to drive a car".

Frank was a very talented and resourceful man. He worked for a short time in the construction industry where he worked on several condos and guest cottages from the Seven Mile Beach to the South Sound area. Frank tinkered with and rebuilt the "Shalma" from a sailboat to a motorized vessel, and it was this very same boat he used to launch his water-sports business, Frank's Watersports in the North Sound.

He was also a great fisherman and diver. As he once said, "if there were any treasures other than fish to be found on the bottom of the sea around here, I would have found them, as I have dove the entire waters surrounding the Cayman Islands".

His other adventures and sailing escapades include sailing to Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Cays.

Frank was known far and wide for his creativity, his ingenuity, his honesty and dedication to hard work and what he believed in.

Frank represented The Cayman Islands at home and abroad as a genuine Tourism Ambassador and as such, for several years, where he, along with the Late Captain Charles (Chuckie) Ebanks, represented the Cayman Islands at the DEMA International Trade Show, on the behalf of the Cayman Islands National Watersports Association, in conjunction with the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism.

Hobbies:

Frank enjoyed several hobbies, but his favorite must have been boat building and boat restoration, as he owned several boats over his seafaring career.

Noteworthy is the “Minnie Pearl” which he named after one of his favorite Country Music Artists.

And of course, The Minnie Pearl was one of the largest North Sound Tour Boats.

Kate, Frank’s wife writes “his genius and boating skills are unmatched, as I have witnessed him single-handedly operate the Minnie Pearl in one of the narrowest canals on the Island at Salt Creek.

And for the love of fishing, he owned and operated a successful fish shop and fuel station in George Town on the waterfront area.

Earthly Awards:

In 1991 at the launch of the Parade of Lights Competition which was held in George Town Harbour, Captain Frank entered his 87 foot catamaran, the Minnie Pearl and won First Prize.

In 2003 Cayman celebrated the Quincentennial Year and Captain Frank received A Life-Time Achievement Award for Watersports Services to The District of West Bay.

In 2014 Captain Frank was Inducted into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame.

In 2017 On National Heroes Day, Captain Frank was awarded A Pioneer of Tourism Award, in recognition of his extraordinary contribution towards Tourism in the Cayman Islands.

In 2021 Captain Frank was Awarded An Excelled at Sea Award at the National Heroes Day Celebration of the Seafaring Heritage

Frank’s Passing :

Frank Sirlon Ebanks lived an exciting, adventurous and blessed life. He loved God, his fellow man, his wife and extended family.

Though he was bed-bound for several years after suffering a stroke, he was strong and had the will to live, but God saw that it was his time, and He called him away peacefully on the evening of Sunday, January 2, 2022, while he was surrounded by his loving wife, sister-in-law and care-giver.

Frank was preceded in death by his Parents: Elvin and Florence Ebanks

Brother: Joseph Ebanks

Sisters: Linette Rivers, Erna Ebanks, and Indy Foster as well as several nieces and nephews and in-laws.

He will be sadly missed. Left to mourn his passing and to honour his life are:

Wife: Kate Ebanks

Brothers: Gleason and Crosby Ebanks

Mother-In-Law: Ivy Williams

Father-In-Law: Isaac Williams

Nieces: Dolcy, Erna Jane, Brenda, Eziethamae, Mitzie, Lucy, Lyda, Dean, Inez and Nin.

Nephews: Kenneth, Darwin, Danny, Clinton, Duke, Aster, Garnal, Kirk, Simon, Kenrick, and Durvy.

Sisters-In-Law: Opal Thomas, Joy Blackwood, Tasha Bryson, and Simone Williams.

Brothers-In-Law: Luis Thomas, Phillip Williams, Fabian Williams, Sally Williams

Also left to mourn his passing are grand nieces, grand nephews, cousins, and a host of other relatives and friends.

May Frank’s soul rest in peace and God’s everlasting light shine upon him.

Tribute to my Brother, Frank

Frank and I shared a very close bond as brothers and with Frank being the youngest brother I took care of him and made sure that he was always protected and properly cared for.

