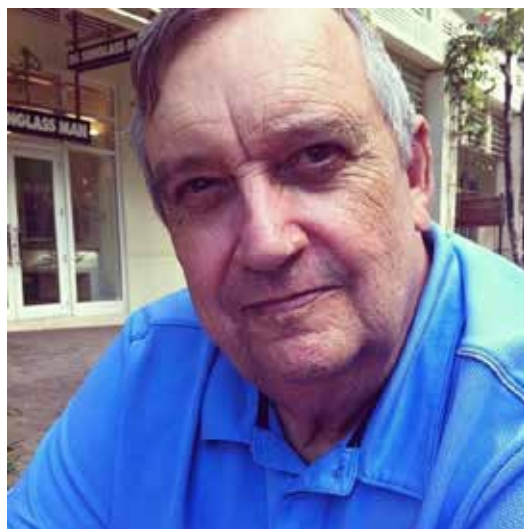


Celebration Service

FOR THE LIFE OF

SEARLE DEVLIN BODDEN, SR.

January 9, 1945 - July 3, 2023



Cayman Islands Seafarers Association Hall
Red Bay, Cayman Islands

Saturday July 29, 2023

Service at 3:00 pm

Officiating Minister

Pastor Winston Rose

Organist

Cathy Gomez

Interment at Prospect Cemetery

ORDER OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude/Slideshow

Opening Remarks and Prayer.....	Pastor Winston Rose
Scripture Reading: Psalm 107: 23-32.....	Mr. Mike Adam, JP
Song (Pre-recorded).....	<i>Peace In The Valley</i> , George Jones
Sermon.....	Pastor Winston Rose, MBE
Life Story.....	Sir Alden McLaughlin, KCMG, QC, MBE, JP, MP
Song.... <i>Until Then</i>	Ms. Ava Hamilton
Tribute from Siblings.....	Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts, OBE, JP
Tribute from Children.....	Mrs. Patricia Langfitt
Special Tribute from Son.....	Mr. Jason Bodden
Tribute from Grandchildren.....	Mr. Damien DaCosta
Seafarer's Tribute.....	Mr. Andrew Eden, MJF, Past President of the Seafarers Association
Closing Hymn... <i>It Is Well With My Soul</i>	Congregation
Prayer & Benediction.....	Pastor Winston Rose

PALLBEARERS

Mr. Damien DaCosta	Mr. George Lewis	Mr. Wilbur DaCosta
Mr. Jason Bodden	Mr. Robert D'Amico	Mr. Alan Patino
Mr. Searle Devlin Bodden, Jr.	Mr. Derry Arch, Jr.	Mr. John Arch

HONOURARY PALLBEARERS

Mr. Joseph (Junior) McLean	Mr. Davy Leverine Whittaker	Mr. Kearney Gomez, MBE, JP
Mr. Chet Gomez	Mr. Kris Gomez	Mr. Mark Lewis
Mr. Alexander Conolly	Mr. Charles Ebanks	Capt. Eugene Ebanks, JP
Mr. Nathan Ebanks, Jr.	Hon. Roy McTaggart, JP	Mr. Timmy Ross
Mr. Clifton (Cliff) Conolly	Mr. Wayne Bodden	Capt. Owen Farrington

Dr Hon W. McKeeva Bush JP (Hon) MSc MP

Hon. Premier Wayne Panton, JP

USHERS

Ms. Celita Zimmer
Mr. William (Billy) Bodden
Mr. Danny Gomez

GUEST BOOK ATTENDANT

Mrs. Donna Gomez

It Is Well With My Soul

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

*Refrain: It is well with my soul
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

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

*Refrain: 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, Oh my soul.

*Refrain: It is well with my soul
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

LIFE STORY OF SEARLE DEVLIN BODDEN, SR.

Searle Devlin Bodden, Sr was born in George Town, Grand Cayman on January 9, 1945. He was the first child of Daphne Delvia Bodden-Gomez. Searle was raised by his loving mother, who he called "Mother Dear" and his grandparents, Mr. Bunyan Bodden and Ms. Maggie Miller Bodden, whom he called "MaMa" and "PaPa".

