

*Service Of Thanksgiving  
For The Life Of*



*Ernestine Sharita "Sherita" Ebanks*

*13 January 1981 - 16 July 2024*

*West Bay Church of Christ  
24 Batabano Road, West Bay, Grand Cayman*

*17th August 2024  
10am*

*Officiating Minister  
Pastor Martin Royer*

*Interment  
Boatswain Bay Cemetery*

# Order of Service

Opening Remarks ..... Pastor Neriah Leblanc  
Opening Prayer ..... Bishop Oppong Tabiri  
Opening Song ..... It Is Well With My Soul Congregation  
Scripture Reading ..... Stanford Roberts

## *Tributes:*

Wilbert Ebanks, Father ..... by Kattina Anglin

### Children

Elijah Bunting ..... by Aleek Rose

Dylan Bunting ..... by Kattina Anglin

Jiniyah Walker ..... by Jiniyah Walker

Aunts and Uncles ..... by Kattina Anglin

### Close Friends

Cindy Ebanks (Close Friend) ..... by Jewel Hydes

Sheria Goff (Close Friend) ..... by Kattina Anglin

Jewel Hydes (Close Friend) ..... by Jewel Hydes

Evadney Thompson (Close Friend) ..... by Jewel Hydes

### Slide show

Obituary ..... by Jewel Hydes

Song: ..... God Is In Control (Special Song)

Sermon ..... Pastor Martin Royer

Closing Song: This World Is Not My Home ..... Congregation

Closing Prayer ..... Bishop Oppong

## *Pallbearers*

Mr. Dylan Bunting

Mr. Benny Ebanks

Mr. Reagan Ebanks

Dayton Ebanks

Mr. Omar Goff

Dwayne Ebanks

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Devon Anglin

Alfa Ebanks

Dillon Ebanks

Ernie Ebanks

Roger Ebanks

Roshad Goff

Larry Logan

Robert "Chino" Montemayor

Daniel Thompson

Mr. Jivarre Goff

Mr. Gerry Parchment

## *Guest Book Attendants*

Miss Tiffany Ebanks

## *Ushers*

Mrs Faylene Suckoo



## A TRIBUTE TO MY DAUGHTER, SHARITA by Wilbert

I'll never forget how I felt when I learnt that I was going to be a father. I'll never forget the moment Sharita was born. I'll never forget how she got her name – I picked it from a blue t-shirt with yellow writing that was full of names and said "this is the name for my daughter". And of course, Ernestine is because she is MY daughter. I'll never forget her first steps, first words, her firsts of everything that I had the privilege of witnessing.

Sharita was always so quick and willing to go to school and this showed up in her grades on her report cards. I was so proud of my little daddy's girl.

To say that God has been good to me is an understatement. I have always prayed that God would save my family. The Bible says that "me and my household shall serve the Lord" and I made this my prayer. And I saw my wife get saved and I have seen my daughter get saved and I will see my son get saved also.

I remember the night that Sharita got baptized. I was driving the church bus that night to take members back home and heard the water in the baptistry running. When I got back, I went to the baptistry where I saw Sharita standing waiting to be baptized – what a joyful moment that was, to see God answer my prayer for my family!

Sharita was a loving and dedicated daughter who would do anything to take care of me and the rest of her family. She would say "daddy, I coming to bring you such and such a thing to eat" or "daddy, come here – I have something for you". Sharita loved me out of this world!

It was also a joy to watch Sharita with her own children. There was nothing that Sharita did not try to provide for them and, Lord, she could call me and them endlessly throughout the day to make sure that we were alright.

I am grateful to God for giving me that last opportunity to minister to Sharita, as I drove her to the hospital and the Lord layed the scripture taken from Matt 12:31 "all manner of sins will be forgiven unto man..." and right after I said this to Sharita she said "Father God, forgive me for all my sins and cleanse me of ALL unrighteousness". I thank God for his goodness to me and to my family. I am peace that my daughter's soul is with her Father God in Heaven. God is good and I will see Sharita and Effie again.

I will love her forever, my child, my daughter,  
Wilbert

## A TRIBUTE TO MY MOMMY by Elijah My Dearest Mommy

You were the Mommy – hands down. And nothing will ever change that!

I remember the stories you shared about me and my younger brother Dylan. Once, you asked who bit Dylan, and I said to you "Well Mommy I Don't Know Who Bite Your Baby - I Didn't Bite Your Baby!" and you would tell me this story so many times!

