



*In
loving
memory of*

Melda Sarita Ebanks

March 14, 1941 - November 15, 2024

"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."

Proverbs 31:29

Saturday November 30th, 2024 at 2pm

Wesleyan Holiness Church, West Bay

Officiating Minister Pastor Kim Evans

Interment Garden of Reflections

Order of Service

Opening Remarks: Pastor Kim Evans
Opening Prayer: Pastor Kim Evans
Opening Congregational Songs: Chorus Medley/ When the Roll is Called Up Yonder
Moment of Silence in Memory of Vandyke Bush
Obituary

Tributes:

Husband

Son/Daughter:

Daughter Brigida Rodriguez

Son Steve Ebanks

Son Lemuel Ebanks Jr

Daughter Samantha Ramirez

Sisters:..... I have never been this home sick before.

Scripture Reading: Psalms 91

Slide show

Sermon:..... Pastor Kim Evans

Acknowledgement

Closing Song: Blessed Assurance..... Congregation

Closing Prayer: Pastor Kim Evans

Pallbearers

Mr. Steve Ebanks
Mr. Stephen Ebanks
Mr. Lemuel Ebanks Jr

Mr. Lemuel Ebanks III
Mr. Wilmer Ramirez
Mr. Jeremiah Ramirez

Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Johnson Mendoza
Mr. Floyd Bush
Mr. Calron Powery
Mr. Nathaniel DaCosta
Mr. Alfonzo (Al) Ebanks
Mr. Luis Rodriguez

Mr. David White
Mr. Bryan White
Mr. Dan Scott
Pastor Case
Mr. Helbert Rodriguez
Mr. Derrek Trejo

Ushers

Mr. Malachi Wilson
Mr. McTare Ebanks
Mr. Calron Powery

Guest Book Attendant

Mrs. Becky Ebanks
Mrs. Paulinda Mendoza-Williams

Tribute – husband Lemuel Mclee Ebanks

My brother, Martin Ebanks brought me to Grand Cayman in 1955. There I met Sarita and we fell in love and got married and formed a beautiful tree. From that tree, we grew and bear four beautiful fruits, our children- Brigida, Steve, Lemuel Jr, and Samantha. That tree continues to bear beautiful fruits to this day and I pray that it will continue until the Lord calls us all to our eternal home. The values and principles that we taught our children was guided by the faith that we shared in the Lord. Sarita has always been by my side, be it taking care of the family business or at home taking care of our children. Our vows of marriage stand through to this day as we have celebrated over 60 years of being together. I will miss my wife greatly, but find comfort in knowing that she is at peace with God in heaven.

Love,
Lemmie

Tribute – son Lemuel Ebanks Jr.

To my loving mother, I cherish all the memories I have with you. I will always remember wanting to learn to make local dishes and you would always tell or show me how to make it. Or catching crabs, where she would use her bare hands to catch crabs but I would use a stick to help me catch them with her and remember getting bit by them. She was/is an amazing mother to myself and she was a great mother figure for my kids. I knew I could always depend on her and there wasn't anything she wouldn't/couldn't do to help her family or others in need. You will always live in my heart, till we meet again.

-Lem

Tribute- grandchildren Evelyn, Lemuel III, Avigail, Jeremiah, and Aviela

You were more than just a grandmother to us—a steady light, a warm embrace, and a gentle guide through the ups and downs of life. When we think of you, we think of kindness, wisdom, and unconditional love. Your smile could brighten any room, and your laugh was like music that brought joy to anyone who heard it.

You taught us so much, not just with your words but with your actions. You showed the importance of patience, the power of a caring touch, and the strength of loving unconditionally. We remember how you'd sit and cook while telling stories from your youth, stories filled with lessons and love. We remember every Sunday waiting to eat your big 'Sunday dinna', you had a way of making even the simplest moments feel magical. Or when we would all have fun telling you and Papa, we coming to give you six love. Mama always used to joke around, saying, "I love to see you with straight hair," but then would compliment us with our beautiful curly hair. We remember when you used to gather us all up to go get mangos, etc, with you. You could talk to Mama about just ANYTHING, but if it was a topic to stay clear of, it was POLITICS! Now, that was something she felt strongly about! She was never a big fan of dogs or cats, she would always say, "You nah afraid to have that big dog around your babies" or "How you keep that big dog inside", but she loved her cows. It was always beautiful to see Mama and Papa together; they always displayed such a beautiful relationship, and even in the hard times, they were always able to communicate their differences to move forward. I remember that every milestone called for a celebration, no matter how small the achievement. You were always there for all the special occasions, whether that be birthdays, Christmas, award ceremonies, musical concerts, the birth of a new family member, or Graduation ceremonies. You always knew just what to say to make us feel better when life got challenging. Whether it was with a comforting hug or a heart-to-heart conversation, you made everything feel like it wasn't the end of the world but a new beginning. It didn't matter how busy life would get we would always stay in touch and share anything new happening. You would always check in to see how your great granddaughters were doing, and I would always make sure to make time to video call you so you could see them, or I would plan a surprise visit for you to be able to see them. Riley and Alexandria will miss climbing into your bed to give you hugs and kisses (Evelyn). It didn't matter how bad you were feeling; you always made sure that everyone was okay, and you were all about your family and friends. Even in the quiet moments, your presence was all that was needed. You were a steady anchor in a world that could sometimes feel overwhelming, and we will forever carry all the wisdom you shared in our hearts. What we will miss the most is how you made us feel — loved, cherished, and understood. The bond we shared was one that words could never do justice in describing it. You were our confidant, mentor, and our friend. You were a constant source of strength, not just for us but for the whole family.

