

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF



MRS. ESTHER T. EBANKS

8th APRIL, 1928 – 10th AUGUST, 2022

Boatswain Bay Presbyterian Church
West Bay, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Saturday, August 27, 2022
Service 11:00 AM
Viewing 10:00 AM – 10:45 AM

Officiating Ministers
Pastor James Pedley
Pastor Winston Rose, MBE
Pastor Garry Haylock

Pianist: Mrs. Cecilia Webster

Order of Service

Praise Worship.....	Led by BBPC Praise Teams
Processional	Pastor & Platform Guests
Opening Remarks & Prayer	Elder Henderson Hunte
Opening Hymn.....	Blessed Assurance
Scripture Reading - Psalm 23 (her favourite).....	Elder Carlon Powery, MBE, JP
Tributes from Children;	Mrs. Shemika Rankin
- Ronald	
- Carlyn Carter (followed by song: If God is for Me)	
- Jenny Robinson	
- Pre-recorded song: Goodbye's (the Saddest Word)	
Tributes - Grand & Great Grandchildren	
- Edrilyn Bodden - Pre-recorded song.....	"Grandma's Love"
Tributes from Brothers	Elder Carlon Powery, MBE, JP
Tributes – Nieces & Nephews.....	Elder Carlon Powery, MBE, JP
Precious Memories - Slideshow Presentation	Miss Tristina Robinson
Prayer for the Family	Pastor Garry Haylock
Life Story of Mrs. Esther T. Ebanks.....	Pastor Winston Rose, MBE
Hymn	At the Cross
Message	Pastor James Pedley
Closing Hymn.....	When We All Get to Heaven
Benediction	Pastor James Pedley
Recessional.....	How Great Thou Art

Pallbearers

Mr. McKyle Bodden
Mr. Clayton Ebanks
Mr. Matthew Ebanks

Mr. Merl McCoy
Mr. David Powery
Mr. Leonard Powery
Mr. Rayvon Rankin

Honourary Pallbearers

Mr. Sherwin Ebanks
Mr. Ronald Ebanks
Mr. David Ebanks
Mr. Cameron Ebanks
Mr. Karad Ebanks

Mr. Nathan Ebanks
Mr. Alexander Williams
Mr. Aron Williams
Mr. Aric Williams
Mr. Jaydon Williams

Mr. Shamar Bodden
Mr. Araunah Powery
Mr. Abel Powery
Mr. Sidney Robinson
Mr. Michael Gooding

Guest Book Attendants

Miss Zanie Berry
Miss Zaniah Berry

Ushers

Mrs. Ezeithamae Bodden, MBE
Miss Fadey Powery

Videographer

Mrs. Ezeithamae Bodden, MBE

Service Hymns

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

CHORUS

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above,
Echoes of mercy, lost in His love. (Chorus)

Perfect submission, all is at rest
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

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.

CHORUS

*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 overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over,
Not a shadow, not a sigh. (Chorus)

Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay. (Chorus)

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. (Chorus)

AT THE CROSS

Alas! and did my Savior bleed?
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a one as I?