Dylan & Niyah, I just want you to know that Mommy cared for us from deep deep down in her heart. She would always do her VERY BEST and go the extra mile because she loved us dearly.

These past years since your diagnosis have been soo very hard but you were so strong - strong for the both of us. You didn't lose your fight, Mommy. You fulfilled your purpose for this life and passed with exceptional passes. I regret thinking you were superwoman just because your happiness and laughter shadowed all your pain. I would always be so very concerned, but you were strong-minded and always said you were just Trusting in God. Mommy, I just pray to God that I told you enough times that I love you so very much. There was nothing I wouldn't have ever do for you.

I know you believed in me more than I believed in myself. I promise that I'll be the best mother for Mars, as you were to us, and I will tell him all about you: how you loved him so so very much and that he was your eyeball.

I know you're at peace now with God and his angels in heaven and not in anymore suffering and pain. I hope you tell Grammy how much I miss her and how good I'm doing. You will always be apart of us forever. Rest peacefully, my beautiful angel in heaven, 'til we meet again.

A TRIBUTE TO MY MOMMY by Dylan

As I stand before you today, I am honoured to pay tribute to my beloved Mother Ernestine Sharita Ebanks. Something that defined my mother was not just their unwavering kindness but the ability to make change happen for the best.

The one thing I really remember is the thousands of phone calls I'd receive in a day from her and knowing I wasn't next to her she would call to check up on me every second of the day. One thing I loved is she could sense a different tone in my voice and tell something was off so she'd call back and ask are you ok you sound different and automatically become a detective but I made it a habit where I'd just keep it to myself because I didn't want to burden anyone really with my problems and knowing her she would try to fix it; as her only son I thought it was best for me to be the man and tough through my situations. Even now as she passes on I still haven't cried or spoken to anyone about how I feel because to tell you the truth I'm not as sad as I expected to be I know she's in a better place and no longer in pain.

I'm happy she was able to accept God in the end and think positive even though she had a million and one things going on in her life she was able to even start her own business and still look out for us so it's safe to say she ended her chapter in the best way possible and she will start a new one with God, happily and protecting everyone; that's why I am not sad, because I know my mom will still be here and I thank you for everything you've done for us and I never got to say this but I appreciate you alot. I love you MOM and I will always forever.

Your son,  
Dylan

A TRIBUTE TO MY MOMMY, by Jiniyah  
Mommy, I will miss you.

I will miss baking cupcakes with you. The last time we baked, we baked red velvet cupcakes. You were happy to share with Nana & Elijah.

I will miss your hugs and kisses. You loved me and gave me your best.

I would love you forever. You mean so much to me.

You would always tell me to be good.

You are not just my mother; you are my heart.

Your daughter,  
Jiniyah

A TRIBUTE TO SHARITA, OUR COUSIN AND FRIEND, by LORAJANE

My sincere condolences to all my family especially her children and father.

Cousin Sherita you were always such a blessing to me and my children. Everytime you saw me you would ask about them how they were doing. I always loved anytime I saw you especially since i moved to America bcuz you would always tell me laulau you are so brave to live in America I wish it was me . My kids Brian, cleve and the rest all remember how kind you were to them . When you came to Miami my sister Alice accompanied you and I came over to spend time with you and pray for you. You always loved me praying for you and it was always a pleasure. She she it broke my heart to hear of your passing, but I know that now you are resting from all your pain . You are with your saviour and creator . Lets remember that this is only her shell she is with the Lord now and if you want to see her again make sure you give your life to Christ and you will meet her again . Rest in peace my sweet cousin Sherita. Your broken hearted cousin Laura and her children. Forever loved and will be missed always. I'm praying for you all.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SHER, by Cindy

My dear friend Sher, as I struggle to make sense that you are no longer here, and to know that I lost both parents in two years and now you. Thousands of tributes won't be enough to express the comfort and peace that your presence brought me, nor describe the friend that you were to me and the special bond we had.

I am so grateful for the relationship we had. Besides being a wonderful friend to me, you were such a caring and loving mother. You always had a special love for your parents, family members and friends.

I have so many memories and fun times with you, to be able to share them all here today will be inconsiderate of the time given. As a teenager whenever you saw me you would always yell out to me no matter where I was and wanted to be in my company. I fondly remember especially our travels to Panama and Miami with your family. The many times we went out for dinners or just driving and talking and most recently discussing plans to take Jin-Jin on her first trip to Miami for her birthday in August this year, we had plans to take her to Chucky Cheeses for a party, Jungle Island and Kids Corner for fun activities. We had plans to leave on Wednesday 31st July. You were so looking forward to this trip.

