

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



JANET ROSE MERCHANT-STERLING

September 18, 1962 - August 25, 2021

Memorial Service

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Time: 2pm

Zoom Id: 84644770572

Password: 189529

OBITUARY

On Wednesday August 25, 2021, Janet Rose Merchant-Sterling fell asleep in death, surrounded by her family, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Janet was born on September 18, 1962 to Eugenia Reid and Ernal Merchant (deceased) in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica.

She is survived by: her four children StacyAnn Merchant, Courtney Sterling, Curtis Sterling and Tony Sterling; her two grandchildren Courtney Julie Sterling and Courtney LaShawn Sterling; her siblings Junior Phillips, Annette Edwards (Husband, Junior Edwards), Donna Reid (Husband, Paul Reid), Juliet Cameron (Husband, Lenroy Cameron), Paulette Rodgers (Husband, Douglas Rodgers Sr.), Novelette Henry (Husband, Harel Henry Sr.) and a host of nieces and nephews, each claiming to be her favorite. Janet was predeceased by her younger brother Mark Reid.

In 1986 Janet moved to America seeking better opportunities for herself and her family. After being a homemaker in Jamaica, Janet began a new career as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Later she started her own Taxi business. As an extrovert, Janet's occupations gave her the opportunity to help and meet new people.

Janet was a sociable person and genuinely enjoyed giving to others. Some of her family's best memories of Janet relate to her kindness and willingness to give to others to make them happy, usually at her expense. She had a truly unselfish nature - willingly taking strangers in and treating them like family. Janet's mother remembers giving the children chores before she left for the day, and when she returned home she would find that Janet had done all the chores for her other siblings. There are so many stories of how Janet extended herself on behalf of others and her kindness and love have left a mark on many people's lives.

Janet loved music and spending time with her family. During family gatherings you could see Janet sitting with a smile on her face as she listened to the music, the laughter and shouts over dominoes. Then there would always be the moment when "her song" would come on and she would jump up and dance with utter delight on her face. Her favorite songs were "Brown-eyed Girl" by Sanchez, "Sarah" by Frankie Paul, "Still in love" by Alton Ellis, and "Soon Forward" by Gregory Isaac Her songs not only made her happy but got her sons out of trouble, as they said an easy way out of punishment was to put on one her favorite tunes first.

Janet's love for people deepened as her relationship with God grew and she loved what she was learning from the Bible. In 1981 Janet dedicated her life to God and was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Most recently Janet was a part of the Hollis New York Congregation. The brothers and sisters there loved Janet's personality, easy demeanor and her tips for the best food spots in NYC. She appreciated and valued the comfort and hope gained from the scriptures. Her two favorite songs were "*We Thank You Jehovah*" and "*Make the Truth Your Own*".

Daniel 12:13 describes the hope held out to Janet, our daughter, sister, mother, grandmother and friend: "But as for you, go on to the end. You will rest, but you will stand up for your lot at the end of the days."



ORDER OF SERVICE

Chairman

Wilgarth Stevens

Opening Song

Song 45 - The Meditation of My heart

Opening Prayer

Wilgarth Stevens

Reading of Obituary

Wilgarth Stevens

Memorial Talk

Brian Smith

Message From Family & Announcement

Wilgarth Stevens

Closing Song

Song 151 — He Will Call

Closing Prayer

TBD

Song 45
The Meditation of My Heart
(Psalm 19:14)

The meditation of my heart, The thoughts I
ponder through the day—May they be pleasing to
you, Lord, And keep me steadfast in your way.
When worries weigh upon my mind And make
me restless in the night, Then may I meditate on
you And things I know to be upright.

Whatever things are chaste and true, Whatever
virtue there may be, Whatever things well-
spoken-of — May thoughts of these bring peace
to me. How precious are your thoughts, O God!
Beyond all counting is their sum. So may I ponder
your own words, Absorbed in them may I
become.

Song 151
He Will Call
(Job 14:13-15)

Life, like a mist, appears for just a day, Then
disappears tomorrow. All that we are can quickly
fade away, Replaced with tears and sorrow. If a man
should die, can he live again? Hear the promise God
has made:

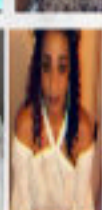
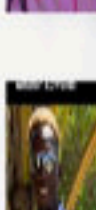
(CHORUS)

He will call; The dead will answer. They will live at
his command. For he will have a longing For the
work of his own hand. So have faith, and do not
wonder, For our God can make us stand. And we will
live forever, As the work of his own hand.

Friends of our God, though they may pass away, Will
never be forsaken. All those asleep who in God's
mem'ry stay, From death he will awaken. Then we'll
come to see all that life can be: Paradise eternally.

(CHORUS)

He will call; The dead will answer. They will live at
his command. For he will have a longing For the
work of his own hand. So have faith, and do not
wonder, For our God can make us stand. And we will
live forever, As the work of his own hand.



I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savoured much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch,

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of **Janet Rose Merchant-Sterling** will remember and cherish your many expressions of love, sympathy and prayers so graciously extended. Thank you and may God Bless you.

Professional Services Provided By

COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

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