

*A Service in Celebration and Thanksgiving*

*To God for the Life of*

*Mrs. Merle Crossman*

November 2, 1945 – November 21, 2016



**Service:**

Sunday, December 4, 2016 - 3:00 p.m.

**7<sup>TH</sup> DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

**THE CHURCH OF THE ORANGES**

270 Reynolds Terrace • Orange, New Jersey

## Obituary

Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies the question was asked and we promptly respond **Merle McGregor Crossman** was one such woman.

Merle McGregor was born on November 2, 1945 to Ellen Coward and Sydney McGregor in the district of Mosley Hall, Blackstonedged , St, Ann Jamaica.

She attended the St George's All Age School up to Grade 9 where she was successful in the test which would have allowed her entrance to Teachers Training School but was unable to pursue further studies due to lack of finances. Life was never easy for Merle who had to live with different relatives as child, suffering an accident which rendered her hearing impaired, a challenge she lived with until she came to America in 2004 when it was corrected.

Merle met her husband Solomon Crossman 55 years ago. From the union they produced 7 children, 5 girls and 2 boys. Life was difficult in the early years for them as they tried to clothe, feed and school their children. Merle was fiercely proud, independent and hardworking. She instilled Christian values in her children at very tender years even before she became a born again Christian herself.

She was self employed working as a vendor for most of her years as she worked tirelessly to provide for the growing demands of children who had passed their common entrance exams and were going onto high school. There were now boarding fees, lunch moneys and transportation costs to contend with. I do not know how my parents did it but they made the way out of seemingly impossible situations.

On one of these difficult occasions Merle had just amassed enough funds for lunch money and boarding fees but had no money to pay her bus fare to deliver the funds to us. Merle walked the seventeen miles to take the lunch money and boarding fees to her children. Such was the commitment and determination of the mother we so loved who wanted to ensure that her children had a better life than she had.

She was a fighter undaunted by the many challenges life threw at her. When there was violence in the Kingston location from which she did business, she did not stay away, because she had her children to provide for. She loved all her children specially and equally, with each child thinking he/she was the special child. We could not distinguish who she loved most if she did.

Merle was not always a born again Christian but when her mother passed on in 1998 she decided there and then to change her life. She gave her life to God and was baptized in the Church of God 7<sup>th</sup> Day in Mosley Hall, Jamaica. Merle was a worshipper. She loved the Lord and always had a praise on her lips and in her heart. She lived in a difficult community but she was strengthened by God's grace to survive many hardships and challenges.

She was active in the welfare ministry of her church and would go into the community bathing, feeding and caring for old and neglected persons. She also served diligently as Sabbath School secretary for a number of years before she left the community on the second round of childrearing; that is; supporting her children who were now married and starting their own families. She made the rounds with all of her children, whether it was, when Mitsie needed to go to college as a young wife and mother, when Michelle was recently married and having her baby while pursuing further studies or raising Sharon's two sons. Derrick, Carlis, Claudine, Brett were all beneficiaries of a mother who gave her all and then some.

She was kind and compassionate and a second mother to many other children. She was a friend to both old and young and best friend to many. She never had unkind words to say about anyone and was a confidante to many people - always encouraging persons through their difficulties.

Merle migrated to the United States of America in 2004 and had big plans of going to work to help all the persons she left in Jamaica who needed her help. She worked in the health care industry for a short time before she was diagnosed with the disease that later claimed her life.

Many persons did not know she was ill for all these years as she never complained about her lot but faced each difficulty like a brave soldier. Even in sickness, she was praising the Lord. Even when down she was still fighting and singing "Jesus keep me near the Cross", "For He alone is Worthy", "Great is Thy Faithfulness", and a favorite one she sang everyday "No matter what storm clouds may rock this ship of mine".

She leaves behind husband, Solomon, children Marilyn (Sharon), Robert (Derrick), Carlis, Claudine, Michelle, Mitsie and Duran. She is also survived by sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews, grand and great grand children.

Merle you have fought a good fight you have finished your course you have kept the faith. And we all say rest in peace Mama, Sis, Merle, Grandma, Ada. You came, you fought, you conquered. Well done, well done, well done!!!!

# *Just A Closer Walk With Thee*

1. I am weak, but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

A. *Refrain:* Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Through this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

3. When my feeble life is o'er,  
Time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.



## *How Great Thou Art Lyrics*

### Verse 1:

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.

### Chorus:

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!

### Verse 2:

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.

### Chorus

### Verse 3:

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.

### Chorus

### Verse 4:

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 then proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art!"

### Chorus

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, 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.

2. 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, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.



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## Order of Service

Prelude

Opening Remarks .....Pastor Nigel Lewis  
Brooklyn Community Church of God 7th Day

Hymn..... “Blessed Assurance”

Opening Prayers.....Pastor Junior Gordon  
Member Executive Board, Church of God 7th Day Jamaica

First Lesson..... 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58  
Simoy Brown and Shanon Benjamin (Granddaughters)

Musical Rendition.....United Church of God (7th Day)

Second Lesson ..... 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9  
Malik & Sadiq Abdullahi (Grandsons)

Song..... “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Tributes and Remarks.....(2 Minutes please)  
Michelle Gordon  
United Church of God 7th Day

Tribute (On Behalf of Yvonne Small, Sister).....Anika Grant

Praise Dance..... Rachel and Khandace Gordon (Granddaughters)

Tributedress.....Instrumental Presentation  
Franklyn Benjamin (Grandson)

Eulogy..... Claudine Abdullahi (Daughter)

Musical Rendition.....Brooklyn Community Church of God 7th Day

Scripture

Sermon..... Pastor Junior Gordon

Prayer for the Family..... Pastor Nigel Lewis

Hymn..... “How Great Thou Art”

Closing Prayer

### **INTERMENT**

*Monday, December 5, 2016*

Rosedale Cemetery, Orange, New Jersey

1. The sands have been washed in the footprints of the stranger on Galilee's shore, And the voice that subdued the rough billows, Will be heard in Judea no more. But the path of that lone Galilean, With joy I will follow today; And the toils of the road will seem nothing, When I get to the end of the way.

2. There are so many hills to climb upward, I often am longing for rest, But He who appoints me my pathway knows just what is needful and best. I know in His word He hath promised That my strength, "it shall be as my day"; And the toils of the road will seem nothing, When I get to the end of the way.

3. He loves me too well to forsake me, or give me a trial too much; All His people have been dearly purchased, And Satan can never claim such. By and by I shall see Him and praise Him, In the city of unending day; And the toils of the road will seem nothing, When I get to the end of the way.

4. When the last, feeble step has been taken, And the gates of that city appear, And the beautiful songs of the angels Float out on my listening ear; When all that now seems so mysterious Will be bright and as clear as the day, Then the toils of the road will seem nothing, When I get to the end of the way.

### **Repast**

**Please join the family for repast immediately following the memorial service in the church fellowship hall.**

**Officiating Ministers:** Pastor Nigel Lewis:

Brooklyn Community Church of God 7th Day

Bro. Junior Gordon:

Member Executive Board, Church of God 7th Day Jamaica Conference

### **Committal Service at the Graveside**

Burial Service: Monday December 5, 2016 9:00 am

Officiating Minister: Bro. Junior Gordon

### *Acknowledgement*

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a floral piece If so, we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say.

Perhaps you were not there at all just thought of us on that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts, We Thank You, Whatever the part.

### **Professional Services Provided By**

**COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE**

130 Main Street  
Orange, NJ  
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ  
973-926-6400

**COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME**

37 Clinton Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ  
201-433-1000