Searle grew up in Crewe Road where the family home is still situated and spent his childhood days hanging out with his brothers and sisters. However, at his birth, his PaPa took him under his wings and treated him like his own son. Searle could do no wrong in the eyes of PaPa, and spent a considerable amount of time with him, taking him to his painting jobs and teaching him the usual tasks that young boys learn while growing up.

Searle would always recall joining his Papa for early morning fishing trips. These fishing expeditions were important as they fed both neighboring families and their own for that day, walking many miles both ways. Searle would later recall that his Papa would give away most of his morning catch to neighbors, and bring home only what was needed to feed the family. This was common amongst fisherman to ensure everyone had something to eat.

His mother, Daphne, fell in love with Mr. Sidney Gomez and they were united in marriage in October 1948. Mr. Sidney immediately took young sweet Searle as his own. Searle would shortly receive what would be one of his greatest gifts, his precious brothers and sisters. 1949 would bring his first sister Margaret, Kearney in 1950, Betty Jo in 1952, Ernie 1954, Celia in 1956, Thelda Kay in 1958, Barbara in 1960 and his youngest brother Chet in 1967. The family would sadly mourn the loss of their baby sister, Thelda Kay, as a toddler from a sudden illness, and later their dear brother Ernie. Searle would keep his precious brothers and sisters close to his heart his whole life.

Searle attended Triple C school and at the early age of 17, as most Caymanian men did, he went to sea. Inasmuch as his mother and grandmother were sad to see him leave, his PaPa was even more heartbroken.

In 1968, Searle was introduced by a friend to a beautiful young Caymanian lady - an 18 year old Mary Jane Ebanks, daughter of Nathan Ebanks, Sr and Verona Ebanks, also from Grand Cayman. Mr. Nathan, originally from Birch Tree Hill, had himself gone away to sea as a young man, and was then a senior Chief Navigator for the US Merchant Marine, stationed out of Florida at that time. The story goes that Mr. Nathan was away at sea when Searle proposed to Mary Jane. Searle radioed the ship Mr. Nathan was on to ask for Mary Jane's hand in marriage.

Nathan's response was "No. I don't know you, who ya for?" Whereupon Searle responded "I am Ms. Daphne's eldest son sir, Searle" and Mr. Nathan paused a long time, and said "You have my blessing. Please just wait until I return home to get married". The young couple would reside with Mr Nathan and Ms Bessie as they started their new family. This suited Searle just fine, as Ms Bessie made all of the home cooked Caribbean food that he had been used to from his Mother and Grandmother. Searle and Mary Jane spent many happy years with Mr. Nathan and Ms Bessie in Florida also spending time with Mary Jane's brother, Nathan Jr. and with Ms. Bessie's sisters and brother, in particular, her sister, Mary Patino, her husband Pat and their kids, Brenda, Alan, Patricia (TC) and Gina who were based in Port Arthur, Texas. The Caymanian families made many trips back and forth over the years to visit each other.

In 1969, Searle and Mary Jane were delighted to welcome their first born, a gorgeous baby daughter, Christina Elizabeth into this world, followed by Jason Eric a bouncing baby boy in 1972 and several years later, in 1981, another sweet baby girl, Searlina Devon.

After spending many years as a seaman, Searle went to work for Turbo Marine in Tampa in the marine refrigeration business.

Utilizing Searle's talents for building marine refrigeration systems, Searle and Mary Jane formed their own company in the late 1970s - TransCoastal Marine. Searle's work would take him jobs to St Augustine, Key West and Tallahassee.

Searle loved spending quality time with his family. He thoroughly enjoyed time at home, grilling out, watching football (he would be a life long fan of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers), playing his much loved calypso music and having friends over. Searle and Mary Jane travelled together visiting various parts of the US. Even living in Florida, the couple's friends tended to be other Caymanians or Caribbean families at that time also living abroad.

