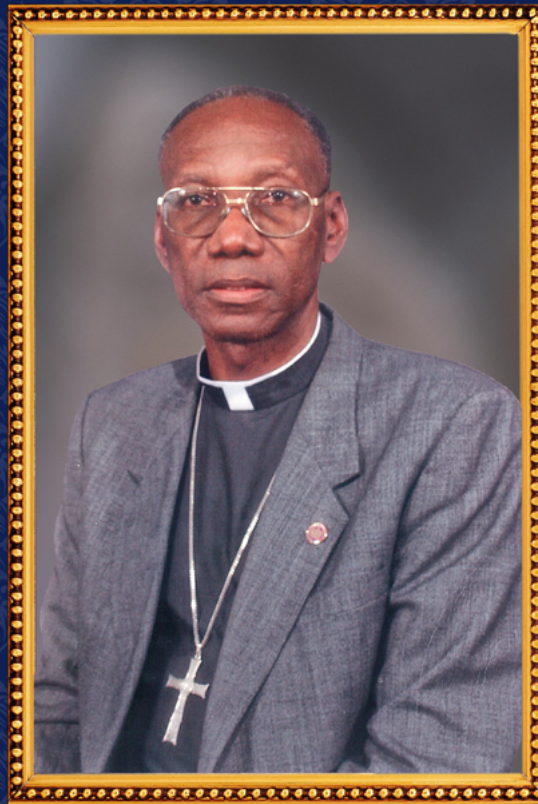




SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

*in Celebration of Life and Ministry
of*

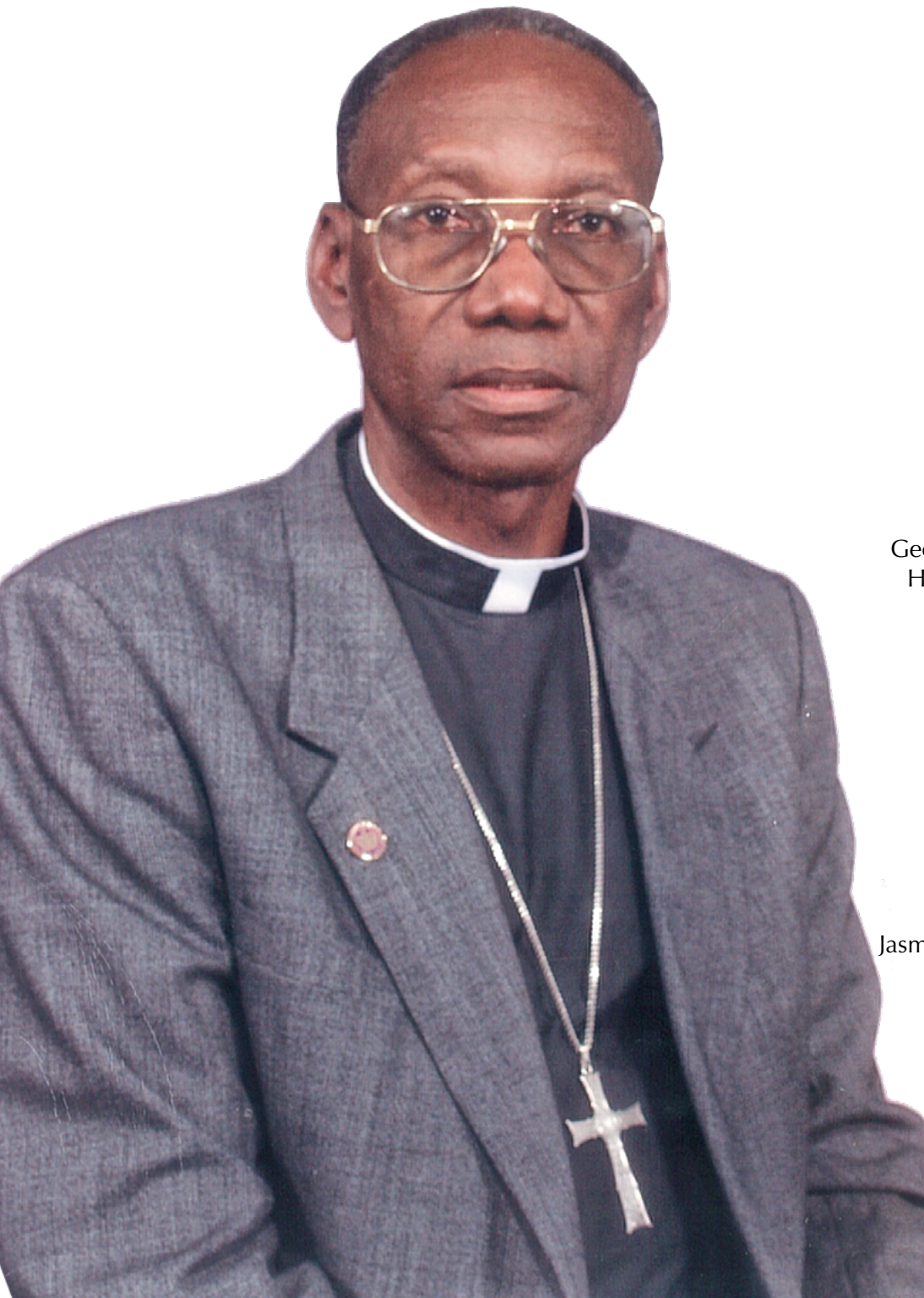


Reverend Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool, MBE
24th January 1942 - 10th May 2021

Road Town Methodist Church
Viewing and Tributes 8:00am to 9:00am
Service at 9:00am

Saturday 12th June, 2021

Valley, Virgin Gorda
Viewing and Tributes 12:00 noon
Interment: Family Cemetery, Valley, Virgin Gorda



Officiating Clergy

Rev. Dr. Keith B. Lewis, Superintendent Minister
Rev. Dr. Cuthbert A. Edwards, Former President South Caribbean District
and Superintendent of the St. Croix Circuit
Rev. Elkanah Bryan Seymour, Circuit Minister
Rev. Celina Walton-Charles, Circuit Minister
Rev. Yvonne Nibbs-Flores, Supernumerary

Musicians

Road Town Methodist Church
Annjel Xiomara Flax (Organist)
Dr. Allison Flax-Archer (Conductor)
Valley Methodist Church
Bro. Andrew St. Hilaire (Organist)

Pre-Service

Cedric Dawson (Organist)
Bro. Reynel Frazer

Pall Bearers (Road Town)

Dr. Karl Dawson
Craig Stafford
Vern Fahie
Otis McKenzie
Alcort Mitchell
Michael Porter

Honorary Pall Bearers

Marc Griffith, Kenneth Vanterpool,
Attorney Lewis Hunte,
George Thompson, Fernando Sprauve,
Hon. Vernon Malone, Ortle George

Pall Bearers (Virgin Gorda)

Scott Maynard
Jassiem Maynard
Elsom Hazel
Danney Smith
Horris Stevens
Franklyn Penn

Ushers (Road Town)

Felecia Parsons, Iris Jones,
Jasmine Bannis, Kimberley Copaceanu,
Gwenneth Richardson,
Harriette Herbert, Beverly Brown

Ushers (Virgin Gorda)

Adrianna Soverall, Tacita Morgan
Natalie George, Enid Lennard
Ebony George, Prisca Marshall

Eulogy

Son of the Soil (Rev Selwyn L Vanterpool)

Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool, my father, was a man that put family, community, and God at the centre of his life. Despite the ministry taking him to many different places throughout his career, the community of the British Virgin Islands remained central to his identity. As many quoted to us in recent days, he often said in the context of The Valley Methodist Church in Virgin Gorda, BVI which was just a short walk up the road from his childhood home - "This is where I was hatched, this is where I was matched, and God willing, from here I will be dispatched". His belief in God, support for the church and in particular the Methodist church in the Caribbean and Americas (MCCA) and more specifically the entire Leeward Islands District will always be remembered. Those familiar with his ministry may remember one of his philosophies, "Expect Great Things from God! Attempt Great Things for God". He certainly lived his life aware of the call of God, and with the quiet inner confidence that God had equipped him to meet any challenges that were thrown his way and an unwavering desire to be faithful to God to the end.

His Ministry

Known to many as Reverend Vanterpool or more simply Rev throughout the years, whether they knew him in his early career as a young minister in Monserrat, Antigua, or Aruba, where he might have been the one that was there for happy family moments of weddings or christenings or simply the one in the pulpit on Sunday morning services. During a recent tribute from a congregation in Antigua he was described as the People's Pastor and his concern and love for his members could not be denied both in spiritual ways with training seminars but also in practical ways by providing rides, being familiar with what was happening in the lives of his parishioners including where they lived and visiting them at home.

Others might have known him mid-career in Dominica when the work of rebuilding the island after Hurricane David was dominant. As a child, I remember him organising the countless work teams from overseas that contributed to the rebuilding of the Methodist Schools, the Wesley High School and the St. Andrew's High School that had been destroyed in the storm along with the Layou Church that was rebuilt having been destroyed by fire. His ministry then continued in St. Maarten/St. Martin, where in addition to being Superintendent he was also Chairman of the Methodist Agogic Centre (MAC) Primary School that I also graduated from.

Finally, in his later ministerial career it was fitting that he spent those years in the Virgin Islands. Firstly, when stationed in Road Town, Tortola he was responsible for all thirteen Methodist congregations in the BVI including the sister islands of Jost Van Dyke and Anegada. Later, he then moved to being Superintendent in St. Croix where he built the Methodist Education and Outreach Complex and also organised and hosted the first District Synod there. In his last posting before retirement, he served in the St. Thomas/St. John Circuit and during that time renovated the ChristChurch Methodist Chapel. Of course, throughout the years, he had many different roles within the church including serving as the Leeward Islands District President and General Superintendent for two terms between 2000 and 2006. However, his ministry is what most of you already know quite a lot about, so I want to share more about the man.

Overcoming adversity

One of the earliest stories I have heard both about my dad and from my from dad is that as a young child he had a severe case of Typhoid Fever. He was hospitalised In Road Town and was not expected to live. In fact, things were so serious that arrangements had even been made to return his body to Virgin Gorda for burial, but God had many other plans for his life. This incident had a profound impact on his life, and in his autobiographical comments, he said "I grew up with a deep sense of gratitude to God, and a strong awareness that God had spared my life to serve Him through service to others".

Another story I have come across more recently in the Biography that Rosemary Delaney-Smith prepared on my dad is around his shyness and she recounts a story at school that stretched him to the limit when he was selected to sing a love song to a girl as part of a school concert. Clearly for an introvert that is also shy I can imagine at the time how this would have seemed like his worst nightmare. However, he prepared and responded to the challenge. In Dad's own words of that night he said, "When the night of the concert arrived, only God knows how many times I died emotionally as I sang and acted out that love song. What a relief when the duet ended! I was still alive!".

However, he also highlighted the importance of others to have noted this weakness and pushed him to overcome it and he said, he was “eternally grateful to these insightful concerned and dedicated teachers. Without their wise intervention, (he) would not be the man.”, he was. I included that story as I think so many of us identify with avoiding things that are uncomfortable, but yet we know that you can’t move forward without taking a leap of faith and moving beyond our comfort zones. My dad demonstrated by moving beyond the shy boy terrified to sing or speak in front of others to someone that preached, prayed, and sang in front of hundreds and thousands.

Family Background

As a child, I remember many summers spent at his childhood home in the Valley, visiting family and in particular his mother. Spending time at the BVI’s world famous beaches like the Baths and Spring Bay were key to the activities of the summer, along with my father attempting to show me how to make a kite or go fishing with crabs. Unfortunately, I was never particularly good at either of those.

Virgin Gorda and the family land where appropriately will be his final resting place were incredibly important to him and throughout the years, I could see the effort he made in ensuring the family properties that he and his siblings owned were well taken care of. Despite not being a particularly outgoing individual and a true introvert like myself, my dad was a “doer” who cared deeply about the family. He made himself in effect CEO of the family business and I remember his bringing everyone together for family conferences with his siblings and their children as they discussed the family property, and what decisions needed to be made around renovations, maintenance and more.

My parents got married in 1972. They met while they were both pursuing studies at the United Theological College of the West Indies in Jamaica. My mother later changed to Education and became a teacher, but my mother was the ideal minister’s wife and complemented my dad. While he was quiet and reserved, she was an extrovert and a people’s person and hence was naturally great at hosting the stream of visitors and ministers that stayed at our home over the years. That union of course produced my brother, Kenneth Vanterpool who lives in Atlanta, my sister, Dr Karen Vanterpool (PhD in Health Behaviour), who lives in Maryland and myself, Beverly Vanterpool, who now lives in London.

Celebrating and living life

Celebrating life and its key moments were especially important to my dad. I will always remember times like planning my 10th wedding anniversary celebration at the house at McNamara and him throwing himself into the details of planning those moments, wanting it to be perfect. Similarly, the family Baltic cruise for my parents 40th wedding anniversary in 2012 was particularly memorable and now our last family trip in January 2020 in New Orleans for my mum’s 70th birthday is particularly poignant.

Over the years, during their visits to the UK we always tried to fit in as many of the top sights and activities as was possible. Whether it was going to the Chelsea Flower Show, seeing the Musical the Lion King on the London West End or one of the earlier trips back in 2007, when they came for my graduation from the University of Cambridge where I had completed by MBA. Another highlight for Dad was in 2015 when we visited Wesley’s Chapel and house in London which were built in 1778 & 1779 respectively by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

Other particularly special moments include our 2015 cruise that included Gibraltar, which was a place that over the years he had always talked about wanting to go and see the Rock of Gibraltar. Hence, that year he finally made it there. Gardening was also a particular passion. Selecting plants for the garden at McNamara was therefore a favourite pastime. I remember many a discussion about attempts to get the perfect breadfruit tree or plum tree and whether, it was now growing as expected. As lockdown started last year throughout much of the world and particularly in big cities like London where life was significantly restricted, I started a little bit of gardening in my tiny London backyard and he was always interested in knowing whether, I had managed to keep the herbs alive or if any tomatoes had appeared.



Community

Over the years, both before, during and after his time in the ministry, it was evident that the wider community outside the church was just as important to him. Before the ministry he spent seven years in the BVI civil service and served as Clerk to the Registrar's Office, Clerk to the Legislative Council, and later as a Clerk to the Attorney General. He served in many capacities throughout the community including starting the Boy's Brigade Company in Road Town as a young man and serving as the first Chairman of the Police Advisory Committee from 1992 to 1995. He also served on many national committees in the BVI and beyond including most recently the Police Service Commission up until leaving the BVI in 2017.

