



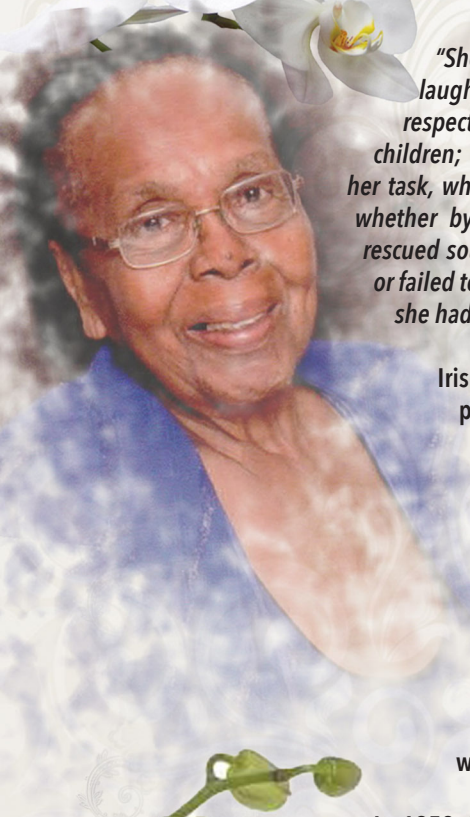
Iris
MARCELIN
'NEE'
Williams

1926-2016



The Obituary

Iris Irene Williams Marcelin
1926-2016



"She has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained respect of intelligent men, and the love of little children; who has filled her niche and accomplished her task, who has left the world better than she found it, whether by an improved property a perfect poem, or a rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty, or failed to express or; who has looked for the best in others and given the best she had; whose life was an inspiration, whose memory is a benediction"

Iris Irene Williams Marcelin, was born in the Island of Providenciales in the picturesque and tranquil district of Blue Hills on February 19, 1926, as the fifth child to Peter and Lourina Roberts Williams in a family of 2 boys and 4 girls all of who had pre-deceased her.

Iris attended the Government All Age Public School, under the tutelage of the late Aaron Gardiner. Iris excelled very well in school and after reaching the age of 20 years, she began a teaching career as an Infant Teacher having been introduced into teaching by attending Preparatory Teaching Workshops and Refresher courses arranged by the Turks and Caicos Government Board of Education in Grand Turk, having taught for roughly a period of 9 years. At the age of 21 years Iris met and married Robert Coleta Rigby (deceased) which produced one son.

In 1952, Iris journeyed to the Bahamas, like most residents of her day in search of a better livelihood. After a 6 month stay in Nassau, she relocated to Abaco. While living in Abaco she found employment with "S&M Farms" and later the late Dr. Gottlieb and his wife and remained there for 8 years.

In 1959, the courageous and adventurous Iris took on a new challenge to start a new path for her life and relocated to Pine Ridge, Grand Bahama where she settled at Riding Point. She found employment with the late Harold DeGregory, an amazon in the community of



Grand Bahama as an Assistant Manager for Kay Shell's Furniture Store, for 40 years of her life.

