

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of



**Ashley Covinton Ebanks**

27th March 1955 – 12th March 2024

Boatswain Bay Presbyterian Church  
West Bay, Grand Cayman  
Monday, 25th March 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

Officiating Minister:  
Pastor James Pedley

Musicians: Dr. & Mrs. Curtis Barnett  
Tech Team: Langlie Powery, Mark Hunte & Tommy O. Ebanks, Jr.

## Order of Service

Opening Remarks: ..... Pastor James Pedley  
Opening Prayer: ..... Pastor James Pedley  
Hymn: A Wonderful Saviour ..... Congregation  
Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:1 – 18 ..... Mr. Jack Ebanks  
Hymn: To God Be The Glory ..... Congregation  
Picture Tribute from Friends of CI Special Olympics:..... Designed by: Mr. Matthew Ebanks  
Tributes from Family: ..... Mrs. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks  
The Life Story of Ashley Covinton Ebanks:..... Mr. Carlon Powery / Ms. Esther Rivers  
Hymn: Abide With Me..... Congregation  
Sermon: ..... Pastor James Pedley  
Hymn: Anywhere With Jesus ..... Congregation  
Closing Prayer: ..... Pastor James Pedley

### Pallbearers

Mr. Roland Ebanks	Mr. Dewey Ebanks
Mr. Dillion Ebanks	Mr. David Powery
Mr. William ('Billy') Ebanks, Jr.	Mr. Tatiano Clarke
Mr. Omar Elvey	Mr. Davey Campbell

### Ushers

Ms. Eziethamae Bodden & Mr. Collie Powery

### Guest Book Attendant

Mrs. Reina Mae Bodden



## REMEMBERING ASHLEY COVINTON EBANKS AKA 'COVI'

On March 27, 1955, a much-awaited child was born to Garvon Ashley and Viola Louise Ebanks. They named their baby boy Ashley Covinton. Soon after his birth, his father, who was one of the Cayman Islands' seafaring nation builders, returned to sea.

Covinton, affectionately called 'Covi,' was lovingly cared for by his mother at their home situated in an area commonly known at the time as "Knife & Fork" in Mt. Pleasant, West Bay; today the area is known as Batabano. It did not take his mother long to realise that her baby was not meeting expected milestones and so she and her younger sister, Aletha (or 'Leetie' as she was commonly known and who was by this time an experienced mother of five herself) decided that Viola and baby Covinton would come to live in Boatswain Bay with her and her family as they lived near to the sea. This move made it easy for Viola to take Covi for sea baths daily to help strengthen his limbs. Leetie lovingly assisted with these daily sea baths followed up with olive oil massages.

When his father Garvon returned home from sea Viola and baby Covi returned to their home in Knife and Fork as well. Covi's progress was slower than expected for typically developing children of his age, but Covi progressed, nonetheless. His gait was not as steady or fast, but he did eventually learn to walk. You could not keep him still when he wanted to go - and go he did!! His mother said that during their brief time living in New York when Covi was a little boy, she had to be running with him all the time because he was so excited by all the things he saw and wanted to see. Covi travelled. He made trips to places that many of us so-called "normal" people have not had the opportunity to visit. He even got the opportunity to represent his country, "The Cayman Islands" in the Special Olympics Games.

When Pastor Jonas Shepherd of the Boatswain Bay Presbyterian Church along with other church members and community-minded people started the Lighthouse School in the church hall in the early 1970's, Covi was one of the first students to attend and this enabled him to achieve goals that were set for him. He continued in this program and later advanced to the Adult Sunrise Training Program for the physically and cognitively challenged. Through his accomplishments in Sunrise Training Program, Covi began work experience in the Laundry Department of the George Town Government Hospital (now the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority). Covi was a good worker and such a pleasant, merry soul that the Laundry Department decided he was a 'keeper.' They kept him for well over 30 years! He officially retired in early 2020 and then everything locked down because of COVID.

After retirement, Covi spent much of his time on his lounge chair in his yard. His cousin and guardian, Esther, and caregiver Shirley thought he may have been feeling bored so Esther arranged for Covi to spend some of his time at the Sunrise Adult Training Centre where he would be with his peers and involved with creative activities. Covi told Esther and Ms. Shirley flat out, "I don't need to go anywhere; I'm staying right here!" But he did eventually decide to grace them with his presence on a few special outings.