My dad said, "As we give back our gifts to Society, we experience true joy and fulfilment. I discovered that, the secret of J-O-Y is found in putting.

**J – Jesus first;
O – Others second, and
Y – Yourself last"**

Post Ministry – Counsellor at Her Majesty's Prison

After he retired from the ministry after over 40 years, he worked part-time as a counsellor in HM Prison. I remember back in 2013 having detailed discussions with Dad about his work at the prison at the time and his current focus was on creating a prison curriculum targeting different parts of the prisoner population and he was truly passionate about the topic of rehabilitation and how the risk on the community could be effectively evaluated. One evidence of his impact on that community was at one of the rehabilitation programmes, one of the inmates asked to speak despite not being on the programme as he wanted to share the impact the programme had on himself and peers, saying about my dad, "You never judged us, you are like a father figure to us" and the inmate highlighted that through the programme he had grown emotionally and spiritually.

Cancer & Alzheimer's

I was at university when my dad first got his diagnosis for Prostate Cancer. Luckily, it was successfully treated with radiation at the time, however about twelve years ago, it came back. This time surgery was required which added more complexities and the need to monitor his health more closely. Accordingly, regular trips to the US to do tests, became part of the routine for my parents. After the Hurricane in the Caribbean in 2017, it became clear that they were no longer able to cope on their own in the BVI and with increased need for medical support they made Atlanta, where Ken resided their home. Towards the end of 2020, it was determined that the medication was no longer helping, and he was too weak for chemotherapy. This prognosis combined with the continued decline from Alzheimer's while all the while living in a Covid world made for a complex situation as he did not always understand everything. It was strange though that even on the bad days when he no longer remembered who my mother was, he did seem to know inherently that she was always someone that he loved and trusted. The intersection of these diseases is obviously quite heart-breaking, as while one destroyed his body the other slowly eliminated the dad with whom I had debated everything from religion to economics and politics.

His Legacy

Ultimately, he will be remembered a humble man, dedicated to the service of God, his community and family. He is often described as soft-spoken, diligent, and a faithful Christian. During his life he established and led many church and community organisations throughout the islands he served, he wrote many articles and booklets, oversaw the building and re-building of many church buildings, and impacted the lives of many Methodists throughout the region. He was one of the first Virgin Islanders (British) to become a minister in the Methodist Church as part of the MCCA conference and the first BVIlander to become District President of the Leeward Islands district. Over the years he received many awards and in 1990, he received the honour of MBE, Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to the community in the British Virgin Islands.

He left his impact on the lives of many across our community, whether in larger scale activities or just in those more personal moments. Whether it was being there for a celebration, housewarming, wedding, or baptism or supporting others in more challenging moments of difficulty, sickness, and death. However, he went beyond the requirements of the day job, cared deeply and always gave 100% in everything he did. Rev Vanterpool, son of the soil, father of Beverly, Kenneth and Karen, husband of Brenda, brother of Calmelita, relative, friend and minister to many more completed his life's journey, but his impact will live on in the many lives he touched for many more years and generations. His desire at the end to hear from the lips of Jesus, "Well done Thou good and faithful servant" has been met.

Written by: Beverly Vanterpool, on behalf of the entire family circle.



Survivors & Descendants

Wife

Brenda L. Vanterpool

Children

Beverly Vanterpool
Kenneth Vanterpool
Karen Vanterpool

Son-in-Law

Marc Griffith

Daughter –in-Law

Hydie Vanterpool

Son-in-Law (to be)

Craig Stafford

Sister

Carmelita Docine Vanterpool O'Neal

Sisters-in-Law

Edna Kanhai
Phyllis Delamonthe

Brother-in –Law

Randolph Bhola

Children of Carmelita Docine Vanterpool O'Neal (Sister)

Garna W. O'Neal, Kimberly Copaceanu, Adrian Copaceanu, Gavril Copaceanu, Dawn C. O'Neal George, Ortley George, Ebony George, Casen John

Descendants of the Late

Allegra Vanterpool Scatliffe (Sister)

Jewel Scatliffe Brown

Descendants of the late Grace Vanterpool (Niece) whose father was Louis Vanterpool (Brother)

Ronald Vanterpool
Alma Stevens Hazel, Elson Hazel,
Dean Stevens, Avanelle Stevens, Shaniqua Stevens,
T'Shankua Stevens, Kelongie Stevens,
Sensia Stevens,
Danney Smith, Carolyn Lake Smith, Teshera Smith,
Tacita Morgan, Ryshawn Malone, T'Quan Brunn

Descendants of the late Carlton Stevens (Special adopted brother)

Neal Stevens, Calvin Stevens,
Sylvin Stevens, Kelvin
Stevens, Corleen Petersen, Dean Petersen

Descendants of the Late Ismay Elizabeth Vanterpool

Harrigan (Sister)

Lisa D. Harrigan, Errol N. Harrigan, Sandra Harrigan,
Jaleesa Harrigan, Justin Harrigan,
Valarie Harrigan, Tiffany Harrigan

Descendants of the late Eugenie Faulkner (Sister)

The late Adrian Faulkner Sr. (Son)
Adrian Faulkner Jr., Wander Williams
Sandra Faulkner, Sean Faulkner, James Carr
Cheryl Faulkner –Sandy, Serina Moultrie, Alexander Sandy
Deborah Faulkner, Lamont Lowe, Kendall O'Brian
Yvette Faulkner-Grant, Adrianna Soverall, Allyna Faulkner-Grant, Isabella Frazer
The late Alvin Faulkner (Son)
Deric Ricky Faulkner, Tamisha, Jenaya, Dreana, Deric Jr., & Olivia Faulkner
Jeri Faulkner
Simone Faulkner-Smith Kurt, Kyle, Sierra, & Kristopher Smith
The late Ludena Taylor (Daughter)
Anthony Taylor, Antonio Taylor, Sajiah Taylor
Carmen Taylor-Masonette

Descendants of the Late James Vanterpool (Brother)

Jasmine Hodge Bannis, Jahneal Hodge
Blondell Rogers, Jeremie Rogers, Keyshawn Rogers
Kayrel Smith, Dylante Dehaarte

Cousins

Descendants of the late Clarissa Sprauve
Edris Stevens, Lauralee Maynard, Dawnalee Hodge,
Natalee George, Delano Stevens,
Orlando Stevens
Fernando Sprauve (Special Cousin), Dorothy Sprauve, Alicia Sprauve, Kevin Sprauve,
Lauralee Sprauve
Lydia Harrigan, Roy Harrigan, Merlene Sanderson,
Kimberly Harrigan Deensie, Ron Harrigan

Descendants of the late Ira & Anesta Ham

Doris Frett, Dale Frett
Anderson Ham
Calvin Ham, Dorothy Ham
Gwyneth Mercer
Marion Creque & her family
Leona Pinheiro, Naomi Hendricks-Guerrero, Warren Elroy Hendricks
By extension all descendants of the late Celestine Stoutt
By extension all descendants of the late Adeline George
By extension the Frett and Fahie families
Many other relatives too numerous to mention

Order of Service

The ProcessionalMinisters

Opening Hymn MHB 91 “All Hail the power of Jesus’ Name”

All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem, to crown Him Lord of all.
Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call;
Extol Him in whose path ye trod, and crown Him Lord of all

Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners! Whose love can ne’er forget, the wormwood and the gall;
Go spread your trophies at his feet, and Crown Him Lord of all.

Let every tribe and every tongue, before him prostrate fall
And shout in universal song, the crowned Lord of all

O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall
Join in the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all! (Edward Perronet 1726-92)

Prayers Minister

The Declaration Minister

Eulogy Beverly Vanterpool

The Obituary..... Rev. Dr. Joan Delsol-Meade, Secretary, Leeward Islands District

Tribute Bishop the Reverend Everal Galbraith, Connexional Conference President

SelectionPreachers B.V.I. Circuit

TributeBishop Charles A. Seaton, District Conference President

The Ministry of the Word

Scripture Reading Psalm 46 Minister

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
should change, though the mountains shake in the
heart of the sea;

³ though its waters roar and foam, though the
mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city
of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be
moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the
earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Epistle: Romans 8: 31-39..... Minister

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.[a] 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Selection by The Senior Choir (Special request) "Does Jesus Care"

Gospel: (all standing) John Chapter 14: 1- 6 & 27..... Minister

¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.
This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to Christ our Lord.

Hymn MHB 427: "Through all the changing scenes of Life"

¹Through all the changing scenes of life, In trouble and in joy,
The praises of my God shall still, My heart and tongue employ.

²Of His deliverance I will boast, till all that are distressed,
From my example comfort take, and charm their griefs to rest.

³O magnify the Lord with me, with me exalt His name;
When in distress to Him I called, He to my rescue came.

⁴The hosts of God encamp around, the dwellings of he just;
Deliverance He affords to all, who on His succor trust.

⁵O make but trial of His love; experience will decide,
How blest they are, and only they, who in His truth confide.

⁶Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then, have nothing else to fear;
Make you his service your delight, He'll make your wants His care.
(Nahum Tate, 1652-1715)

SERMONRev. Dr. Cuthbert A Edwards

Profession of Faith - The Apostles' Creed (all standing) Congregation

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you

Prayer of Thanksgiving.....Minister

Hymn Sankey 901 "When Peace like a River"

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

Chorus: It is well, it is well, with my soul; with my soul it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

3. My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more; praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

4. O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend; even so, it is well with my soul.

(Horatio Spofford 1828-1888)

Commendation (all standing)Minister

The Lord's Prayer (Chant)..... Congregation

Musical Finale Road Town Methodist Musicians

Benediction.....Minister

Recessional Hymn....."Sing the wondrous love of Jesus"

¹. Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions bright and blessed He'll prepare for us a place.

Chorus: When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!

². While we walk the pilgrim pathway, Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over, Not a shadow, not a sigh.

³. Let us then be true and faithful, Trusting, serving ev'ry day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory, Will the toils of life repay.

⁴. Onward to the prize before us! Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open— We shall tread the streets of gold.

(Eliza E. Newitt 1851-1920)



The Conference of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas
La Conferencia de la Iglesia Metodista en el Caribe y las Americas
La Conférence de l'Eglise Méthodiste dans la Caraïbe et les Amériques
De Conferentie van de Methodiste Kerk en het Caribisch Gebied, Midden en Zuid Amerika

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TRIBUTE

For the Late

Rev'd Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool MBE., MPS., MA., LTh.,

***"Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see—
O Thou who changest not, abide with me".***

So penned Henry F. Lyte in his most profound and inspirational hymn, **"Abide With, Me fast falls the eventide"**. Our lives, on this side of eternity, are silently yet, deliberately, moving to its close. On May 10, 2021, the earthly life of Rev'd Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool closed, and he was transitioned to another realm.

The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) is pleased to pay tribute to one who was a true hero of the Christian faith, an ardent Methodist, a faithful general in Christ's army and a distinguished ambassador of the Kingdom of God.

Rev'd Selwyn Vanterpool responded to God's call to ordained ministry in the MCCA when he candidated in 1967. Having completed his formal training, he was ordained in 1974 and served God and the church with determination, dedication, and distinction until his superannuation in September 2007. The Church salutes him for his life and ministry as circuit minister, Superintendent of several Circuits in the Leeward Islands District and as District President.

The MCCA salutes one who was a good and faithful exponent of the word of God; a conscientious Christian pastor who fervently advocated and championed the cause of others; spoke eloquently and passionately about the love of God for all and was a humble mentor of many. Rev'd Vanterpool was gentle in speech and in his compassionate interaction with others made him an extra-ordinary pastor. As one who was fervent about Christian Stewardship his administrative competencies were hallmarks of his ministry.

The MCCA commends his dear partner in ministry Sis. Brenda, children Beverly, Kenneth and Karen and other family members for the love, support and care given to Rev'd Vanterpool throughout his ministry and especially as he walked the last leg of his earthly journey.

Facing the Task Unfinished: Pressing Forward With Christ

We rejoice that Rev'd Vanterpool has **"fought the good fight, finished the course and have kept the faith"** (2 Tim. 4:7). As the resurrection people we are confident that God will complete the work commenced in him when he accepted Christ as his Lord and Saviour.

Like Charles Wesley Rev'd Vanterpool can boldly say:

*"Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let me be;
Let me see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in Heav'n I take my place,
Till I cast my crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise".*

Rev'd Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool, 1942-2021, was transitioned in the 79th year of his life and the 51st year of his ministry. As he rests from his labours we are confident that he will hear Our Father say: "Well Done!"

Rest in peace Selwyn Vanterpool. See you later!!

Everald Galbraith

Bishop, The Rev'd Everald L. Galbraith

Connexional President

MCCA

June 3, 2021

Facing the Task Unfinished: Pressing Forward With Christ

DISTRICTS OF THE MCCA: Bahamas/Turks & Caicos Islands
Jamaica

Belize/Honduras
Leeward Islands

Guyana
Panama/Costa Rica

Haiti
South Caribbean

The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas

Leeward Islands District Conference



President & General Superintendent

Bishop Charles A. Seaton

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OBITUARY FOR REVEREND SELWYN LORENZO VANTERPOOL, MBE

Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool was born on 24th January 1942 at the Valley, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands to Jacob and Emma Vanterpool.

He received primary education at the St. Mary's Primary School, Virgin Gorda and attended the Virgin Islands Secondary School, Tortola. Upon graduation, the young Mr Vanterpool joined the BVI Civil Service where he held different posts including Chief Clerk, Registrar's Office, and Clerk to the Attorney General. His early public service was marked by a commitment which was also reflected in his service to and on behalf of the Church.

Under the leadership of the young Methodist, Bro. Selwyn Vanterpool, the 4th BVI company of the Boys' Brigade was started at Road Town. From 1960, Selwyn served the church as a Local Preacher, before offering himself as a candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. In 1967 he was presented to the Leeward Islands District Synod as a Candidate for the itinerant ministry. He offered along with Yvonne Nibbs (later Flores) and Edris Christopher (later O'Neal) who offered for the Wesley Deaconesses Order. All three were accepted for training.

Rev'd Selwyn Vanterpool candidated at a time of social and political turmoil, a time of growing Caribbean awareness, movement towards decolonisation and the creation of the new Caribbean person. 1967 was the year that the MCCA became an autonomous Caribbean church within world Methodism. That year, the largest number of Methodist candidates for the ministry was accepted for training.