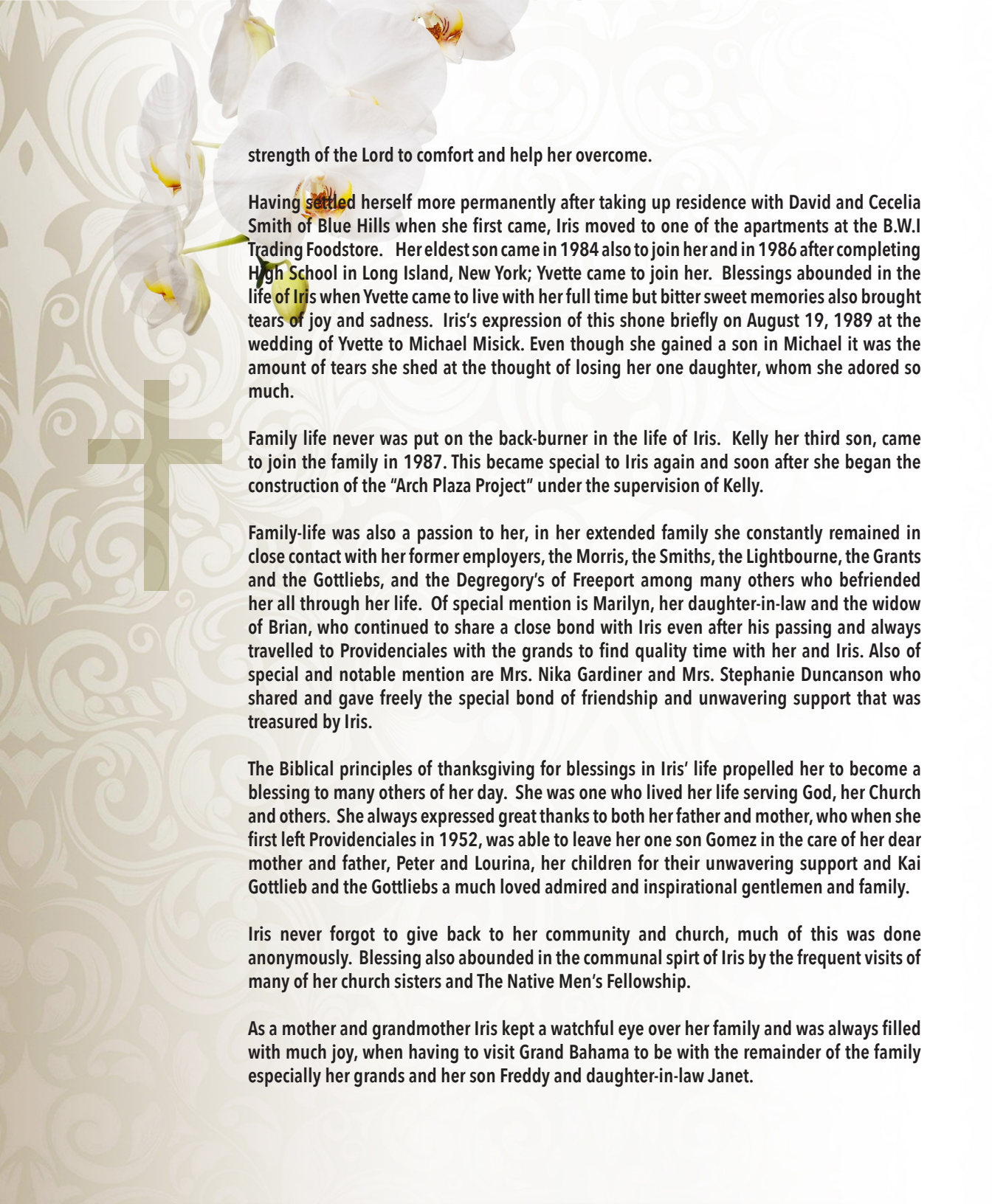
Iris who was born into a deeply religious family and remained faithful to the faith into which she was baptized. She immediately took membership in Zion Baptist church in Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama under the Pastorate of the late Rev Raymond Jones. She later transferred her membership to the First Baptist Church in Freeport, Grand Bahama, having moved to the Freeport area to take up new residence. For Iris this was a significant point in her life, where prayer, hard work and the pursuit of developing oneself to attain greater success was the daily routine of her life.

Over the many years, Iris's family grew, 4 sons were added to her family, Iris was very devoted to her family, a very special trait that was passed onto her by her own mother and father who were known to help enrich the lives of neighbors and friends. This was evident by the presence of her younger adopted sister Mrs. Diane Morris-Grant who came to live with her family at the age of 5 years old.

