

## *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 acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour. May God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.*

Professional Services Provided By

### **Nesbitt Funeral Home**

165 Madison Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
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# Celebrating the Life of Adolfo Bernard

August 15, 1968 - November 3, 2022

Service

Saturday, November 12, 2022 - 12:00 noon

**First Baptist Church**

929 Dill Avenue • Linden, NJ  
Rev. Dr. Derrick R. Dumas, Pastor

# *The Day God Took You Home*

A million times I've needed you  
A million times I've cried,  
If love alone Could have saved you  
You never would have died.  
In life I loved you dearly;  
In death I love you still.  
In my heart you hold a space,  
Where no one can ever fill.  
It broke my heart to lose you,  
But you didn't go alone  
Part of me went with you,  
The day God took you home.



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## Order of Service

Welcome

Prayer of Comfort

Scripture

Selection

Remembering AD  
Family and Friends

Tributes and Expressions  
(2 minutes)

Resolutions and Obituary

Selection

Eulogy  
Rev. Dr. Derrick R. Dumas

Benediction

*Family and friends are invited to a  
Repast in the Church Dining Hall  
immediately after service.*

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**Adolfo Benjamin Bernard** was born on August 15, 1968, in New York, New York, son of Berstford and Enett Bernard. He departed this life on Thursday, November 3, 2022. “AD” as he was known by, lived in several boroughs of New York, but the one he claimed was Queens. He moved to the Queensbridge Houses, Long Island City at the age of twelve. Growing up, Adolfo was a stellar athlete, playing baseball, football, and basketball in various clubs and schools. He attended Holy Spirit Catholic School, St. Mary’s Catholic School, Sacred Heart Catholic School, and Augusta Military Academy. In the summer months, Adolfo spent his time in Connecticut at Incarnation Camp. He was a protector and always put family first. He worked various jobs in hospitality and construction industries and ultimately landed employment with the International Longshoremen's Association in Port Elizabeth. He worked with the ILA for 10 years before being placed on disability for a life-threatening on the job injury. In all those endeavors, he was always known as a hard worker and a leader who would get the job done.

He met the love of his life, Cynthia in 1991, in Washington, DC and the two were inseparable ever since. Whether in DC, New Jersey, or New York they remained together. Adolfo was not known to wear his heart on his sleeve, but everyone who knew him, witnessed his love for Cin. AD and Cin were married in April 2018. During the 32 years they were together, they raised his son Shakeem until his untimely passing in 2017. At that time, Shakeem’s daughter, Ny’Yori came to live with them. Adolfo lived for Ny’Yori. She was the center of his world. Affectionately calling him “GP”, they crafted a bond that is unbreakable. Adolfo made sure Ny’Yori was aware of her cultural and spiritual identity, and most importantly, knew that she was loved.

AD had a few loves – things he enjoyed and would take any opportunity to fulfill. The first one was music; making beats, blends, and everything else in between. He often commented how music calmed and steadied him. His other love was driving. If it had a wheel on it, AD could push it and push it fast. On any given day he could make it from New York to DC in under 2 ½ hours. He didn’t want to go anywhere where he wasn’t the driver – for two reasons, 1) he liked driving and 2) he didn’t want to be stuck at the mercy of someone else. That’s the kind of person he was. A real man, responsible, dependable, provider, fierce protector, and loyal. Not fake or phony, he was a genuine and pure person, there will never be another like him. AD was a family man to his core; he adored his nieces and nephews, and there was nothing he would not do for family and friends. He was an avid fan of football and loved the 49ers.

Adolfo is survived by wife, Cynthia Dawkins Bernard; granddaughter, Ny’Yori Bernard; mother, Enett Bernard; brother, Elroy Bernard (Renata); sister, Giselle (Erik) Phillips; mother-in-law, Lorraine Journigan, brother-in-law, Wayne Dawkins (Shonda), Goddaughters, Kiara and Brianna Pashal; nephews, Yueri, Ahmed, Paul, Nicolas, Isaiah, Quincy; nieces, Tia, Chantelle, Maxine, Ayanna, Jaimie, Alex; Aunts, Joan, Francella (Joseph “Ray”), and a host of other loving family members and friends. Adolfo was preceded in death by his father, Berstford “Beres” Bernard and son, Shakeem Bernard.