

*Celebrating The Life of*



*Palma Fay McLean*

*Sunrise*  
*March 5, 1968*

*Sunset*  
*January 17, 2020*

*Service*

*Sunday, March 1, 2020*

*Viewing - 2:00 PM*

*Funeral Service - 3:00 PM*

**FIRST SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST**

**CHURCH OF PATERSON**

343 Eleventh Avenue • Paterson, New Jersey 07514

(973) 279-6256

*Pastor Richard Campbell, Officiating*



## How Cheering is the Christian Hope

How cheering is the Christian's hope,  
While toiling here below!

It bouys us up while  
this passing through  
This wilderness of woe,

It bouys us up while  
this passing through  
This wilderness of woe,

It bouys us up while passing through  
This wilderness of woe.

It points us to a land of rest,  
Where saints with Christ will reign;  
Where we shall meet  
the loved of earth,  
And never part again.

Fly, lingering moments, fly, O, fly,  
Dear Savior, quickly come!

We long to see Thee as Thou art,  
And reach that blissful home.



# Reflections of Life

## The Making of a Pearl

The process of forming a pearl is very intricate. It takes time, and pressure, fusing together with persistent irritants. However, after a number of years, a special gem emerges. We often admire the result, without truly understanding the journey. Here is a brief biography of the making of a Pearl.

**P** stands for Palma, the precious gem we have gathered here to celebrate today. Her formation began on the island of Jamaica, West Indies in a small western community called Chigwell, in the parish of Hanover. Born on March 5, 1968, she was the first child of Selena Ottey and Samuel Garrison. Her parents loved their precious bundle of joy, and named her Palma Fay Garrison. During her formative years, Palma attended the Success All-Age School, and the Montego Bay Secondary School. As she grew, her character began to shine, and she was affectionately called Pearl.

**E** explains the eager years when Palma embraced life with zeal and zest. During and following her secondary school years, she lived in Montego Bay with her Aunt Icil Dent (deceased), and gave birth to her prince: Anthony (Ricardo) Garrison, whom she loved dearly. She later migrated to the United States of America, and after settling in New Jersey, enrolled in the Paterson Adult Education Program. Palma was blessed with many talents and like the Bible character Lydia, she became diligent in business and excelled in the service industries. She loved to cook, especially ackee, breadfruit, and fried fish, and served many heartwarming meals at church, as a member of the cooking club; at home, as well as at the Pick A Deli Restaurant, and K & B Restaurant. She enjoyed spending time with her best friends: KayMarie, Nicket and Diana, and loved to travel with Ms. Carmen McLean and Ms. Monica Nixon.

**A** applies to her love of adventure. Palma enjoyed shopping. She was a personal shopper extraordinaire, the original budgetnista! Many here today can attest to items she has purchased for them, and fashion tips she freely provided to enhance their sense of style. Her shopping adventures were so numerous that her husband often wondered whether they had part ownership in Macy's! She was also very efficient in money management and was willing to assist anyone needing her help. She had a loyal clientele everywhere she worked including the Alexanders Department Store, First Union Bank, City Bank, and C & S Investment Inc. In her love for adventure, she has traveled extensively across the US, especially to Florida, and to several countries. Some of her most memorable travels being her trip to Europe with her husband Mackie, and her fiftieth birthday bash in Jamaica.

**R** represents religion, which played a central role in Palma's life. She understood the value of mustard seed faith and exercised hers on a daily basis. She was an active member of the First SDA Church of Paterson, NJ and served as an Usher, Deaconess, a member of the Treasury and Counting Committees, as well as a member of the Sanctuary Choir and Generation for Christ Singers. Her favorite hymn is # 164 in the SDA Hymnal: "There is a

green hill far away, without the city wall, where our dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.” One Sabbath while she was out with other church members distributing tracks, Mackie seized the opportunity to ask her a favor: “May I borrow your phone?” he said, and Palma willingly lent it to him. When he returned the phone he said, “Can I call you later?” She asked, “Wouldn’t you need my number?” Then he proceeded to inform her that he had already called his own telephone using her telephone, so he was certain that he had her number. Thus began a loving friendship that lasted over fifteen years, thriving in sickness and in health.

**L** is a fitting label for the last few years. Loving truly describes the relationship of the Garrison-Brown-McLean family network. If Mackie had the opportunity to do it all over again, he would find her sooner, so he could love her longer. Shortly after celebrating their first decade together, their marriage vows were tested. In 2017, Palma started experiencing blurred vision. An MRI revealed two aneurysms in her eye, and thus began the season of suffering. Pearl has undergone several surgeries and periods of hospitalization, with her husband Mackie, sister Evadney, and son Ricardo always by her side, until she breathed her last on Friday, January 17, 2020. Palma was blessed with a loving and supportive network of family and friends. In life, they loved her dearly, and in death, they do the same. When tempted to question the making of this pearl, let us remember her favorite Bible verse found in Habakkuk 2:20: “The Lord is in His Holy Temple Let all the Earth keep Silent before him.”