In 1969, Iris met and married Gilbert Marcelin, who had pre-deceased her by 43 years, from their union a beautiful baby girl was ushered into the family. Joy filled the hearts of family and friends on the arrival of her new daughter, sister and niece to the family. Iris named her Yvette Denise. Yvette became the pride of Iris life.

In 1984, Iris developed a desire to return to her native homeland of Providenciales, after having made a prior visit in April 1979, along with close relative and friends to attend the funeral of the Late Christina Howell Swann. Three weeks after her return in 1984 she became employed by Victor and Virginia Georgeff of B.W.I. Trading. Vic and Jenny both became valued and trusted friends to Iris and her family.

Iris was one whose life has seen its share of challenges, struggles and adversities. Job 5:7 - "But a man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward." It was in June, 1985 that Iris received the tragic news of the death of her second son Brian, who was suddenly killed in a motor boat accident in Walkers Cay, Grand Bahama. In January, 2015 she lost another son, Glen who died after suddenly falling ill in Freeport, Grand Bahama. Iris who was terribly devastated never really healed from these experiences but continually relied on her christian faith, and the



strength of the Lord to comfort and help her overcome.

Having settled herself more permanently after taking up residence with David and Cecelia Smith of Blue Hills when she first came, Iris moved to one of the apartments at the B.W.I Trading Foodstore. Her eldest son came in 1984 also to join her and in 1986 after completing High School in Long Island, New York; Yvette came to join her. Blessings abounded in the life of Iris when Yvette came to live with her full time but bitter sweet memories also brought tears of joy and sadness. Iris's expression of this shone briefly on August 19, 1989 at the wedding of Yvette to Michael Misick. Even though she gained a son in Michael it was the amount of tears she shed at the thought of losing her one daughter, whom she adored so much.

Family life never was put on the back-burner in the life of Iris. Kelly her third son, came to join the family in 1987. This became special to Iris again and soon after she began the construction of the "Arch Plaza Project" under the supervision of Kelly.

Family-life was also a passion to her, in her extended family she constantly remained in close contact with her former employers, the Morris, the Smiths, the Lightbourne, the Grants and the Gottliebs, and the Degregory's of Freeport among many others who befriended her all through her life. Of special mention is Marilyn, her daughter-in-law and the widow of Brian, who continued to share a close bond with Iris even after his passing and always travelled to Providenciales with the grands to find quality time with her and Iris. Also of special and notable mention are Mrs. Nika Gardiner and Mrs. Stephanie Duncanson who shared and gave freely the special bond of friendship and unwavering support that was treasured by Iris.

The Biblical principles of thanksgiving for blessings in Iris' life propelled her to become a blessing to many others of her day. She was one who lived her life serving God, her Church and others. She always expressed great thanks to both her father and mother, who when she first left Providenciales in 1952, was able to leave her one son Gomez in the care of her dear mother and father, Peter and Lourina, her children for their unwavering support and Kai Gottlieb and the Gottliebs a much loved admired and inspirational gentlemen and family.

Iris never forgot to give back to her community and church, much of this was done anonymously. Blessing also abounded in the communal spirit of Iris by the frequent visits of many of her church sisters and The Native Men's Fellowship.

As a mother and grandmother Iris kept a watchful eye over her family and was always filled with much joy, when having to visit Grand Bahama to be with the remainder of the family especially her grands and her son Freddy and daughter-in-law Janet.

As Iris advanced in years her health deteriorated where she constantly experienced unbearable pains to her neck, wrist, knee and spine. Over a 4 year period Yvette, her daughter, and son Freddy would travel with her to visit doctors throughout the Miami area, Bahamas and Cuba sometimes four times a year in search of a better diagnosis. It was on October 15, 2016, Iris fell and was rushed to the Cheshire Hall Medical Centre when it was discovered that she had a broken hip. Five days later on October 20, 2016, she was airlifted by Ambulance to Grand Cayman, where she underwent surgery for a fractured hip at the Health City Hospital in Grand Cayman. She remained in hospital for a month period and recovered from the fractured hip very well. It was three weeks into her hospital stay when she developed pneumonia and was diagnosed with an obstruction in the bowel; she succumbed to death, and entered immortality on November 18, 2016.