Upon acceptance for the ministry, Rev'd Vanterpool was appointed to serve as Pre-collegiate Minister for one year in the Antigua Circuit. In September 1968 he commenced theological training at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), Jamaica, whence he graduated with the Diploma in Ministerial Studies. He was also awarded the Licentiate in Theology by the University of the West Indies.

Upon graduation from the UTCWI Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool was assigned to the Leeward Islands District and took up his first assignment as a circuit minister in the Montserrat Circuit where he was stationed for three years. He was ordained at the District Synod held in Nevis in 1974. In 1975 he was stationed to the Antigua Circuit until his transfer in May 1977 as Superintendent Minister to the Aruba Circuit.

From the Aruba Circuit, he proceeded on study leave. Having previously completed a course in "Chaplaincy in Prisons, Schools and Police Services," at Luton Industrial College, UK, Rev'd Vanterpool was admitted to St. Paul's University, Ottawa, Canada in 1978. There he pursued studies in Counselling. He was one of two students selected to assist the staff as Counsellor-in-Residence. He graduated from St. Paul's in 1980 with a double Master's degree- the Master of Arts Degree in Marriage Counselling (MA) and Master of Pastoral Studies (MPS).

In September 1980, Rev'd Vanterpool and family moved to their station in Dominica. There he served as circuit minister for one year. He was assigned as Superintendent Minister of the circuit during 1981-83, a time of national reconstruction following Hurricane David which struck the island one year after it attained independence from Great Britain.

Between 1983-1988 he was the Superintendent Minister of the St. Maarten/ St. Martin Circuit. While in St. Maarten he was also the Superintendent Minister of the St. Eustatius Circuit to which he travelled frequently in order to fulfil ministry and to oversee the work there. In 1988 he was stationed in his home circuit, the BVI Circuit, and served as Superintendent Minister for seven years. In 1995 he was transferred to serve the St. Croix Circuit as Superintendent Minister until 2002.

During his tenure in the St. Croix Circuit, he was elected in 2000 to serve as District President for the 2000-2003 triennium

In 2002 he was transferred to serve the St. Thomas/St. John Circuit as Superintendent Minister.

It is to his credit that during his first triennium as District President, a resident minister was stationed to advance the work of the Guadeloupe Mission; and the fledgling District Resources Centre became fully operational. He was re-elected District President for the following triennium.

As District President, Rev'd Vanterpool was also Superintendent Minister of the Curacao and Holland Circuits and the Guadeloupe Mission. He exercised keen oversight in these responsibilities.

He placed a high priority on ministry among young people, and his vision of Methodist Youth Ambassadors became real. His keen interest showed in many other areas such as ministry among men and women. Remembered as a counsellor, one who had a deep understanding of human nature, he was well known for bringing a personal touch even as he communicated with groups and organisations. He encouraged the spirit of Connexionalism throughout the District. His institution of the District Calendar helped to keep circuits and congregations across the District in touch with one another, through shared celebrations, successes, and concerns.

Rev'd Vanterpool superannuated in 2007 and continued to serve in the BVI Circuit as a supernumerary minister, until failing health and the passage of Hurricane Irma in 2017 precipitated the family's (Rev'd & Mrs Vanterpool's) move to Georgia, USA.

Throughout his service as a minister of the church, Rev'd Vanterpool was involved in the life of the wider community. He served the BVI on the National HIV/AIDS Committee, BVI Income Tax Appeal Board, The Territorial Advisory Committee of the University of the West Indies and the BVI Christian Council. He received several awards including his recognition as Member of the British Empire in 1990.

He was also a writer. His best-known publications are *The Inter-Relationship between the Role of Men in the Church and the Home* and *An Integrated Approach to Christian Stewardship based on the Methodist Class System*.

Rev'd Selwyn Vanterpool was married on August 17, 1972 to Brenda Louise and the young couple moved into his first ministry station- Montserrat. Their happy marital union bore three children- Beverly, Kenneth and Karen.

After a prolonged period of illness, Reverend Selwyn L. Vanterpool departed this life on 10th May 2021. He died in Georgia, USA during his eightieth year and in the fiftieth year of his ministry.

We give thanks for his commitment and faithful service in the Master's vineyard.

To God be the glory.

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Tribute to Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool, M.B.E., M.A., M.P.S., M.A., L.Th.

The Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool, after a prolonged illness, passed away on 10 May, 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia USA, during his eightieth year and the fiftieth of his ministry.

Youngest of all his siblings, he was born at the Valley, Virgin Gorda, BVI on 24 January, 1942 to Jacob and Etma Vanterpool.

His early education began at St. Mary's Primary School in Virgin Gorda and later, at the Virgin Islands Secondary School on Tortola. This prepared him early in life, to give unstinting public service to his country and church, notably serving in the Civil Service as Chief Clerk of the Registrar's Office, and then as Clerk to the Attorney General. He also initiated the 4th Virgin Islands Boys' Brigade Company in the Road Town Methodist Church.

It is not surprising therefore, that Rev. Vanterpool portrayed that "creative tension" throughout his ministry, encouraging the church to work with the community in order to provide a frame of reference for communal action.

After serving in his home circuit, the Methodist Church BVI Circuit, as a Local Preacher among other roles, he answered the call to further serve his Lord and Master in the full-time ministry of Word and Sacrament. He was accepted and trained.

After graduating from the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), he worked extensively and with distinction in eleven Circuits and the one Mission in the Leeward Islands District, as Circuit Minister, Superintendent Minister and ultimately the District President.

Taking time off for studies in the UK and Canada, he was able to gain degrees in the Master of Arts programme and Master in Pastoral Studies, thus further preparing himself for a ministry of outreach and caring in the Caribbean at a most crucial time of social and political instability. He warmly embraced people throughout his ministry, and by the grace of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit, he performed meritorious work as Pastor, Preacher and Teacher with depth and sound doctrine.

A faithful, methodical, and efficient Circuit Minister and District President, he gave detailed care and attention to the administration of the church. Known as one whose word could be trusted, and in whom implicit confidence could be had as a beloved Pastor, he excelled. He had a way of showing real sympathy in ministry resulting in him being remembered by them long after he had moved on to other Circuits.

Although his quiet leadership, gentle spirit, reassuring smile, patient and conciliatory nature and gracious spirituality characterized his ministry, he could never be called a pushover. He was always able to act with necessary firmness as situations required.

Never short of ideas in an effort to move the church forward, and in spite of the challenges, he gave hope and guidance through the creation of the District Resources Centre. Circuits could now have a place to which they could refer for educational and other church related material.

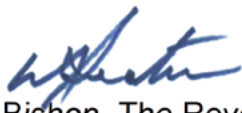
Ministry among men and the youth were dear to his heart. This resulted in him preparing literature for Men's Work, and the organization of Youth Ambassadors throughout the District. Noteworthy was putting into the churches, hands and homes of members in the District, the creation of a yearly Calendar with pertinent information of Churches and Ministerial staff.

Rev. Vanterpool showed a brave and uncomplaining spirit and remained cheerful to the end. From time to time he would intimate that he was in a state of preparedness and "ready to go."

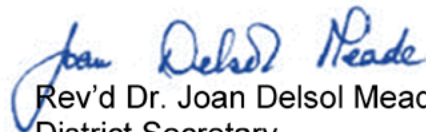
The entire Leeward Islands District mourns his passing and extends to his wife Brenda, and children Beverly, Kenneth and Karen our prayerful support and consolation.

Kind, warm-hearted, dedicated humble servant of God, your steadfast ministry of service will long be remembered.

To God be the glory!



Bishop, The Reverend Charles A. Seaton
District President



Rev'd Dr. Joan Delsol Meade
District Secretary

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**TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND SELWYN L. VANTERPOOL M.B.E., M.A., M.P.S., L.Th.
DISTRICT PRESIDENT, LEEWARD ISLANDS DISTRICT CONFERENCE**



Reverend Selwyn L. Vanterpool,

When you assumed the office of District President in September 2000, few of us would have guessed that within three years the District Resources Centre would be operational and that a resident Methodist Minister would be in place to advance the work of the Guadeloupe Mission. These positive developments are largely due to your leadership in this direction. You are obviously committed to the extension of the Leeward Islands District beyond its traditional borders, as evidenced too, by your keen interest in the progress of the church in Holland.

You were eager to see the Church grow both outwards and on the inside. The District Resources Centre was part of your plan to help our Church become a dynamic movement that is self sustaining and growing while serving in response to human need in church and society.

You placed a high priority on the Church's ministry among its children and young people. That was evident through your constant presence at District Youth functions and at the District hosted MCCA Youth Encuentro in Antigua. You were there in person to show that you care and to encourage the youths along their spiritual journey. Your dream of a vibrant Methodist Youth organization is coming to fruition. Already, we can envision the Methodist Youth Ambassadors at the 2006 Youth Encuentro. The MYA presence may well turn out to be an important catalyst in the establishment of this umbrella organization throughout the Connexion.

Your support was not restricted to the young. You made it your business to be present at District Men's and Women's events as well; and you shared likewise at the 2005 General Assembly of MCCA Women. You showed that you care.

You demonstrated your interest in the groups and organizations of our Church, and you cared for the individual members too. Many among us can recall situations in which you lent a listening ear and communicated hope, helping them out of their distress. You were able to inspire courage at such times because of your determination to focus on the positive in any given situation. It is from their reflections on your counsel in troublesome times that persons describe you as :

- "caring and considerate" ;
- "cooperative and sensitive";
- "willing to assist in crisis";

The personal touch you took with you into the normal course of things, remembering your colleagues and sending each a small gift at Christmas time. In the same vein you instituted the Leeward Islands District Calendar which keeps our Circuits in touch with each other, aware of significant happenings around the District. The calendar is an instrument promoting the spirit of Connexionalism among us.

As General Superintendent of this District, you ably communicated your vision to those who served with you. You stood your ground in persuading others to get there. You paid more attention to where you were heading than any distractions that could have hindered progress. A deep thinker and, one who understands human nature and is committed to move forward even when the path is a challenging one.

Listen to some of our assessments of your leadership:

- > "a dedicated leader"
- > "a man of action, anxious to get things done; believes that the church should grow and advance her mission and ministry"
- > "An individual who is quiet and yet thinks deeply. It is obvious he has the progress of the district at heart"
- > "Deep thinker; submits pertinent ideas for advancing the work of the Church and does his utmost to ensure that his suggestions and ideas are implemented"
- > "Can be firm and intentional"
- > "very knowledgeable and resourceful"
- > "an individual who though quite in nature, has the ability to command the respect of this District; one who has very mature leadership qualities"

You have given of yourself in service, conscious that much was expected of you. Knew that he who began a work in you is still with you and will see you through.

For your untiring efforts, Your passion to see the District advance, for your caring concern and all the invaluable service you rendered as District President, we give thanks and praise to God.

We give thanks for the support of Brenda, your wife and the rest of your family. May God's richest blessings continue to attend you as you demit the office of District President and continue in the service of the Lord.



Tributes

Darling, as we affectionately called each other since we fell in love way back in November 1971, to your passing on May 10, 2021; I continue to love you and will miss you every moment of the rest of my life. We always believed that our meeting at the United Theological College of the West Indies in 1971, where we were both students, was designed by Almighty God. Consequently, the MHB 716 particularly verses 2 and 3 were very meaningful and significant for us.

*Why hast Thou cast our lot
In the same age and place,
And why together brought
To see each other's face;
To join with loving sympathy,
And mix our friendly souls in Thee?*

*Didn't Thou not make us one,
That we might one remain,
Together travel on,
And bear each other's pain;
Till all Thy utmost goodness prove,
And rise renewed in perfect love? MHB 716*

We always recognized God as the third person in our marriage and always sought His blessings, guidance and direction in good times, as well as in challenging times.

August 17, 2021 will mark 49 years of marriage. During those many years, we shared numerous and varied experiences. We shared a Team Ministry together. From the commencement of your Ministry in Montserrat in 1972, to your Superannuation in 2007 and beyond, we conducted many worship services together, visited the sick and shut-ins at home and in hospital, conducted seminars, and witnessed to others about the goodness of God. We supported each other wholeheartedly in whatever each of us was engaged in, whether it was improving the work of God or our own personal development.

Almighty God blessed us with three wonderful children. Beverly, a beautiful baby, was our first born in Antigua. We were both excited to have her and she brought much happiness to our lives. Four years later, immediately following your study leave in Canada, we were blessed with the gift of a handsome son Kenneth. Nine years later, God heard the prayers of Kenneth. He was praying for a baby sister, as Beverly had gone to college. God surprised us with the gift of a little lovely, premature baby Karen, a BVI Islander. Today they are all adults, we are proud of them, and they are each special to us. You were delighted that during your illness, Kenneth with whom we lived, was very attentive and took you to medical appointments. Karen relocated to Atlanta to help take care of you since January until your passing. Beverly who



lived in England, was saddened that because of COVID-19, she could not come see you in person. In spite of the distance, Beverly was actively involved in your healthcare plan. She called regularly and organized your last birthday celebration and took the initiative to order items that would make you more comfortable. The children are truly grateful to you, their Daddy, for providing for them and for the significant father role you played in their lives.

Life was meant to be enjoyed, and together we shared many happy, memorable, and fun-filled moments. Before the children arrived, Puerto Rico was our annual vacation spot. Over the years, on many occasions you reminded me of all the good times and fun we had there. A favorite activity that you enjoyed was going on cruises with the entire family to numerous destinations including Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Alaska, and Panama.

Darling, even though you loved and served the Lord with all the knowledge, intelligence, zeal, and enthusiasm you possessed, you were not spared the pain of illness. You battled prostate cancer for several years. You sought treatment from one of the best cancer treatment centers in the United States (U.S.). The cancer went into remission for a decade, and you shared your story with others about how you were a Cancer Survivor.

Lo and behold, it returned a couple years ago. We remained in the U.S. for treatment, and you struggled to fight it. In the midst of it all, Almighty God was with you, and we give Him Praise and Glory. You had very little pain until the end, and for that we are truly grateful. Oh, how we looked to God daily for strength to survive each day. We found strength and assurance from MHB 517, "Simply trusting every day, trusting through a stormy way, even when my faith is small, trusting Jesus that is all." We sang the hymn daily, as part of our devotions, and when you were too tired to sing, you used to say, "Trusting Jesus that is all."

