

A CELEBRATION SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF OUR MOTHER

Sheila Marie Ebanks

February 22nd, 1943 - 8th December 2023



Wesleyan Holiness Church, North West Road, West Bay, Grand Cayman

Saturday, December 16th, 2023

Service: 3pm

Officiating Minister: Pastor Phil Eckstein

Pianist:

Mrs. Reina Jefferson

Song Leader:

Mrs. Jenny Seymour

Interment to follow at North West Point Cemetery, West Bay

Order of Service

Opening Remarks & Words of Comfort	Pastor Phil Eckstein
Opening Prayer	Pastor Mitch Extcain
Hymn - What a Day That Will Be	Congregation - (Jenny Seymour)
Scripture Reading - Ephesians 6: 1-3/ Proverbs 31: 26-27	Pastor Conway King
Tribute from Children	Michelle Bodden
Tribute from Grandson	Michelle Bodden
Song - Goodbye's The Saddest Word.....	Pre Recorded
Tribute from (Niece) Wendy.....	Wendy Parchment
Tribute from Friend and Previous Employer.....	Handel Whittaker
Sheila's Life Story	Dr Hon W. McKeeva Bush, JP, (HON) MSc MP
Sermon	Pastor Phil Eckstein
Prayer for the Family	Pastor Conway King
Acknowledgements.....	Pastor Mitch Extcain
Benediction	Pastor Mitch Extcain

Pallbearers

Henry Ebanks
Mr. Rodney Rivers
Mr. Abijah Rivers

Paul Rivers
Christopher Smith
Waldo Parchment Jr.

Honorary Pallbearers

Christopher C. Bodden
Arthur Gerald Bodden
Ronaldo McLaughlin
Rexford McLaughlin
Ardin Rivers
Gregory Rivers
Robbie Rivers
John Todd Rivers
Obed Rivers
Seth Rivers
Roy Huta Ebanks

Robbie Rivers Jr.
Branden Rivers
Hopeton McCrae
Denzel Connor
Jordan Rivers
Ernie Ebanks
William Crowell Bush
Barry Martinez
Rolston Anglin
Waldo Parchment Sr
John Jefferson Jr

Handel Whittaker
Ethan Rivers
David Scott
Colbert Miller
David Jerrold Ebanks
Clinton Berkley Ebanks
James P. Ebanks
James Orrin Ebanks
Clemmens Ebanks
McKenzie Robinson

Dr.Hon W.Mckeeva Bush, JP, (Hon) MSc, MP

Ushers

Mr. Shane Ebanks
Mr. McTare Ebanks
Mr. Malachi Wilson

Guest Book Attendants

Mrs. Tracey Jefferson
Mrs. Pixie Powery
Ms. Tara Ayres

Life Story of Sheila Marie Ebanks

Sheila was the daughter of Sarah Eursalee Rivers and James Orrin Ebanks born in NW Point, West Bay on February 22nd, 1943.

She attended Ms. Issy Powell School. She started to work at a very young age and her first job for some time was working as a housekeeper with Alley & Irene Ebanks. During this time with them Mrs. Irene thought her how to cook, which she truly enjoyed. She also worked as a housekeeper for Mr. & Mrs. Benson O. Ebanks.

Sheila had lots of ambition and was eagerly always wanted work to do. She also took up Employment with Michael & Joan Austin in caring for their 2 sons, Timothy and Simon Austin, whom also resided in West Bay.

She enjoyed very much working in homes but her passion and calling was in the field of cooking. She then found employment in the hotel industry and worked at the Galleon Beach Hotel for many years. She also found employment at the DJ's cafe and she worked there for many years before she retired. During her retirement, she enjoyed taking care of her home and family and was now able to travel with her children. She travelled to many places including Canada, Florida, Jamaica and Cayman Brac just to name a few.

She was a very hardworking, reliable, trustworthy individual and whom was much respected and loved by all.

In 2006, Sheila was diagnosed with dementia for some years which then progressed into Alzheimer's and for a period of 17 years, she fought this disease.

