

Service of Thanksgiving  
For the Life of



*Emiline Oleta Whittaker*

Sunrise June 28, 1949 – Sunset September 13, 2023

Church of God (Universal)

Sunday, 24th September 2023

Viewing: 2:30 pm

Service: 3:00 pm

Officiating Minister:

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

Bro. Duane Jeffries

Bro. Ray Hydes

Interment at the Old Man Bay Cemetery (North Side)

## Order of Service

Opening Remarks .....	Pastor James Arch Cert. Hon., JP (Ret.)
Prayer .....	Sis. Karen Christian
Song "The Anchor Holds" .....	The Universal Gospel Singers
Song "Treasures Unseen" .....	Trio
Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 13 .....	Sis. Kathy McLaughlin
Favorite Hymn "His Yoke is Easy" .....	Congregation
Tributes:	
From Husband .....	Mr. Kenrick Webster
From Children .....	Mrs. Karen Ebanks
Song "God On The Mountain" by Son .....	Mr. Marty Whittaker
From Grandchild & youngest Niece "Amazing Grace" ...	Lian Ebanks & Janisha Byrd
From Brother and family .....	Mrs. Randa Bartice
From God Children .....	Mrs. Dina Kandler Fedrick
From Best Friend, Arlene Williams .....	Mrs. Jolene Miller
Song from Caregiver "Too many Miles Behind Me" .....	Mrs. Valerie Myrie
From the Church .....	Sis. Miriam Cranston
From Karen Hydes, Eddie Arch & Rhonda Edie .....	Sis. Monique Jeffries
Song "I'd Rather Have Jesus" .....	Bro. Isaac Edie
Life Story .....	Bro. Ray Hydes
Song "I've Found the Better Way" .....	Jamaican Brethren
Song "Hallelujah Square" .....	Bro. Glarman "Bobo" Grant
Sermonette .....	Pastor James Arch Cert. Hon., JP (Ret.)
Closing Hymn "The Sun's Coming Up" .....	Congregation
Benediction .....	Bro. Duane Jeffries

### Order of Recession:

Clergy, Platform, Casket & Pallbearers, Immediate Family & Congregation

### Pallbearers

Mr. Marty Whittaker  
Mr. John Byrd  
Mr. Randy Whittaker

Mr. Darvy Whittaker  
Mr. Derron Watson  
Mr. Lewey Ebanks

### Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Fred Whittaker  
Bro. Joseph Byrd

Bro. Irving Williams  
Bro. Sydney Shaw

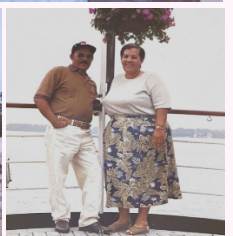
Bro. Isaac Edie  
Bro. Leroy McKayle

### Ushers

Bro. Carlton West  
Bro O'Leary Cranston

### Guest Book Attendants

Sis. Daisy Byrd  
Ms. Stephanie McLean



## Life Story

Emiline Oleta Whittaker was born to Caffield Dilbert and Clarissa Conolly on 28 June 1949 in Creek, Cayman Brac. At the age of three her mother moved to Grand Cayman and Oleta grew up on Walker's Road. She attended the All Age School in George Town then later moved to Triple C School.

When Oleta was nine years old, her mother married John Byrd Snr., who took Oleta like his own daughter and at age 14 her baby brother, John Jr., was born.

One day, Oleta was babysitting for a lady who lived nearby and a courtship began with Barton Whittaker, a seaman from North Side. Soon her mother learned of this courtship and the babysitting job was a thing of the past. This meant Oleta's sister, Ingrid, would become the messenger, as notes went between Barton and Oleta.

Before long Barton gained permission and the two were married on 29 April 1964. To this union five children were born: Lavonne, Mitzie, Marilyn, Marty and Barton, who were the most important part of her life. She was also the proud grandmother of Lian Oleta Vonique Ebanks. Oleta was involved in the church from her childhood and was saved and baptized at a young age. Once married she eventually convinced her husband to attend a convention where he was also saved and baptized.

Oleta worked at Truth for Youth School as an elementary teacher for most of her adult life. She taught her children which was a joy she often spoke of. During her long tenure she was instrumental in creating an arts and crafts class, and taught general subjects such as English, Math, Social Studies and Science. Many years later she moved to working in the cafeteria as well as the office.

Oleta also worked at Triple C School's cafeteria for a few years and soon returned to Truth for Youth School. As an industrious mother she also took part-time work with Kirk Supermarket as well as Fosters Food Fair.

Throughout the years as a Christian she was involved in many areas of the church. She headed up numerous Young People's Services at the church where she wrote and directed programs, skits and plays.

Oleta was also the founding member of the church group "The Universal Singers". She sang on the choir, led singing, sang for many funerals and also visited the elderly, where her group would sing for them. She was also a Sunday School Teacher and taught different level classes as and when the church needed her to.

As a singer, the last song Oleta was practicing was the "Goodness of God". The last song she wrote out to practice was "The Anchor Holds". All of her favorite songs have been sung today in honor of the life she lived as a Christian singer.