"A Gracious woman retaineth her honour" Proverbs 11:16. Iris was blessed to have a remarkable daughter Yvette who traveled with her to Grand Cayman and today stands tall and proud over the loving care she was able to give her dear mother during her earthly sojourn.

During her life, Iris was one who enjoyed the beauty of her senior years, with chores and leisure time activities among them were fishing, cooking, reading the weekly newspapers, local TV programs, and watching her favorite TV program - "Family Feud", apart from her constant worship at her church, Bethany Baptist, where she reunited through her former membership before leaving Providenciales in 1952.

It can be said that Iris was a lady of feminine qualities of grace, discipline, ethics, and etiquette. A very soft-spoken individual who was refined and cultured. She has lived a life in humility, prayer, peace, friendships, patriotism, prudence and philanthropy. One who found much joy in giving and understood that real joy, comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men but from doing something worthwhile. This has been the mantra by which Iris Williams Marcelin has lived her life.

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She is survived by:

Daughter: Yvette Denise Marcelin

Sons: Lloyd "Gomez Rigby, Calvin Coolridge Hall-Williams ("Kelly"),
Frederick Franklyn Hall ("Freddy" (Brian Hall and Glen Williams -
deceased)

Step Daughters: Muriel Mullings - Black, Marlene Aladin nee Marcelin





Adopted Daughters: Nika Gardiner, Francis Rigby, Ronnie Charles, Stephanie Duncason

Step Sons: Eric Marcelin, Jean Claude Marcelin, Lucian Hall, Edgar Hall, Kurt Hall and Chester Hall

Sister: Ivy Kathleen Basden

Adopted Sister: Dianne Grant

Grand Children: Jermaine Moncur, Cornell Hall, Shoron Hall, Corry Hall, Corrine Hall, Brian Hall, Frederick Ryan Hall, Yefri Williams and Kristen Misick

Great Grand Children: Lyn'A Wilchcombe, Laila Wilchcombe, Lamar Collins, Lily Collins and Luke Hall

Daughters in Law: Marilyn Hall, Janet Hall and Anna Garcia

Sister in Law: Christina Williams

Nephews: Jack Williams and Glenford Williams

Nieces: Natalie Mullings, Mildred Thompson, Christiana King, Jacquelyn Williams, Monique Moore and Bridget Williams

Special Friends and loved ones: Wayne and Nika Gardiner and Family, Blythe and Stephanie Duncason and Family, Lloyd and Grace Roberts and Family, Carlton Ewing and family, Louise Smith and Family, Michael and Jaime Smith and family, Muriel and Nicholas Black, Michael Misick, Lydia Seymour, Claridge and Virginia Wilson and family, King Wilson and family, Wonnie Wilson and family, Jack and Kathleen Williams and family, Pastor Derek and Beula Hamilton and family, Harold and Ronnie Charles and family, Francis Rigby and family, Vic and Jenny Georgeff, Lucille Lightbourne and family, Sherlock and Sandra Walkin and family, Sister Winifred MacIntosh and family, Chris, Percy and Marion Williams and family, Thelma Lightbourne and family, Carla Cartwright and family, Errimilda Delancy Simons and family, Dr. Sam Slattery and family, Dueanphen Meesri and Sorayut Jongmeesapmak, Sylvia Grant, Albert Grant and family, David and Cecilia Smith and family, The DeGregory family, Bishop Coleta Williams III and family, The Honourable Porsha Stubbs-Smith and family, The Bethany Baptist Church Family, The Bethany Baptist Womens Group and a host of other relatives and friends to numerous to mention.



