

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
For The Life OF



Florence Mahala Ebanks

September 10, 1931 – December 30, 2023

Wesleyan Holiness Church
Saturday January 13, 2024
10am

OFFICIATING MINISTERS

Pastor Philip Eckstein

Rev Conway King

Pianist: Sis Reina Jefferson

Song Leader: Sis. Jenny Seymour

Organist: Dr Hon. W. McKeeva Bush JP, MP

Order of Service

Opening Remarks Pastor Philip Eckstein
Opening Song - My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less Congregation
Opening Praye Pastor Philip Eckstein
Scripture Reading - Romans 8:35, 37-39 Rev. Conway King
Tribute from Children and Grandchildren:Noel Williams
Tribute from Siblings & Caregivers Hon. KathyAnn Ebanks-Wilks, MP
Special Song from Adonza Smith & Miriam Williams...Amazing Grace Melissa Smith
Life Story..... Jackie Neil
Sermon Pastor Philip Eckstein
Closing Song - We Have an Anchor.....Congregation

Pallbearers

Miguel Smith
David 'Jay' Ebanks
Thomas C. Ebanks Jr.

Marlon 'Lonnie' Bush
Todd E. Ebanks
Curtis Bush

Honorary Pallbearers

Mitchell 'Highlight' Ebanks
Mark 'Tony/Tuna' Ebanks
Clifton Parsons
Hank Jackson
Deniston 'Junior' Smith
Noel Williams
Dr Hon. W. McKeeva Bush JP, MP
McAlson Ebanks
Devin Ebanks
Ashly 'AB' Parsons
Dave Jackson
Eddie Bodden
Antonio Smith
Capt. Eugene Ebanks
Carlos Powery Ebanks
McAllister Ebanks

Josh Ebanks
Richard Parsons
Mark Jackson
Troy Bodden
Manuel Smith
Cliff Smith
Eric Woodman
Rodrick Ebanks
Yannick Ebanks
Clifton Parsons Jr.
Heward Smith
Ralph Williams
Luis 'Lulu' Smith
Keito Smith
Ray Bush

Ushers

Bro. Malachai Wilson
Bro. Delano Bush

Guest Book Attendant

Magan Logan
Eziethamae Bodden, MBE

Mama, words cannot express the sadness I feel today as these words are spoken over you. Although I knew your health was failing, we did not expect you to leave us so soon. Your life has been an example to us. Hardworking, caring, and kind, these are the qualities we will always remember most about you. You taught us by example of unconditional love, taking care of our own, and being good citizens. We saw you face your many challenges in life with grace and dignity, always trusting that God would see you through. You were the strongest person I've ever known, Mama and the best mother and grandmother anyone could have.

Thank you for the love you gave to me and my children. For the way you cared for all of us, raising Devin after Judy-Anns passing and the care and devotion to my brothers. I hope I was able to show you how much I appreciated you, especially when you could no longer take care of yourself. I will do my best with the boys and see that they are cared for. Sleep in peace until we meet again, Mama,
Your heartbroken son, Tony

My beloved grandmother, you will truly be missed. I'll never forget how loving you were to me and my siblings, how determined you were, and how kind hearted you were. Growing up in the Islands, I remember when you would always make sure that we were good. Never a day goes by without you asking about us. I love that. I will forever miss that. Promise that I will make sure that you're forever in my heart, including your family, friends. We all love you so much
Mama., Cassidy

You may have passed on but you will forever be in my heart, Mama. I miss all the memories with you and it will forever live on within me. I've always thought about more memories that we could have shared together since I've grown and moved away from the Islands. I would remember the times, if nobody had it, Mama does! You were always right beside us.. Literally. Coming over to your house, you would always make sure we left with a snack or two. Our talks were everything to me as a little girl. Watching you rake the yard, I always thought how strong of a woman you were. You were always loving and caring for your grandkids and I will forever and always appreciate that Mama. I know you are in a much better place. Forever grateful and thankful that you are my Mama., Kallista

Mama, the last time I went to test your sugar, I knew that was the last time I would see your face alive. I could sense that you were tired and was going to leave us soon. I remember growing up in the yard with you. You were always there with whatever we needed. You were always sharing your time and your- possessions to help others. Thank you for the many life lessons you taught me simply by the life you lived. You were all that me & my sisters needed in a grandmother. Thank you for your love for us, for being proud of us and always encouraging us. I am grateful for the time we got to have together and for the joy you brought to my life. I will always love and miss you, Mama
Your loving grandson, Yannick.