Over the years of having Alzheimer's she fought it very well with her doctor's instructions followed by taking her medication. Alzheimer is a disease that there is no cure for it, however with proper medication and care this helps stop the disease from progressing so aggressive and fast. Sheila was very mobile until around 2014 when her mobility started to decline and having to use a wheelchair. In May 2022 her ability to eat on her own was taken from her and she had to have a NG feeding tube, during this time she spent 1 month in the hospital and her health started to decline further.

Sheila Marie Ebanks is preceded in death by her mother Eursalee, son Charles, Sister Barbara And brother Edlin. She leaves to mourn in her passing, is her Daughters - Jackie & Debbie and her 2 Sons Chris & Gerald, Her Grandson Ronaldo, Sisters - Dorothy, Ameliah, Josephine, Isylie, and Donna, Brothers - Clemmens, Clinton, James P, and her Father - James Orrin. A host of Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, other relatives and friends.

MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE AND HER LIGHT CONTINUE TO SHINE UPON US.

TRIBUTE TO OUR MAMA

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.

What is a Mom?

A Mom is always by your side; with a kind word, a hug, a warm embrace and always with shoulders to cry on. It doesn't matter if times are good or bad; a mom is always there.

A Mom is sweet, adorable, humble, patient, loving, kind woman while living a life of service by giving and caring for others. In our case this service also extended to her own Mother and Aunt as she cared for them in her home until they passed away.

Our tribute to our Mama is beautifully summed up in basically 3 words - **"STAND BY ME"** and we know this would have been her request to us - **"STAND BY ME"** which we fulfilled this right up until her passing. We were never ashamed to take Mama shopping, to visit her friends or wherever she wanted to go. We held onto her hand and lead her like she was our child. This is the love, care, and attention she received.

The saddest and hardest thing for us to do is writing this tribute with tears streaming down our faces.

On Friday December 8th, 2023 at 9:30am when our sister got the call from Dr. Price from the HSA saying that our Mama had just passed away there are not enough words to express how we felt or what we had to do. We were lost, confused, disoriented, and more until reality kicked in. We comforted ourselves with a pat on our shoulder and said well-done thy good and faithful servant.

We gave our mama the very best care and more and most importantly we did what she would of wanted us to do, and that was **"STAND BY ME"**, Never leave me or forsake me.

We were so blessed to have her as our Mama because she never spared the rod to spoil the child, when we needed it, we got it. She loved us so much this was her way to discipline us and protect us from harm and danger. We appreciated her so much for doing this because we grew up to be disciplined children. Our Mama taught us to have good manners, to be very humble, to be very respectful, have good morals, to be self-confident, to be very independent, to be loving, to be kind and much more. We are a replica of our Mama because this was the life she lived. Everyone loved and respected her. Our Mama made everyone who entered her home feel welcomed and made them feel like her home was there home as well.

The protocol for us to follow when our Mama was admitted to HSA was to have her caregivers be there with her for a period of time 9am - 7pm daily. This was appreciated by the nurses because of them being so busy and the help was always needed.

We write this to get across the plan and how good our God is. On Thursday night, December 7th, the Lord spoke to Jackie and said to call to advise the caregiver that she had requested for her shift to be changed for Friday 8th December to 10am - 8pm. Jackie obeyed his command and did just that. The caregiver would have arrived before her allotted time, but because of our Mama's wish to spare anyone the pain of witnessing her passing she passed away peacefully just before 9am. It was her plan this way because our Mama only wanted the medical team to be with her and not wanting her children, friends, family members, or the caregiver to see her slip into eternity or for the caregiver to have to live knowing she passed away during her shift. God is so good.

We visited mama every day and on Thursday night (7 Dec) Jackie combed her hair so nicely and the nurse commented how beautiful it was. That night, she was so bright and alert. With her Beautiful and gorgeous hazel brown eyes were just sparkling. We never dreamt that this was going to be her last.

Mama we will miss visiting you every day, washing your hair, combing your hair, feeding you, changing you, clipping your nails, and just pampering you. Mama we did not do half of what you did for us but we did all we could and what was right and in doing what we did.

We were honored and blessed to have her as our Mama for the 80 years that she was with us. Mama, last but not least, thank you for giving us what children are seeking for which is free and priceless - love, love, love and more time spent with them. Mama you made it work knowing you had to work two jobs and be a Mother and Father to your children, you did what you had to do. Mama you raised us up in living with what we really needed and not what we wanted. Mama these are the values that Jackie has passed down to her son and praying that he will do the same for his children.