Palma is survived by her husband: Lenford (Mackie) McLean; Their children: Anthony (Ricardo) Garrison [his wife Latoya], Meisha McLean, and Nesa McLean, and their grandchildren: Jayce Pearce, Annyah Marshal-Tyrell, LeslyAnn McLean, and Zuri Rhodes. The sibling chain is broken, leaving four brothers: Devon Brown, Oral Brown, Dwight Garrison, Andre Garrison; Five sisters: Natasha Brown, Tanya Brown, Roseleon Brown, Evadney Browne, and Dadrian Garrison. One sibling, her brother-Bilal Salahuddin, preceded her in death in 2015. Her father and stepmother survive her: Samuel & Curle Garrison, while her mother Selena Ottey, preceded her in death in 2000. Her aunts: Rose Samuels, Lisa Wood, and Bernice Wood, will miss her greatly; her uncles: Oliver Wood, Zanda Wood, and Lloyd Watson, will hold dearly to the memories that remain. Palma also leaves to mourn twenty nieces and nephews (seven adopted), and a host of other family members and friends.

Palma is a Pearl made perfect. She has fought a good fight, she has finished her course, she has kept the faith, therefore there is laid up for Palma, a crown of life which God himself shall give to her. It will be filled with stars, and precious gems. When we see Palma again, she will be well dressed. Her gown will be pearly white, designer made, cut to fit her perfectly. No one else will get to try it on before she does. She will be adorned so beautifully, she will be more stunning than any of Macy’s, Nordstrom, or Neiman Marcus’s pearls and ensembles. We may not receive the dividends from her investments in these stores, but hey, we will see the rewards of her investment in God’s kingdom. He will also give her a new name, sweeter than Palma, Pearl; Sis. P, Auntie P., and even Honey. Her new name will be fitting to her character and her experience. Let us plan to be there, so we can see this Pearl again.

See you soon Honey. See you soon Palma. See you soon Auntie P. See you soon Sis. P. See you soon Pearl. Yes, this Pearl we will see again soon.

# Order of Service

- Hymn #462 ..... “Blessed Assurance”
- Opening Prayer ..... Elder Claudette Henry
- Opening Remarks ..... Elder Dewitt Evering
- Special Music ..... Lesley-Ann McLean, Granddaughter
- 1st Scripture Reading ..... Rev. 21: 1- 7  
Ella Garrison & Anna Garrison, Nieces
- 2nd Scripture Reading ..... 1Thess.4: 13 -18  
Lesrene Browne, Niece
- Special Music ..... Karissa Tyrell, Niece
- Tribute ..... Family & Friends
- Special Music ..... Generations for Christ Singers
- Tribute ..... Ushers  
Cooking Club
- Special Music ..... Alvia Brown-Wright & Karie Brown-Williams
- Acknowledgements ..... Dr. Desrene Vernon-Brebnor, PhD
- Special Music ..... Lisa Sterling-Simpson, Cousin
- Reflections of Life ..... Samuel Garrison, Brother
- Special ..... Church Choir
- Sermonette ..... Pastor Richard Campbell
- Prayer of Comfort ..... Elder Duhane Lightbody
- Special Music ..... UTC Singers
- Hymn #440 ..... “How Cheering Is the Christian’s Hope”
- Benediction ..... Elder Joan Douglas
- Recessional

## **Interment**

Sunday, March 15, 2020  
(Family Plot, Jamaica, West Indies)  
Chigwell District, Hanover,  
Jamaica, West Indies

***Repast: First SDA Church Fellowship Hall of Paterson, NJ***

## Blessed Assurance

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.  
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.

### Pallbearers

Anthony Garrison- Son

Samuel Garrison - Brother

Andre Garrison- Brother

Donavon Ferguson - Friend

Anthony Williams - Friend

Maurice Pearson – Brother-in-law

### Acknowledgement

The family of the late **Palma Fay McLean** extends their heartfelt gratitude to the Medical Staff at Hackensack University Medical Hospital in Hackensack, NJ and Kessler Rehabilitation Center. We would like to also thank all those who visited Palma at the hospital, Pastor Campbell and members (Hospitality Department) of the Paterson Seventh-Day Adventist Church, all the prayer warriors of the various churches, groups and social media, her colleagues at K & B Restaurant at 465 Madison Ave., Paterson, Carnie P. Bragg Funeral Home Staff, and everyone who participated in the service. We would also like to thank Dr. Desrene Vernon-Brebnor who wrote the obituary, and all those who came to support us in our time of profound grief.

**-The McLean & Garrison Family-**

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