As we got older, we both got into the tourism industry and operated our own boating business of daily excursions to the North Sound and Rum Point. Back in those days we made sure that our guest thoroughly enjoyed the true Cayman hospitality. Frank being new to the industry, I assisted him in whatever way possible to help him get his business started which included making trips to the local hotels to network with guest until he got himself established. We also made frequent trips overseas to Florida to purchase parts or equipment for the boats. His love and passion for the salt water continued until he got sick and could no longer work.

As we all sometimes have medical challenges so did Frank and I accompanied him overseas for medical attention on a few occasions so that he could get the best care possible.

Frank and I continued to have a close relationship in our older years and when he faced his health challenges this was most upsetting to me as I reminisced about our close connection and memories that we shared.

So my brother, Captain Frank, I will not say goodbye but merely pulling our anchors and sailing into the sunset. Until we meet again,

Your loving brother, Gleason

A tribute to my brother Frank Ebanks from Crosby Ebanks

During his childhood Frank played the usual games e.g spinning gigs, making calavans to catch ground doves, making small sailing boats and making kites to fly on windy days. He climbed mango trees to get mangoes and went in the sea on Sundays with the whole family. He helped to cut tops and make rope, run errands e.g to take rope to the shop and collect groceries and bring them home. As he grew older, he did the same things his brothers did even though he had a severe sight problem. He often took jobs such as cleaning bush from people's yards and pastures

He also backed sand in baskets to put in the yard especially at Christmas time. At approximately ten years of age, he wanted to be more involved in fishing and making fish traps. He wanted to do what his brothers were doing while also going to school.

When he became an adult, he showed an interest in sailing the cat boats and from that he graduated to taking part in the tourist industry. He eventually owned several boats and the biggest one among those used for tourist trips. He helped to build one of his own sailing boats which he took to Nicaragua himself. He navigated that boat using a hot point radio as his instrument for navigation.

He was physically very strong and managed to change a boat engine with very little help. Frank was very successful in his business because he was honest, determined, kind and attentive to his customers. Although his sight was very poor, he could spot the beautiful girls. Then he met Kate whom he married. During his career Frank has witnessed the slow times and the fast times, good and bad weather but he was tough.

We were amazed that he went back to work on his boat the second day after he had surgery to remove his appendix. Our parents Elvin and Florence Ebanks raised seven children and all of us lived through World War II and all the difficulties, shortages, fear and grief it brought to our country but we grew up to be hard working, law abiding, citizens.

Frank made many very good friends, in all walks of life both here and abroad. As a result, his business was very successful and he was able to provide for his own care and his wife's future.

Frank's life is an excellent example of how a person can succeed in spite of being handicapped. However, his success was achieved in large part because of his wife Kate who very ably managed the secretarial communication necessary to secure the many bookings needed to make a successful boating business in Stingray City.

So, until we meet again, my brother, rest in peace.

Our Tribute to our Dear Uncle Frank
From his late Brother Joseph's Family

Uncle Frank not having any children of his own, loved us, his nieces and nephews very much and taught us many valuable life lessons. We loved him too and were deeply saddened almost eight years ago when he became so ill and was unable to communicate or associate with us even though Ms. Kate sought the best medical attention for him. Ms. Kate, thank you for taking such good care of Uncle Frank.

As children living across the street from Uncle Frank was so much fun. It was easy to cross the street, no busy streets, no big, bright street lights, but a very welcoming Uncle with his work torch, working on his boat or boat parts, preparing for the North Sound boat launch the next day. As young children, our Dad also had a boat in his yard, so seeing Uncle Frank working to prepare his boat gave us boys the opportunity to learn and help. Garnal, Aster and Duke remembers carving out boats from Birch Tree trunks and making sails from white sack cloth, sewn with coarse thread, sticks for the Mast, sometimes we made a "Barque" with three Masts, the fore and aft rigged on the aftermost mast and square-rigged on all the other masts. And don't forget the rudder and the weather board. Oh what a joy it was to go into the Sound and in Barkers to draw the fish pots which Uncle Frank preferred to do in the night. We would take out the Jack Fish and go home to fry the great catch.

