



Service of Thanksgiving

Eric Christopher Pryce

July 28, 1933 – June 11, 2017

at the
Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church
16325 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20905

Sunday June 25, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Officiating Ministers

Pastor Charles A. Tapp
Pastor Donald McFarlane
Pastor Errol Lawrence

Organist

Mr. Carlos Hunter

Interment at Union Cemetery, Burtonsville, MD

ORDER OF SERVICE

Musical Prelude
Processional

Opening Remarks.....Pastor Charles A. Tapp

Opening Prayer..... Pastor Errol Lawrence

Hymn.....When We All Get to Heaven

Scripture Readings.....Isaiah 40: 28 - 31
Dana Audain

Micah 6: 6 - 8
Lakisha Audain

Musical Selection.....Jessica Jamieson

Eric's story: Volume 1 **The Growing Up Foundation Years**

Simons McPherson; Childhood Friend
Barbara Townsend-Fraser; Cousin

Dr. Judith Nembhard
West Indian Training College & the Royal Class of '55
Read by Christine Hunter

L. Astley Fletcher; Friend
Read by Paula Pryce-Bremmer

Musical Selection
"We Shall Behold Him"
Pastor Moses Andrade

Life Sketch

Eric Christopher Pryce was born July 28, 1933 to Peter and Ethel Pryce (nee Fuller) in Cornwall Barracks, Portland, Jamaica, West Indies, the second of two children, the other being his sister Maudlyn, now deceased. Always proud of his Maroon heritage, Eric demonstrated outstanding intellectual, physical and musical ability at an early age. Home schooled up to the age of six, his thirst for knowledge and intellectual curiosity knew no limits when he subsequently enrolled at Comfort Castle Elementary School where he received a sound basic education in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, History, English and Bible. While at Comfort Castle Elementary, Eric passed with distinction what was then known as First and Second Year Jamaica Local Exams.



This success enabled him to later gain a place at the storied Titchfield High School in Port Antonio, Jamaica. He developed a love for sports in general and cricket and track & field with a penchant for middle-distance running and cross-country events. During his Titchfield years, Eric fell in love with English Literature and began to master the intricate mechanics of the English language, a distinction for which he would be known throughout his life. His high school and sixth form studies resulted in him being awarded high pass marks for the Cambridge School Certificate and the Cambridge Higher School Certificate respectively.

During his formative years growing up in the neighboring villages of Cornwall Barracks, Ginger House, Kent and Comfort Castle, learning to swim in the Rio Grande river and catching janga fish were among his fond memories. And right there in that nurturing community, he became an accomplished fife player having been mentored by his dear Uncle Kenrick, who is reputed to be one of the best Maroon fife players to have emerged from the Rio Grande Valley. He even learnt the art of crafting his own fives and flutes from local materials.

Eric attributed the success in the early years of his life to the positive and sustained influence of his parents, adult relatives, his church, villagers who took an active interest in his development, the daily reading of the Bible at home and the Christian values that were instilled in him and reinforced continually. His conduct proved to be an inspiration to many of his peers, who saw him as an example of what they themselves dreamed of becoming. Some of those peers who called him “Dad”, recall with affection and admiration, the unselfish ways in which he helped them with challenging school work and with navigating some of life’s circuitous pathways.

Having matriculated at West Indian Training College (now Northern Caribbean University) in 1953, Eric was in his element as he delved into the “mysteries” of theology, indulged in the works of the great masters of literature and pitted his wits against other keen scholars, be they his professors or fellow students.

It is noteworthy that his time at WITC coincided with that of the late Dr. Shankel and his daughter, the late Dr. Virginia Rittenhouse, a famed musician and accomplished violinist. During her time in Jamaica, she put together a small ensemble dubbed the “Cockroach Ensemble” in which some of the instruments were homemade. The group traveled and raised money for the fledgling Andrews Memorial Hospital in Kingston where her husband Harvey was the surgeon. Up front, playing his fife was, you guessed it, Eric!

He graduated with a Diploma in Religion from WITC with the illustrious class of 1955, which he dubbed “the royal class of history”, the late Dr. Sydney Beaumont being their main class sponsor. He was always proud of his classmates and took a keen interest in keeping up with their accomplishments and life-stories.



In 1956, Eric's life took on new meaning when he married Dorothy Wheatley, the lovely and polished spinster whom he met at the Port Antonio Seventh-day Adventist Church while a student at Titchfield. This blessed Christian union was fruitful and produced four children: Samuel, Paul, Christopher and Kerry. In 1998, he lost his wife and the children their mother as Dorothy fell asleep to await the voice of the Life giver. Even so, there was celebration and satisfaction for 42 years of marriage to the darling of his youth and mother of his children.

While Eric taught high school classes as a student at WITC, he formally commenced his career as a teacher at Kingsway High School in Kingston, Jamaica in 1956. He served there and as assistant pastor of the Kencot circuit of churches with Pastor Binns until he was invited by Elder L. Herbert Fletcher in 1964 to be the principal of the relatively new Portland High School in Port Antonio. As a Portlander, he felt very much at home at Portland High.

Guiding and nurturing some of the children of his friends from his village and from the wider Rio Grande Valley was particularly fulfilling to this dedicated “all in” educator. He was affectionately called King ‘P’ by some of his students. Part of his enduring legacy are the lyrics of the school song, “Oh Portland High” which he penned.

Sensing a need to broaden his horizons, Eric matriculated at the University of the West Indies (Mona campus) in 1967. Upon graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Sociology, he returned to Kingsway High School serving there until 1973 as teacher and principal. Following this second stint at Kingsway, he commenced advanced studies in Education at the UWI and during this period, taught for a year at Excelsior High School. Again, at the invitation of Elder L. Herbert Fletcher – then President of West Indies College - he was called to serve in Mandeville, Jamaica where he was a senior teacher and later principal of the West Indies College High School (now the Victor Dixon High School). This tenure was from 1975 – 1983.



