

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Abel Bonilla



SUNRISE
APRIL 22, 1970

SUNSET
APRIL 17, 2022

Service

Wednesday, April 27, 2022
6:00 pm

Fountain Baptist Church

116 Glenside Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901
Pastor J. Michael Sanders, Officiant



Reflections Of Life

Abel "Abe" Bonilla was born on April 22, 1970, in Newark, New Jersey to Samuel Miranda "Sammy the Bull" and Victoria Lugo Bonilla. He was baptized on the 6th of June in 1970 by Rev. Father James P. Barry at St. Bridget's Church of Newark, NJ. Abe was the youngest child, most of the family referred to him as "Baby Abel" or "Bubba."

While growing up, Abe shared fond memories of being an excellent student at St. Mary's School in Newark from kindergarten to eighth grade, accompanying his mother to Friday nights Bingo games, early Saturday morning shopping trips to McCroy's and Woolworth: Five and Dime and buying a Gino Giant from Gino's, and attending early Sunday Mass services at St. Bridget's Church. Abe's most memorable and cherished experiences were his childhood sports stories. From age 5 to 13, he played little league baseball for the Newark Pirates on McCarter Highway (Route 21). Abe had a clever way of telling anyone who listened, "Man, I used to hit balls out-the-park. And as the pitcher, the catcher's hand use to hurt because I throw the ball so hard." On Friday nights, Abe and his father watched brolic wrestlers throw each other around during WWF (World Wrestling Federation) matches. Sundays! It was American football day from noon until evening. Abe really loved cheering on his favorite team - the Dallas Cowboys, analyzing the skills of every player, and debating with his brothers on who was the best team.

In 1984, Abe attended St. Benedict Preparatory School with aspirations to join the baseball team. However, Abe's time as a Gray Bee came to an end in 1986 because he decided to participate in a silly prank with his friends – after practice they took the wrestling coach's leather jacket. They had a chance to confess, but instead they threw the leather jacket in the Passaic River with the coach's car keys inside of it. When Abe told this story, he always mentioned, "Father Ed said, 'You are out!' and it was the dumbest decision!" Mamá Victoria was extremely disappointed, so she transferred Abe to East Side High School to make sure that he was not associated with any of his friends near home. At East Side High School, Abe played varsity football in 1987 for the Red Raiders and graduated in 1988. Two months after graduating, Abe had a traumatic experience with the loss of his first love, Mamá Victoria.

It was at this time, "Baby Abel" grew into Abe. He valued his family to the core, and embodied the personalities of his parents and each sibling: Sammy - the family provider, giver, tattoo gangsta, and committed husband; Mamá Victoria - the cook of hot and delicious Puerto Rican traditional cuisines and a joyful and friendly spirit; Norma, the second mother and the second dose of nurturing; Ishmael "Papo" also known as the tough guy from the block and devout Dallas Cowboys fan and car lover; Jesse "Chico" the superstar baseball player and ladies' man; and Ivan the angelic singer and faithful worshiper.

Once Abe stepped out into the real world. He witnessed the birth of his first-born child, Victoria Iesha Bonilla in 1991 and started a career within the airlines industry at Continental Airlines, Inc., currently known as United Airlines. Abe worked on the Ramp as a Customer Service Agent, Long-Term Lead, and acting Supervisor for 25 years. (Abe's official retirement was in 2021). It is during this time, where Abe became known as one of the funniest, friendliest, trash-talking, and competitive-spirited co-workers who worked on the Ramp. The year of 1994 marked a turning point in Abe's life. He was one of the organizational founders for the Continental Flag Football League (1994-2000) which consisted of 12 teams. As the captain and defensive lineman on the team, called the Ruff Necks (name selected by Abe), he helped the team win the league's first championship played at Giant Stadium in the same year. At work everybody knew Abe, except for Monique, who he officially met in the employee's break room when she partially severed her finger at work. From that point the love story begins.

Abe and Monique went on their first date in 1994. When dating Monique, Abe realized that he admired Monique's beauty, work ethic, self-motivation, intellectual ability, faith, and most noteworthy, her amazing single-mother parenting skills of two children. Abe always mentioned, "It blew my mind! Man, Monique is the love of my life." Therefore, Abe worked endless hours to plan a wedding for Monique. The couple officially married on September 13, 1997 and purchased their family home in Hillside, NJ the same year. The ordained union of Abe and Monique also birthed the marriage of a blended family, Abe's children Victoria "Vikki" (third oldest child) and Elijah "Pop" (youngest child) and Monique's children Sjocquelyn "Butter" (oldest child) and Rashad (second oldest child). To ensure that the blended family was covered by God, Abe led his family to join Fountain Baptist Church in 2001. Abe's wife and four children were his pride and joy.

As a husband and father of four, Abe aspired to make sure that his family was taken care of like his role model dad "Sammy the Bull." Consistently throughout the week, Abe prepared hot dinner meals (Mondays through Thursdays), supported each child's sports games (never missed a game) and/or after-school activity, ran household errands such as grocery shopping for the family and the dog, and often looked for bargain deals to purchase the latest Hip Hop culture gear (his favorite items were fitted hats, all professional sports jerseys, and Timberland boots). During the weekend, Abe usually planned family trips to the park to ride bikes, catch a few fish, attend professional sport games, watch at-home movie nights on the BIG screen television, play video and board games, visit relatives, and/or drop each child off at their own destination in his supersized black Ford F150. However, Sunday was a sacred day. He made sure the family attended Sunday worship service at Fountain Baptist Church for the 8:00am service to be home in time for the noon football games and warm cooked three course meals by his wife. Also, Abe planned at least two vacations (national and international) with his wife. The couple's favorite vacation destination was Hawaii.