On May 10, at 9 :00am before Jesus called you to himself, we had our final devotions. With tears in my eyes, and my hand rubbing your leg, we sang our regular Hymn 517 "Simply Trusting every day". I repeated Psalm 121, "I will lift up mine eyes to the hills ...". I prayed, hugged you, and let you know that the children and I loved you. I told you, "do not worry, you are going straight into the arms of Jesus". Darling, I honestly believe that is where you have gone.

You have been a part of my life for almost half a century. I will think of you daily, and I will miss you dearly. Almighty God called you to be with Him because you were too tired. "You have fought a good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith." I believe that you are now safe in the arms of Jesus. Rest In Peace Darling until we meet again.

***Love you always,
Brenda***

Fond Memories Of My Dear Brother Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool

From childhood, Selwyn affectionately called me "Tita". It is so hard to come to the realization that after 79 years, he is no longer with me. Although I anticipated that this day would come because of his ill health, it brings the pain and anguish of separation. Out of nine siblings, we were the only two left. He being the youngest and I being the eldest of the clan. I would have thought that he would have been the one to bury me. However, that was not the Master's plan. From a very young age he chose to serve the Lord. He was indeed a true and faithful soldier in God's army, being true to his calling. Now it pleased the good Lord to take him home. We loved him well, but Jesus loved him best. We who are left behind will miss his earthly presence amongst us, but we hold on to that blessed hope, for those of us who prepare, to one day meet him again in that great family of God where there will be no more parting, sickness or dying. At my age, I can barely control the great sorrow and other emotions that I feel of his loss at this time.

Sleep on my dear brother until then.

Carmelita "Tita" O'Neal, nee Vanterpool

Daddy, it is with much sadness that I write these words. I am thankful to you for all that you have done for me over the years. You always looked out for me and I appreciate that.

I recall the fun times we enjoyed when you took me fishing especially by the Beef Island Bridge on Tortola. When I was a child, I liked boats and airplanes. I remember before you went out to do your Church work on afternoons, you carried me near the airports in the islands where we lived to see the aircrafts and near the docks to see the boats.

I am thankful that you and Mommy lived with me during the last few years when you were not enjoying good health. I was happy to drive you to most of your doctors' appointments, and to help to take care of you. I was very sad when I saw you breathe your last breath on May 10th.

I appreciated how you welcomed Hydie when I brought her home. We both love you very much and will miss you.

Rest In Peace Daddy.
Your son,
Kenneth.



In the public eye, my father was 'Rev. Vanterpool' but to me he was simply 'Daddy'. As I recall his life, I think about the countless hours he spent waiting for me during my weekly piano lessons. I think of the trips that we took together as a family including a trip to Walt Disney World. One of my favorite memories, was my dad agreeing to ride a rollercoaster with my brother and I. During the course of the ride, his glasses unfortunately flew off his face due to the speed of the ride. My father didn't allow his hindered eyesight to prevent us from enjoying the remainder of the day. He took the incident in stride, and we kept on enjoying the magic that is Disney despite his difficulty seeing without his glasses.

My father had an unwavering love for Our Lord Jesus Christ and an unfathomable devotion to the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, and its members. During this difficult time, I am comforted knowing how much my dad positively affected the lives of others. My father was one of the most sincerely altruistic and honest people that I have ever known. My father went above and beyond to help others in need. My Dad has left an impact on the countless people that he met over the course of his life.

I will be forever grateful to have spent the last four months of his life with him as I did. It is truly an honor to have been able to assist my mother in caring for my father during those final months. My father's life expectancy greatly exceeded that given by medical staff which I know is a true testament to the care that my mother provided to him. Throughout my father's illness, my mother was by his side every step of the way with steadfast support, love, tenderness and compassion. When he was unable to advocate for himself, she advocated for him; when he was unable to care for himself, she cared for him.

My father showed strength, kindness, and gratitude up until his last days and moments with us. Despite what he was mentally and physically enduring, he always found the strength to say thank you when we did anything to assist him. When we asked him how he was feeling he would instead redirect the question to us, asking "How are you doing?". My father did not like to dwell on his illness and circumstances, he preferred to focus on the well-being of his family and friends. I truly believe that he accepted his reality and took peace in the fact that he would soon be with Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. May he rest in peace knowing that his life of service to others has made a difference in the lives of many.

Love you now and always.
Your daughter,
Karen

Forever In Our Hearts

The Children and grandchildren of the late James Garfield Vanterpool (brother of Rev. Vanterpool) extend condolences to Aunt Brenda, Cousins, Beverly, Kenny and Karen. We pray you will find comfort and strength in God our eternal father. Blessings now and always.

Forever in our hearts

Blondell, Jasmine, Kayrel, Jeremie, Keyshawn, Jahneal and Dylante

Rest In Perfect Peace

I am indeed saddened on the death of my godfather, Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool.

My memories of him are many: gifting of birthday presents, enquiries about my family and I; on parting he would always say, "Be good now, and take care." He was always concerned and compassionate; his acts of love will never be forgotten.

'The Lord Giveth and the Lord Taketh Away.' While we mourn my godfather's passing, I know the work he has done will bring comfort to his immediate family and to the Methodist Community during this most difficult time.

Until we meet again may Godfather Selwyn rest in perfect peace.

Iris Jones-Smith





TRIBUTE FROM THE GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS ON THE PASSING OF REVEREND SELWYN VANTERPOOL, MBE



I was saddened to learn of the passing of Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool, MBE in Atlanta, Georgia on 10th May, 2021.

Reverend Vanterpool, a native BVI Islander, made many meaningful contributions to the Virgin Islands. He served as a District President in the Leeward Islands in the St. Thomas, St. John Circuit of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA). Reverend Vanterpool's appointments in the Public Service included Counsellor assigned to Her Majesty's Prison from 2008 to 2011, and Member of the Police Service Commission from 2009 to 2018.

Reverend Vanterpool was awarded an MBE in the New Years honours in 1990 for his valuable contributions to this Territory, particularly for his dedicated ministry to the church, and his service to the Public Service.

On behalf of the Governor's Office and the entire Public Service, I wish to extend condolences to his wife, Brenda, three children and other family members. May the memories of the times you spent together help to brighten each day. Be comforted in the words of Scripture in Isaiah 41: 10 which states: "So do not fear,

for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

John R. Rankin CMG
Governor of the Virgin Islands

REMEMBERING A STALWART – A MAN OF GOD

Today, as we say goodbye to Reverend Selwyn L. Vanterpool, I reflect on my many unforgettable memories of this humble, soft-spoken, yet forthright man of God.

I reflect on how he lived his life, reminding us that God is the solution to happiness in our good times and bad times. Patience was a discipline that he had, which brought other values like his compassion, faithfulness, and love for his fellowmen. He had many compelling stories about how he grew in the faith, and you hear them very often on the pulpit as he did what he loved most—preached. He says growth as a process that did not happen overnight.

I reflect on his constant push to ensure that young boys growing up in this community developed an attitude and appetite for reading the Word of God to enhance our spiritual growth. He often spoke about how we could realign our lives and enrich and empower ourselves just by reading the many stories of the Bible.

I admired his commitment to follow wherever God led him. He served throughout the Virgin Islands and the Leeward Islands District. Indeed, he has traveled the world preaching the Gospel before becoming a retired Supernumerary Minister of Methodist Church in the Caribbean & Americas. He also served as the Superintendent Minister of the Holland Circuit. Indeed, he took the Gospel as a Methodist Minister not only seriously, but with him in his heart as he quoted scriptures often and accurately to help strengthen lives.

When I learned of his passing on Monday 10th May, in Georgia, USA, where he received medical attention for some time, I became sad. While we are facing the reality that he is no longer with us, I encourage us not to focus on the grief we now feel but instead celebrate his life.

I wish to say thank you to his wife Brenda and children Beverly, Kenneth, and Karen for sharing him with us and the rest of the world.

I will surely miss his presence among us. He has indeed been faithful.



Andrew A. Fahie
Premier and Minister of Finance



THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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MEMORY OF THE REVEREND SELWYN LORENZO VANTERPOOL

The Vanterpool family is one of the bedrock families when it comes to the fabric of the Virgin Gorda Community going back many, many years. The naming of one of the Administration buildings on Virgin Gorda after this family, shows the public's recognition and appreciation of this fact. Reverend Vanterpool will go down in history as one of the great stalwarts of the Virgin Gorda Community, though I will venture to say that many of our young people might not even know who he was. Most of my knowledge of his achievements came from reading a biography of him written by Mrs. Rosemary Delaney-Smith some eleven years ago.

As a child growing up in the Valley, we all knew of his mother, Ms. Etma as we called her, there is where we all went to get our candies and Christmas goodies. Reverend Vanterpool had a very shaky start in life, and it was doubtful that he would even live to become an adult. This just goes to show that when God is involved, purpose must be fulfilled. Reverend Vanterpool was the last child of Jacob Isaiah Vanterpool and Etma Clothilda Vanterpool, both Methodist lay preachers, so naturally he grew up in a Christian home with strong Christian values. At the age of three he became very ill and was not expected to live, but he did. Two years later, at the age of five he contracted typhoid fever and was once again engaged in a fight for his life, again he was not expected live, but again he did.

I heard many horror stories of the outbreak of typhoid in the BVI and the number of people that died from it, one account told to me by Mr. Rudolph Vanterpool is that at the height of the outbreak a nurse would walk the streets of Virgin Gorda with her syringe and vaccinate whoever she came in contact within an effort to save lives. Like all the other children in the Valley at that time, Reverend Vanterpool attended the St. Mary's Primary School. Unlike today, after primary school there was always the challenge of secondary education, for many persons their educational journey stopped right there. Reverend Vanterpool was the lucky student accepted from the St. Mary's Primary School that year and with the support of his family he made good use of the opportunity.

I did not know all his siblings but many years ago on a trip to New York, I met a lady at a function who introduced herself to me as my mother's childhood friend. I later found out that it was his sister Mrs. Ismay Elizabeth Vanterpool-Harrigan. She was a teacher in North Sound who left in 1952 to live and work in New York. Reverend Vanterpool had deep ties to North Sound as his maternal grandparents Charles Frett of the East and his wife Martha Fahie of Baughers Bay resided in North Sound, Virgin Gorda where Selwyns' grandfather was actively involved as a Methodist local preacher and was affectionately known throughout the community as Cousin Charlie. His paternal grandparents John Hamm Vanterpool of Tortola and Juliana White Vanterpool of the Valley brought a considerable amount of land at Taylor's Bay which is where they grew up as children, their home was called "Bethany Home". So, from these very humble beginnings, just like his siblings before him, he rose to great prominence in his chosen career. For many years the Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool had the distinct honour of being the only presbyter of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas who is an indigenous native British Virgin Islanders. He would be later joined by the Reverend Nibbs Flores and the late Reverend Edris O'Neal. In his own words of his journey, he writes:

"There is no doubt in my own mind that, God instilled in me at a very early age the desire to go into the Pastoral Ministry. As a small boy, I felt that God was calling me to the Itinerant Ministry of the church. As I grew older, I tried to suppress this urge by telling myself, I could serve God in my homeland without going overseas. I intentionally became more and more involved in the life and work of the Church, and my community, in the hope of dismissing the idea of becoming an itinerant minister. Despite my efforts, I could not eradicate the matter from my mind.

In an effort to ease my conscience, and put the issue to rest, I became a Lay Preacher. Soon after becoming a local/lay preacher, I heard the call of the Itinerant Pastoral Ministry stronger and clearer than ever before. In spite of all my efforts to silence the call, that inner, insistent, irresistible urge would not subside or go away.

On April 5, 1963, at an Evangelistic Service in Road Town Methodist Church, I completely surrendered my life to Christ. Like Isaiah, I acknowledged that I could not be effectively used by God to convert others, until I myself had the assurance of being converted. Soon after this spiritually transforming experience, my conversion, I realised that all along I had been resisting Gods' will for my life. Having become fully convinced that God had called me to the Christian Ministry, I embarked upon the vigorous candidating process. Having been thoroughly examined by the Church, which carefully checked to be assured of my call to the Christian Ministry, in January 1967, I was accepted as a candidate for the Ministry of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas."

During his lifetime he received many awards in recognition of his service to the BVI and the wider Caribbean, but I believe that the one that he cherished greatly was when he was awarded the MBE for outstanding service in the BVI and regionally by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1989, two hundred years after Methodism was introduced to the BVI in 1789. He was hoping to write a book on Methodism in the BVI, which I hope his dream can come to a reality as I know he would hold a very prominent place in it.

The life and service of Reverend Vanterpool should be an inspiration to all of us, a life of dedication, caring and giving of himself. On behalf of the Virgin Gorda Community, myself and my family, sincere condolences to his wife Brenda and children Beverly, Kenneth and Karen, his loving sister Calmelita Vanterpool-O'Neal and other relatives and friends. May his soul Rest in Peace and rise in Glory.



The Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley
Representative for the 9th District

TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF THE LATE REVEREND SELWYN VANTERPOOL

I join with the rest of the Virgin Islands' community, as we reflect on the life of a God-fearing, outstanding, quiet but friendly, community oriented man of God, Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool. Rev. Vanterpool was the first BVI indigenous Methodist Minister called to service in this Territory.

Rev. Vanterpool has also given yeoman service to the BVI as a member of the Police Services Commission and Prison Advisory Commission. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire (MBE) Medal by Her Majesty the Queen, an honour indicative of the service he willingly exemplified in this community.

He was undoubtedly one of the most Christian figures in the Territory's Methodist Circuit. His influence extended around the globe and his platform allowed him to gain the attention of global leaders, including Queen Elizabeth II. At the heart of his ministry was his passion for the gospel and his commitment to spread the "Good News" around the world.

To the family of the late Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool, although it is difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back in memory help comfort and strengthen your tomorrows. *May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.*

On behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands, the Government and my wife Pernis, I extend deepest condolences to his family.



Carvin Malone
Minister for Health and Social Development

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REVEREND SELWYN VANTERPOOL, MBE

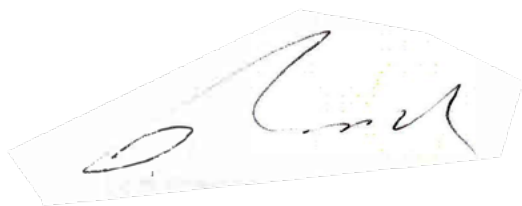
I was privileged and, in many ways, blessed to have grown up with the late Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool. Selwyn was my classmate in the Virgin Islands Secondary School. I recall that he was a hard-working student, but always quiet and respectful, not given to the pranks that other students would get up to and therefore did not experience the disciplinary attention of our Principal.