While Searle was away from Cayman, his Mother missed him immensely and made several trips to visit him together with his siblings. Those were memorable trips and he was happy to show them around Tampa. When Searle built his home in Tampa, he built a swimming pool in the shape of Grand Cayman.

Sadly, the couple divorced in 1984. Searle was offered a job in Roatan Honduras, where a majority of the boats that he had worked on in St Augustine had come from. It was there Searle would meet his second wife, a beautiful lady named Lizeth. Searle and Lizeth would marry and welcome two more sons another bouncing baby boy Dickson in 1985 and Searle's last child, Devlin in 1988.

Searle suffered a stroke in 2007 and as a result, he had to change his lifestyle and retire from the marine refrigeration work. This would be a welcome change as his time would now be filled with family vacations, trips back and forth between Cayman, the US and Roatan, extended time spent with his daughters Christina and Searlina, visits to see his son Jason and long visits with Lizeth and Devlin. He was especially proud of his son Dickson's service in the US military, advancing to a Master at Arms, 3rd Class.

Searle returned to Cayman permanently in 2013 to live with his daughter, Christina, and visited Roatan for extended periods sharing time with his beloved family and friends.

Searle had many friends both in Cayman and abroad. He is known for his love for keeping touch with his family and friends each and every day by WhatsApp (which he enjoyed). Those who knew him well would wake up to a "Good Morning", and before the day would end would receive a "Good Night" from Searle. His daughters would get an added "my sweet girl" or "my beautiful girl" added to their message.

On the evening of Sunday July 2nd Searle sent his usual "Good Night" to all family and friends and went to bed. Sadly, in the early hours of Monday morning, July 3rd, 2023, Searle passed away peacefully.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife Lizeth, his daughters Christina, Searlina, his sons Jason, Dickson and Devlin, his grandchildren George, Dominic, Jasmine and Zamara, his brothers Kearney and Chet, his sisters, Margaret, Betty Jo, Celia and Barbara, a host of much-loved nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, old friends, new friends and colleagues.

TRIBUTE FROM CHILDREN

In the weeks since his death, we have looked back at our time with our Dad as if the years were divided like chapters in a book. We have found this “book” to be one full of adventures, memories and – of course – loads and loads of love. Even in times of challenge, Daddy was a loving, active and involved father wherever he could be. For that, we are all so very grateful.

It seems that no matter the chapter in this book of fatherhood, the one constant with Dad was that he adored us, wanted a place in our lives, and valued his role as our father – being there to make us laugh or give us advice in times of need.

A Journey in Fatherhood

Searle and his beloved wife Mary Jane Bodden (nee Ebanks), welcomed their first baby in 1969 - a darling baby girl by the name of Christina Elizabeth - on October 21. These early years were characterized by Searle learning his role as a ‘girl dad’ and, for three years, he doted on his only child, always proud to show her off. He loved being a young dad. His relationship with Christina, in those early years, was perhaps characterized best by the phrase “Daddy’s Girl”. In later years, Christina took on the role of helping Dad re-establish his life in Cayman, where he lived with her, or near her for the last 2 decades of his life.

Memory from Christina:

Daddy would always tell me “You would always wait for me to get home from work. There you were, one little brown girl, sitting on the front door stoop every evening, a teddy bear in one hand, waiting for me. I just couldn’t shake you, my little shadow.” Love you always Daddy and I will see you again.

Love, Tina

Three years later, Searle’s wish for a baby boy came true. In September 1972, he and Mary Jane welcomed Jason Eric Bodden. As a second-time dad and more established in married life, Searle and Mary Jane devoted themselves to creating a happy home for their two children, complete with memorable Christmases (Dad’s favorite time of year), trips to Disney World, and midnight trips to Krispy Kreme with his young family. More than anything, Searle wanted to give his kids a life full of fun and memories. To this day, photos are the precious evidence of a happy early life for Searle as a dad.