- *Order of Service* -
IRIS MARCELIN 'Nee' Williams

PRAISE & WORSHIP Bethany Baptist Church Choir

FAMILY'S PARTING VIEW

PROCESSIONAL SOLO "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
Shaun Malcolm

OPENING SENTENCES Pastor Derek Hamilton

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "How Great Thou Art"

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the *worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the *rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze



And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then *I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art!

OPENING PRAYER..... Bishop Coleta Williams III

1ST SCRIPTURE READING.....Psalm 90:1-1 Deaconess Zenneth Palmer

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

2ND SCRIPTURE READING..... I Corinthians 15:50-58.....Muriel Black

MUSICAL TRIBUTE..... "A Song For Mamma".....Solo Julian Garland

OBITUARY (To be read in silence)

SPECIAL TRIBUTE Carla Cartwright

SOLO..... "Don't Cry For Me"
by: Barbara Lee Johnson

SERMON Pastor Derek Hamilton

PRAYERFUL BLESSING OF THE FAMILY Pastor Pedro Williams

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "To God Be The Glory"

To God be the glory, great things he has done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that we may go in.

Refrain:

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. Refrain

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our gladness, when Jesus we see.

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN "It Is Finished"

There's a line that is drawn through the ages
On that line stands an old rugged cross
On that cross, a battle is raging
To gain a man's soul or it's loss.

Chorus:

*It is finished, the battle is over
It is finished, there'll be no more war
It is finished, the end of the conflict
It is finished and Jesus is Lord*

On one side, march the forces of evil
All the demons, all the devils of hell
On the other, the angels of glory
And they meet on Golgotha's hill.

The earth shakes with the force of the conflict
And the sun refuses to shine
For there hangs God's son, in the balance
And then through the darkness he cries.

Yet in my heart, the battle was still raging
Not all prisoners of war had come home
These were battlefields of my own making
I didn't know that the war had been won.

Oh, but then I heard the king of the ages
Had fought all the battles for me
And that victory was mine for the claiming
And now praise his name, I am free.





Committal Service

INTERMENT

Bethany Baptist Church Cemetery
Blue Hills, Providenciales

FINAL WORD Pastor Derek Hamilton

HYMN "My Jesus I Love Thee"

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

Chorus:

*I love Thee because Thou has first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

PRAYER Deacon Theo Durham

HYMN "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder"



When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Refrain

*When the roll, is called up yon-der,
When the roll, is called up yon-der,
When the roll, is called up yon-der,
When the roll is called up yonder I'll be there.*

On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of His resurrection share;
When His chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Let us labor for the Master from the dawn till setting sun,
Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care;
Then when all of life is over, and our work on earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

COMMITTAL

HYMN "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BENEDICTION



My Mother

Almost any caring person you ask will tell you the most important person to them, regarding family relationships outside of their children, is their Mother. Am I any different? No.

We grew up humbly, though not poor financially when I consider our lives back then, we did not have much, yet I felt that we lacked nothing. We were content with what we had. I was very happy in my upbringing. Mom taught us sound principles that were better than any gifts, toys or games, as those last a little while and fade into extinction but those principles guided us and shaped our lives to help us become the persons we grew into.

We learned what it means to work hard, although during those times, we were unaware of how difficult it was for her being the only bread winner, she made sacrifices for us. We were content.

We learned how to clean house, with four brothers and one sister, we had to learn to do household chores. Washing dishes, dusting furniture, washing clothes on scrub boards, scrubbing floors on hand and knees, cleaning windows...oh boy, did I say I had a fun childhood?

We also learned how to have fun, though not well off, our clothes were always clean, unless we played on hard surfaces spinning tops or in the dirt shooting marbles or pushing homemade go carts. She took us to movies, to the beach, that was so much fun! To this day I still don't know how she managed it, but once and a while we had a trip to shop in Miami, only one of us at a time. I guess she also taught us how to save without us knowing.