Garnal remembers an occasion when Uncle Frank and Aster were trying to leave him at home, instead of taking him to the Sound with them. After several attempts of "racing" him back into the yard, Uncle Frank gave in and said "we might as well carry him with us, make him get on to the bicycle back and strap him on". Uncle Frank turned and looked at Garnal and said, "We are carrying you with us, but you are going to have to bail out the water out of "da" boat today". Of course the boat was filled with water that day so Garnal had lots of work but just being with Uncle Frank and Aster made the difference in the day's work of bailing out the boat. Spending time with daddy, and our uncles gave us the love for the ocean, fishing and sailing. Uncle Frank also had many other skills including the repairing of radios which he could do in the darkest of nights, identifying money by touch and feel and always giving the correct change to his customers in his store in Boatswain Bay, and using his ears as his navigation tool because he didn't have a GPS. Uncle knew every rock where to find lobster and every grass bar where he could find conch. So today we pay special tribute to Uncle Frank who taught us so very much about his skills and knowledge. He was a boat builder, a radio technician, an avid diver, a business man, a teacher of life skills, but most of all a friend and special uncle.

Mitzie fondly remembers her early teen years working for Uncle Frank at his seafood shop on the George Town Waterfront where the Cayman Catboat club is now located. Residents and tourists would visit the shop to buy fresh seafood, caught daily by Uncle Frank and his crew members. The Tourists would visit the shop, view the pictures of Uncle Frank and his guests on previous boat excursions and fishing trips and would interact and talk with me about the Cayman Islands. They would book tours, night dives and snorkling trips. On many occasions I have thanked Uncle Frank for this learning experience which prepared me well for my future roles and responsibilities. Uncle Frank demonstrated that hardwork, dedication, and being a people's person really has benefits that go beyond financial rewards. The feedback received from Tourists and residents who toured or fished with Uncle was outstanding and earned him many repeat and new customers. He won the hearts of the people.

Eziethamae also remembers working for Uncle Frank in his fish shop and performing all the tasks necessary to maintain the shop to a very high standard as Uncle Frank always wanted his customers to have the best possible experience.

Being around Uncle Frank provided a lifetime of insights and learning for all of us and we are forever grateful. Uncle Frank was very keen, skillful, resourceful and innovative. We will forever remember and love our dear uncle Frank who is now resting in God's loving care. Aster, Brenda, Garnal, Eziethamae, Duke and Mitzie

**A Tribute to uncle Frank:
From his niece Miss. Erna Jane Ebanks**

Although my uncle Frank was a very strong and tough man, He was also very kind. I remember how much he loved his dog Major and he was so sad when Major died.

I was very happy one morning, when I was still a child, my mother was preparing to take me with her to cut tops But we would have had to walk a very long distance up to the head of Barkers. Uncle Frank was also going up there but he was going to use his Catboat. So he told Mama that he would be happy to take us up there but instead of using the sail he would push the boat using a long pole. That way he could stay much closer to the shore, so Mama agreed. Thus began my first boat ride. He showed me how to look through his water glass and see the fishes. I will never forget how beautiful that morning was and how clear the water was.

I could see all the corals and fishes and I kept on asking uncle Frank about the fishes and tried to describe them as best as I could, then he would tell me their names.

It seemed no time at all when he said we had arrived. He took the boat to shore and helped me and Mama out then he told us that he was sorry he could not carry us back home because neither of us would know where or when we would be ready to go home. Anyway, he certainly shortened our journey and allowed us more time to cut tops before the sun got too hot.

The third time I experienced uncle Frank's kindness was one day when I went to his little Corner Store and a man was in the Store and he started trying to bully me about what I was learning. He tried to ask me a question but he could not find the right words So basically, he wanted to know if I could calculate how many Farthings were in One Pound Sterling, so uncle Frank told him "O.K. You work it out on this piece of paper and she can work it out on another piece of paper". I finished and gave my uncle my paper. The man eventually gave up and uncle Frank told him "Man we don't have any Fools in our family"

Then he put his hand in the candy jar and gave me a bunch of candies. The years passed and he had a heart attack, while working on his boat and he drove himself to the hospital where he was treated. Then he had a brain hemorrhage followed by brain surgery, but the damage was extensive. And eventually his wife Kate transferred him to a rehabilitation Unit in Florida.