Memory from Jason:

When we were kids Dad was gone a lot for work. His work took him to places like St Augustine, Tallahassee even Fort Lauderdale for work. The drives were long and were through the night.

He worked hard.

He was going on an easy job to Saint Augustine in 1978. He said it wouldn’t be more than a few hours. He and our Mom decided since he had been away so much, that Christina and I could come along.

The start of the drive was in the afternoon and Dad was quiet at first while Mom played “I Spy” and other games with us but then evening came and Dad’s sense of humor kicked in. He had us laughing for an hour straight. Christina fell asleep first and Mom was nuzzled under Dad’s arm listening to a mellow station playing old love songs. That turned out to be a wonderful memory, but it put a bored 6 year old me to sleep, which I think was part of the plan.

I woke up again and it was still dark and Dad was still driving and Mom was asleep. “Are we there yet?” (The constant of every family trip) and Dad chuckled “boy, your sleep is really screwed up. Can you go back to sleep?” I couldn’t, so I spent an hour talking to Dad until Christina woke up and then it was me Christina and Dad just talking and laughing at Dad’s offbeat humor.

We got to St Augustine in the morning, and after Dad was done with his job he picked us up and showed us

around. It made him smile as he had been there many times for work and knew the layout. Dad could make everything from Disney World to waiting in a doctor's office more fun.

I am grateful for my Dad. Our faith is strong so I know this isn't "goodbye", it is "see you later" and when we get there, he will probably want to show us around all over again.

We love you Dad - Jason

Nine years later, in 1981, the final addition to this chapter of Searle's life was made complete by the arrival of yet another baby girl: Searlina Devlin Bodden. It is often joked that Searle and Mary Jane wanted this baby's gender to be a surprise, but Searle was banking on a boy. When the baby arrived and was confirmed as a little girl, Searle was indeed surprised. He had prematurely filled out the birth certificate with his name intended as a junior: Searle Devlin. So, he promptly scratched out the "e" and replaced it with "ina" at the end of his name. Searle was always a quick thinker on his feet!

Memory from Searlina:

I look back on my time with my Dad in terms of journeys. I remember clearly traveling to Roatan to see my Dad in 2001. His sense of humor, the way we looked so much alike. My Dad was the love of my life.

Later, there were his journeys home to Cayman, where he would spend extended amounts of time with us. It was on those trips that we had our first Sunday drives together, a tradition we would carry on together to as recently as November 2022. My Dad loved a leisurely Sunday drive, with plenty of time for stopping to visit friends and - of course - a plate of food from Kurt's Korner.

I will never forget my Dad walking me down the aisle during that trip in November. His bond with my husband Robbie was cemented the first night they met just 8 months prior. After Robbie asked for my hand, my Dad promptly packed him into a rental car the following morning, where he was proud to help select and purchase my engagement ring. This ring is now not just a symbol of my marriage, but also of my Dad's love and eagerness to be involved in the milestone moments of our lives.

And while my WhatsApp is no longer filled with "good morning angel" greetings and "goodnight darling" messages at night, I know Dad is in Heaven watching over us closer than ever.

Love, Your Little Darlin' Sese

In 1984, Searle relocated to Roatan, Honduras, but his journey as a father was by no means over. He welcomed Dickson Bodden in July 1985 with his lovely wife Lizeth. Dickson would go on to enlist in the US Military, something Searle was incredibly proud of after his own life as an active seaman.

In 1988, Searle and his wife Lizeth welcomed their last child, Searle Devlin Bodden, Jr. Searle finally got the "e" at the end that he had wanted in a last baby boy. Devlin, as he is called, had an extremely close relationship with Searle and spent countless hours of quality time with Dad in Roatan, forming a life-long bond. As the youngest, Devlin counts his Dad as the most formative influence in his life.

Memory from Devlin:

I want to start by saying Dad you are my hero.

I don't really have a favorite memory. Every moment I spent with you was the best time I ever had in my life, watching movies with you - either John Wayne, (who was his favorite actor), Clint Eastwood, or the 007 films, to mention a few.