CHORUS

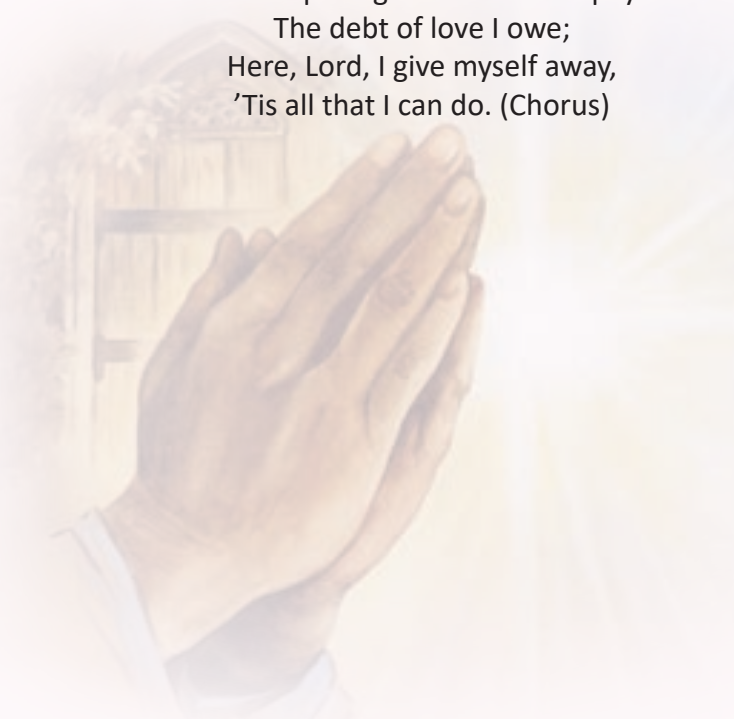
*At the cross, at the cross
Where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day.*

Was it for crimes that I have done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree! (Chorus)

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When Christ, the mighty Maker died
For man, the creature's sin. (Chorus)

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness
And melt mine eyes to tears. (Chorus)

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do. (Chorus)



OBITUARY - MRS. ESTHER T. EBANKS
APRIL 8,1928 – AUGUST 10, 2022

On Sunday, 8th April, 1928 in the tranquil community of Barkers, West Bay, a beautiful baby girl was lovingly welcomed into the already large and happy household of Mr. Uriah Powery and his wife, Mrs. Ella Powery. She joined her 8 older siblings in their home beside the blue waters of the Caribbean Sea. Her parents gave her the Biblical names of Esther Tabitha and she was fondly known by most of her family as Essie or Aunt Essie). A few years later four younger siblings were added to the family, bringing this to a grand total of 13 children for this dear couple. Her parents were very Godly and raised their children to honour and respect God and His Word. During her younger years Aunt Essie attended the Church of God Full Gospel Hall in West Bay.

Barkers was a very isolated area at that time and their only neighbours were a few elderly relatives, including their strict paternal aunts, Miss Emily Redley Powery (better known as Teacher Redley) and her sister Mrs. Stella Ebanks. Around the age of 4 years Aunt Essie commenced her education under the tutelage of Aunt Redley at her school which was located between Barkers and Boatswain Bay. This meant many treks through the grape trees and cocoplum bushes and dusty footpaths with her older siblings, with the mosquitoes being their constant companions. She completed her education at the age of 14 or 15 years, which was the standard age of completion in those days.

As one can imagine, with such a large family there was a lot of work to be done around the home. She was a good cook and Aunt Essie helped her parents daily with the cooking, housework and caring for the younger children. She loved to go fishing and many a good fish dinner meal was cooked due to her fishing skills. She could also handle a boat as good as any of her brothers or men in the community!

On the 23rd November, 1950 she was united in marriage to Mr. Frederick Weston Ebanks also of West Bay and to this union were born 4 children Paul (who sadly passed shortly after birth), Sherwin, Ronald and their sister Carlene (better known as Carlyn). Over time the couple parted ways and Aunt Essie did various work to support her family.

Shortly after the passing of her husband, Grandma. Ella decided to move to a more central location and built a house on her parents' property in Boatswain Bay, which still stands today. Aunt Essie, who was always close to her mother, moved with her children to help continue to care for her. Several years later Aunt Essie was blessed with 2 more children, Edith and David.

When her brother, Capt. John and his wife were experiencing difficulties he sought his sister's help and Aunt Essie willingly moved in to their house to help care for their children until the situation improved. A few years later and shortly after the birth of his youngest child, Jenny, Capt. John enlisted the help of his sister once more and she was there for him again. This time Aunt Essie and Grandma Ella decided it was best to bring the baby to live with them where she was raised as her daughter. His oldest son, Joshua, also came to live with them and remained until he was an adult.