A grandmother's love is always and forever, just like a mother, except with more patience and tolerance. Thank you, Mama, for being the mother in my life, for loving me like your own child, raising me from such a young age. Thank you for never giving up on me & for the life of example you set for me. I love you Mama. Although I might not have said it much, I loved you then and love you now. I am glad I got the opportunity to do my part in taking care of you when you became ill. I promise you I will continue to care for my uncles, who you loved so much.

Rest In Peace Mama until we meet again, I will always love & miss you, your grandson Devin

My dearest sister Florence- I will never forget our days going out to work at Anchorage Condominiums. You worked in the laundry and me and Juanita in the rooms. We all made sure that we did our very best to ensure that the units were ready for when our guest arrived at the complex. We always shared what was left from the owners and would make sure that no one went home empty handed. We worked hard in our days. Even though we lived close to each other and would often walk back and forth from our homes, we would always spent hours on the phone catching up on what was happening. You would call to make sure that everybody in yard was doing okay or just checking to find out if I got home from church or supermarket okay. Election was always a big thing, and you would make sure to get the latest news after the campaign meetings. Even though you were older, and it should have been me looking out for me, you were always making sure I was taking care of myself. I don't know how I will be able to go on, but I know you would want me to be strong and make take care of myself. Until we meet again, I love you and miss you so much. Your sister - May-May

You were always so hard working and family oriented. You were always so concerned with taking care of everyone else and often forgetting to take the time for yourself. From early days you were always surrounded by your children and made sure to nurture them in the right way. You were always in good spirits and loved to laugh. Growing up we were all so close and our children were thick as thieves. We worked hard growing up. You loved being a mother and were always concerned about your children and making sure you got home to take care of them. Even in your later years you would always be calling to check to find out if everything was okay. It was so funny, if there was a siren going pass the house, I knew the phone would be ringing shortly after and you would be on the other line making sure we were okay. I am still in shock and heartbroken that you have left us so soon. But I know you are in heaven with Mama, Papa, Gay-Gay, Juanita and the rest of the family and friends. Until we see each other again, rest in peace and I will always love you. Your sister - Nella Jane

A Tribute to My Loving Sister Florence - Together she and I shared a child's world, we talked, we played, we agree and disagreed, we shared so many hurts and so many joys. We were the oldest of the children and would always share a strong bond. Even though I lived in Brac, I would always stop by to check on you and catch up on the latest happenings. I was always proud to have Florence as my sister. I am heartbroken that you are no longer with us, but I know we will be reunited again. Forever in my heart; Your Brother Clifton

Florence I still can't believe you are gone. You know I have never been one to have many words to say and as I try to find my thoughts to put in my tribute, I am finding it difficult. You always made sure to check on everyone to find out if they were okay. You worked hard and loved being a Mother to your children. I know that you will be looking down from heaven and watching over all of us. I will always love you and miss you my dear sister. Your brother – AB

Being the youngest of the children, I was fortunate to have sisters and brothers that would look out for me and take care of me growing up. Florence always made sure that I was okay and that I was taken care of. In the later years is when I was able to repay that back to you. Many times, you would call and ask me to go get your medication from the clinic or go out by the corner store to pick you up something. I spent a lot of time by your house and we would always have our daily check in to make sure everyone was doing out. I will always miss you and love you. Your brother – Richard

Today we are here to pay tribute to Ms. Florence, a hardworking, strong, kind and loving person. She was a woman who loved life and God and her children and grandchildren meant the world to her. One of my fondest memories of her is her kind heart – she would always ask when I was leaving work at night, “Juliet, you have something at home to eat”? It was our pleasure to care for you in these short five months when you were unable to care for your own needs. We have learned so much about the realities of life from our short time with you, but time will not permit us to share..Walk good Ms, Florence, it was a pleasure taking care of you. Rest in heavenly peace, from Juliette, Keylin and Mitzie (Caregivers)



Life Story of Florence Mahala Ebanks

Florence Mahala Parsons was born on September 10, 1931, the eldest child of 8 children born to Evalyn and Harvey Parsons. As a child FoFo, as she was affectionately known, received her early education as most Caymanian children did at that time, with Miss Redley. She attended the Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Florence grew up in an era when Cayman didn't have much by way material things, but she and her siblings had two very hard-working parents who raised them with good morals and taught them to have respect for others. What they lacked materially; they found rich in family love and a close-knit community. As the oldest child and female, Florence was a great help to her mother around the house and yard and assisted in the care and upbringing of her younger siblings, who fondly remember her devotion and attention to them. It was these times and way of life back then that would teach Florence the rudiments of raising a family and prepare her for the unknown challenges that lay ahead.