We took up our individual pursuits after graduating and I was not surprised to learn later that Selwyn, a devout Methodist had gone into the ministry. I did have the opportunity to catch up with him during a short time when we were both in Jamaica, he at the United Theological College of the West Indies and I at the University of the West Indies.

I have followed his progress through his Ministry both in North America and throughout the Caribbean always full of admiration for his accomplishments. I appreciated his dedication and especially his outstanding work with young people. I was equally impressed with his community service, particularly in improving relations between the public and the community in the nineties. His support for law and order combined with his love for his fellow men led him to give counseling services to those behind bars. As a physician and surgeon, I greatly appreciated his service to those afflicted with HIV/AIDS and drug addiction.

Reverend Vanterpool as everyone called him was not only a Pastor but was indeed a stalwart of this territory. I was honoured to call him a friend. When he moved back to the BVI, in later years he and his lovely wife Brenda became our neighbours in Macnamara and we could not have asked for warmer and more generous neighbours. I know that his wife, their three children and his extended family are devastated by their loss but I hope that they will take comfort from the many memories they shared and the fact that this Community is a better place because of his many, many contributions. My heart goes out especially to Nurse Carmelita O'Neal his sister and a dedicated coworker of mine.

My wife Lorna and I extend our deepest condolences to his entire family. May he rest in eternal peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. O. Smith', is written on a piece of white paper with a faint grid pattern. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr D. Orlando Smith OBE
Former Premier



In Memoriam of Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool, MBE
Supernumerary Minister (MCCA)

On behalf of the Methodist Church British Virgin Islands Circuit: the Ministerial, Lay and Administrative Staff, Lay Preachers, and our families, Members and Adherents, I extend heartfelt condolences to the entire family of our departed brother, Reverend Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool, in particular his widow, Sis. Brenda, their children Beverly, Kenneth and Karen and their families, and his sister, Nurse Calmelita O'Neal.

Rev. Vanterpool served as my Pastor as a youngster in the Commonwealth of Dominica and was instrumental in my ministerial journey from Lay Preacher to my early formation after graduating from the UTCWI. Rev. Vanterpool's philosophy has been to "Expect great things from God! Attempt great things for God!" And having been aware of the call of God on his own life, Rev. Vanterpool attempted great things, all the while with that quiet inner confidence and faith that God was with him to equip and enable him to meet whatever the challenges were. Through it all, he maintained that desire and commitment to be faithful and fruitful to God until his life's end.

Sixteen and one-half years ago Rev. Vanterpool, as District President and General Superintendent of the Leeward Islands District Conference of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, penned a message to his beloved Valley Methodist Congregation, on the occasion of their re-dedication of the renovated Valley Methodist Chapel. That message in part said, "God is counting on each member and adherent to be a witness of encouragement and hope in a difficult and challenging world." Today, that message is ever so relevant as we the church have also had to adjust to the "new regular" as we press forward in spreading scriptural holiness which is the salt that will reform the Territory.

As Superintendent Minister of the BVI Circuit, the home Circuit of Rev. Vanterpool, and the place where I began as a probationer itinerant minister of the MCCA, with him as Superintendent, it is an honour for the Circuit ministerial team to officiate at this service of thanksgiving on behalf of our Bishop and all our colleagues, who are unable to be present, due to travel restrictions because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

We commend our brother Rev. Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool to the hands of the Almighty God who created him for himself. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

Yours in Christ,

Keith B. Lewis (Rev'd. Dr.)
Superintendent Minister

Circuit Staff:

Rev. Dr. Keith B. Lewis, *Superintendent* • Rev. E. Brian Seymour • Rev. Celina C. Walton-Charles
Circuit Stewards: Sis. Denise Stoutt-Johnney • Sis. Annette Braithwaite

HOLLAND CIRCUIT TRIBUTE TO REV'D SELWYN LORENZO VANTERPOOL

The Holland Circuit has fond memories of the Reverend Selwyn L. Vanterpool who served as Superintendent Minister of the Circuit during his first triennium as District President.

During the Connexional Year 2000 / 2001, he offered support to the Reverend Douglas Field, a supernumerary minister from the British Conference who lived in Birmingham and visited to administer the Sacraments and otherwise give support to the work in Holland. In his dual capacity as District President and Superintendent Minister, Rev'd Vanterpool visited the Circuit in July and conducted meetings of the Circuit Councils.

On that visit he presided over the commissioning of Bro Alfred Glasgow as Circuit Pastoral Lay Worker, a development that boosted pastoral support for the general membership. He also welcomed three local presbyters into training for the Ministry. They were the couple Ian and Lindsay Kemp, and Fito Davila Quinteros.

Bro Alfred Glasgow recalls that Rev'd Vanterpool gave tremendous encouragement and support to these leaders who appreciated his help, which, in turn greatly boosted morale in the Circuit. He recalls that while miles distant, the Rev'd Vanterpool was near in heart, always available to counsel and guide.

The circuit warmly welcomed his presence on his next visit in April 2003. Some still recall his preaching at Rotterdam.

Sisters Theresita Adolphus and Glinder Rachards who served as circuit stewards remember his personal warmth and friendliness, and the good rapport Rev'd Vanterpool had with the members. They were happy that he visited again in 2004 for another Commissioning Service. Sis Adolphus also pays tribute for his untiring effort, using his influence working together with the British Conference to secure the services of a Methodist Minister from South Africa. He respected the circuit's desire not to be a circuit of the British Conference but rather to remain with the MCCA to which it felt stronger cultural ties. The Circuit appreciated him for that.

That year, they were thankful that he delivered on his promise and stationed a resident Superintendent Minister in the person of the Reverend Relis Martin-Riley, since the Circuit had operated for a while without a resident minister.

The Circuit offers condolences to Mrs Brenda Vanterpool, whom is remembered for her work among the women. It also conveys sincere regards to their children Beverly, Kenneth and Karen, and their families.



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Tribute from the Montserrat Circuit to Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool, MBE

The Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool having completed Theological Training at the United Theological Training College of the West Indies in Jamaica arrived in the Montserrat Circuit on 29 August, 1972 with his wife Brenda and was stationed at Bethel.

Circuit Steward(s)

Miss Zilda Ulina Allen

Drummonds

Montserrat

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ulinaallen@yahoo.com

A young couple, but it was their youthful exuberance and their love for young people which attracted the youth/young adults from the surrounding villages (Long Ground, Bethel, Tuitts, Farms, Trants and Harris) to them.

Their home soon became the leisure spot for the youths and the Vanterpools were able to use this relationship towards establishing a strong Youth Ministry in the churches in which they pastored. They were able to draw many young men and women back to the church and into effective ministry as these were young persons, many of whom were wandering around looking for a shepherd.

He was an inspiring and humble servant of God with special and unique personality, gifts, and graces. He was always ready to give 'Godly' advice to anyone.

How can we forget the slim youthful gentleman with soft persuasive voice and that smile on his face that was ever so convincing, that even when at the outset you disagreed with his point, he was able to bring you around to the point of agreeing with him? Such was the nature of the individual who has labored in the Master's Vineyard.

This servant of God was very consistent in his relationship with God. He never spoke an unkind word about anyone. He was indeed a great example of a good shepherd. One who touched the lives of many has gone to be with his Lord.

We extend our heartfelt condolences and love to Mrs. Brenda Vanterpool, the children: Beverly, Kenneth and Karen and other family members. We pray that God will grant him eternal rest and that perpetual light will shine upon him.

Rev. Gesner Louis-Charles

Superintendent Minister



The Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas

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CONGREGATIONS

Ebenezer

Estate Richmond
Christiansted
Sunday Worship: 11:00 am

Bethel

Estate Two Brothers
Frederiksted
Sunday Worship: 8:00 am

Community

Estate Hogensborg
Frederiksted
Sunday Worship: 11:00 am

May 28, 2021

The St. Croix Circuit of the Methodist Church in the Leeward Island District, Ministerial and Lay Officers, the general membership and friends of Methodism express sincere condolences to the relatives and loved ones of the late Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, especially his immediate family- Brenda, his spouse, and their children, Beverley, Kenneth and Karen on his being called to higher service. We are seizing this opportunity to assure the family of our continued prayers as they adjust to life in the absence of their loved one.

Rev. Vanterpool is one of very few ministers to have candidated from the US or British Virgin Islands. The attractiveness of lifestyle of this sub-region was not fascinating enough to deter him from candidating to what offered him a somewhat nomadic life. This decision of his to respond to the Call of God upon his life within that context, highlights the strong sense of Call that God had upon his life, his deep commitment to God, Church and ministry and his passion for the mission of the Church.

It is not surprising that these qualities were recognized by his colleagues and the leadership of the Leeward Island District who elected him to serve in the highest office in the District. As President, at a critical juncture in the evolution of the Leeward Island District, the Guadeloupe Mission was realized, the resurgence of youth work materialized, as well as the general streamlining of the District and Circuit activities.

Rev. Vanterpool was among a select group of Leeward Island Ministers who tapped into a spirituality that is unique to this District. It is a spirituality that does not sit comfortably with the status quo, but is characterized by visionary and transformational leadership, hard work and commitment to the work. As such, it gives priority to kingdom building. These Ministers demanded much of themselves and equally so of others in the Church, not just to engage in ministry but to engage in ministry par excellence. Essentially, they were uncomfortable with mediocrity. Such a spirituality arises from a clear sense of Call, a firm and personal experience of Christ in God, a commitment to study and continuous development and thoroughness in preparation at all times. It is a case of *'give of your best to the Master'*.

The St. Croix Circuit desires to place on record its gratitude for the seven years of service rendered by Rev. Vanterpool as Superintendent Minister and Pastor from 1995-2002. Rev. Vanterpool's formative years were characterized by tenacity, commitment to the work, visionary leadership, pastoral compassion and invaluable service. Many still remember vividly the stewardship programme undertaken during his tenure and its impact on all areas of the life of the Church, and to its witness, at that time and thereafter. It was during his ministry on the island that the Circuit hosted its first and only District Conference to date.

His death reflects the passing of one of a cadre of Methodist Ministers who gave more than they received. As Luke 12:48 states, *"To whom much is given, much will be required"*. We thank God for his life, witness, ministry and service. May he rest in peace and may God comfort and protect his surviving relatives and loved ones.

Rev. Cuthbert A. Edwards, PhD
Superintendent Minister

THE METHODIST CHURCH
Leeward Islands District - St. Thomas/St. John Circuit

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23rd May 2021

In Memory of the Late Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool, MBE MA MPS

The St. Thomas/St. John Circuit of the Methodist Church expresses sincere condolences on the passing of the Rev. Selwyn L Vanterpool who served this Circuit, as Superintendent Minister while during which time he also served as /resident of the Leeward Islands District, from 2002 – 2007.

The ministry of the Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool in the St. Thomas/St. John Circuit would be remembered for positive impact that he had during his tenure here. Prominent were his sound biblical teachings and the consistent way in which he encouraged persons to be faithful in serving Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Notable among his achievements were the renovation and refurbishment of the Christchurch chapel that has since become the pride of locals and the admiration of visitors. That renovation was only the second major renovation in the chapel's one hundred years of existence.

The establishment of an Afterschool Outreach program for children, in an adjacent commercial building that had been purchased by the church shortly before his arrival in the Circuit was marked the keen interest, he displayed in the outreach ministry of the church.

Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool was also a man who was very fond of quotes. One such quote was: *"In the pastoral service, the pay is poor, but the retirement benefits are out of this world!!"* (a reference to life hereafter).

Rev. Vanterpool was a pleasant, soft - spoken and amicable minister who made easy it for persons to approach and relate to him. He was driven by his love for Christ and his passion for ministry.

On behalf of the four congregations of this Circuit: Christchurch, Wesley, Trinity, and St. John, I join with other clergy, officers, and members to offer our sincere condolences. To Mrs. Vanterpool and the family. May the soul of the late Rev. Vanterpool rest in Eternal Peace and Rise in Glory.

Bishop Charles A. Seaton, Superintendent Minister

Tributes

I am very sorry to hear of the passing of Rev Selwyn Vanterpool. When I set up the Police Advisory Committee in 1992, he was an obvious choice for me to appoint as its first Chairman, and like all his activities he carried out the Chairman's duties diligently, efficiently and compassionately. He served the BVI community well in all his endeavours. I mourn his passing and extend my sincere condolences to all his family.

Peter Penfold
Governor 1991-95



A Tribute

The Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool

At the time of his ministry among us, the Methodist Church was one circuit but now it is Sint Maarten and Saint Martin Circuits. Many persons of both North and South of the island shared rich fellowship with the Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool and family. During his tenure, 1983 to 1988, special attention was given to a thriving youth ministry, especially the Boys & Girls Brigade.

Among the memories cherished were his administrative leadership skills as Chairman of the MAC School Board, the planning of circuit events and the hosting of District Synod in 1986.

He was dignified, a man of class but he never lost the common touch as he exercised pastoral care to both church and community. His clear, coherent, concise and profound delivery of the word captivated the attention of both the young and the elderly.

His reassuring smile, his tact and diplomacy endeared many to himself as they became personal friends, some of whom became God parents to his children and with whom he remained in contact throughout the years.

The Sint Maarten and Saint Martin circuits commend Mrs. Brenda Vanterpool, the children and their families to God's enabling Spirit who is their source of comfort and strength in their time of bereavement.

May the soul of the Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool rest eternally with his creator. Amen.
The Sint Maarten and Saint Martin circuits

Tribute For Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool From The Aruba Methodist Circuit

The Aruba Circuit regrets to hear of the passing of Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, former Superintendent Minister and pastor of the Circuit. The Circuit extends sincere sympathy to his wife, Brenda Vanterpool and family and by extension, the people call Methodist. May God comfort and sustain all who mourn and may His peace abide with them.

The late Rev. Vanterpool and family spent only one year (1977-1978) in the Aruba Circuit since he was due to proceed on study leave. However, in that one year, significant amount of work, especially in the area of Christian Education was pursued. Special mention must be made of the coming into being of groups and growth of groups. For example, the women, youth and the Church School were heavily impacted upon in this way. It is worthy of note that when the Leeward Islands District Synod decided that there should be a Women's Committee in the Circuits, the Aruba Circuit was among the first to have done so. Generally, the commitment of Rev. Vanterpool for that short period in the Aruba Circuit and the extent of his work is very much remembered and appreciated, to the glory of God.