She was privileged to retire early and loved taking care of her granddaughter after school each day. Her youngest niece Janisha and granddaughter Lian stayed with her each Summer where the children enjoyed fun activities. Her children know her to be an excellent cook, seamstress and strong woman who assisted her children in any way they needed.

She enjoyed travelling for church conventions to Jamaica, Louisiana, Honduras and Hagerstown, Maryland. Family trips took her to Cuba, several cities in Florida, and two particular trips that made her extremely proud was when she travelled to Miami for Lavonne's graduation from Barry University and years later to Tampa for Marilyn's graduation from the University of Tampa. She also enjoyed her visit to Niagara Falls (Canada) and Anniversary cruises with her husband.

Today we say goodbye to a woman who in her own unique way has left lasting impressions on those she came in contact with. She will forever be loved, forever be missed and the sound of her melodious voice will be heard in our hearts for years to come.

Left to mourn her passing are her husband Barton Whittaker, children Lavonne Ebanks, Marilyn Whittaker and Marty Whittaker, daughter-in-law Claribel Whittaker, one grandchild, Lian Ebanks, brother John Byrd Jr., sister-in-law Cynthia Byrd, and youngest niece Janisha Byrd plus a host of other nieces, nephews, cousins, church family and friends.

Preceding her in death were her two children, Mitzie and Barton, her father Caffield Dilbert, her mother Clarissa Byrd, stepfather John Byrd Snr., sister Ingrid Whittaker and three brothers Elford Dilbert, Windell Dilbert and Kingsley Dilbert.

She has done what she could. This world is a better place because of her life.

### **Love Lives On**

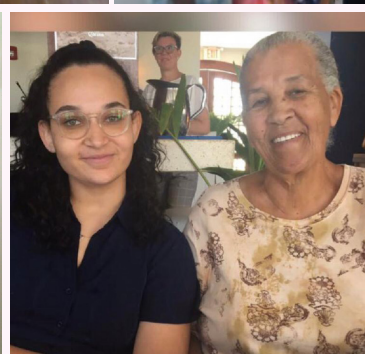
*Those we love remain with us  
for love itself lives on,  
and cherished memories never fade  
because a loved one's gone.*

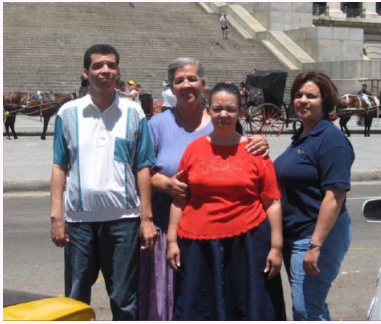
*Those we love can never  
be more than a thought apart,  
far as long as there is memory,  
they will live on in the heart.*

**May her soul rest in eternal peace.**

*Mom...  
Your life was a blessing  
your memory a treasure...  
You are loved beyond words  
and missed beyond  
measure...*







Graveside Service

Prayer ..... Pastor James R. Arch
Floral Tributes
Committal ..... Pastor James R. Arch
Hymns:

Farther Along
Safe in the Arms of Jesus
It is well with my Soul
What a Friend we have in Jesus

Benediction ..... Pastor James R. Arch

Safe In The Arms of Jesus

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast;
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.
Hark! 'tis the voice of angels
Borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory,
Over the jasper sea.

Refrain:

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast;
There by His love o'ershaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe from corroding care,
Safe from the world's temptations;
Sin cannot harm me there.
Free from the blight of sorrow,
Free from my doubts and fears;
Only a few more trials,
Only a few more tears!

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.

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.

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live: If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life; Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait, the sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh trump of the angel! Oh voice of the Lord! Blessed hope, blessed rest 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.

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

Farther Along

Jesus, my heart's dear Refuge,
Jesus has died for me;
Firm on the Rock of Ages
Ever my trust shall be.
Here let me wait with patience,
Wait till the night is o'er;
Wait till I see the morning
Break on the golden shore.

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.

Tempted and tried, we're oft made to wonder
Why it should be thus all the day long,
While there are others living about us,
Never molested, though in the wrong.

Refrain: Farther along we'll know all about it,
Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up my brother, live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.

When death has come and taken our loved ones,
It leaves our home so lonely and drear,
Then do we wonder why others prosper
Living so wicked year after year.

Faithful til death, said our loving Master
A few more days to labor and wait,
Toils of the road will then seem as nothing
As we sweep through the beautiful gate.

When we see Jesus, coming in glory,
When He comes from His home in the sky,
Then we shall meet Him in that bright mansion,
We'll understand it all by and by.

Acknowledgement

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all family and friends for your love and support during our time of grief.

Special thanks to Dr. Bonadie, Dr. Jehangir and the team of Doctors, Nurses and Staff of the George Town Hospital/HSA for the care given.

Much appreciation to Health City and their team for the special care given over the years. Our deepest appreciation to Caregivers, Mrs. Valerie and Ms. Delrose. Also to Ms. Lima for her care over many years.

Special thanks and gratitude to Karen Hydes, Daisy Byrd and Denissa for your immeasurable assistance in putting this service together.

Sincere gratitude to the Management and Staff of Bodden Funeral Service.