Mama gave her life prior to her baptismal to God and on 11th August 2015 was baptized by Sis. Wallick and Sis. Dickerson in the comfort of her own home where she lived and was cared for.

Mama fought her fight won her race, hallelujah, praise be to God!

It takes a village to raise a child

It takes a village to comfort the family

It take a village to do our part

It now takes a village for us to rebuild and continue this village for our next generation.

Thank you village for your presence, your prayers and your love shown to us during this most difficult time.

Mama was that village.

There is not enough paper or enough ink for us to continue to write about our mama, but we wanted to give a glimpse of her and who she was.

May her soul rest in peace and her light continue to light up the world with her beautiful smile and glowing demeanor.

Your loving and kind children - Debbie, Jackie, Chris & Gerald.

Tribute to my daughter

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
Don't think Dear Sheila as gone away
Her journey has just begun,
Life holds so many pieces.
And this earth is only one.
Just think of her as resting
From the sorrows and the tears.
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years.
Think how she must be wishing.
That we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
truly passes away.
I think of her as living
In the hearts of those she touched
For nothing loved is ever lost
And she was loved so much.
Rest in Peace, my dear daughter.
From your Father Orrie

Tribute to Aunt Sheila

Poem of Life
Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
to sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
but never meant to stay...
Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.
For some, the journey is quicker,
For some the journey is slow,
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord.
Sleep in peace Aunt Sheila.

From your Nieces and Nephews

A Tribute to our sister

If Roses Grow in Heaven

If roses grow in Heaven Lord
Please pick a bunch for me.
Place them in my sister's arms and
Tell her that I love and miss her and
when she
turns to smile, place a kiss upon her
cheek and hold
her for a while.
Because remembering her is easy, I do
it every day.
But there is an ache within my heart
that will never go away.

Your broken hearted sisters,
Josiphine, Ameliah, Isylie & Donna

Tribute to our Sister

In My Mine
When will the emptiness stop echoing? When will the sorrow cease?
We cannot answer that, but we know that we will always carry the
memories of you with us.
The memories of your knowledge and success as a wonderful sister, mother & person.
You gave us pride and strength in how you pressed on in life, the memories of our conversations warm our hearts.
We know you cannot hear what we are saying but we were truly privileged to have you as a big Sister and we are so thankful for the
time we had with you.
Rest in Peace until we meet again Big Sis.
From your Brothers,
Clemmens, Clinton & James P.

A Tribute to My Sister

The sister whom was like a mother to me. She taught me how to cook and clean and
these were my first lessons of becoming a young lady and after all these years
I still cannot make a macaroni pudding or a light flour cake like she could.
I was also fortunate to go fishing with her to catch squabs of course not every time
we were lucky and of course we would not starve because she could always make
egg and sugar to eat with bread. Life was hard and so was she. All done through love
and affection for a little sister.
Today God has you in his keeping, and I have you in my Heart.
Dorothy Lamour Parchment

A Tribute to Grammy

The love of a grandma is unique. God must have given grandmothers to us to liven up our lives, to make our lives more complete,
and to make us well rounded and better human beings. Being her only grandchild, she played a big part in my childhood. I can re-
member so many times when the school bus would drop me off at her home after school, Grammy would be waiting at the front gate
with a smile on her face. Growing up, she taught me a lot about love and the meaning of family. Grammy was a very strong woman,
and she always got her way. Maybe that's one quality I got from her. I will miss her, but her spirit, love, strength, and wisdom lives on
in each of us and the lives that she touched. Let's be thankful that we were all blessed to know a special lady like Grammy. Thank you
for your sacrifices, your care and concern, your love, and everything you have done for me. I am forever grateful and thankful to call
you Grammy.

Love Naldo

A TRIBUTE TO AUNT SHEILA

By Wendy Parchment

Growing up in Northwest Point Road, was one of the best memories of my childhood. It was one of simplicity and loving families, extended families, and great neighbors.

My aunt Sheila, was the matriarch of Eursalee's children as our uncle Edlin preceded her in his passing. She was assertive, fearless, ambitious, caring, and warm-hearted, and I'd hasten to say, she was no one's fool.