As we continue to grow and face the world without you by our side, we will hold onto the lessons you gave us. We will live with kindness, love fiercely, and always remember the importance of family. Thank you for being the incredible woman you were, for your love, your strength, and your endless support.

We will carry you with us in our hearts, always. Rest in peace, Mama.

Love,
Aviela, Jeremiah, Avigail, Evelyn & Lemuel III

Tribute – grand-daughter Stephanie Ebanks

I never imagined life without you. Your beautiful smile and laugh keeps replaying in my head. I know you are in a better place, in heaven singing. You are the best mother I could've asked for- you kept me grounded, showed me so much love, and you supported me through the good and bad. You're the most selfless and caring person I have ever come across, a rarity. There will never be another person like you. You've given the best advice and made me into the woman I am today. Every good that I am and everything I am becoming is because I had a mother like you. Everything I have done thus far was to make you and papa proud and I hope to continue to do that. You have done and given me so much in this life, I can only do my best to become the woman you raised me to be. I will carry you and all that you have taught me into my future and my future family- your faith and love for the Lord, the love and care you have for your family and your hard work. I will see you again, but for now- I love you and I will miss you every single day.

Love you always,
"Stephie"

Tribute- grandchildren Stephen

When God created Grandma's, he had some characteristics in mind. She had to be warm, strong, funny, smart, kind, brave and understanding. All of these combined and of all the grandmas on God's great earth, I feel so blessed to not only call you my grand mother but my mother. You have raised me to be the man that I am today and for that I will ever be grateful and you will forever be in my heart.

Tribute – sister Kathy Schemier

We were all blessed to have had Sarita in our lives. We grew up as a family where the teachings of the Bible was a fundamental principle in our upbringing and grew up as a united family. As my older sister, Sarita was my protector, always having my best interest at heart. As an adult she was a devoted and faithful wife, an exceptional mother and grandmother, who committed her life to her family. She made her decisions in life based on their best interest.

I have a lifetime of beautiful memories, that will forever live in my heart. She had a smile and laugh like no other, which I will never forget. It wasn't just an empty facial expression, it came from deep within and was full of love and joy.

Sarita lived her life with dignity and died with dignity. Now she is resting in peace.

Always in my heart,
Kathy

Tribute- Nephews and Nieces (Calron Powery, Dwight Powery, Emerson Powery, Monique and Luke Powery)

Tribute to Aunt Sarita We are left with cherished memories of our beloved Aunt Sarita. From the time we were children, whenever our family visited Cayman from the States, Aunt Sarita and Uncle Lemmie were always among those to open their home to us and our parents, Bro. Byron and Sis. Mitty (uncle Lemmie's sister). Our visits were filled with warmth, laughter, and her delicious meals. Aunt Sarita's hospitality was second to none, and the family gatherings were always a highlight of our trip. We enjoyed boat rides, beach outings, and countless moments of joy with her and her family. She enjoyed visiting family in South Florida, and we remember her excitement as she shopped for her children and grandchildren, who were always by her side. Those years were wonderful family times spent together. Aunt Sarita had a gift for hospitality. Over the years, she served her community with love, opening her doors to friends, family, and church brethren, both in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. She was an excellent cook and baker. Her culinary talents included local delicacies like turtle meat, conch, fried fish with cassava and breadfruit, and her johnny cakes. Her rich, flavorful cakes included cassava, yam and cream of wheat which were a testament to her love and skill in the kitchen. Whether for a wedding, a baby shower, baby blessing or a family gathering, Aunt Sarita's food brought people together, making each event unforgettable. Her infectious laughter and sense of humor were a source of joy. Aunt Sarita had an innate care and concern for others, always ready to lend a helping hand, whether it was preparing a meal, offering a donation, or otherwise. She was a woman of deep faith, devoted to God and her family. She held firm to her beliefs, especially the teachings of the Bible, and was steadfast in her commitment to the way of holiness. She believed that the path of righteousness would lead to eternal life in Heaven with Jesus, and she never hesitated to speak her mind when it came to matters of the Christian faith. As we remember Aunt Sarita, we can almost hear her singing the last verse of the gospel song, "Sheltered in the Arms of God- Soon I shall hear the call from Heaven's portals, Come home, my child, it's the last mile you must trod. I'll fall asleep, but I'll wake in God's new Heaven, And I'll be sheltered in the arms of God. Chorus: So let the storms rage high, And dark clouds rise, They don't worry me, For I'm sheltered safe within the arms of God. He walks with me, And naught of earth can harm me, For I'm sheltered in the arms of God". Aunt Sarita's love for God, her family, and her faith will never be forgotten. Though we mourn her passing, we know she is now at peace, sheltered in the arms of God. She will forever be loved and missed by all of us. May her soul rest in eternal peace, and may light perpetual shine upon her.