The words of the apostle are applicable to his servant Selwyn:

7 [He] fought the good fight, [he] finished the race, [he] kept the faith. 8 There is reserved for [him] the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give [him] on that day, and not only to [him] but also to all who have longed for his appearing (2 Timothy 4:7-8 nrsv).

***May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory!
The Aruba Methodist Circuit***



Tribute In Memory Of Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool

The Dominica Circuit fondly remembers Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool as he served among God's people in this part of his Vineyard along with his wife Brenda and family from 1980 to 1983. He first pastored the Zion and Ebenezer Congregations in the North-East and resided in Marigot. After one year, he was assigned as Superintendent of the Dominica Circuit and relocated in Roseau.

Rev. Vanterpool was gentle and soft spoken, important fruit of the Spirit which helped to define his Ministry in the Dominica Circuit. Notwithstanding this, he could be firm in his conviction when the occasion would arise for him to defend the cause of Christ in the world. He was a keen listener and possessed the qualities of a good shepherd who cared and a pastor who looked out for the flock. He especially was supportive of the young people.

Rev. Vanterpool served here at a time when travelling the length and breadth of Dominica for work in Ministry was much more difficult due to underdeveloped road networks. That did not deter him and he faced his tasks with determination and commitment.

We, in the Dominica Circuit celebrated with pride when he took up major leadership positions in the Leeward Islands District culminating in his role as President of the District. We believe that he has left behind a legacy of calm and steadfast service to God and his fellowmen.

We were saddened to hear of his prolonged illness toward the end of his life as we prayed for him and his family for the patience to endure to the end.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Brenda, his children and all with whom he worked and served. May God grant him eternal rest as he joins the band of saints who have fought the good fight, kept the faith and finished the race.

Now the labourer's task is over.
Now the battle-day is past;
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.
Father, in Your gracious keeping
Leave we now Your servant sleeping. We say Amen! God let it be so. Amen.

***DOMINICA METHODIST CIRCUIT
JUNE 2021***

Tribute to the Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool on behalf of the Antigua Circuit

The Antigua Circuit of the Methodist Church in the Leeward Islands District Conference is honored to pay tribute to the life and ministry of the Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool. In 1967, he was appointed to serve as a Pre-collegiate Minister for one year in the Antigua Circuit.

In 1975-1977 Rev. Vanterpool was stationed in the Antigua Circuit where he had pastoral oversight for the Barrett Memorial, Baxter Memorial, Freemansville and Sawcolts congregations. During his ministry here many memories were created as he celebrated events in the lives of his members which were either of a joyous or sorrowful nature. His journey with his members in these events reflects the memoirs of a pastor's impact on his congregations.

During his tenure at the Sawcolts Methodist Church, the Rev. Vanterpool endeavored to optimize the spiritual, emotional, social and physical wellbeing of his members. His love and concern for his members could never be denied as there were too many reminders. For instance, he was never too busy to give a listening ear to his members; he knew where they all lived, and he also shuttled them to and from Leader's Meetings.

Rev. Vanterpool was a source of encouragement and support when the congregation attempted to raise funds to purchase their first Church organ. He also provided his members with special training seminars to bolster their faith and conviction, when at times other denominations were pushing spiritual and religious matters and practices aimed at eroding the confidence and practices of the Methodist Church.

For those who were skeptical about God's grace and his ability to work miracles, Rev. Vanterpool testified to the night when death came knocking at his door. After taking some leaders home from Leaders Meeting he proceeded home and to his dismay the brakes of his Austin BMC failed (cut away) as he was going down Follies Hill, but by the grace of God he survived the ordeal.

Rev. Vanterpool was beloved by members of his congregations, especially Sawcolts, and others whom he came to know and who came into contact with him. He was tagged as the "People's Pastor". At the end of his tenure, a Farewell Service was held at Sawcolts and the hymn "God be with you till we meet again" was sung and many persons wept, knowing that chances were they may never see him again.

Charles Wesley's hymn .. MHB 484 .. "Soldiers of Christ arise and put your armor on" and specifically verses 3 & 4, testify to the type of person Rev. Vanterpool was as he defended the faith of the Methodist Church at that time.

*"Stand then against your foes,
In close and form array,
Legions and wily fiends oppose
Throughout the evil day.
But meet the sons of night,
But mock their vain design,
Armed in the arms of heavenly light,
Of righteousness divine.*

*Leave no unguarded place,
No weakness of the soul,
Take every virtue, every grace,
And fortify the whole.
Indissolubly joined,
To battle all proceed;
But arm yourselves with all the mind
That was in Christ your Head."*

To God be the glory for a life lived in service to his God and his generation. May the God of heaven receive him in his everlasting arms. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends and pray that God will grant you strength and grace to sustain you during this time of bereavement. May his soul Rest In Peace!

In Memory of Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool, MA, MFS, LTh, MBE



Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool, MBE, a true and humble man of God, was a beloved son of the Virgin Gorda soil. He spoke the Word of the Lord quietly and clearly; and listened patiently to others, remembering that each has his or her story. He, too, had his own story, of which we count it a privilege to have heard him repeat whenever he got the opportunity, as he was mostly stationed in other Circuits. Rev. Vanterpool would fondly say of Valley Methodist Chapel, "This is where I was hatched, this is where I was matched, and God willing, from here I will be dispatched." On the occasion of the 210th Anniversary of Methodism to Spanish Town in October 2004, Rev. Vanterpool penned:

"The Valley Methodist Chapel holds a special place in my heart. It was here that I was baptized and attended Sunday School, Morning & Evening Services, as well as "Wesley Guild" as a youngster. It was to this beloved chapel that I returned to be comforted during the funeral services of my brother James, and my parents Jacob and Etma Vanterpool, both of whom served as Methodist lay preachers. Approximately 30 years following baptism, I was married to my wife Brenda Louise at the Valley Methodist Chapel. God willing, I look forward to completing my cycle at the place where it all began."
(Valley Methodist Church 210th Anniversary Booklet, Oct 2004)

At that time, Re-Dedication of the Chapel, Valley Methodist Congregation honoured Rev. Vanterpool with the Release of a Limited-Edition Commemorative Coin, in consultation with the Connexional and District Presidents of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA). Rev. Vanterpool was at that time the Leeward Islands District President. On the obverse of the coin was a rendering of the Chapel and inscription "The Love of Christ Constrains Us" with the years 1794-2004 and Methodism in Virgin Gorda, BVI. On the reverse of the coin was a portrait of Rev. Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool and the inscription "First Native Virgin Gordan Ordained 1974". 100% of the proceeds from the sale of these coins went towards offsetting the cost of repairing and refurbishing Valley Methodist Chapel.

Rev. Vanterpool lived his philosophy, which included "A quiet inner confidence and faith that God is with him to equip and enable him to meet whatever the challenges are." He valiantly championed the cause of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ until the end with his quiet demeanour, knowing deep within as the hymnwriter penned, "There'll be peace in the valley for me some day, There'll be peace in the valley for me."
(Thomas A. Dorsey, *Voices In Praise* #354 chorus)

Sincere sympathy to Sis. Brenda (widow) and their Children, Sis. Calmelita (sister), Sis. Dawn (niece) and the rest of the Family, as they continue to hold on to the hand of the Master. The peace of our Lord be with you always and may his soul rest in eternal peace.

Faye J. Reese-Charles, Congregational Steward, on behalf of Rev. Celina Walton-Charles, Resident Circuit Deacon
Valley Methodist Church – BVI Circuit
Valley, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands

Tribute On Behalf Of Our Beloved Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool
From: THE NORTH SOUND METHODIST CONGREGATION

*Rejoice for a brother deceased, our loss is his infinite gain;
A soul out of prison released, and freed from its bodily chain;
With songs let us follow his flight, and mount with his spirit above;
Escaped to the mansions of light, and lodged in the Eden of love.*

We, the Stewards, Methodist congregation here at North Sound, Virgin Gorda, along with our families, are deeply saddened by the death of our beloved Minister- Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool. We offer our sincerest and heartfelt condolences to the entire family as you mourn the loss of your loved one. We will surely miss that tender, soft -spoken and yet firm voice from among us. Rev. Vanterpool, was a son of the soil. He obeyed the call of God to serve in the Methodist church at an early age. The Spirit of the Lord had anointed him to preach. We are grateful for his preaching, teaching, counseling and witnessing, of which many can testify, as he served with distinction at home and throughout the Caribbean. Our brother was mindful of God's command to, "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature", so that all whom he came in contact with learned to know the truth of Jesus' sacrificial love.

May the passing of our dear brother remind us that we are all just pilgrims and strangers on earth. The family will miss their loved one dearly. As your eyes fill with tears and your hearts are overwhelmed with deep sorrow, it is our prayer that God will apply the balm of His precious promises so that you may experience God's comfort and healing power. That promise is, that God will be with you always.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE.

Sis. Gracia Stevens – Congregational Steward
North Sound Methodist Congregation



In Memory Of Rev. Selwyn L Vanterpool

Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool was well-loved by all who knew him and especially those of us for whom he served as the shepherd of the flock. He served faithfully as the Pastor at Long Look Methodist Church from 1988 – 1995.

He has left a lasting legacy to be emulated. We remember him fondly as a kind, humble, loving, spiritual, soft-spoken pastor, a faithful believer and servant of God who always encouraged others in the word and by his actions. He is now in the presence of his Lord and Saviour. Our deepest condolence to his loving wife, Sis Brenda, his children, his surviving sibling Sister Calmelita O'Neal and other close relatives, friends, and church families throughout the circuit. Though he is no longer with us here physically, he will be with us always in our memories of him and his work with our congregation, as we continue our journey here on this earth.

We trust that the Lord would minister to the hearts of his immediate family at this time and give them the strength to cope without their loved one as they continue their walk with their Lord and Saviour, for the words of the Lord in Matthew 5:4 says: -

"Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."
Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.
May Rev. Selwyn rest in peace.

Officers and Members of the Long Look Methodist Congregation

Tribute from Northwoods United Methodist Church, Doraville, Georgia

The officers and members of Northwoods United Methodist Church in Doraville, Georgia, USA, express their heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Brenda Vanterpool, to their children, Beverly, Kenneth and Karen, and their families, and to Rev. Vanterpool's sister, Camelita, in the passing of Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool.

We fondly remember when Rev. & Mrs. Vanterpool and Kenneth first visited our congregation. We were so very pleased to embrace and welcome them into our fellowship. We fondly remember the prayers for God's blessings on Kenneth's and Hydrie's marriage. It is truly a privilege to have the Vanterpool's as a part of our congregation. Unfortunately for us, due to Rev. Vanterpool's failing health, he was unable to give leadership in our worship services. However, during the last year, as we worshipped on Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions, he and his family have regularly joined online in our Sunday Zoom worship.

We pledge our prayers for the Vanterpools in their time of grief and loss. May God be their strength and guide, with the knowledge that we all do have the assurance that one day we shall be with Christ and enjoy him in God's Kingdom for ever and ever. Amen.

Northwoods United Methodist Church

2635 Fairlane Drive, Doraville, GA 30340, USA
www.northwoods-umc.org northwoods@bellsouth.net

Winston

Winston Worrell (Rev. Dr.)

Pastor, Northwoods United Methodist Church, Doraville, GA

Join our Zoom Worship Service Every Sunday 10.30 am Eastern

Call (646) 558 8656, enter Member ID 359-098-217#, and then press #

2635 Fairlane Drive, Doraville, GA 30340

Approved UMC General Evangelist

Coordinator, Refresh Your Witness Ministries

www.RefreshYourWitness.org

Former Director, World Methodist Evangelism Institute



Words of Remembrance In The Celebration Of Rev. Vanterpool's Life:

On behalf of my family - the Lettsomes, we send condolences to the Vanterpool family. This tribute is for Reverend Vanterpool who added so much to the lives of many. I recall meeting him as young person in the BVI and he was so approachable. My dad and mom share memories of him as they all grew up in the British Virgin Islands and knew each other. We thank God for his gifts that were used for God's glory and the sacrifice that he made to spread the gospel.

An individual made the following statement: "The measure of a life is not in its duration but in its donation." When we think of Rev. Vanterpool's donation and what he contributed; we have much to be thankful for his time here on earth. We keep his family in our prayers and asked God's comfort to be with them during this time.

Tracy Lettsome and Family

Tribute For Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool

Let me take the opportunity to offer a tribute for the late Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool and also extend condolences to his widow Brenda, and children Beverly, Kenneth and Karen and their respective families, as well as to the BVI Circuit and our ministerial colleagues in the Leeward Islands District and the Methodist Connexion as a whole, on behalf of my wife, family and myself.

The death of Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool is a great loss for us. A Pastor, Counsellor, Mentor, Preacher, Writer, Communicator, Administrator and Friend has been taken away from us to be with his Lord in eternal glory.

I got to know Rev. Vanterpool when he served in the Dominica Circuit in 1980 as Circuit minister. He was the Minister in Charge of the Zion and Ebenezer congregations in Marigot and Wesley villages respectively. As a member of the Zion congregation, leader, Sunday School teacher and Local Preacher, I was under his influence and direction. I served as Quarterly Meeting Secretary during his tenure as Superintendent Minister, prior to my leaving to pursue theological studies in North America, in August 1982.

Rev. Vanterpool was a very sensitive, understanding, insightful, and supportive leader. His influence in the Dominica Circuit was greatly felt in almost every area of church life, but more so among the young people, and in the ongoing restoration and rebuilding work, following the ravages of hurricane David, and the enormous flooding inflicted by hurricane Frederick in 1979. There is much that can be highlighted regarding the impact Rev. Vanterpool had on the Dominica Circuit during his service there, but let me mention a few of his great achievements.

Operations at the St. Andrews High School, which commenced with Rev. John A. Gumbs, guided by Rev. Dr. Wycherley Gumbs, was intensified under the guidance and direction of Rev. Vanterpool. He also gave impetus to the work among the young people and the different groups and organizations of the church.

Rev. Vanterpool was a true friend. We maintained a strong bond of friendship through the years, which extended to Brenda and our respective families.

May the soul of our dearly departed brother, colleague and friend rest in eternal peace and perpetual light shine upon him.