I spent quite a bit of time with him there and witnessed his struggle to try to recover but it was not successful, so he returned home where his wife Kate had built on a "purpose built" unit onto his house for his care. This has been a long and trying time for all who have been involved in my uncle's care, especially his wife and her sisters. To them I give my most sincere gratitude.

May The Lord bless you and keep you, may His face shine upon you. May he be gracious unto you and give you His peace.

Sleep peacefully uncle Frank



Tribute to Uncle Frank

Uncle Frank was special to me and my family. I have very fond memories of Uncle Frank from in my early days as he was very close with my father, Gleason and therefore I had many interactions with him. Throughout the years this bond continued with not just me but with my husband, Creston and our three children.

We shared many conversations and he confided and depended on me in relation to his personal matters. He was always very kind-hearted and always offered to assist in anyway necessary. He was always concerned with the health of my son, Nicholas who had been a kidney transplant recipient and so he would always call to make sure that he was doing well or if anything was needed to be sure to reach out to him.

Uncle Frank was a very hardworking and honest man who took great pride and passion in his business. I also have memories of my late brother Keary assisting Uncle Frank and Uncle Frank always sharing that "no one knew the North Sound like Keary did."

Uncle Frank married Kate who cared and loved him and soon became his right hand in running his business. As Uncle Frank suddenly became ill Kate sought to the best care local and overseas and for that we would like to say "thank you!"

Uncle Frank will be missed by my family and I and by all that knew him. Until we meet again, rest in peace our beloved Uncle.

Dolcy, Creston and Family

In Loving Memory



MR. FRANK S. EBANKS
April 2, 1935 - January 2, 2022





Graveside Service

Opening Remarks	Pastor Stanwyck Myles, Cert.Hon
Prayer	Pastor Stanwyck Myles, Cert.Hon
Hymn "When The Trumpet of the Lord Shall Sound"	Congregation
Family Ash and Floral Tributes – Capt. Frank's Favorite Song "Days of Elijah"	
Act of Committal	Pastor Stanwyck Myles
Hymns	Congregation
	"How Great Thou Art"
	"In The Sweet By & By"
	"It Is Well With My Soul"
Benediction	Pastor Stanwyck Myles, Cert.Hon

Family Thanks & Acknowledgement

*The family of the late Captain Frank Sirlon Ebanks,
Would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude
to all those who visited, called, offered prayers, flowers,
words of comfort and sent messages of condolences
during our bereavement.*

*Special thanks to his care-givers and sisters-in-law
Simone Williams and Joy Blackwood, who took loving care
of him throughout his illness.
His Niece Erna Jane Ebanks who advised us on home health care
and traveled to Florida with us to help with his care,
while he was in the rehab hospital.*

*Special thanks also to his nieces, Brenda Timothy, Dolcy Powery
Eziethamae Bodden, and Mitzie Bailey who visited or called
to check upon their Uncle's condition.*

*His special Friends Peter and Carol Harley from Canada.
Luis and Sadie Caban, from Florida.
And his many Nieces and Nephews.*

*Many thanks to the team of doctors and nurses
at the George Town Hospital and the West Bay Health Center
particularly Doctor Christian and Nurse Davis*

*Special Thanks to his Cousin Varion Ebanks (who though blind)
telephoned and offered prayers and sang songs of worship over the phone.
Heartfelt gratitude to the Late Elder Rupert Ebanks, The Pastor and The
Boatswain Bay Presbyterian Church Congregation for their prayer and worship meetings at his home.*

*Thanks to the Officiating Ministers, and all the participants for this lovely service.
and all the Participants. All those who attended in person or over the air.
And those of you who could not be in attendance due
to the Covid-Pandemic, we thank you.
Thanks to Bodden Funeral Service and their excellent team of employees.*

*May the Lord continue to Bless each of you and all your family
and keep you in good health.*