



*Celebrating*  
**THE LIFE OF**



*Emily Merita Lopez nee Christian*

(Fondly known as Emilee)

13th November 1953 - 2nd August 2024

Little Cayman Baptist Church

Guy Banks Road

Saturday 17th August 2024 | 12 Noon

Closed Casket: No Viewing

Internment: at Little Cayman Cemetery

**Officiating Ministers:**

Pastor Carlon Nyack

Bro. Fernando Yorke



# Order of Celebration Service

Prelude (Pre-Recorded) .....Jim Reeves Country Gospel

Opening Remarks & Prayer: .....Bro Fernando Yorke

Scripture Reading: Psalms 23: .....Nurse Charmaine Coore

Homegoing Hymm "How Great Thou Art": .....Congregation

Life Story of Emily Merita Lopez: .....Nurse Charmaine Coore

**Tributes Family and Friends:** Mr Victor Lopez (Husband); Tianne Hernandez (Daughter),  
Special Pre-Recorded Song' Celine Dion "GoodBye's the Hardest Word"; Cianna and Pecena (Grand  
Daughters); Woodley Christian & Family (Brother); Sharon Connolly & Michelle Terry Martyr (Nieces);  
Lex Whittaker (Family Friend); Annie Dilbert (Cousin); Maxine McCoy-Moore (Friend)

Sermon: .....Pastor Carlon Nyack

Benediction: .....Pastor Corlon Nyack

Recessional "The Eastern Gate": .....Keyboard Instrumentals

## **Pallbearers**

Mr. Anthony Terry  
Mr. Courtney Brown

Mr. Witney Tatum  
Mr. Jimmy Robinson

Mr. Miguel Martin  
Mr. Jason McLaughlin

## **Honorary Pallbearers**

Mr. Woodley Christian  
Mr. Russell Bodden  
Mr. Loxley Christian  
Mr. Robin Walton  
Mr. Victor Lopez Sr.  
Mr. Castro Christian  
Mr. Raymond Walton

Mr. Elwood Bodden  
Mr. Darrell Wright  
Mr. Temple Tatum Jr.  
Mr. Casey Conolly  
Mr. Mario Lopez  
Mr. Cary Christian  
Mr. Dale Bodden

Mr. Dario Bodden  
Mr. Jeff Hurlston  
Mr. George Hurlston  
Mr. Curtis Conolly  
Mr. Carlos Lopez  
Mr. Dennis Bodden

**Usher:** Mrs. Michelle Terry Martyr

**Memorial Book Attendant:** Mrs. Sanya Scott

**Keyboards:** Mr. Raymond R. Scott

**Song Leader:** Mrs. Maxine McCoy-Moore



## *Life Story of Emily Merita Lopez*

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Emily Merita Lopez (née Christian), who was born on November 13, 1953, in Cayman Brac and passed away on August 2, 2024, in Little Cayman. Emily was the beloved daughter of the late Edna and Cedric Christian and a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

Emily grew up in Cayman Brac, where she attended primary school. Her love for cooking began in her mother's kitchen, a passion that would shape her life. In the late 1970s, she moved to Little Cayman in search of work, finding a home at the Southern Cross Club. From 1981 to 2012, she held various roles, including cook, housekeeper, and all-rounder, embodying the true spirit of "Cayman Kind." Emily was not only a dedicated employee but also a tourism ambassador for Little Cayman. She forged close bonds with fellow Cayman Brackers, like Merilda Massias, with whom she worked tirelessly to restore the resort after Hurricane Paloma in 2008.

In 1990, Emily briefly lived in Grand Cayman, where she operated Country & Western Restaurant on a lease and worked as a chef at Apollo 11. However, her heart remained in Little Cayman, and she returned to work at the Central Caribbean Marine Institute, where she served as a cook until her retirement in December 2023. Known for her fried chicken and key-lime pie, Emily was a vital member of the institute and was deeply loved by all who knew her.

Emily was a woman of many talents, continuing to cook from her own kitchen and selling her dishes to local residents. Her love for cooking was matched only by her love for her family. She welcomed her beautiful daughter Tianne on November 27, 1990 and married Victor Manuel Lopez Jr. on September 27, 2004. Emily was a proud grandmother to Cianna and Pecena, who brought immense joy to her life.

A fighter throughout her life, Emily survived a brain aneurysm in 2002 and was diagnosed with cancer in 2021, yet she remained strong and courageous. She was baptized into the Adventist Church two years ago, reaffirming her faith.

Emily's vibrant personality, her love for country music, fishing, and her family, will be fondly remembered by all. Her quirky sayings, "boi you is laughable" and "you fool you know," brought laughter and joy to those around her.

Emily is survived by her loving husband, Victor Jr.; daughter, Tianne; granddaughters, Cianna & Pecena; Father-in-law, Victor Sr.; brothers; Elwood & Dario Bodden, Woodley Christian. Sisters-in-law Anne & Editha, Sonia C, Mirian, Zoila, Esperanza, Isabel, Sonia L & Nicia; Brothers-in-law Mario & Carlos. She was predeceased by her parents & siblings Linton, Elmore, Noel, Silas, Ima & Lindora.

Though born in Cayman Brac, Emily made Little Cayman her true home, where she will be laid to rest. Her legacy of love, kindness, and resilience will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.  
May she rest in eternal peace.



## *Order of Committal Service*

### **Committal:**

Pastor Carlon Nyack

### **Lowering of the Casket & Floral Tributes:**

Pre-Recorded Song by Red Sovine "Roses for Mama"

### **Sealing of the Vault:**

"When the Roll is Called Up Yonder"; "What a Friend We Have in Jesus; In the Sweet By & By"

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Carlon Nyack

## *Acknowledgement*

The Family of the late Mrs. Emily Merita Lopez nee Christian through this medium would like to thank the entire medical team at the Little Cayman Medical Centre and faith Hospital; the Medical Evacuation Team of Cayman Airways; the Little Cayman Fire Service and the Staff of Bodden Funeral home for the exceptional care taken of their beloved one. Also special thanks to CCMI Little Cayman, Little Cayman Beach Resort/Reef Divers. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in this service, to everyone who attended today and to those who prayed and extended acts of kindness during this time of loss.  
May God Bless you richly always.