Aunt Essie was a very honest and hardworking lady who worked through rain or shine. She earned a living for her family doing babysitting or other domestic work, which was the main source of employment for women in those days. When the hotel industry began to boom in these islands she embarked on her career in the hospitality field, along with many West Bayers and other Caymanians.

One of the first hotels she joined was the Beach Club where she worked in the Housekeeping Department for several years before moving on to the Coral Caymanian Hotel and the La Fontaine Hotel (renamed Royal Palms). She then moved to the Holiday Inn shortly after it was opened and remained there until her retirement when she was in her 70's. Now don't think that Aunt Essie sat back and enjoyed her retirement because never a day went by that she did not keep herself busy. She doted on her grandchildren and babysat for many of them while their parents were at work or busy otherwise. She even had the energy to babysit for a few of her great-grandchildren! Several years ago she recommitted her life to God and was baptized in the sea near where she grew up by her brother Araunah. This happy occasion was witnessed by several of her children.

Alas, we grow old which often means having various challenges in our lives. As the years crept up on her she was still in good physical health and able to live at home. However, at age 88 after sustaining an injury which resulted in a broken hip she was taken to her daughter Carlyn's home where she quickly recuperated thank God. A few years ago her memory had begun to decline but Aunt Essie's jovial and pleasant disposition remained. She enjoyed reciting Scripture verses, singing and listening to gospel hymns. She loved to attend the Singspiration nights at the Boatswain Bay Presbyterian Church or attend their Cottage Meetings for the sick or shut-ins in the community, along with her daughter Carlyn. When she became unable to attend any longer, she enjoyed when they visited her; however, with the onset of the pandemic these meetings had to be temporarily suspended. She loved to go on drives to visit and have good conversations with her family and friends and she still had a hearty appetite, which, at that age is definitely a blessing, and she enjoyed having meals with her loved ones.

On Friday evening, August 5, 2022 Carlyn noticed a change in her mother's disposition and called for assistance. She was taken by ambulance to the George Town Hospital where she was admitted and on Monday, 8th August she was referred to the Health City Hospital where she remained until her peaceful passing on Wednesday, 10th August, 2022.

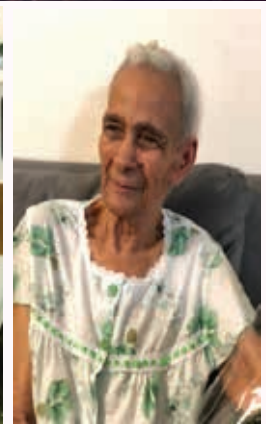
Aunt Essie was preceded in death by her parents, Uriah and Ella Powery, infant son Paul, her beloved granddaughter Jessa, brothers Andrew, Jude, William, Daniel, Obed, Shem and John; sisters Ruth, Faith and Jemima and many other close relatives. Left to mourn her beautiful life on this earth are her 3 sons Sherwin, Ronald and David; 3 daughters Carlyn, Edith and Jenny; 10 granddaughters Freda, Edrilyn, Monique, Krista, Tristaca, Jovanna, Sheera, Jatoya, Shemika and Tristina and 7 grandsons Clayton, Alexander, Aron, Karad, Arick, Matthew and Cameron; 32 great-grandchildren, 2 brothers Araunah and Abel; daughters-in-law Marilyn and Jean, son-in-law Sidney Robinson and sisters-in-law Dell, Martha & Charmaine Powery as well as a host of nieces, nephews, other family members and friends.

Sleep well Aunt Essie and may your light perpetually shine and your soul Rest In Peace until the glorious return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.









TRIBUTE TO MAMA FROM SON, RONALD

Dear Mama,

I remember when I was small and had really bad asthma, Dr. Horter told you the only cure for me was to be able to go in the sea whenever I could, so you moved from Birch Tree Hill to Barkers and took me in the sea as often as you could until I started to improve. You were so protective of me and all your children, your grandchildren, nieces and nephews and neighbour kids. You helped anyone you could even though you didn't have much to give and had a very hard life raising your children alone.