Not only did Abe faithfully provide for his family of 6, but he opened his home to nearly every relative in the family for many years. He was well-known for summertime cookouts, and he was the shirtless grill master who always tried to get a tan! Additionally, he adored holiday gatherings, especially Mother's Day and Christmas. For Mother's Day, it was a tradition for Abe to shower Monique, the late Dr. Rev. Margaret Reba Lucas (mother-in-law), and Mattie "Gabby" Rice (grandmother-in-law) with love, a seafood meal, and many fresh flowers. During the Christmas season, it was a tough time because it reminded Abe of his deceased mother, but it did not stop him from making sure that every person who entered the Bonilla's household received a gift. Abe was a quintessential family man whose heart overflowed with genuine love for all who knew him.

After 10 plus years of a faithful marriage and fathering the Bonilla's household, Abe was eager to add on new endeavors to his daily routines. From a very early age, Abe developed a deep love for fresh flowers. He thought about turning his passion into a profession, so he decided to enroll in the Introduction to Floral Design course at Union County College. (Abe enjoyed the class, but he was not relinquishing his flying benefits to pursue a florist career full-time!) He also yearned for a productive and influential brotherhood which led him to join the *Supreme Grand Lodge of the International Free & Accepted Modern Masons* on the 29th of May in 2013. As a member of the organization, Abe helped organize and support different fundraisers and participated in several community service events. Abe's explorations slowly came to halt when he took ill in October 2016. At this time, Abe learned to enjoy life despite the multiple health challenges he faced. He did not let it stop him from worshiping God, watching, and debating about every college and professional sports game, especially the games on the NFL Redzone. Most noteworthy, he continued supporting his six grandchildren for all holidays, birthdays and never managed to miss calling his two sons at least three-five times a day. Abe believed that everything was going to be alright. Although, he never became a florist, Abe planted many seeds, watered, and watched many beautiful flowers bloom and grow until his last breath.

Abel "Abe" leaves to cherish his loving memory; his wife Monique R. Winstead-Bonilla of Newark, NJ; four children Victoria "Vikki" Iesha Bonilla of Newark, NJ, Elijah "Pop" Bonilla of Maplewood, NJ, Sjocquelyn R. Winstead "Butter" of Newark, NJ, Rashad O. Freeman of East Orange, NJ; two Godsons Jabari Francilot of Scotch Plains, NJ and Leonidas Williams of Union City, NJ; five siblings Rose Bonilla, Norma Bonilla (Angel Molina "Colo") of Puerto Rico, Ishmael "Papo" Bonilla (Maria) of Edison, Jesse "Chico" Bonilla of Bridgewater, NJ, Alana Bonilla of Newark, NJ; sister-in-law Angela Copeland-Bonilla of Charlotte, NC. His six grandchildren: Summer-Reign Chazidy Bonilla, Madison Bonilla, Enyjah Simmons, Aamari B. Bonilla, Bryson Dana Freeman and Dream A. Bonilla. He also leaves a host of relatives (uncle, nieces, nephews, and cousins), family and friends. A special thank you to Abe's care-giver, Aunt Mary Daryton.

He was preceded in death by his father, Samuel Miranda Bonilla "Sammy the Bull" and mother, Victoria Bonilla, and brother Ivan Bonilla.

Visitation Hour

International Free & Accepted Modern Masons (Lodge Herman #210)..... Brother Eric Marshall
Reading of Proclamation Assemblyman Reginald W. Atkins (District 20)
Reading of the Obituary Mrs. Tasha L. Cooper
Special Remarks..... Mr. Majid Shaheed
Mr. Tarence Williams
Mr. Al-Tariq Ibn Shabazz
Children Remarks..... Ms. Victoria "Vikki" Bonilla
Mr. Elijah "Pop" Bonilla
Ms. Sjocquelyn "Butter" R. Winstead, Lay Minister
Family and Friends Remarks (2 minutes)

The Order of Worship

The Musical Prelude

The Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Evans Spagner

Psalm 150

- ¹ Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.
² Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.
³ Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.
⁴ Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.
⁵ Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.
⁶ Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

The Doxology "Praise God"

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessing Flow;
Praise Him, All Creatures Here Below;
Praise Him Above, Ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son, And Holy Ghost. A-men*

The Prayer of Invocation..... Rev. Vernon Williams

The Hymn Down At The Cross

The Scripture..... Rev. Charlotte Mallory
Old Testament - Psalm 100
New Testament - Revelation 21:1-7

The Musical Selection..... Miss Kayla Richardson

The Prayer of Comfort..... Rev. Rodney Williams

The Musical Selection..... Ms. Lisa Horn

The Words of Comfort..... PASTOR J. MICHAEL SANDERS

The Musical Selection..... Down At The Cross

The Recessional Hymn When We All Get to Heaven





“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.”
Isaiah 54:17



Pallbearers

*Elijah Bonilla, Rashad O. Freeman, Jesse Bonilla,
Ishmael Bonilla, Jason Bonilla, Jonathan Bonilla,
Mark Winstead, Al-Tariq Shabazz*

Acknowledgements

The Family wishes to thank all who have helped to confront and console them in their time of bereavement. May God richly bless you for your kindness and concern.

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