It was always a pleasure and an honor to spend those times next to you; seeing how passionate you were to learn new ideas. You were so smart, funny, and knowledgeable but also emotional in a good way - you had the heart of an Angel.

Going for a drive with my father was so satisfying. I loved listening to him talk and express himself about his past. Those stories are what made me truly appreciate this man. He once told me "Everything you do in life, do it the best you can".

*Daddy, thank you for all the advice you gave me. I am proud and honored that you are my father. I'm going to carry you in my mind and in my heart for all eternity. They say "when someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure." Well daddy you are my treasure, and your memory will live on forever. It's never goodbye, it's see you later.
I love you.*

Dearest Dad - Although you have now taken your final journey to the great beyond, we know that you will always be with us on our journeys in the future, as our eternal safekeeper and navigator. And while nothing can replace your love, your advice or that incredible laugh, we will hold tight to these memories until we see you on the other side. This quiet, God-loving side of you is perhaps captured best in a quote you wrote in a Bible you gifted to Devlin, which said on the first page:

*"Read When In Doubt, Sad or Undecided." The words of a great man.
We love you, Daddy. Christina, Jason, Searlina, Dickson + Devlin*

TRIBUTE FROM GRANDCHILDREN

A special joy in Searle's life was becoming a Grandfather which he did in 1997 with the birth of first grandson George David, followed by 2007 with Jasmine Elizabeth and Nathan Dominic, and finally most recently by Zamara Lynn in 2022.

Jasmine's Memory: "When my Granddad slipped me money under the table, I found that hilarious and when I tried to give it back he never let me. And when he gave me candy when I was younger, the sweet caramel kind. I love you my sweet Granddad. Thank you for all your stories and your hugs"

Dominic's Memory: "Me and My Granddad had a talking club; we lived by a dock and would sit out on the dock and talk about school and my friends and stuff for hours. My Granddad always understood and always made time for me and our club. He told the best stories of growing up in Cayman and would make me laugh. He would tell me how he went fishing with his grandfather and how they would go at 3 o'clock in the morning and then he still had to go to school after that. I love you and miss you always Grandad until I see you again."

George's Memory: "Granddad loved to tell stories about travelling and being at sea. He always seemed to me to have travelled so much of the world. It seemed like the world must have been smaller then, to be able to cross so much of it, meet so many people and have so many experiences in his time away. I have also travelled but relied so much on internet and still being connected when doing so. I think it is so brave for men like Granddad to have left their family home, left all they knew and went away into what was really the Unknown. To many people, the Unknown is the scariest thing they will ever face. That is what young men from Cayman faced when they left home and went to sea. I love you Granddad, thank you for your bravery and your courage - thank you for your stories and for being there for me."

We love you, Granddad. - George, Dominic, Jasmine and Zamara

TRIBUTE FROM SIBLINGS

Growing up in Crewe Road when the Islands were just emerging from the era of “The Islands Time Forgot” we were a close knit family. What we lacked in material things was made up with the love we shared for each other. The 3 eldest of the 8 siblings shared the most of our childhood with Searle as he left home at an early age to the call of the sea. Searle loved the sea and sailed to many places in the world. We lost touch with him during this period in our lives but, like our dear mother of precious memory, we always kept him in our prayers.

As a boy Searle was the most carefree of us all and saw himself as the disciplinarian of us siblings along with other kids who came over to visit, including our next door neighbour, Billy Watler, who just recently passed away.

In those early days of our childhood there wasn't much in the way of entertainment, but we always seemed to find things to keep us occupied, if it even entailed making up smoke pans and devising other ways to ward off the hordes of mosquitoes that plagued everyone in the Islands. At times we also chased after the fogging truck - so much for the health hazard of DDT.