Whenever we would go anywhere, you always seem to have the gift to light up any place when you walked-in and weren't afraid to talk to strangers. You would always introduce me as "Your big sister", and I would always say jokingly "do you mean big or FAT" and you would give me that stern look. I recall when you bought your land and the many sacrifices you made when you were building your home. You were so excited of your accomplishments and happy that your kids would have their own rooms and made sure they were painted in the colors they wanted.

I remember when I cared for little Jin-Jin for you to go to work. As a business driver you had to take a customer to a medical appointment and run other errands with them, which ended up taking longer than you anticipated. You would always call and check-up on her and wanting to make sure she was not crying, but I always assured you not to worry, as she was busy drawing and getting me to play teacher by marking her paper and telling me not to color outside the lines, when I suggest we could watch a cartoon she made sure to let me know that there was some cartoons you did not want her to watch.

When you faced that unfortunate situation a few years ago, I was by your side, ensured you saw the best specialist, visiting you every morning and evening and making sure that you made it to every appointment. You were always so concerned about my well-being, constantly thinking I was exhausted, but I assured you I was okay and was glad I could be there for you. You were so appreciative of the stand I made for your well-being.

I think back of when you accepted salvation and then got baptized, you were sharing the times you tried to minister to your peers anytime you got a chance. Even though, there were times when you felt disappointed and deeply affected by their attitude towards hearing about Jesus, you being especially heartbroken after trying to minister to a particular young man who tragically lost his life that same evening.

Sher, there were times when your challenges would overwhelm you, and you'd break down and cry in my arms, making me feel like a protective mama bear. I always offered you wise counsel and reminded you that Jesus also endured much suffering on this earth, and we too will have to endure sufferings and the unkindness of people.

Sher, the weight of your absence feels so heavy that my world seems still with a profound sense of emptiness since your passing. You brought such beauty to this life as a kind, compassionate and very special friend with a vibrant laughter that filled the dullest moments.

I miss you much more than words can express and will cherish the memories, my dear friend. I love you.

Sleep peacefully in the arms of Jesus,

Your heart-broken friend/big sis Cindy.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MY NIECE, SHARITA by Oralee

Sometimes in life there are losses. Losses that can never really be replaced. Losing you has been one of the hardest things our family has ever had to live with. We weren't ready to say goodbye. We thought you would be returning home but I've learned to trust in the unconditional love of God. Because the one profound thing about death is that love never dies and some bonds cannot be broken.

You cared for your family in many ways and always gave to others. I will miss your daily calls and visits. Hearing you shout "Aunt Oralee" from my brother's house. Our spontaneous car rides to town together and my youngest daughter calling me and saying "Mommeh where are you? Una on the road again?!" Somehow you would always get me to go. I will miss your outgoing personality that was anything but shy. I won't forget how much you did for my grandson Jody, all from the goodness of your heart. A week before your departure to the Lord, you made sure he was able to attend summer camp by paying his way without hesitation because that's who you were. Most of our days, would consist of laughing and talking. Me telling a joke and your favorite thing to do was to ask me to repeat the joke just so you could laugh again. You've left our hearts full of beautiful memories.. some so precious that we will treasure forever. You were one of kind. Special to say the least.

Sharita, someday we will meet again - and we will no longer be separated by time or space. But until that day, I'll find comfort in knowing that you are still with us in spirit.

Forever in my heart, I will carry you, my sweet niece, and love you always.

MY DEAR COUSIN AND FRIEND ERNESTINE SHARITA EBANKS, by Evadne

First, I want to express my sincere condolences to Sharita's immediate family, her relatives and friends.

Today, I am saying my last good-bye and sharing a tribute for the life of my beloved special friend and cousin, Sharita. I just want to reflect and share a little of her sweet personality and the positive impact that she has left in my life. Though she has left too soon, and I will not question "Why" because God knew best.

Living around Sharita not only as a relative but as a neighbor it was an adventure filled with laughter, disagreements and love. Sharita was such a jovial person, she always knew how to brighten any dull moment. We would often visit each other and celebrate our special events like birthday parties, or just doing Karaoke and playing fun games together on a weekend, we would even travel to the Brac, just to keep each other uplifted; it was never a dull second when Sharita was around. For many of us who knew her, can testify; She never allowed anything to get her down or to steal her joy peace, not even her medical challenges of which she fought to the end. "That's how strong and determined Sharita was", SHE RAN HER RACE AND NEVER GAVE UP HER FIGHT!

