

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of

Daisy Verne Connolly-Forbes

Sunrise 30th March 1932 - Sunset 2nd October 2022

CHURCH OF GOD (Universal) EAST END
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
Sunday 16th October 2022 at 2:30 p.m

Officiating Ministers:

Pastor James Arch, Cert. Hon, JP (Ret.)

Bro: Duane Jeffries & Bro: Ray Hydes

Organists:

Sis: Ruth Rankin & Sis: Esther Jackson

Interment at the East End Cemetery

Order of Service

Opening Remarks & Words of ComfortPastor James Arch, Cert. Hon, JP (Ret.)
Opening Hymn - *Because He Lives* Congregation
Prayer Bro. Duane Jeffries
Scripture Reading Bro. Ray Hydes
Special songs - *Sheltered In the Arms of God* Universal Gospel Singers
Prayer for the family Bro. John Wesley
History of our mother's life – Composed by Daughter..... Mrs. Carmilee Pearson
Delivered by Mrs. Olga Gourzong
Mother's Motto and Last Words - Composed by Daughter Mrs. Carmilee Pearson
Delivered by Member of Parliament Mr. Isaac Rankine
Sermon Pastor James Arch, Cert. Hon, JP (Ret.)
Closing Hymn - *I Surrender All* Congregation
Benediction Sis. Veta McLaughlin

Pallbearers

Carlos Forbes Jr
Rayal Forbes
Harvard Gourzong
Gregg White

Kenross Conolly
Gaivanni Dixon
Leroy McLaughlin
Valburne Christian

Honourary Pallbearers

Coolidge Connolly
Rollin Gourzong
Peter Quinland

Gareth Forbes

Stephen Quinland
John Wesley
Denroy McLaughlin

Guest Book Attendants

Josie Welcome
Judith McLaughlin
Sheneka Meade
Cheryl Taylor
Jasmine

Ushers

Sis. Andylyn Anderson
Sis. Primrose Moore
Sis: Keva Rob

Service Hymns

Because He Lives

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.

Refrain: Because He lives; I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives; All fear is gone
Because I know, 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.



I Surrender all

All to Jesus, I surrender;
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender;
Humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken;
Take me, Jesus, take me now.
I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

All to Jesus, I surrender;
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel the Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.
I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

All to Jesus, I surrender;
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power;
Let Thy blessing fall on me.
I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

History of the Life of our mother
Family Prayer by Mr. John Wesley
Song: Jealous of The Angels
Daisy Verne Conolly-Forbes - Composed by Carmilee Pearson
Delivered by Olga Gourzong