Lovingly,
Calron, Dwight, Emerson, Monique & Luke

Tribute – neices Clincie and Cleo Ebanks

To our beloved Aunt Sarita,

Aunt Sarita was always there for us, no matter the circumstances. Even during her stay in the Brac, we spent time with her and Uncle Lemmie and were filled with warmth and love. We fondly remember how she showed us about caring for plants, especially when she shared the fruits from her trees with us. And who could forget the sweet aroma that greeted us as we entered her home? Her famous cassava cakes were the best, no one made them like she did.

Despite her health challenges, she was always steadfast, responding to inquiries about her well-being with a simple, "I'm doing okay." Aunt Sarita's unwavering love for God was the foundation of her life. She instilled that same faith in her children and shared it with all of us.

We admired her for her selflessness, generosity, and genuine care for everyone around her. While her passing leaves a void we take solace in the knowledge that she is now safe in Jesus's arms.

You will be deeply missed. Your nieces,
Clincie and Cleo

Tribute - Uncle Byron and Sister Emittie Powery (Mitty)

Lemmie, my only brother-in-law, my desire is to be present with you at this time when your beloved wife (for life) Sarita has departed for eternity. We are sad with the family, children (Brigida, Steve, Lem Jr. and Samantha) and their families. Sarita in her youthful days and in earlier years of marriage attended the Pilgrim Holiness Church (now Wesleyan Holiness Church). She faithfully attended the Sunday School that often went over 300 in number. This was in the time of Pastor Ruth Bowman. From a child she made known what she stood for...frank and tough!! But she cared for the life of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8. Our God knows what he's doing. He will not allow our load to be too much for the length of the journey. Now you may be sad, but tomorrow loving memories will make you glad.

With prayer and condolences,
Brother Byron and Sister Mitty.

Tribute- Mark and Sheri Ebanks

My dear Aunt Sarita is forever celebrated as someone who lived a life filled with cherished moments. She truly enjoyed hosting loving family gatherings, sharing her generous heart and leading with conviction. These inspiring attributes flowed from her relationship with Jesus and spilled into those who got to know her. As she is now missed in this life, we are better Christians for knowing her and encouraged to press on in the "Way" of living. Jesus is the Way! - John 14:6

Mark n Sheri Ebanks

Tribute- Claire

My dear cousin Lemmy; Brigida, Steve, Sam, Lemmy Jr, and their families. I was deeply saddened when I received the news of Sarita's passing.

Unfortunately, I am unable to travel at this time, but my thoughts and prayers are with you all.

From the moment I met Sarita we formed an instant bond that stretched over all these years.

I will be comforted by reminiscing my numerous trips to Cayman, and the wonderful times we spent in Jamaica.

I particularly remember that time in Cayman when Sarita killed the snake in the house. We have had many laughs over the years just thinking about it. She was always so thoughtful and loving, and I will miss her profoundly.

May her soul Rest in Peace.

Love Claire. And Condolences on behalf of Tuesday and Candia.

Tribute – caregiver Sherlina

In loving memory of Mummy Sarita,
Today we remember in honor the life of Mummy. Although, it is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Mummy, whose presence in our lives was a gift that we will forever cherish. She was not just an employer, but a mentor; a guide and a source of inspiration. For almost 5 years I have been taking care of her. Her strength, wisdom and kindness has shaped my life in ways that I will always cherish. Although you are no longer with us, Mummy, your spirit and the impact you made will remain in our hearts forever. I am truly grateful for the time I had with you, and I will carry your teaching and wisdom with me always. Rest in peace, Mummy. You will be deeply missed, but your memory will always remain.
With deepest respect and gratitude.
Ina