Years ago, before our population explosion started and our great highways came into being, Covi's hand was often busily waving to everyone they crossed as he rode in the car with Esther. Wondering if he recognised the people or if it was just an impulsive habit, Esther began asking him if he knew who he had waved at. Covi would say, "Ya! da Johnny car" (Yes! That is Johnny's car.)

After retirement, Covi seemed to be quite happy to recline in his chair and wave back to anyone who hollered, tooted, or waved to him as they crossed by. It never mattered if he knew your name or not. He was friendly to you even if you were not friendly to him. Covi seldom complained verbally. But as the saying goes, do not mistake meekness for weakness. While Covi was gentle with people and animals, he would wring off a pipe in anger if he became upset.

Covi looked forward to attending church, even though he could be a bit prejudiced about it.

Back in 1999, his beloved mother passed away after a brief struggle with lung cancer. During the months of her illness, Covi stayed home with his mother on the weekends. A few Sundays after she passed, Esther asked him if he wanted to go to church. He said yes, so she asked, "Do you want to come to our church, or would you like to go to Neta's (a cousin) church with her?" His answer was, "If I can't go to my church, I don't want to go to any church."

On the morning of January 18, 2024, Covi was taken to the George Town hospital where he was diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus. Three days later, he suffered a massive stroke. The medical staff did everything they could to improve his health and to make him comfortable. Preparations were made for Covi to return to the comfort of his home. However, just hours away from this becoming a reality, Covi suddenly took a turn for the worse and passed away around 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Covi was preceded in death by his devoted parents, Garvon Ashley Ebanks in 1984 and Viola Louise Ebanks in 1999.

Ashley Covinton Ebanks will be sorely missed by his one remaining aunt, Diana Moore, cousin and guardian Esther Rivers, his long-term caregiver, Ms. Shirley Johnson and many cousins, friends, and acquaintances from the Boatswain Bay Presbyterian Church, Cayman Islands Special Olympics, Sunrise Centre, C.I. Health Services Authority, and the wider community.

May his sweet soul rest in peace!

## Graveside Service

Prayer: ..... Pastor James Pedley  
 Hymn: Blessed Assurance ..... Congregation  
 Committal: ..... Pastor James Pedley  
 Hymn: The Lily of The Valley ..... Congregation  
 Song: Faithfully (Toby Mac) ..... Pre-Recorded  
 Benediction: ..... Pastor James Pedley

### Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
 O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
 Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song  
 Praising my Savior all the day long  
 This is my story, this is my song,  
 Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
 Visions of rapture now burst on my sight.  
 Angels descending bring from above  
 Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
 I in my Savior am happy and blest.  
 Watching and waiting, looking above,  
 Fill'd with His goodness, lost in His love.



### The Lily of The Valley

I have found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me  
 He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul  
 The lily of the valley and in Him alone I see  
 All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole

In sorrow He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay  
 He tells me every care on Him to roll  
 He's the lily of the valley, He's the bright and morning star  
 He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul

He all my grief has taken and all my sorrows borne  
 In temptation, He's my strong and mighty tower  
 I have all for Him forsaken and all my idols torn  
 From my heart and now I know He'll keep me by His power

Though all the world forsake me and old Satan he tempts me sore  
 Through Jesus I shall safely reach that goal  
 He's the lily of the valley, He's the bright and morning star  
 He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul

He will never never leave me nor yet forsake me here  
 While I live by faith and do His blessed will  
 It's a wall of fire about me, but I've nothing now to fear  
 With His manna He my hungry soul is gonna fill

Then I'll go sweeping up to Glory to see His blessed face  
 Where rivers of delight shall ever roll  
 He's the lily of the valley, He's the bright and morning star  
 He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul



### Acknowledgements

*The family of Ashley Covinton Ebanks is grateful for your prayers and outpouring of love and support. Our thanks and gratitude also to his caregivers Ms. Shirley Johnson and Ms. Shawlene Gayle; the caring staff at the CI Health Services Authority; Mr. Gavin Kervill of Cayman Physiotherapy; and Bodden Funeral Services.*

*God bless you all!*