Daisy Verne Conolly -Forbes was born on March 30, 1932, to Gustave Conolly and Jennifer Wood-Gourzong. She attended East End Elementary school under the tutelage of the late Mr. Allen McLaughlin. Our mom may never have had a glamorous career and she didn't pursue any education beyond her elementary school and passing what was called Third Year Examination as that's what was offered in her time. On June 30, 1949, she was united in marriage to Carlos Peterson Forbes, who preceded her in death on June 22, 2008, after 59 years of wedded bliss. This marriage lasted like the vows they took till death do us part. They both enjoyed a full stable marriage. From this union came six children, seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Our mother was also preceded in death by her two youngest sons Al Martino Forbes in 1988 and Mc Lauren Forbes in 1995. She is the last member of the 1932 baby boomers, and to bring back some memories I will take this opportunity to name the 1932 baby boomers: Mrs. Elise Jervis, Ms. Marvell McLaughlin, Ms. Reba Forbes, and Messrs., Mc Cardie ("Luggy") McLaughlin, Robert Conolly and MacFord McLean, Her home was filled with a lot of laughter, tears, sickness, joy and pain. Life has a way of breaking you, but some people heal stronger in the break. Our mother was one of those people that healed stronger in her breaks. Despite facing great obstacles, she had a profound resilience that was unquestionable, because she was a strong woman of faith. Like the passage in Proverbs 31: Her children rise up and call her blessed; that was our mama. The biggest obstacle she faced was losing her life's partner and two youngest children. Yet she carried on unselfishly. As a mother she sometimes had to wear the hat of being a father while her husband went to sea, this she did for 26 years. Nevertheless, she also worked to contribute towards her children's welfare by relying on the islands long and now forgotten thatch rope industry. She was also known as one of the islands best seamstresses. There was always a demand for her talent of designing and sewing dresses, shirts and pants. Carmilee recalls sitting up at nights keeping her company while she sewed dresses for upcoming dances for the ladies and trying to help parent meet deadlines for school uniforms. Sometimes to ease the load she would cut the materials and give them to the parents while guiding them on how to sew themselves. As time passed the island began to blossom and people were now able to afford what we call readymade clothes. This meant that two of the things she relied on to make a living were basically depleted. As there was no need for thatch rope and people rarely relied on local seamstresses for their clothes. Being ambitious and courageous with a determination to provide for her children, she became the neighborhood's first entrepreneur by opening and operating her own convenient store from the back of her home. On weekends and holidays mama made and sold buns, jello, popcorn and popcorn balls, icicles and coconut tarts and coconut candies to the neighbors and children. When these ventures failed for her to make a living from, she sought and began working out of the home. She worked for twenty plus years at the then English Shoppe, owned and operated by Richard (Dick) Arch and Margaret Arch. When the English Shoppe was sold, she opened her own little restaurant at the East End Quarry in High Rock. Here she supplied the workers with hot local dishes until her health started to fail in 2010. All of her life she was a great cook. To us she was the BEST. This was when we noticed that her enthusiasm for life was fading. Not only did she look out for her children, but she was also always looking out for those children less fortunate than hers. In our neighborhood there were two boys who lost both parents. Our mother took it on herself to ensure that they had enough food to eat and uniforms for school.

Song: Unfinished Task --- Sis: Dorothea ("Cindy") Shaw

She had a thing about shoes and so if nothing else she made sure her children had shoes to wear. In our days growing up nothing was thrown out so hand-me-down was the order of the day and one of the best survival tools. If it couldn't fit in her house, she could always find someone indeed to help. Carmilee was so glad she was the first daughter and Evalee even happier to know that the gap between her and Carmilee was such that it would be impossible for her to wear Carmilee's hand-me-downs!

None of her children have any recollection of going to sleep hungry; she was a great saver and provider. Material things were not important to our mother, mama believed in honesty and hard work. She was a strong disciplinarian. It was only when Carmilee and Evalee became mothers that they truly understood what motherhood responsibility meant. All that her daughters are today we owe it all to our mother

Through all her teachings we learnt how to care for each other and our children in return. Mama taught us how to cook and do the things necessary to make life and the tricks in surviving. She was our best friend; our secrets were safe with mama. Not only did she care for her children, but she helped in nurturing her grandchildren in numberless ways. This act of care and kindness of her love for them is priceless! Her selflessness had no price tag. Carmilee recalls phoning her in the middle of the night to tell her that her children were sick, and, in a moment, she would walk through the door. Just her presence alone at these times felt like a holy spirit. Just being there was so reassuring that instantly you could see a difference in the child, she was their granny, nurse, doctor and best friend. Generous, kind, loving, sweet, caring, honest, elegant, fastidious, brave, strong, bubbly, energetic, resilient, thoughtful, hopeful, selfless was our mama.

Song: Treasures Unseen – The Gospel Strings.

Throughout this mama found time to play her organ at home. Her faith in Christ was unwavering even in her deepest illnesses, she trusted him for healing. She believed in paying for her tithes and never failed to remind others about paying theirs. She was strongly supportive of her church, including yearly conventions and all-day services. She was our everything and if we had the opportunity to choose a mother all over again, we would choose her all over again. As her children not only was she our mama, but we can also say without a doubt she has been our best friend, and secret keeper. She has made us who we are today.