I remember all the good times we had growing up. You loved the sea and taught us to fish, to swim, to pop and clean conch, clean fish and to cook. In the evenings we used to roast corn and potatoes. You taught us how to twist strand to make rope and you would tell us stories about your childhood and our family. At night if we stayed out too late, you would call us telling us to get home quick before the duppies come out!

We spent hours walking the beach, picking up drift coconuts and looking for treasure. Even when your health was failing, you always talked about fishing for barracuda and getting a tight hand.

You loved to travel and had a great time in England with us, making friends with everyone you met. When we first arrived, you didn't believe it could be cold outside when it was so sunny. You wouldn't put anything warm on, opened the door to go outside and soon ran back in saying it was freezing. You loved all the flowers in the gardens in England and in Busch Gardens.

You taught us to love God and everyone else. Your family was so important to you. You made sure all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren knew that you loved them and told them all about your parents and grandparents and the rest of the family. Thank you for showing Matthew how much you loved him and helping to teach him to fish and looking after him whenever he came to spend time with you during the summer.

We will miss you Mama but know you have gone to a better place with your family who have gone on before you. Rest in Peace.

Love you always,
Ronald and family

TRIBUTE TO MAMA FROM DAUGHTER, CARLYN

Dear Mama,

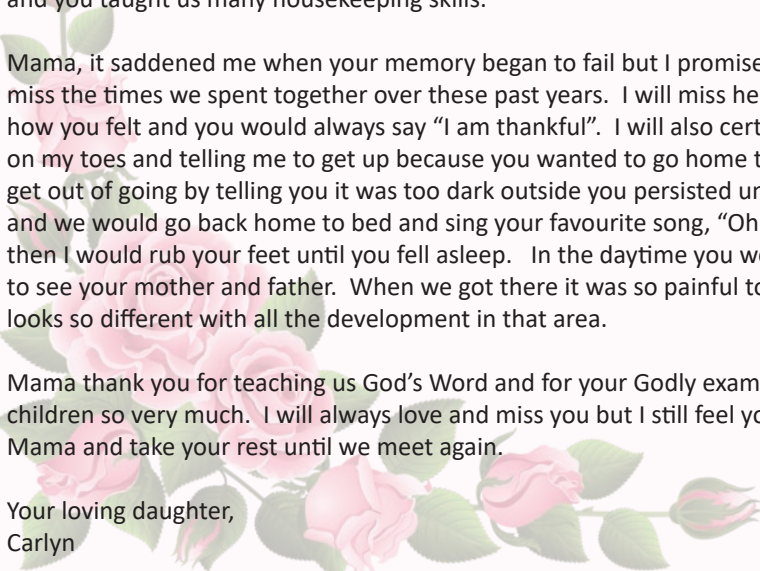
I am so glad that God blessed me with a mother like you and I often told you that. You loved all your children very much and worked hard to make sure that we were well provided for. You were so loving and caring with the kindest heart. You taught me so many things such as how to cook many local meals including turtle meat, cassava cake and all the trimmings. You also taught me to plait silver thatch and to make baskets and other straw work and also how to lay rope and twist strand. You were such a good teacher and I will continue to carry on these Caymanian traditions and pass it on to the next generation. You also taught me how to fish, swim, dive conchs and I also remember when you used to call me up at 5:00a.m. to go with you to look crabs, mangoes and tops. I am so grateful for that discipline because until this day I am still an early riser and love to keep busy working.

