



Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of

Mrs. Claudia Laverne Earle-Bodden
Ms. "Chippy"

Sunrise: 18 November 1937

Sunset: 31 January 2023

**Bethel Baptist Church
Spot Bay, Cayman Brac**

Saturday 11 February 2023

Time: 2:00 pm

**Officiating Ministers
Pastor Rex Hurlston
Pastor Maurice Chambers**

Pianist: Sis. Vera Hurlston

Interment at Spot Bay Cemetery

Order of Service

Songs and Slide show

Welcome and Prayer Brother Paul
Hymn - It is well with my soul Congregation
Scripture Reading - 1Corinthians 15: 50 – 58 Pastor Maurice Chambers
Special song – People Like You Gramps Morgan
Tribute from children Hon. Juliana O’Connor-Connolly, JP
Tribute from Grand and Great Grand Children Frank Martyr
Eulogy Sharon Ebanks
Hymn - Great is thy Faithfulness Congregation
Sermon Pastor Rex Hurlston
Prayer Pastor Maurice Chambers
Closing Hymn - The Old Rugged Cross Congregation
Benediction Pastor Rex Hurlston

Pallbearers

Anthony Terry
Cameron Brown
Jerome Bodden

Courtney Brown
Corey Brown
Claude Bodden

Honorary Pallbearers

Russell Bodden
Rex Hurlston
Elwood Bodden
Woodly Christian
Phillip Turner
Ivan Whittaker
Harlee Brown
Emmanuel “Fafamama” Bodden
Ashton Bodden
Tracey Hunter
Temple Tatum

Leslie Christian
Dario Bodden
Gary Keating
Elvis McKeeva
Audley Scott
Kevin Foster
Jimmy Robinson
Edward Myrie
Jeff Hurlston
Jay Holiness

Ushers

Salomie Henry
Tricia Conolly
Esther Scott

Guest Book Attendant

Ventisha Conolly
Danielle Peynado



EULOGY OF CLAUDIA LAVERNE EARLE-BODDEN (Chippy)

On November 18th, 1937 Claudia Laverne Earle-Bodden, known to many as “Chippy” was born in Spot Bay, Cayman Brac to proud parents Nina and Sidney Earle.

As Nina wanted their children to be born on her soil, she returned to Cayman Brac where Chippy was born. When she was three months old she was taken to Montego Bay, Jamaica by her mother on a ship, as her father was a successful Cabinet maker working in Montego Bay.

Nina was expecting their second child in 1939 so she returned to Cayman Brac with Chippy to give birth once again. After the birth of their second daughter Merle, Nina returned to Jamaica with her two babies. They were on board the vessel M/V Taylor to Jamaica when they encountered a storm - this was in December 1939, and Chippy was only two years old.

The storm was severe and the ship was battered for days.

Nina left her two girls sleeping in the bunk, whilst she went to get some tea. When she returned Chippy was not in the bunk. Can one imagine the feelings of a mother unable to find her baby? The crew was informed and everyone started to search for her. A distraught mother, on a ship in the ocean and unable to find her baby. Chippy was found tangled up in a coil of rope that was on deck but had washed over the side. She was rescued by crew members and until the deaths of the crew of M/V Taylor, namely Captain Theophilus Ritch, Daniel Lewis aka Ole Dan, Martin Scott, and Martin Jervis, Chippy was always a special person to them.

In 1941 the third child Nel was born in Montego Bay, Jamaica as their father flatly refused for his wife to travel with their babies.

During Chippy’s tender years, she recalled that life was good.

Jamaica was beautiful and still is but humans have ruined it without any offense to anyone.

Chippy’s life in Montego Bay was wonderful, with a caring mother and father.

Chippy’s mother began being a Foster mom to several children. In a child’s adoring way, she thought they were all brothers and sisters, just a big happy family. However, Rex, one of those children was promised to Aunt Nina by his mother and became the son Aunt Nina never had. Chippie and the other sisters accepted and treated him like a brother, that’s exactly the way they lived.