Tribute –pastors and close friends Pastor John and Betty Case

How do you say the right words of tribute for a person like Sis. Sarita?
For over 20 years, Betty and I had the privilege of knowing Sis. Sarita and the privilege of being her pastors, counselors and dear friends. When we first moved to Grand Cayman and pastored the Wesleyan Holiness Church, she was a very active part of the church, and her baking of delicious meals was known by everyone. We were often invited to her home for special occasions and it was during these times that we got the taste of conch stew or conch fritters, or some other Cayman style dinner. We often on these occasions felt like a part of her family.
However, it was more than that. She was faithful to the church until sickness made it impossible for her to attend. I guess that I would also say, she and I were of “kindred” spirits and would often find something to laugh about. I often went away from our visit with a smile on my face. For a busy pastor, with a heavy load on his shoulder, this was refreshing. There also was a part of her spirit that you did not have to guess as to what she was thinking. If there was something that she would feel needed to be changed, she did not tell others but would confront you directly. There were times when her directiveness was important for me to see what I could not otherwise see. I was so glad when I came back the second time and found that Lemmie had given his heart to Jesus. Our fellowship was enriched as we all were a part of the family of God.
While we cannot be there in person to give this tribute, our hearts are with Lemmie and all the family and want you to know that Sis. Sarita was a dear and special person and someday we expect to see her again. We will cherish those memories as they are precious memories.
Our love and condolences to all, Pastor John and Betty Case

Tribute- Adrian and Rebecca Duttry

Our tribute to Sarita Ebanks.

Very shortly after moving to Grand Cayman in the Fall of 1984 to serve as teachers at Wesleyan Christian Academy, we became acquainted with Sarita Ebanks. It wasn't very long until a friendship with Sarita and her lovely family commenced, one that we will cherish forever.

Sarita stood by us and shared her genuine love for us in so many ways. She was free with the giving of her time and means to see that we were well taken care of while living on the island. Her cooking was among her finest abilities.

Sarita was a true friend. She would often make us aware of that fact in no uncertain terms. She loved our little family like we were her own. Her kindness, like so many of our Caymanian friends, some still living and many that have gone to their reward, has been forever etched in our memory.

It was a real pleasure to visit with Sarita just a few months ago while on our 40th Wedding Anniversary trip. We were able to share memories and pray one last time with her. Her pleasant smile was just as charming as ever. We are so thankful for the ladies that made our short visit with her possible.

We hope to see Sarita again some day in a land where good-byes are never spoken. It is so imperative that, we which remain, live our lives pleasing to God.

With Loving Memories,

Adrian and Rebecca Duttry



Acknowledgment

The family of the late Nelda Sarita Ebanks, would like to thank you all for your prayers, calls, support and presence here today to pay your last respects to this wonderful lady.

We would especially like to thank Ina who loved and cared for mummy for 5 1/2 years.

Bodden Funeral Home for their support and guidance during this difficult time.

May God's richest blessings be with you all.

Graveside Service

Song: Amazing Grace
Prayer: Pastor Helbert Rodriguez
Committal

*What a day that will be
I don't need to understand
God on the Mountain*

Benediction: Pastor Kim Evans

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come,
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

I Don't Need To Understand

Life is like a mighty sea
So tossed and driven.
Billows rise within the heart of every man
Storms so many times will
Leave the heart with questions
But I don't need to understand
Just hold His hand

Chorus I don't need to understand
I just need to hold His hand
I don't ever need to ask the reason, why
For I know He'll make a way
Through the night and through the day
I don't need to understand
I just need to hold His hand.

When my life down here is through
And Jesus calls me
To my home up there, beyond the golden shore.
I'll look back, review the path
That lay before me.
Then I won't need to understand anymore

What a Day That Will Be

There is coming a day when no heartaches shall come
No more clouds in the sky -- no more tears to dim the eye
All is peace forevermore, on that happy, golden shore
What a day, glorious day that will be

Refrain: What a day that will be when my Jesus I shall see
When I look upon his face, the One who saved me by His grace
When He takes me by the hand and leads me through the Promised
Land
What a day, glorious day that will be.

There'll be no sorrow there, no more burdens to bear
No more sickness, no pain, no more parting over there
And forever I will be with the One who died for me
What a day, glorious day that will be.

God On the Mountain

Life is easy, when you're up on the mountain
And you've got peace of mind, like you've never known
But things change, when you're down in the valley
Don't lose faith, for you're never alone

For the God on the mountain, is still God in the valley
When things go wrong, He'll make them right
And the God of the good times, is still God in the bad times
The God of the day is still God in the night

You talk of faith, when you're up on the mountain
But talk comes so easy, when life's at it's best
Now it's down in the valleys, of trials and temptations
That's where your faith, is really put to the test

For the God on the mountain is still God in the valley
When things go wrong, He'll make them right
And the God of the good times, is still God in the bad times
The God of the day, is still God in the night
The God of the day, is still God in the night