Some of Sharita's favorite responses were:

"Girl I'm not worried one bit, I put everything into God's hands and He has the final say in my life". I would often tell her to go and get some rest, she would then reply with a big laugh out "Rest? girl I cant rest now! I Got to go! Got to go"! and then she would out through the door to get her business done.

Don't even try to call her at 10:00 in the mornings, she would cut that conversation by saying, "Girl Call me back, I doing my Devotion and Praise Worship now."

Sharita's faith in God, Sweet smiles, loving and joyful spirits will forever live on, with the memories we cherished and the love we shared.

My arms and doors were always open to her, as I was one of her ROCKS, whenever she called on me I was there.

Last but not least, I can not forget that pan of Cheesecake Cupcakes that she and her baby girl Jyn-Jyn had baked, they were so delicious!

"JYN-JYN, Nana thank you for sharing the Cheesecake Cupcakes".

I could go on and on but time is not enough.

So my words of comfort to you all especially to her family, is to not only mourn but Celebrate and remember the Positive and Joyful spirits and her Faith in God that she lived and rest assure that our dearest Sharita is in a better place where there is no sorrow, no suffering or pain. And No matter what you go through, " PRAY, LET IT GO AND TRUST GOD"

SHARITA MY DEAREST, I WILL ALWAYS MISS YOU, TAKE YOUR SWEET REST BAM-BAM GIRL as my brother Lourin named you..

FOREVER Loved and remembered.

LESLEY says, " I remember the day when Ms. Sharita came over and asked me, "Lesley, would you allow me to clean your bedroom and bathroom for a small fee because I need to make some extra dollars". I then agreed and her first pay she got from me, she then named me as, My Boss; She was so appreciative that many other days she would ask me with a big laugh out,

" My Boss any work for me today"? and I would always reply, "Yes Ms. Sharita you can clean my room today". Ms. Sharita was sure full of ideas for making money and that's what I admired about her along with her honesty and determination.

REST IN PEACE MS. SHARITA.

Remembered always,

Lesley.

TO MY DEAR SPEEDILY, by Sheria

You were a vibrant thread of joy, and always full of laughter. Your kindness knew no bounds and your spirit was truly infectious. You were a fighter and beacon everywhere shining through your darkest days, always finding ways to amplify the brightness.

In you, I have found a friend and a pillar of strength. Your determination and resilience you left behind teaches me to have faith and let God lead the way.

Our bond transcends mere familial ties; it is a bond of love, laughter, and shared experiences that I will forever cherish.

So, my dear Speedily, a shining star in the universe, today I say final goodbye here on earth where you will be missed. But as you pilot your journey today to your new kingdom with our eternal Father, I let go knowing that God called you home where there's no pain and no suffering to endure.

Sleep in peace Speedily and I will forever keep your memory around.

A TRIBUTE TO SHARITA, from Aunt Louie Mae and family

Our dear Sharita,

Our memories with you will never leave us – they will live on forever in our hearts. Growing up with Donna and Kathy Mae, you spent a lot of time playing outside and inside with our girls. Donna remembers your last birthday when you were outside by Mama Viola's with Oralee listening to some music and having a sip of wine. You were so happy! Hearing now of your passing is such a shock to us all, but we accept that God took you, he needed you to number among the angels and we accept the Lord's perfect doing.

# Graveside Service

Song: ..... Leaning on the Everlasting Arms  
Prayer ..... Pastor Oppong Tabiri  
Committal ..... Pastor Martin Royer  
Songs  
Jealous of the Angels ..... by Donna Taggart  
Victory ..... by Cherine Anderson  
People Like You ..... by Gramps Morgan  
Benediction ..... Pastor Neriah Leblanc



## Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

What a fellowship, what a joy divine  
Leaning on the everlasting arms  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Leaning, leaning  
Safe and secure from all alarms  
Leaning, leaning  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

What have I to dread, what have I to fear  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

Leaning, leaning  
Safe and secure from all alarms  
Leaning, leaning  
Leaning on the everlasting arms

## Thank You!

*Thanks to Sharita's family and friends who stood by her and with her in her most difficult times, to the healthcare providers at HSA and at Health City Cayman Islands, the Breast Cancer Society and to the countless number of prayer warriors who kept her in prayer – you are amazing, and we are grateful for you! Wilbert, Elijah, Dylan and Jinayah*