Mom taught us to do our school work, no excuses, attend school, no excuses. She praised us when we did well and encouraged us when we did not do so well and scolded us (beating with the belt) when we misbehaved. She spoke with teachers to make sure we were not telling her one thing and doing differently out of her sight.

Happily, I have lived long enough to look back and truly appreciate those many gifts. Not electronic gadgets, but sound principles that will remain with me forever. She never really said the words, "I love you" but her actions, her laughter, her tears, her looks of approval or disapproval all told us she loved and cared for us more than anyone else.

I would be remiss if I did not mention how I see those qualities in my little sister, Yvette.

I am so very thankful and blessed to have had my mom for all of her 90 years...full faculties teaching me about the past, present and future.

"Listen, my son to the discipline of your father, and do not forsake the instruction of your mother." Proverbs 1:8

"Listen, to your father who caused your birth, and do not despise your mother just because she has grown old." Proverbs 23:22





A Tribute

Writing this tribute was bittersweet. Bitter because they are my parting words about my mom and sweet because there is so much good that I can say.

Our Mother, Mommy, Grammy...

Miss Iris, the matriarch of our family can be described in one adjective "strong". She was known for her strength, bravery, resolve, firm temperament and drive. When anyone spoke about our mom the one word that always came up in the conversation was "strong." Even though she lived her later years in constant chronic pain she never let that keep her down.

Our mother was the perfect example of perseverance. It is often said nowadays that they don't make them like that anymore. This is so true.

My mother was everything to me. Having lost my father at the age of five years old, she was my father, my mother, my sister, my friend. We enjoyed spending time with each other, sharing little jokes between each other and our special times traveling. She was my travel buddy.

From my mother I have learnt so many lessons but the one lesson that I will cherish the most is the lesson of being a strong hard working independent woman. To put God first and to rely on my own resolve and inner strength to be all that I can be and to fight to make it in this life to never give up. I am so thankful that the Lord gave me the time and the opportunity before my mom passed to tell my mother how much I appreciated all that she did for me and how much I loved her and to tell her that I am who I am today because of her.

If there is one thing that our mother did in her life it is to work hard. I do not recall a time when my mom did not work, hard work. It is only in the sunset years of our mothers life that I can recall her not ever working. Even then she seemed restless. She would often say I am bored. She was one who could never keep still. Always having to be doing something. I recall my mom telling me a story about working so hard to raise her children that at one point she only owned two dresses. Each night

after work she would rinse out one dress on her hands so that she could have a clean one for the next day. We watched our mom when we were growing up making constant sacrifices for us. She believed in giving us an opportunity through education. She gave each one of us that opportunity. She used to say "I sent you to school to have sense in your head" translated that meant: I'm giving you the opportunity to receive an education so that you can be anything you would like to be in this life.

She was a stern disciplinarian when she needed to be. Raising 5 boys and 1 girl on her own could not have been easy. Each of us are the better for her child rearing today.

Words cannot express how much I miss my mother. I will miss driving by every morning and seeing her sitting at the top of the stairs in the hallway at the Arch Plaza waiting to see when I would cross by and waving to her when I would cross. Or passing by and seeing her sitting there reading her newspaper which she love to do. I will miss our daily conversations. I will miss our family vacations. I will miss her affectionately calling me "Vetty". One thing that I will never miss though is her unconditional love for me. That love will always remain with me in my soul and through her spirit. I feel so blessed and thankful to have been able to experience the unconditional love of my mother.

When I had nothing my mom gave me everything. When I needed a hand to hold and a shoulder to cry on she was always there. Sometimes crying right along with me. She was there for me in my darkest moments and in my brightest lights. I will love her to the end of my time and I will carry her in my heart forever. She will never ever be forgotten.

My mom, our mom, grammy was more than a mother she was the true definition of a hard working independent phenomenal woman of her time. She was a lady. She was as one of her favorite songs says: once, twice, three times a lady and we will always love her.

Until we meet again mommy watch over us as our guardian angel.

We love you,

Yvette

put god first



