

Forever in  
OUR Hearts ♡

Fitzroy Frederick Hernando Jennings

October 17, 1944 - January 5, 2022

Sonia H. Jennings

May 25, 1953 - January 31, 2022



# Service Information

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022  
Viewing: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Service: 7:00 PM

**BRONX BETHANY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
971 East 227th Street, Bronx, NY 10466

**Officiating Clergy:**

*Rev. Dr. Samuel Vassel*  
*Rev. Richard Griffiths*  
*Rev. Carlene Reynolds*  
*Rev. Andy Rubin*  
*Rev. Lilly Porter-Bennett*  
*Rev. Dr. Leroy Richards*

**Organist**

*Arlene Nembhard*

**Interment**

Family Plot  
Westmoreland, Jamaica - W.I.

*The family has requested that an offering be taken in aid of the  
building fund for Sonia's childhood church,  
Peggy Barry Holiness Church, Westmoreland, Jamaica, W.I.*

# Order of Service

Processional

Opening Sentences & Prayer.....Rev. Dr. Leroy Richards

Opening Hymn ..... "How Great Thou Art" (Keisha Forde)

Scripture Reading,

Old Testament – Psalm 23..... (Matthew Jennings – Fitzroy's Nephew)

New Testament –Revelation 21:1-4 ..... (Dave Williams – Sonia's Nephew)

Tributes:..... Fitzroy – Dave Sharpe (Friend)  
Sonia – Arlene Nembhard (friend)

Selection – Marcia Constable ..... "It Is Well With My Soul"

Tributes ..... Elaine Hylton (Sonia's Co-Worker)  
Lincoln Hospital (Representative)

Selection..... Winsome Miller

Tribute:..... Sonia & Fitzroy – Tricia Williams (Niece)

Selection..... Bronx Bethany's Male Trio – "I Bowed on My Knees"

Obituary Reading ..... Fitzroy – Winston Jennings (Brother)  
Sonia – Ashley Williams (Niece)

Selection..... Bronx Bethany's Chapel Choir – "Hallelujah What A Savior"

Homily ..... Rev. Richard Griffiths

Prayer of Comfort ..... Rev. Dr. Samuel Vassel

Congregational Hymn ..... "Amazing Grace" (Keisha Forde)

Final Instructions..... Eternity Funeral Services Directors

Recessional..... Rev. Richard Griffiths



# Sonia's Obituary

**Sonia H. Jennings née Williams**, affectionately known as Norma, was born on May 25, 1953 to Zenia McFarlane and Frank Williams. She was youngest of three children. As a child Sonia was well beloved by her family and friends and considered special by all. She attended Grange Hill Primary School, then Peggy Barry Primary School because it was closer to home. After completing primary school Sonia went back to Grange Hill for high school, attending Grange Hill Secondary. After high school she moved to Kingston where she worked with Grace Kennedy.

At an early age Sonia was very driven by her love for the Lord. At ten she became the pastor of her own "little church" in Westmoreland. In her twenties that same love and drive led Sonia to Trinidad where she attended the Caribbean Nazarene College and received a diploma in Christian Education. While there she was regarded as a "spiritual aunt" to her peers.

Sonia returned to Jamaica and became very active in Richmond Park Church of the Nazarene. There she sang with her cousin Paul Williams on Sunday mornings and participated in so many activities that she was considered "head cook and bottle washer" of the church.

In the 1980s, after migrating to New York, Sonia continued her Christian service. She became a member of Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene where she served as Sunday school teacher, member of the Chancel Choir, NMI President, Board member, and District NMI Council Member. She worked as a social worker at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx for 27 years. There she met Fitzroy and they got married in August 1988. The union produced a wonderful daughter, Sherri-Ann. Sonia also went back to school and earned a Masters Degree in Social Work from Hunter College while employed at Lincoln hospital.

Serving was a part of Sonia's DNA. She continued ministering to many using the telephone, while challenged by her own health conditions and caring for her ailing husband. Sonia went home to be with the Lord on January 31, 2022. She was adored by her friends, family and church community. She is survived by her daughter Sherri-Ann, two siblings, three nieces and two nephews.

There is a famous quote that says "goodbyes are only for those who love with their eyes. Because for those who love with heart and soul there is no such thing as separation", so Sonia this is not a goodbye but an "until we meet again." Rest in the arms of the Lord.

# *Fitzroy's Obituary*

His early education began at the Jones Town Primary School and Kingston Senior School. He furthered his education by attending Kingston Technical High School and graduated in 1963. After leaving High School he obtained a one-year scholarship to attend the International Christian Youth Exchange (ICYE) Program in Indiana, USA. Upon completion, he returned home and was employed by the Ministry of Housing in the Architectural Department. His love for Architectural Drawing led him to continue his studies in London, England, attending London University. While in London, Fitzroy married his High School friend, together they had two children, Sharon and Andrew. They later migrated to Queens, New York. Thereafter, they divorced.

Fitzroy was employed by Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, as an Associate Director for the Sterilization Unit for over 30 years until he retired. While at Lincoln, Fitzroy met the love of his life, Sonia Williams whom he married and together they had a lovely daughter, Sherri-Ann.

Growing up as a teenager, he was an ardent member of the Jones Town Gospel Hall, his neighborhood church. He accepted the Lord and was later baptized. His service was outstanding. He sang in the church choir, was the chorus leader and a member of the men's quartet. He loved to sing the songs from the well renowned gospel singer George Beverly Shea and was praised for his Baritone/Bass vocals.

He attended Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene and became a member in December 1989. His love for the Lord was exemplified in the way he served. He served in a number of capacities. He was president of the Career Adult Group, president of the Men's Fellowship, District NMI Council Treasurer, church board member and an active member of his Care Group. He also worked closely with his wife Sonia in the local missions of the church on the District level. Musically, he led the congregation in singing on Sunday mornings with much enthusiasm. He was an active member of the Chancel choir and leader of the Male Quartet. Fitzroy was dedicated in all the duties he undertook. He was known for his generosity and was truly an asset to Bronx Bethany.

He is survived by his 3 children, 2 sisters, 4 brothers, grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, family, friends and church family. We acknowledge and share our joy in the gift that his life has brought, and pain that his passing brings. In sharing the joy and pain together, may it lessen the pain and may we remember the good times.



# *The Dash*

by Linda Ellis

*A tribute to*

**Fitzroy & Sonia**

*Lovingly submitted by Paula Reynolds-Chambers (Friend)*

*I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end.*

*He noted first came the date of the birth and spoke the following date with tears.  
But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between the years.*

*For that dash represents all the time that they spent life on Earth.  
And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.*

*For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash.  
What matters is how we live and love, and how we spend our dash.*

*So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change?  
For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.*

*If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,  
and always try to understand the way other people feel.*

*Be less quick to anger and show appreciation more,  
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.*

*If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,  
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.*

*So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash,  
would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent YOUR dash?*

**Thanks Sonia & Fitzroy for allowing me to be a part of your Dash.**

# precious memories ♡



# Acknowledgement

*The Family of **Fitzroy & Sonia Jennings** acknowledges with great appreciation all acts of kindness, sympathy and love extended to us during this time of bereavement.*

*Eternity*   
*Funeral Services*

**ETERNITY FUNERAL SERVICES, LLC**

Karrie O. Harvey-Edwards

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