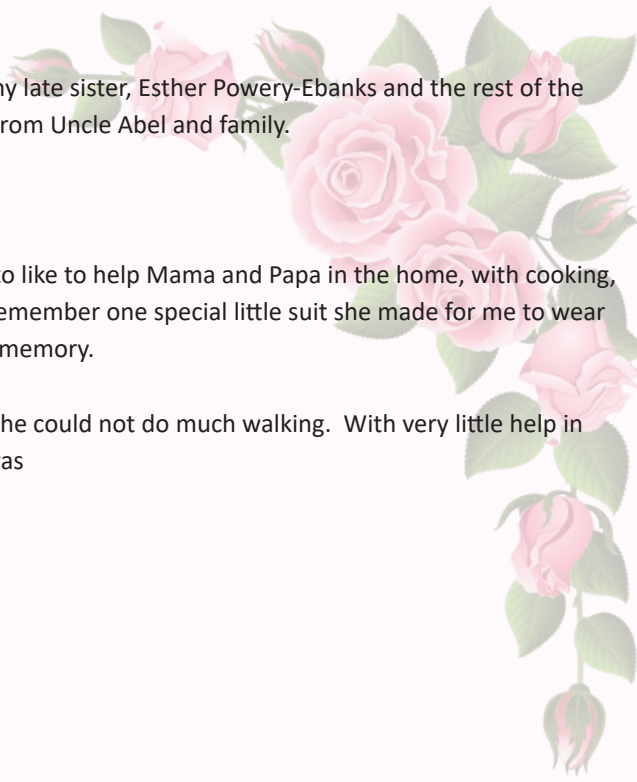
You taught us by word and action to always be honest and would often tell us that if we all need anything, even a 5 cent to make sure and ask you. You were a very strict but caring mother and liked to have your children in sight. I remember I liked to always go over to Uncle Jude's house to play with my cousins and you would say, "You need to stay away from people door mouth a little bit" but I knew that you said that because you cared about me. You introduced me to the hospitality industry when you worked at the La Fontaine Hotel (now Royal Palms) and I remember as young girls Erlene and I used to meet you there after school to help you work and you taught us many housekeeping skills.

Mama, it saddened me when your memory began to fail but I promised to try and take as good care of you as you did for me. I will miss the times we spent together over these past years. I will miss hearing your voice when I woke you in the mornings and asked how you felt and you would always say "I am thankful". I will also certainly miss you waking me up at 1:30 in the mornings by pulling on my toes and telling me to get up because you wanted to go home to your Barcus to look for your mother. Even though I tried to get out of going by telling you it was too dark outside you persisted until I got up and we would walk out the road until you got tired and we would go back home to bed and sing your favourite song, "Oh what a wonderful day" and you would say the 23rd Psalm and then I would rub your feet until you fell asleep. In the daytime you would ask to go back to your Barcus again because you wanted to see your mother and father. When we got there it was so painful to hear you sadly say "that's not my Barcus", because everything looks so different with all the development in that area.

Mama thank you for teaching us God's Word and for your Godly example. Thank you too for loving my children and all your grandchildren so very much. I will always love and miss you but I still feel your presence around me and I will never forget you. Sleep on Mama and take your rest until we meet again.

Your loving daughter,
Carlyn





My sincere and deepest condolences to the children and grandchildren of my late sister, Esther Powery-Ebanks and the rest of the family. May God comfort and strengthen you all during this difficult time. From Uncle Abel and family.

A tribute to my dear and loving sister Esther Powery-Ebanks.

From: your brother Abel Powery.

Such precious memories I have to remember of my sister Esther. She used to like to help Mama and Papa in the home, with cooking, washing and scrubbing the floors. She also used to cut and sew clothes. I remember one special little suit she made for me to wear to a Sunday School Christmas programme. It was very nice of her, precious memory.

I also remember when our eldest sister, Mrs. Ruth had a very sick foot and she could not do much walking. With very little help in the home at that time as most of the men were gone out to sea and Papa was

A cherished and loved Aunt who was kind, loving and humble. I called her mama.

She was like a mother to me, my siblings and many others too. How can I ever thank you and Grandma Ella for all that you did for me. You accepted me into your home from a tender age of two (2) months old, and my heart you really won!! It takes a generous person who can open her arms and heart, to include another child to love as if they were there from the start.