Telford D. Matthew



Words Do Not Tell It All

When I heard of the death of Uncle Selwyn, as he was sometimes called by some of his colleagues, my heart was filled with sadness although we were told to expect it. As I sat and reflected on the journey in ministry of the three Virgin Islanders: Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, Rev. Edris O'Neal, née Christopher, and I, my mind raced back on his conversion experience in the Road Town Methodist Church during our high school days at the Virgin Islands Secondary School; he being instrumental in helping me to get my first job in the Government's Registry of Births and Deaths where we worked together; working with the Boys' and Girls' Brigades and being chosen to be introduced to Queen Elizabeth II when she visited the BVI in 1966; the times we attended classes together as we prepared for the full-time ministry; and attending the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI) and he being President of the Student Body. He would eventually rise to the Presidency of our Leeward Islands District – a proud moment for us. By God's grace and mercy I am the last of the three left to carry on the work since it is said that Ministers never really retire fully.



I say thanks to his wife, Sis. Brenda, who co-laboured with him throughout our District, including a stint as Superintendent of our home Circuit – The BVI. If Sis. Brenda would ever return to live in the BVI she will be gladly welcomed home.

Uncle Selwyn was my friend, my brother, and my confidant whom I could always depend on for a timely word of advice. May God be with him until we meet again.

Rev. Yvonne Nibbs-Flores
Supernumerary Deacon
BVI Circuit

Tribute to Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool

Dedication, humility, patience, gentleness, kindness, nurturing, compassionate, reconciling, impactful, powerful, and giving, are just some of the adjectives that can be used to attempt to define and remember a man that has meant so much to so many people as husband, father, pastor, teacher, friend, counselor, leader and administrator.

We especially remember his immeasurable contribution to the development and growth of the Road Town Methodist Church where he served in numerous capacities.

Whenever he was given the opportunity to speak about his faith he never left out the fact that it was in Road Town Methodist Church where he was received into membership of the church, he always expressed this fact with such pride and joy. His leadership in the church can be described as strict and yet warm. His expressions of sympathy to the bereaved never ended until he said "let us keep the family in prayerful remembrance". His sermons were powerful and impactful. It was obvious that he had a special relationship with his Lord and Savior. In his marriage ceremonies he emphasized the oneness of the union. He had a special interest in the youth arm of the church as evidenced by his constant reminder to them that they were the future of the church. At local preacher training, his patience and gentle leading through the material made the classes a joy to attend. He was truly a man on a mission to do the work of Christ on earth. We are all greatful beneficiaries of his work.

To his wife Brenda, sister Calmelita O'Neal, daughters Brenda and Karen and son Kenneth and their families, our deepest condolences are expressed to you on the loss of Reverend Vanterpool. We pledge our support to you in any way that we can as you journey forward.

With fond memories, may your Soul Rest In Eternal Peace.

Road Town Congregational Stewards and members of Road Town Methodist Church

Tribute To The Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool

It is exceedingly difficult to accept the death of someone who is very dear to our heart; especially when you did not have the opportunity to see the person face to face, and most importantly when it seems like an important part of your world is truly gone. Moments of regret and pain can be very tough to deal with. No one would know how it is until you go through it yourself...

Today, we are saddened by the death of one who was close to our heart, Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool; who was like a second father to me. It is from this sadness that a feeling of gratitude emerges. We feel honored to have known such a committed father, friend, counsellor, and listener and blessed that his passing serves as a reminder to us all that our time here on earth is extremely limited and that we should seize the opportunity we have to love, share, care, and encourage.

I had the opportunity to know Him when I started to work here in this District in 1999, and he became the District President. He preached at our wedding in Nevis in December 2002. We have been friends since that time. It was under his leadership I was sent to Guadeloupe to start the Mission there. While there, he came to see what needed to be done to get the mission moving. When I was the acting Superintendent minister in the Dominica Circuit, he visited the circuit and be able to meet with the Circuit staff and the Secondary School Board. These two visits were extremely critical for both the Mission and the Circuit at the time. He took time out to listen and give pastoral advice for the betterment of the work of God. He spent time with my family to inquire how things are with us; that too meant a lot to us.

My family and I were stationed in the BVI Circuit in 2006, and there we met Rev. Selwyn and Brenda Vanterpool. While we were there, our friendship became stronger. Their home was our home. They both became God parents to our daughter, Gésella. The ties of family, the ties of friendship, the ties of love and affection kept us in relationship with one another.

Selwyn was a family colleague, who cared for his family, especially his dear wife Brenda and his children. He loved everybody, and he believed that we are all God's children, and so we should respect, appreciate, support, love one another and be kindhearted. He always had a word of advice to give to everyone. Whenever we had a conversation, it would end this way: "Keep the faith my brother, and may God bless you and your family.

Selwyn was like our second father, a forever friend. He meant so much to us, we will forever miss him, and we thank God for the way he touched our lives as a family. But from this life to God 's arms his memory will live on through those he loved. It will bring comfort; it will bring peace. It will make us cry, but most of all, it will remind us how blessed we all were to have had him in our lives.

His personality was infectious, and he set an example to those around him. You would always be greeted with a big smile, with that sense of humility, and calm spirit but it was these wonderful warm demeanors I believe that everybody will remember him for. To the Vanterpool Family, his dear wife: Brenda Vanterpool; children: Beverly, Kenneth Karen, and the entire family circle, be strong and courageous, for the Lord our God is with you and He promises that He will take care of you.

Joshua 1:9—"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

I encourage you therefore, to lean into the strength and the courage of the Lord who promises to be with you even during this time of your bereavement. Continue to trust the Lord, believe in His word, and stand firm in the faith that was once given to those before us.

We express our sincerest condolences to the bereaved family.

May the soul of the servant of God, Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool rest in eternal peace and rise in glory.

Gesner, Angela, Gésérion & Gésella Louis-Charles

A Tribute To A Great Friend And Distinguished Pastor

It is my honor and distinct privilege to pay tribute to the Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, a great friend, outstanding colleague and distinguished pastor in the ministry of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas (MCCA) over many years.

Selwyn was a truly humble, soft spoken, disciplined Christian Minister, who distinguished himself as an outstanding caring pastor. I am delighted to note that his life and work within the church exemplified a remarkable testimony of his integrity and positive influence on the lives of his colleagues and members. I was fortunate to have had the privilege and joy of being invited to participate with him and other colleagues in Mission Services in St. Thomas, USVI. It was for me a spiritually moving and dynamic experience. So, when three or four years later, I was invited along with my wife, Verna, to come and participate in the Evangelistic Worship Services, based on my first experience working alongside Selwyn, there was no hesitation on my part to affirm my acceptance of his invitation. Like the first event, this one was well organized and although he was extremely busy ensuring that the Evangelistic Services went well, he took the time to take me with him on more than one occasion to visit some of the sick and shut-ins. I was deeply impressed!!!

When he superannuated and went to live in Tortola, I went to the island for a church related matter and was invited by his lovely wife Brenda and himself to visit for a time of fellowship. An unforgettable and wonderful time was spent eating, listening and sharing jokes, for Selwyn was a person with a great sense of humor. It was his specialty to make one feel very comfortable in his presence.

I remember him as one who preached with conviction the Gospel of Jesus Christ and as one who was helpful to those who required his help. He was in general a truly nice person with a great sense of commitment to the church's work. In addition, he was a tireless worker who was always doing something for the spiritual welfare of the people of God. Above all, Selwyn was a man of God, a faithful and devoted servant of the church and of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God for Brenda who shared every moment at the side of Selwyn during his greatest time of need showering him with tender loving care. It was during the critical moments of his life while he was hospitalized that he spent time listening to the Holy Scriptures I shared with him and in prayer for which he was truly appreciative and profusely thankful. This was for both of us a very special moment in time.

My wife, Verna, joins me in expressing condolences to Brenda and their children, Beverly, Kenneth and Karen. May the Lord by his presence grant you comfort and that peace which passes all understanding. May Selwyn rest in peace in the arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and may light perpetual shine upon him.

Fr: Rev. Dr. Lesley G. and Sis. Verna Y. Anderson

Tribute Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool, Mbe., Ma., Mps., L.Th

Rev. Vanterpool, As a Pastor, a husband, a father, a brother and a friend, was a servant of the most high God. He fulfilled his calling and made every effort to carry out his heavenly assignment.

His trust was in the Lord, not his title or status. He loved the Lord, and he loved his fellow man. He was a faithful servant, and an example of the believer.

To the glory of God the Father Almighty.

***Rev. Bernice Madden,
St. Philip A.M.E Church
Atlanta, GA 30017***

Tribute from Rev. Dr. Winston & Mrs. Marita Worrell and Family.

It is with sadness that we write this tribute in memory of the late Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, a dear brother and friend in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. I first met Rev. Vanterpool in 1979 at my first Synod in the Leeward Islands District. The previous September I had been appointed to serve in Rev. Vanterpool's home country, the British Virgin Islands (BVI), where Marita and I also met his sister, Calmelita.

In a few years, I then had the privilege of serving with Rev. Vanterpool in the Commonwealth of Dominica. Selwyn was always very caring and helpful, calm spirited and committed to Jesus. Since those early days, we have seen Selwyn keep up his commitment to Jesus throughout the many years as we annually continued to meet at Synods and meetings of the District.

After Rev. Vanterpool retired to the BVI, I still had the opportunity to meet him from time to time whenever I served as BVI's preaching evangelist. On those occasions, I would be greeted with his usually smiling, calm spirit. Later, sometime after Rev. & Mrs. Vanterpool and their son, Kenneth, moved to Atlanta, they regularly attended worship services at Northwoods United Methodist Church, where I serve as pastor. It has also been an honor to be with Selwyn and his family during the last years, months and days of Selwyn's life. During these times, Selwyn has always been at peace, sharing with us his assurance of salvation in Christ and of a place in God's Kingdom.

My family and I will be in constant prayer for his dear wife, Brenda, and their children, Beverly (Marc) in the UK, Kenneth (Hydie) in Atlanta, and Karen in Maryland. May the soul of our dear brother, Selwyn, rest in peace with God in glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Winston Worrell

Approved UMC General Evangelist

Pastor, Northwoods United Methodist Church, Doraville, GA

Join our Zoom Worship Service Every Sunday 10.30 am Eastern Time

2635 Fairlane Drive, Doraville, GA 30340, USA

www.northwoods-umc.org

Tribute To Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool

We, the lay preachers of the BVI Circuit of the MCCA, join with the brothers and sisters of the Methodist Church, and the wider community in expressing our deepest condolences to Sister Brenda Vanterpool (our most senior lay preacher) spouse, Karen, Kenneth, and Beverly, children, Sister Calmelita O'Neal, sister, and the extended family of our late Presbyter, Leader, Pastor, Brother and Friend, Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool.

He was a happy pilgrim who served in the Leeward Islands District as President with distinction. During his sojourn in the BVI Circuit, he was always willing to assist lay preachers to discover their Purpose in the lay ministry of the church. He did this through his pastoral duties as Presbyter and Superintendent of the Circuit, his personal interest in and love for his brothers and sisters, and his desire to see the lay ministry grow, become resourceful and fruitful.

After retiring from full-time ministry, he devoted quality time teaching lay preachers and assisting them in preparing for the MCCA's prescribed examinations. On these occasions, he was not only a teacher, but also a wise counsellor, a father in the faith, and of course a great entertainer. Those preachers who attended his classes looked forward to their sessions not only for the instruction, but the hospitality provided by Sister Brenda. His influence on the laity will continue as a light to brighten our paths as we share the good news with those in need.

Our Shepherd, Brother and Friend has left us on this thorny road, but we rejoice in the hope that we will meet him again when our journey in time ends. At that time, we hope to meet him never to part again. Until then, Bro. Rev Selwyn L. Vanterpool, sleep on in Jesus' name and rest in eternal peace.

Local Preachers

BVI Circuit, MCCA



A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF REV. SELWYN VANTERPOOL

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day:
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way...
And the best of all the preachers are those who live their creed.
For to see good put in action is what everyone needs." (Egbert Albert Guest)

The celebration of the life of Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool will in no doubt show a man of humility, kindness, and Christian love. These characteristics were shown throughout his ministry here at home and where he was planted in God's vineyard.

God has now extended a call to our precious brother and faithful Minister to come a little higher and rest for a while. We are blessed, honoured and count it a privilege to have had him not just as our own son of the soil, but as a true servant of God. He has left a true Christian legacy for us to follow.

On behalf of the MCCA Women's Commission, BVI Circuit, we extend heartfelt condolences to Sis. Brenda Vanterpool and family. We trust that you will find comfort and strength in the Lord and happy remembrance of the life of Rev. Vanterpool. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. We pray you will continue to feel comforted in the days and weeks ahead.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

MCCA Women's Commission
BVI Circuit

Circuit Staff:

Rev. Dr. Keith B. Lewis, *Superintendent* • Rev. E. Brian Seymour • Rev. Celina C. Walton-Charles
Circuit Stewards: Sis. Denise Stoutt-Johnney • Sis. Annette Braithwaite

POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION

Road Town, Tortola, BVI

Tribute to former Member of the Police Service Commission, Mr. Selwyn Vanterpool

One of the great rewards of serving on Public Boards such as the Police Service Commission (the "PoSC") is the calibre of people that you have the honour of working alongside. Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool was an unassuming man of good character. He was appointed as a member of the PoSC from its establishment on 3rd February, 2009 and served with distinction until 3rd February, 2018, when the effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria forced him to relocate to the United States.

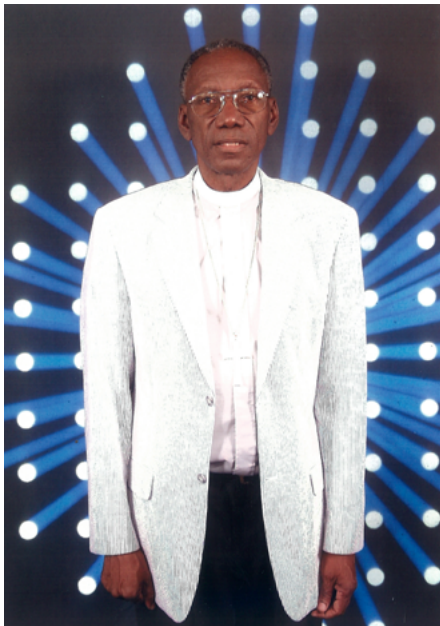
Reverend Vanterpool was generous with his time and was always available to attend board meetings no matter the hour or day. He was also a fully engaged and active board member who never shrank away from making unpopular decisions. He fully appreciated his duties as a board member and was happy to contribute his skills and experience in raising the quality of policing in the Virgin Islands.