Song: Musical Selection --Organist

Her exquisite church hats and fans distinguish her nature and pride, which echoes her ancestors' culture. This she kept throughout her life. Mama portrayed a life of dignity and a character that was irreproachable. Her profound commitment to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren defined her whole life. Regardless of what anyone thinks of the role of a mother, she was undeniably one mother who gave everything up for her children. Undoubtedly to say, all that Carlos Jr and Rayol possesses - they owe it all to our mother.

Song: No Charge

Mama was a big sister to her siblings and was very committed to this role. She would take the time to enquire of each one separately whenever she did not see or hear from them. If she could not dial the phone, she would get someone to do it for her; and she would not stop calling until she got an answer, ensuring that everyone was alright and never failed to hang up the phone without leaving some advice. She was the best big sister anyone could ask for.

As We reflects on her life, we are so grateful to her caregivers over the years and in particular her current caregivers Crystal Buckley and Winsome Leslie aka Sonia. Without Crystal and Sonia her journey would not have been completed. Crystal and Sonia, we are thankful to both of you. For the way you took care of mama. Many times, I – Carmilee have told you, money cannot repay you for services, but God would reward you openly and bountifully because your services were impeccable, you both considered her as granny and indeed she loved you both equally in return.

Song: I will sing of the Goodness of God.

As a result of a long history of diabetes, her health started to fail in 2010. In March 2010 She was referred overseas to Baptist Hospital in Miami, while there her right big toe was amputated. The diabetes continued to wreak havoc on her body and in April 2016 her left leg was amputated. As painful and heart breaking her situation she never complained. She was a woman of great wealth with so much, yet she satisfied with so little in return. Her health was never properly restored due to the diabetes, and then came issues with bad circulation, high blood pressure, kidney failure, liver and heart disease. In August 2018 she suffered a heart attack and was fitted with a pacemaker. Through all this she never complained. She would always say, God will take care of me. There are those who believe a mother does not have tears, but I can assure you our mother shed lots of tears in her pillow and confided in those who she trusts. Upon receiving the pacemaker, she began to make slow but enjoyable progress, when suddenly poor circulation took over her frail body and so in November 2018, she was again admitted to the George Town Hospital only to be told that her only leg needed to be amputated. This was the worse news we could hear, although she was in excruciating pain, she did not agree to have the leg removed so she was discharged on December 15th and on December 20th she was readmitted at emergency and taken straight to the theatre where the leg was amputated. This day was the worse day for us as a family. This was like the first day of living in hell. When she came out of the surgery, she looked at Carmilee and said "Carmilee stay by me" to which Carmilee replied "mama I will not forsake you". Now reality finally began to set in. Thoughts of how we are going to manage this situation began to flood our minds. All sorts of ideas presented themselves, but none we could think of that was making any sense. The only action to bring us any comfort was to install cameras where she could be watched along with the caregivers 24 hours a day. She was discharged from this surgery on December 24th. The excuse being that she would be better off at home than in hospital for fear of her picking up an infection

Song: I will Stand by You.

Just when we thought it was over, the fight was only just beginning, mama lived in constant pain. She was again admitted to hospital on January 12, 2019, due to the fact that the wound was not healing ...she had contracted a MRSA bacterial infection during surgery! So, there she was back in the theatre to remove the remains of the leg to get past the infection.

In July of this year, we were faced with more challenges, after Carmilee received a call to visit a particular doctor only to be told all her blood works were pointed to preparation for end of life. However, Carmille walked away very pessimistic because she had travelled all roads of illness with her. But Mama faith in God remained stronger, to the point when I told her of what we were to expect, she replied, that's what the doctor said, but God has the last word. It was obvious each visit to the emergency room she returned home one step weaker. Her last visit to the emergency room was on September 14, 2022. On this trip we noticed a change in her care and our communication with the doctors. Our suspicions were aroused and Carmilee and Evalee stood firm against the doctor's decision to discharge her on the Sunday before the passing of Tropical storm Ian because we knew in our hearts that she was safer at the hospital than at the East End Civic Center as was suggested. Through the help of a family doctor and friend, and against all the negativity we were able to have her transferred to Jasmine the following Tuesday where she received end- of- life, friendly loving care until her passing at 7:49pm Sunday October 2, 2022. To all those listening to this today, I want to truly confirm that Jasmine is the best place on the island where you can receive help for your loved ones while maintaining their dignity for end -of-life care. Jasmine is equipped with caring and loving staff for your loved ones and you during and after their passing. I am kindly asking that you consider giving them your support.