Mama would tell me all the great events of growing up with Aunt Sheila, Uncle Edlin, Aunt Barbara, Uncle Howard, and her Aunt, Isabella. I didn't need to read storybooks, there were so many remarkable memories she shared.

As a student of Triple C School, I would stop at Galleon Beach where she cooked and had a cheerful disposition with customers and staff. Caymanians in the Hospitality service like Aunt Sheila, are the reason many of our tourists and visitors returned to the islands and made Cayman their home whether in the winter season or as long-term residents.

Auntie, there's so much I could go on to say, and I know, those attending the service today would be delighted to hear, I can promise that whenever I get the opportunity I will.

I remember frantically calling her on the phone because my daughter rolled off the bed and onto the floor. She said, "Coo Coo, place her head under the faucet run the water, and gently rub your hand over her head in a circular motion." It wasn't long before I could hear footsteps coming up the stairs, then, a familiar voice asking "why she is, coo coo, why she is?" I then carried Whitney to her and she said, "Look ya" as she placed both of her hands on her kimba, "While she's sleeping, you get up, sweep and mop, then spread a lodging on the floor, she can't get further than that." I stood there thinking, why didn't I think of that? Then there were times when she'd check on me and bring a hearty pot of beef soup while I was on maternity leave. After returning to work, I would often stop by her home to see what she had cooked. I could smell the aroma of her stew chicken, and light flour dumplings which I would call "clouds" because they were so soft. I can hear her say, "ok ok come, come now, get ya plate" I would be laughing and her smile would meet mine, then to top it off, if I was lucky, I would get a nice piece of her scrumptious macaroni pudding.

In September 2015, while working on the Sister Island of Cayman Brac, I participated in the Alzheimer's 5K Walk in her honor.

Debbie and Jackie, you are both shining examples of how children should endeavor to maintain the welfare of their parents. One could never say that there was anyone under the aid of caregivers in Aunt Sheila's home. She was given the best home care under the vigilant eyes of her daughters. They were very particular, always, giving strict instructions for compliance. They ran her home like a boot camp. Aunt Sheila never needed nor wanted anything, nothing was too good for her. Her medical was always on time, and all affairs were in order. It's also important to say "Thank you" to her caregivers who did an exemplary job in ensuring that she was always, presentable.

Aunt Sheila, my memory of you surpasses all things, your laughter healed all wounds, and your resilience overcame all challenges. Your legacy will be remembered through your children, Grandson Reynaldo, and all your nieces and nephews.

Sleep well it's your time of rest until our Savior and Lord returns again.

Love your nieces, nephews, and our families.

A Tribute to Ms. Sheila

This is not a goodbye, Ms. Sheila.

Thank you for giving me a chance to care for you and love you.

Our memories and my experiences handling you helped me to be a better caregiver. You may now rest in peace with our greatest doctor and he is our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mary Grace (Caregiver)

A Tribute to Ms. Sheila

She may be gone but not forgotten and I take comfort in knowing that those we love still live on in our memories and our hearts. I will cherish this forever.

Suzette (Caregiver)

A Tribute to Ms. Sheila

Death takes the Body.

God takes the Soul.

Our mind holds the Memories.

Our heart keeps the Love.

Sheila I loved and cared for you like you were my very own mother for eleven years. I know you as kind, loving and caring person.

The memories I have of you they will last forever.

The world is less bright without you in it.

Gone but will never be forgotten.

Elizabeth Francis (Caregiver)

A Tribute to Ms. Sheila

It hurts so much you're gone but I am grateful for the time I shared around you and your family. Remembering coming into the room you always had a smooth smile on your face that I will never forget. You will always hold a special place in my heart. I will cherish every moment we shared together and the memories I have of you, they will last forever.

Kenia (Caregiver)

A Tribute to Ms. Sheila

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

We knew little that morning that GOD was going to call your name.

In life we loved you dearly,

In death we do the same.

It breaks our heart to lose you; you didn't go alone,
For a part of us went with you, that day GOD called you home.

You left us peaceful memories; your love is still our guide.