Florence was united in marriage to Kenneth Walter Ebanks on December 9, 1950. To this union were born 8 sons and 1 daughter. Florence was a devoted wife and mother, and, like many of the women in those days, she stayed at home to raise her family while her husband made a living at sea. She especially enjoyed the relationship with her only daughter, JudyAnn and taught her at a young age the value of hard work and lived her life by example. Florence was a good steward of her household and built a small home for her and her growing family. In May 1983, Florence became a widow. A few short years after her husband's death, FoFo was once again faced with tragedy when her only daughter died at the tender age of 25, leaving behind a young son, Devin.

Having buried a husband and 3 children by this time, Fofo devoted her life to raising young Devin, providing the nurturing and stable home life he needed. She was a strong independent woman who worked hard to care for her family, with employment at several hotels and condominiums along the 7 Mile Beach, including La Fontaine, Harbor Heights, Anchorage and Aqua Bay where she made many lifelong friends, both local and visitors. She was an honest and hard-working individual who was always ready and willing to extend a helping hand to anyone in her family who needed her.

As the years progressed, Fofo settled into life with Devin and her 2 sons at the home in Mount Pleasant she had shared with young JudyAnn just before her passing. As the time passed, she was also blessed to share this space with Tony, her youngest son, as he raised his young family. Fofo had a very loving relationship with her grandkids and had a profound impact in their lives through the example of kindness and sense of community she lived out daily.

After the death of her son Alric in 2022, Fofo's health began to decline. She continued to care for her personal needs and her 2 sons until early 2023 when she became unable to. In December 2023, after a brief stay in the hospital, her situation took a turn for the worse. She passed away peacefully on Dec 30, 2023, at the George Town Hospital. She was 92 years old. She is preceded in death by her husband Kenneth Walter Ebanks, daughter JudyAnn Ebanks and 3 sons Clinton, Alric, and Errol Ebanks.

Left to mourn her passing are,

Sons - Mitchell (Highlight), McAllister, McAlson, Rodrick and Tony (Tonal) Ebanks.

Grandchildren – Devin, Josh, Yannick, Cassidy & Kallista.

3 Brothers – Clifton Parsons, Ashley (AB) Parsons, Richard Parsons

2 Sisters - Edith Mae Parsons (Mae-Mae) and Nella Jane Boddin.

Special friends - Ms. Jessy Parsons, Ms. Vernice Myles, Ms. Sadie Chollette, Ms. Adonza Smith, Ms. Miriam Williams, Mrs. Aldine Anglin, and Ms. Ruby and a host of other relatives and friends.

May her soul Rest In Peace and Gods light shine perpetual on her.



Graveside Service

Hymn The Best Friend To Have Is Jesus
Opening Remarks & Prayer Rev. Conway King
Committal Rev. Conway King
Hymn When We All Get To Heaven
Benediction Rev. Conway King

The Best friend To Have Is Jesus

Oh, the best friend to have is Jesus,
When the cares of life upon you roll,
He will heal the wounded heart,
He will strength and grace impart;
Oh, the best friend to have is Jesus.

Chorus:

The best friend to have is Jesus,
The best friend to have is Jesus,
He will help you when you fall,
He will hear you when you call;
Oh, the best friend to have is Jesus.

What a friend I have found in Jesus!
Peace and comfort to my soul He brings;
Leaning on His mighty arm,
I will fear no ill nor harm;
Oh, the best friend to have is Jesus.

Tho' I pass thro' the night of sorrow,
And the chilly waves of Jordan roll,
Never need I shrink nor fear,
For my Saviour is so near;
Oh, the best friend to have is Jesus.

When at last to our home we gather,
With the faithful who have gone before,
We will sing upon the shore,
Praising Him forevermore;
Oh, the best friend to have is Jesus.

When We All Get To Heaven

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace.
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain

When we all get to Heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!

While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when traveling days are over,
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.

Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold.

Thanks & Acknowledgement

The family of the late Florence Mahala Ebanks would like to sincerely thank our family, friends and loved ones for the outpouring of love, support, and prayers during this difficult time. Special thanks to Juliet Foster and Keylin Lewis who so lovingly cared for mama during the last few months of her life. Special thanks to the George Town Hospital and to Mr. Scott Ruby and the staff at Bodden's Funeral home.

God Bless you All for your kindness and support.