Searle would also spend a lot of his time at Owen Roberts Airport which was across the road from the family home. He was a special brother and we loved him dearly. When we finally reestablished ties with him, it was as if he had never left. In the latter years of his life, he enjoyed visiting with all of us and when he learned to text we could always look out for his daily messages wishing us “Good morning” and “Good night”. We will miss him and his greetings more and more as each day passes.

At the old family residence, the family would gather to socialize on several occasions during the year, and Searle would make every effort to attend especially when our Mom was alive.

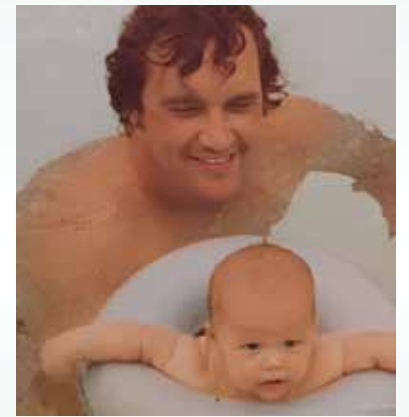
We all know that life is a one way journey and we have to face the reality of one day making that final journey ourselves to the great beyond. It saddens us to know that our dear brother has left us, but being the close knit family that we are, we can all share in the precious memories that remain – some happy and others sad. However there remains a bond that not even death can sever.

As we said before, Searle loved the sea and it is fitting to end this tribute with the words of a fitting poem -

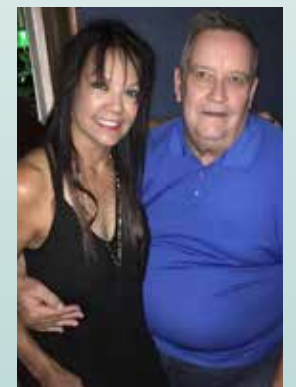
*I must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by.
May the soul of our dear departed brother rest in eternal peace.*

We will always remember you Big Brother.



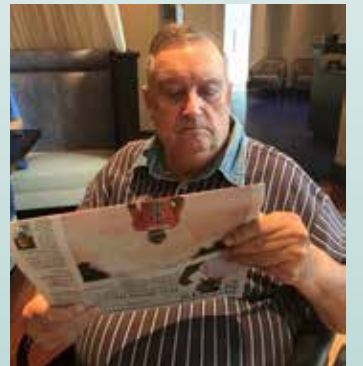












Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear
May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to
Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright unclouded
There will be no need for prayer
Rapture, praise and endless worship
Will be our sweet portion there.

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 Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

And when I think, that 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.

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

God Be With You Until We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
may the Shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Chorus

*Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet.*

*Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.*

God be with you till we meet again;
unseen wings, protecting, hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

God be with you till we meet again;
keep love's banner floating o'er you,
smite death's threat'ning wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR INTERMENT

Opening Remarks and Prayer.....	Pastor Winston Rose, MBE
Committal.....	Pastor Winston Rose, MBE
Song	<i>Amazing Grace</i>
Song.....	<i>How Great Thou Art</i>
Song.....	<i>God Be With You Till We Meet Again</i>
Song.....	<i>What a Friend We Have in Jesus</i>
Benediction.....	Pastor Winston Rose, MBE



SPECIAL THANKS

The Family of the late Searle Bodden wish to express their sincere and heartfelt thanks to their many relatives and friends whose support and sympathy has meant so much during this difficult time.

Special thanks to Ms. Ava Hamilton for the special care she took of our Dad and for Helix Healthcare and Cayman Clinic for their excellent medical services.

Special thanks to Ms. Keena Haylock and Liseth DaCosta for their invaluable assistance to Searle and his family.

Special thanks to Kristy Long Photography, Cayman Islands for the special photographs of Searle and his family.

Special thanks to Bodden Funeral Home and their staff.

Special thank you to Cayman Islands Seafarers Association.

THANKS TO SEARLE'S LOYAL AND LOVING CAREGIVERS

Ms. Ava Hamilton, Ms. Florence Jones, Ms. Beverly Anderson, Ms. Agnes Tan,
Ms. Shela Amoroso and Ms. Pat Reynolds