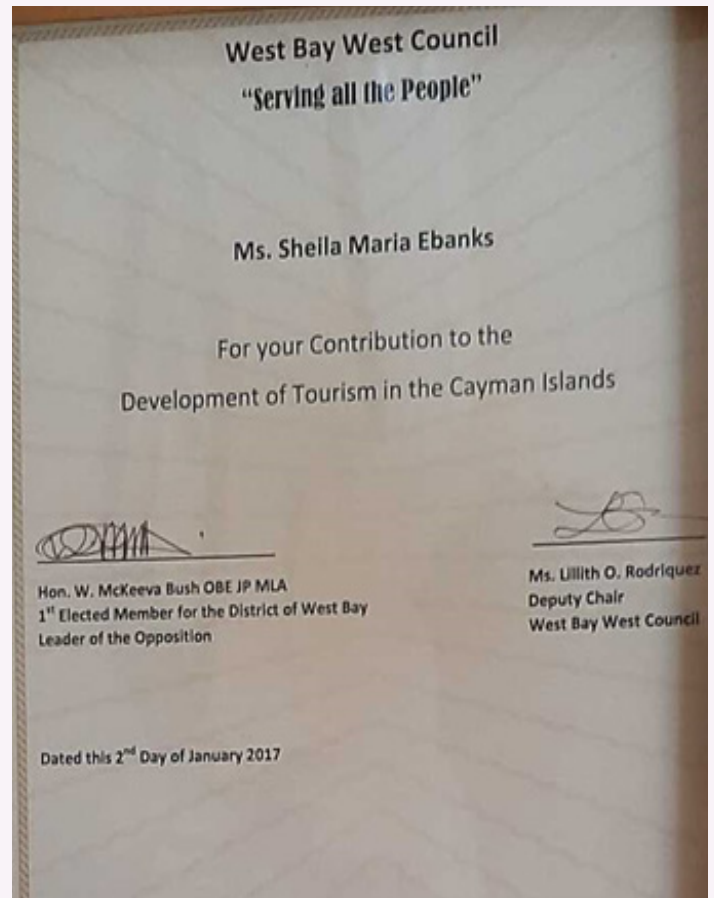
And though we cannot see you; you are always at our side.

I care for you as my very own mother and loved you the same.

May your sweet loving soul rest in eternal peace.

FLY ON HIGH SHEILA FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.

Karen A.Gordon (CNA) (Caregiver)



alzheimer's awareness



Graveside Service

Opening Remarks & Prayer	Pastor Phil Eckstein
Songs	Pre Recorded
Laying of Family Floral Tributes	
Committal.....	Pastor Conway King
Benediction	Pastor Conway King

Acknowledgements

The family of Sheila M. Ebanks would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of the families and friends for all the love, support and best wishes shown to us by way of social media, prayers, phone calls, WhatsApp or even house visits during this most difficult time. We truly appreciate all of you from the very depths of our heart.

We would like to give our Special thanks to Jasmine - Cayman Islands Palliative Care, Dr. Sharpe and her Nursing team Vanessa, Silvia, Chelsea, Heather & Edward. Dr. Yin, Dr. Cuff & Nurse Raymond Seven Mile Medical Clinic and their Team, West Bay Health Center Cayman, Dr. Christian, Nurse Elizabeth and their Team. The Doctors and Staff at the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority. Caring Hands Cayman, Nurse Rohan, Nurse Dinnell, Rofina and their Team, and not to mention our Caregivers Kenia, Suzette and Marygrace because without them we would not have been able to do this journey for 17 years in caring for our Precious Mom. Special thanks and appreciation to her longtime caregivers Elizabeth Francis whom cared for her since 2012-2022 and was assisted by caregiver Kareen Gordon.

A special thanks to my Employer (Ellen) and my Travel Pros Family for allowing me from time to time to attend and be there in whatever need I had to do for my Mom as I was the one with a bit more flexibility. Special mention and many thanks to our church family The Wesleyan Holiness Church, West Bay and North Side. Also a special mention to her dearest and close friends, Annie Bush, Grace & Gloria Ebanks, & Eldeen. Thanks to Mr. Scott Ruby and the staff of Bodden Funeral Service, and Webster's Tours.

We truly want to say a very Big Thank you to all of you who took the time out of your busy schedule to join us in person or online in this celebration service, this means the world to us.

We Love and Appreciate all of you.

God Bless!

In Lieu of flowers please make a donation to Jasmine Hospice Care.