On September 27th, mama went to Jasmine to enable her to receive proper end of- life care there. Indeed, we are so grateful to Jasmine and all the staff.

Mama was generous, kind, loving, sweet, caring, honest, elegant, fastidious, brave, strong, bubbly, energetic, resilient, thoughtful, hopeful, and selfless. It was her greatest joy to know that she was our rock, our anchor, and our best friend.

The people she surrounded herself with made a substantial impact in our lives.

We pray that the Lord will help us to continue her legacy by making the people around us feel special – and by making friends wherever we go.

Song: Universal Gospel Singers – The Old Country Church

Mama's Motto and Last words – Collected and Composed by Carmilee Pearson - Delivered by MP Isaac Rankin

When my children remember their childhood, I want only for them to remember that their mother gave it her all.

She worried too much - she failed at times, and she did not always get it right, but she tried her hardest to teach them about kindness, compassion and honesty even if she had to learn from her own mistakes.

I loved them enough to keep going even when things seemed hopeless - even when life knocked me down, I want them to remember me as that woman who got back up.

Through the blur of life, I often wondered if I were alone, or if other parents felt the same way I did! that everything involving our children was painful in some way! from labor to the grave. Our emotions, whether they were joy, sorrow, love or pride were so deep and sharp that in the end they left me raw, exposed and yes in pain.

My constant desire is that my children live good with one another and take care of one another.

Being a good mother has nothing to do with my age, but it was the size of my heart. My constant plea and desire are that my children live in harmony and compassion and that my children give me roses while I am alive; don't bring any tributes or flowers to my funeral because I cannot see them, or hear them.

Her last words before she went unconscious were:

Lord I've done all I could for my children – (as she repeated five times). --- I've done all I could for my grandchildren --- I've done all I could for my great grandchildren ----- Lord, I am tired - Lord I am tired of living – I've done all I could - I am tired of living.

Song: Medals for Mother

Mama was preceded in death by her parents, husband Carlos, sons Al Martino and McLaren, a granddaughter, bother Keith and nephew Michael.

Left to mourn her passing are her children: Carmilee Pearson, Evalee Webb, Carlos Forbes Jnr, Rayol Forbes and Leroy McLaughlin.

Granddaughters: Manesa Webb. Tamelyn Fisher, Rhonda Brown, Nathania Pearson and Jovella White and their families:

Grandsons, Gareth, Rayal Jr and Carlo Forbes and their families.

Surviving siblings are sisters: Marge Quinland, Patricia Baker who lives in England, Lillieth McLaughlin and their families:

Brothers: Coolidge Conolly, Rollin Gourzong, Harvard Gourzong and their families.

Keith's Children: Kevin, Eduardo and Samantha Gourzong.

MAY HER SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE

Graveside Service

Opening Remarks Pastor James Arch, Cert. Hon. JP (Ret.)
Prayer Pastor James Arch, Cert. Hon. JP (Ret.)
Musical Interlude
Committal..... Pastor James Arch, Cert. Hon. JP (Ret.)
Musical Interlude
Benediction Pastor James Arch, Cert. Hon. JP (Ret.)



Thank You Message

There are not enough words to fully express our heartfelt gratitude for the sympathy, love, and support you have extended to our family during this time of loss. Thank you.

When you volunteered to help it took such a burden off our shoulders. It made a huge difference and allowed for everything to go smoothly; we really appreciate the assistance.

For the support from her siblings, our friends, co-workers and church family; We Thank You

Order of Leaving the Church

The Pastor and Platform Party, Casket and Paul Bearers, Carmilee Pearson & Rollin Gourzong and Evalee Webb, Granddaughters, family and congregation. Please drive with car headlights on low beam to the cemetery.