A unique opportunity presented itself whereby Eric was able to read for a Master of Arts degree in the graduate school at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University), Washington, USA. His focus was in the fields of education and psychology and his thesis inquiry was centered on “A Critical Comparison of Selected Notions from Moral Reasoning and Christian-values Moral Perspectives.” Both he and his son, Christopher, graduated in the same year 1987 from the same institution, he with his master's degree and his son with his engineering degree. The family takes great pride in this accomplishment especially as he had to ‘rely’ on his son to complete the typing of his thesis!

A most impactful and productive period of Mr. Pryce's professional life was the 17 years (1983 – 2000) that he served as professor and administrator at West Indies College/Northern Caribbean University.

Those who came under his influence in that period remember him as a teacher and administrator who was not prepared to tolerate mediocrity in scholastic work or in general conduct. Many of his students currently occupy various positions of leadership across Jamaica and in every corner where the Jamaican diaspora has flourished. Invariably, they attribute some measure of their development to the positive influence he had on their lives as he would urge them on to set and reach for high standards.

In 2000, Eric joined his life with that of Carole Harris-Audain, a dedicated Seventh-day Adventist elementary school teacher in Michigan. They enjoyed happy times together and her purposeful devotion to him in times of good health and sickness have attracted the highest commendations, especially from close family members and friends.

Eric officially retired in 2000 and later relocated with Carole to Maryland, USA. Following retirement, he generously provided editorial guidance for several students at the Graduate and Post-graduate levels at Howard University as they finalized the writing and oral defense of their theses.

The quality of Eric's lifework and ministry had not gone unnoticed, for in 1996 and 1997, he received "The Outstanding Teacher Award" from the students of Northern Caribbean University. In 1998, he was presented with an Excellence Award by his faculty members at the same institution, followed by the President's Award for Excellence in 1999. In 2004 he was given the Northern Caribbean University Washington D.C. Alumni Chapter's Outstanding Member Award.

Eric is published in the American Poetry Volumes, 1980's. He also published "A Century of Love", in two editions. Over the coming months and years, his family will have the joy of uncovering the huge treasure trove of his unpublished literary works.

Virtually the full span of Eric's professional life was dedicated to serving the church, but he also had a dynamic personal relationship with the church and, more importantly, with Christ. Baptized in 1947, he served the Seventh-Day Adventist church in numerous leadership capacities, including that of elder, assistant pastor, and executive committee member. His service to the church was undergirded by his unshakeable belief that of all the possible options in life for understanding our origin and destiny, Christ offers that which is most meaningful and hopeful.

Central to Eric's life and values was love. He often said, "If we treat everyone with true love, mountains could be moved." His life echoed this philosophy and is evidenced by the multitudes he has touched. He lived with love and died with love. His warm and disarming smile, and his joyful and guile-less laughter will not be forgotten by those who knew him.

Eric shared his journey through life with many he loved and many who loved him. His health started its decline in 2014. The final weeks of his life were marked with the visits of many friends, acquaintances and well-wishers whose comforting words and prayers were a balm to his soul. One always at his side was his heavenly Father, who gently called him to sleep in the early hours of Sunday, June 11, 2017.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Carole; sons: Samuel, Paul, Christopher and daughter Kerry; daughter in-law Wendy Pryce; step-children: Jean and Dana, Lakisha and Lloyd; step grandchildren: Lydia, Ephraim and Alexa; adopted sister Herma Fuller-Campbell, only surviving uncle Maxmillian Fuller, cousins, 'adopted' children, friends, all of whom can take comfort in the blessed hope that "the trumpet shall sound and the dead in Christ shall rise, first." By God's grace, we will see him again and our loved ones who trusted in the Lord.

Eric Christopher Pryce – In Life, in Death, Lord Jesus, Yours!



Eric's story: Volume 11

Service to Christian Education

Kingsway High School Alumni Association, NY (1956 –1963)

Read by Milton Anderson

Minard Brown

Portland High School (1964 – 1967)

Pastor Lincoln McKenzie

Northern Caribbean University Alumni

Musical Presentation

“His Strength is Perfect”

Jennifer Brown

Eric's story: Volume 111

Service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Jamaica Union of Seventh-day Adventists

Read by Dalton Malcolm

Dr. Paul Gyles, Provost

Northern Caribbean University

Christian Education Scholarship Promotion

Eric's story: Volume 1v

Family Man

Harris Family
Pryce Family

Musical Selection
"Our Father"
Herbert Blackwood

Homily

Pastor Donald McFarlane
Associate Pastor, Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church

Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor Charles A. Tapp

Acknowledgements..... Jean Audain

Benediction.....Pastor Andre Ascalon

RECESSIONAL
"For All the Saints", Ralph Vaughan Williams

Pallbearers

Church

Samuel Pryce	Jean Audain
Paul Pryce	Lloyd Martin
Christopher Pryce	Zelick Stewartson
Wesley Osbourne	Homerson Kereche
Fitzroy Graham	Roy Gordon, Jr
Elon Pryce	Andrew Anderson

Graveside

Everton Bradford
Clive Cameron
David Gentles
Keith Gentles
Dalton Malcolm
Homer McKenzie
Courtney Pennicooke

Repast follows immediately after the church service in the Fellowship Hall, Spencerville SDA Church; interment follows at Union Cemetery. All are invited.

Committal

Pastor Errol Lawrence

Acknowledgments

The family of Eric C Pryce wishes to express sincere gratitude and appreciation for your prayers and acts of kindness during our time of grief and sadness.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:
Capitol Mortuary Funeral Home,
1425 Maryland NE,
Washington DC, 20002