You always made me feel special and you always had time to listen as I travelled down life's path. You guided me and gave me tons of love, lots of laughs & great Godly advice. When you knew I was upset, you would say, "Jenny, don't pay those be-grudgeful people no mind. Take it to God and do what is pleasing to Him."

I thank God every day for you, because not everyone is blessed to have two wonderful mothers to love them.

I will always cherish the love and the bond we shared. It will be treasured forever. I will love and remember you throughout my life-time. Mama, I remember when I made my first cassava cake, I gave you a piece. You looked at me and said, "I can put up my baking pans now." After that, you would often ask me, if I made any more, because you felt like having a piece of my cassava cake. From that day, I felt so good, like I had received a golden award, because you were one of the best cassava cake bakers.

I could not have asked for a greater gift in my life than to have you for my mother & best friend.

Mama, you watched me experience the joys of having my two (2) daughters. You treated them like they were your very own grand-daughters. They loved the ground you walked on. You always told them to put God in everything they do, to let Him come first in their lives.

Mama, God saw that you were getting tired, so he put his arms around you and whispered "Come to me."

With tearful eyes, I watched you fade away. Although I loved you dearly, I could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating. Hard working hands at rest. God broke my heart to prove to me he chose to take the best. It is lonesome here without you. I will miss you more each day. Life doesn't seem the same since you have gone away. When days are sad and lonely, and everything goes wrong, I seem to hear you whisper, "Cheer-up my daughter, and carry on."

Each time I see your picture you seem to smile and say, "Don't cry, I'm in God's hands, we will meet again someday."

From your loving daughter/niece Jenny

At this time, I would also like to say, Thanks to Shervin, Ronald, Carlyn, Edith & David for the roles you all played in my life too.

Graveside Service

Opening Remarks & Prayer Pastor James Pedley
Hymns Heaven Came Down & It Is Well With My Soul
Floral Tribute Family
Committal Pastor James Pedley
Hymns Congregation

Because He Lives, The Old Rugged Cross, When the Roll is Called

Benediction Pastor James Pedley

HEAVEN CAME DOWN (#1)

Oh what a wonderful, wonderful day,
Day I will never forget;
After I'd wandered in darkness away,
Jesus my Saviour I met.
Oh what a tender compassionate friend,
He met the need of my heart
Shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling,
He made all the darkness depart.

CHORUS

Heaven came down and glory filled my soul.
When at the cross the Saviour made me whole.
My sins were washed away
And my night was turned to day,
Heaven came down and glory filled my soul.

Born of the Spirit with life from above,
Into God's family divine,
Justified fully through Calvary's love,
Oh what a standing is mine!
And the transaction so quickly was made
When as a sinner I came,
Took of the offer of grace He did proffer,
He saved me, oh praise His dear name!

Now, I've a hope that will surely endure
After the passing of time;
I have a future in heaven for sure,
There in those mansions sublime.
And it's because of that wonderful day
When at the cross I believed,
Riches eternal and blessings supernal
From His precious hand I received.

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS (#4)

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame,
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged Cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged Cross so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God, left His Glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged Cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old Cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL (#2)

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

CHORUS

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with 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, O my soul!

Though Satan should buffet,
Though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded, My helpless estate,
And hath shed, His own blood 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.

BECAUSE HE LIVES (#3)

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.

CHORUS

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives all fear is gone,
Because 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.

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED (#5)

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.

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.

Let us labour for the Master
From the dawn to 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.

Acknowledgment

The family would like to express their sincere appreciation to all who visited, called, prayed or assisted our precious mother and grandmother in any way. Thanks to her medical teams at the Health City and the Health Services Authority, in particular Dr. Christian at the West Bay Clinic, for their care of her over the years, to her caregivers and to Bodden's Funeral Services for her final care. We are also grateful for the support and other acts of kindness which have been given to us since her passing.

May God continue to bless and keep you all.