In 1942 Chippy attended Barracks Elementary school in Montego Bay. Her father died in 1944, and in order to make ends meet her mother had to leave Montego Bay and relocated with her three young girls to Kingston.

In 1946 Chippy attended Calabar Elementary School.

At the tender age of 11 years, her mother began seeking a scholarship but she needed a copy of her birth certificate. When informed that the birth certificate had to come from Grand Cayman, Chippy started to question her mom as to where she was born. All along she thought she was born in Jamaica.

During her years in Elementary school, the students playfully provoked her because she didn’t have a distinctive accent it was not Jamaican or Caymanian - they called her Bajan.

Chippy finished Elementary School and got a scholarship to attend Camperdown High School. On completion of High School in 1955 she attended Jamaica School of Commerce. During the holidays Chippy always found part-time jobs to help her mother and siblings.

After graduating, she left Jamaica and traveled to Grand Cayman where she worked for Ashford Panton and Captain Charlie from 1956 – 1957.

She returned to Cayman Brac and shortly after, met and fell in love with a gentleman who became her husband for 48 years, Silas Surnam Bodden. They got married in Jamaica on April 26th, 1958 and lived there for 3 years. Chippy, her husband, and their 3 young children returned to Cayman Brac in 1961, they had 2 more children after returning and lived in their home until her untimely passing.

Upon her return from Jamaica, she started working at Brac Power and Light with Mr. J.C. Lazzari. She worked there from 1961 – 1980. She was a Notary Public from 1974 until 2022. She was a volunteer at Spot Bay, Primary School, it was natural for Chippy to be heavily involved with PTA meetings, numerous school initiatives and community sporting events.

She never once backed down from helping anyone if it was giving them advice, a ride, writing a reference letter, applying for work permits, notarizing document she never asked for payment, in return. Her beautiful writing and signature can be found on several thousand documents near and afar.

Chippy was a Special Constable with the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service for a number of years. She also attended the Courts when held in Cayman Brac and made notes of every case that was called. One can say that she was a Good Samaritan to everyone she came in contact with. She cared about the wellbeing of everyone. She was addicted to pen, pencil and paper she wrote in her notes that she started to document valuable information over 60 years ago.

Through her wide range of work experiences over the years she held a vast knowledge on the history and heritage of our islands.

Chippy left behind several large collections of items that meant the world to her.

She was a lover of motor cycles, as she owned and rode a ST90 for many years.

In 1981, she started working with Cayman Brac Shipping Company and shortly after on November 1st of that same year, she began working with Port Authority until her retirement in January 1993.

Chippy enjoyed working with her husband they did farming, raising chickens and ducks, rearing cattle, she didn't fish but was his driver to take his boat to and from the shore. She was his right hand always there to help.

Over the past few years Chippy's health started to deteriorate and was cared for by her family. She was admitted to Faith Hospital on 16 January where she remained until her passing on Tuesday 31st January 2023, her children, her brother and his wife was at her bedside.

Left to mourn her passing are, children Sharon Connolly, Michelle Martyr, Russell Bodden and Nicole Brown.
Brother Rex Hurlston and wife Vera
17 Grandchildren
36 Great Grandchildren
Daughter-in-law Janet Bodden
Sister-in-law Emily Lopez and family
Brothers-in-law Elwood and family, Dario and family, Woody and family, and Simon Kelly.
Nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends too numerous to mention.

“BY HER FAITH AND GOD’S GRACE WE KNOW HER SOUL IS RESTING IN PEACE”





Graveside Service

Opening Remarks	Pastor Rex Hurlston
Prayer	Pastor Maurice Chambers
Committal	Pastor Rex Hurlston
Hymns	Leaning on the everlasting Arms / How Great Thou Art
Benediction	Pastor Rex Hurlston

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

[Chorus]

 Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

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.

[Chorus]

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee
 How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

And when I think of 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 lead me home, what joy shall fill my heart
 Then I shall bow with humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.

Acknowledgement

A special thank you to the staff at Faith Hospital, KCCC, family, and friends for their visits and prayers.