As a deep rooted man of faith, he expressed himself in a soft spoken but firm, peaceful and respectful manner. He also had a warm sense of humour which he sprinkled throughout board meetings to create an atmosphere of support and camaraderie. We are deeply thankful for his service and we shall keep him in our best memories.

The Commission extend our sincere condolences to Reverend Vanterpool's dear wife and children and the entire family circle. We thank you for allowing him to share his time in service for his country and pray that all of us will prove faithful and be reunited with him and our God for all eternity.

May his soul rest in peace.

The Police Service Commission.



Rev Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool

Old Address	New Address
B.V.I & Atlanta	Heaven's Golden Shore

Uncle Selwyn was one in a million. I will forever cherish the moments that we shared. We spoke of everything from politics to salvation and he spoke with conviction and wisdom. He was the type of person so calm and humble that I was able to share my innermost feelings and thoughts and it was indeed reciprocal. We shared our cancer journey, experiences, and anxieties and were able to encourage each other. There were many joyful experiences in his life as well as challenges that caused concern. I will truly miss his Godly counsel. I count it a blessing to have been able to share through prayer, hymns and bible readings with him during his darkest moments before he transitioned. Uncle Selwyn has now completed this chapter of his life as he enters into the joys that await him in the presence of his heavenly father. He always said that "he was hatched in Virgin Gorda, he was matched here and, sadly, he will be dispatched here as he always requested.

My husband Ortley, daughter Ebony and grandson Casen shared wonderful experiences and memories of him as well, and joins me in saying "May the Life and Service he gave speak for him". May the family be encouraged that he lived a good life, and find comfort in the words "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus."

We are assured that Uncle Selwyn is at sweet rest in the arms of our Savior and soon coming King. Bon Voyage Uncle Selwyn, until we meet at Jesus feet.

Dawn O'Neal George (Niece)

Tribute From Family In Grenada

Uncle Selwyn was the husband of our loving Aunt Brenda who has always been very close to all her family. We first met Uncle Selwyn many, many years ago, shortly after their marriage. He stood out to us as a very happy and jovial person. His long and hearty laugh whenever in a conversation was very outstanding.

Both Uncle Selwyn and my aunt loved travelling and so, over the years, they visited the family here either by directly coming on a vacation or whenever they are on a Cruise and the Cruise Ship makes a stop at Port St. George. It was a privilege to the family, on those occasions, to have Uncle Selwyn's presence, who to us was a good communicator with a unique voice.

On his last visit to Grenada, the family was able to enjoy an outing together, making a tour around our little Island visiting various places of interest.

We, the family of Aunty Brenda, truly have been privileged to know Uncle Selwyn. He will always be remembered by us as jovial, respectable and easy going. We are saddened at his passing but as Scripture records in Job 1:21," the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD".

From Aunty Brenda's Family in Grenada:-

Grace, Faith, Jimmy, Leroy, Aunty Phyllis & Uncle Gordon

Remembering Uncle Selwyn

We give God thanks for the life of Uncle Selwyn; he was a real example of a man who lived for God. Honourable and humbleness were credited to his life, and this was shown when you were in his presence. He will be dearly missed but not forgotten.

Condolences to Aunty Brenda and cousins,

Gary, Gillian, Jacqui and Donna Bhola, United Kingdom

God Bless the Vanterpool Family

God bless the Vanterpool Family, especially his wife Brenda, during this your time of bereavement; hold her up Dear Lord and strengthen her for the road ahead.

Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool work has finished and the race he ran will not be forgotten. He has written his last sermon and preached his last message. Now it is up to us to carry on and we promise to look after Brenda when she visits.

We take a moment to remember Rev. Vanterpool; a gentle giant who would light up a room with his smile and his kindness. We remember when he would visit us in Canada and spend some time in Toronto; and attending church with us at The East York British Methodist Episcopal Church. He would spend time with Edna and the family where they would make banana bread and have a wonderful time partaking of the goodies. Time was also spent out and about touring the local neighborhood and dining in restaurants. We loved to hear the story of how Brenda and him came to Canada to study in the 1970's and especially those about the time spent in Ottawa as a young family with their first born, Beverly.

All the lives he has touched will miss his smile and how it would radiate when he walked into a room. May his soul rest in peace.

The families in Toronto, Canada,

Edna Kanhai, Sister-in-law and Family

Randolph Bhola, Brother-in-law and Family

Travis and Sharron Carter, Nephew

Dawn and Jamie Griffiths, Sister-in-law of Travis Carter



A FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO AN OUTSTANDING FRIEND AND MENTOR

Today we mourned the passing of our dear beloved friend Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool. Rev. Vanterpool has given much of his life serving God and his fellowmen. He led a remarkable life while working tirelessly in the building of his church and community. His pleasant personality, along with his gregarious nature and God-fearing attitude, provided a safe place for persons to interact readily with him.

The songwriter reminds us “that If I carry the gospel to the lost near and far, I won’t stand empty handed at God’s Judgement Bar. But I dare not relax until I have done all he asks.” Very rarely does one find such an influential and accomplished couple to be so charitable and humble in their action towards others. These words best described Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool and his Local Preacher wife, Brenda. My husband Vernon was appointed Police Commissioner of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force in 1992. At a time when the British Virgin Islands saw some turbulent times with the increase in crime. Vernon had recently graduated from Law School with his long career in policing and held a passion for the love of his country. The Government of the day promoted him to lead the force hoping that he would bring the country back to its normal state of tranquility.

To assist the Commissioner of Police and his men, the then Governor Peter Penfold, in his wisdom, created an Advisory Committee in 1992 and made Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool Chairman. From the onset of his appointment, Rev. Vanterpool forged a strong and supportive relationship with the Commissioner of Police (my husband). In turn, the entire Malone family benefited from that close relationship. In his quiet professional demeanor, Rev. Vanterpool provided unwavering and robust support to my husband. This relationship and other mitigating factors undoubtedly help to bring success to the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force. Although we were saddened when he became ill and moved to the United States, we stayed in contact with the family. *Icis A. Malone, FICA (Fellow of International Compliance Association).*

During regular conversations with his wife Brenda, I was comforted that she and the children provided him with all the loving and excellent care that was humanly possible. In addition to his medical care, she would say to me, “Sister *Icis*, Selwyn is also receiving spiritual food.” We have hired a nurse who is a Godly woman, and when I am not around, she is constantly praying and singing with him. Such loving care is unmatched. A few weeks before his passing, luckily, he was able to speak with me, at that time, he expressed his love and asked me to give my husband his kind regards. After our conversation, I came away feeling very grateful that I was able to speak with him.

A dear friend has left, but he will not be forgotten. His legacy of kindness, compassion, and professionalism will remain in the minds and hearts of his family, his flocks at the church, and all the many lives that he has touched. I am often mindful of the words of the great Catherine McAuley (Founder of the Sisters of Mercy) when she wrote, “If the Love of God really reigns in your heart, it will quickly show itself in the exterior. Day after day, Rev. Vanterpool portrayed those characteristics.

To his wife Brenda, children Karen, Beverly, Son, Kenneth, In-Laws, Sister Mrs. Calmelita, and other close family members, friends, Rev. Dr. Keith B. Lewis Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church (BVI), other Ministers, and Church members. We, the Malone Family, offer our sincere sympathy on the passing of our dear friend, Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, a Quiet Giant of a man. May his dear soul rest in peace.

Icis Malone. May 2021

In Memory Of Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool

Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool was truly a humble and caring man of God, friendly, sincere, mild-mannered and respectful in his interactions with others. Each of us grew up knowing him and his siblings as close family friends, as whenever he visited Virgin Gorda he made sure to visit our late mother, Ms. Myrtle Reese – in between visits, they kept in touch via telephone and greeting cards. On occasion, he even borrowed Mommy's Olivetti manual typewriter to type his documents, while vacationing in the homeland. Even before Rev. Selwyn (as he was affectionately known) started his own family, he became Godfather to Ronnie; previously his brother James had been Faye's godfather; and later his sister Allegra became Andrew's godmother. The family ties are strong.



Both Rev. Selwyn and Sis. Brenda have been greatly respected and admired by us – and whenever they chanced to meet any of us along the way, we always enjoyed a good conversation, ending with greetings to our mother and the rest of the family. Sis. Brenda has helped and encouraged Faye in the Women's Ministry, particularly in relation to leadership in Valley Methodist Women's League. In May 2012, Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, then Superintendent, BVI Circuit of the Methodist Church officiated at the Marriage Ceremony of Faye and Eldred Charles at Valley Methodist Church, after counselling them at his home in Tortola. In 2018, Rev. Selwyn also provided Faye with the syllabus for the Local Preacher's Exam, but shortly thereafter, migrated to the USA for medical treatment. We were privileged to meet with him on his last trip to Virgin Gorda in February 2020.

Like many Virgin Gordians, we cherish our memories of interacting with Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, and his immediate family, for while he could be humorous, he emulated the Fruit of the Spirit showing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In all that, his life as a faithful Methodist Minister portrayed the words of the hymnwriter:

*“Live Thou within us, Lord; Thy mind and will be ours; Be Thou beloved, adored,
And served, with all our powers; That so our lives may teach Thy children what Thou art, And plead, by more
than speech, For Thee with every heart.”*
John Ellerton, MHB #782 v. 4

Our deep condolences to Sis. Brenda, Beverly, Ken and Karen, and Sis. Calmelita and Sis. Dawn and the entire Family. He will be greatly missed, but the love and compassion with which he touched so many lives will remain in our hearts. May the peace of our Lord be with you always.

May his soul rest in peace.

The Children of the late Myrtle Reese

Faye, Lester, Ronnie and Andrew and our families

Humble, unassuming, god-fearing and a great encourager are words that describe Rev Selwyn in my life. When he came to this Circuit the church was in transition. He set up the various committees and urged us to serve God faithfully. He also conducted stewardship campaigns in order to involve the entire church in service to God.

Personally, he provided many opportunities for me to receive training in evangelism when I became chairperson of that committee. He was always encouraging me to earnestly serve the Lord. I will be forever grateful to him for that. To his Loved Ones I offer you God's comfort and the verse that says “The eternal God is your refuge and underneath you are His everlasting arms.” So, lean on Him and He will carry you through. May his soul Rest in Peace.

Sylvia & Edwin Adams

Caring Sympathy

It is with much sadness that I have learned of the passing of Rev. Selwyn L. Vanterpool. I extend to the family my deepest condolences. I know that nothing that the family is going through at this time is easy and I wish that you didn't have to go through it. However, sadness at this time is a reflection of your love for the loss of Selwyn. I can only hope that your many memories of him, comfort you during this difficult time.

My memory of Selwyn is my transition of leaving Anegada, to reside and work in Tortola and experience new adventures. I was without my parents for the very first time. Selwyn was the most congenial person anyone could room with. He shared his space peacefully, with me, for three years. Life took us down different paths but I will always remember his kindness, that meant so much to a then seventeen-year-old young man.

My wife Myra and my sisters Judith Vanterpool and family, Veronica Fahie and family, join me in praying that God will comfort the family with his peace and surround you with his love. May his soul abide with God, whom he served.

Theodolph Faulkner (Lanny) and Family

A Tribute To Rev. Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool, MBE

Today, the Flax Family commiserate with the family of the late Reverend Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool, MBE, his wife Sis. Brenda, children Beverly, Kenneth and Karen, his one surviving sibling, Nurse Calmelita O'Neal and others close family members and friends. We also uplift their spirits that they may find solace in knowing that their loss is genuinely shared by us and countless others whose lives Rev. Vanterpool touched.

Since Rev. Vanterpool's superannuation, and his prolonged illness, we saw the gradual loss of a visionary in ministry and community service, and an exemplar of Christian responsibility. I had the opportunity of serving as Circuit Steward for two four-year terms a position that was formally named Society's Treasurer and one of the four-year terms I had the privilege of working with Rev. Vanterpool during his tenure as Superintendent Minister of the Circuit. Then, while he was serving as President of the Leeward Islands District Synod, now renamed District Conference, I served with him as Delegate to District Conference and Lay Representative at Connexional Council. Those years under his guidance, are forever etched on my heart as I not only learned the intricacies of our church but I saw the evolution of the church which also drew me closer to Christ, that resulted in my call to preach the Word.

Rev. Vanterpool was a devoted husband and father. He was a humble, inspiring person with special and unique gifts. He made teaching and learning easy. He was an outstanding spiritual leader, educator and family friend who inspired all those who came in contact with him. He always appealed to those whose lives he touched to give their lives to Christ. It was a pleasure listening to his sermons, especially on a Sunday morning. He was not loud but in his soft-spoken delivery he was convincing and caused reflection and introspection.

Many ministers have passed through the BVI and although Rev. Vanterpool was an indigenous BVI Islander he too had a stint as Superintendent Minister of the BVI Circuit. He superannuated in the BVI and during that time, he still continued God's work by preparing several members of the church for accreditation as Lay Preachers. The classroom was his study at home. On a Saturday at the end of each session, the class looked forward to spending a few relaxed minutes with him and with Sis. Vanterpool at his side they both treated the students to the best from their kitchen and their garden.

We give God thanks for his life and ministry, his friendship and his wise counsel. He has "fought the fight, finished the race, kept the faith" and now he awaits the crown the righteous judge will give him.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Keith, Rosemarie and family

Tribute to Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool

Rev Vanterpool was the most caring person I have ever met and I don't say that lightly. During his tenure here in the BVI Circuit he became much more than a Pastor to me. He was a true friend, someone who would call or pass by just to see how I was doing. His soft spoken demeanor had this calming effect in everything that he did. He was a supporter, a confidant, an inspiration. A person who I looked up to, as my Pastor, as a family man, as an example of how to live a righteous God filled life. His way of living was an example to more persons than myself because he touched so many lives and so many hearts.

Joy and happiness could be seen on his face and heard in his voice because he lived for the Lord and served with his whole heart. I will miss how gentle and kind Rev Vanterpool was. No matter how large the congregation he was entrusted with was, he made each and everyone one feel special, feel heard and he reinforced that we must all love one another as God loves us.

To his family especially his wife Brenda and his children, I know this is a tremendous loss, we all grieve with you. But I know right now he is here because he believed and lived his life on earth for this very time, the time of no pain, no suffering, the time to meet his Lord and Saviour with open arms. As he prepared us on earth to save our souls so we can enter the Kingdom of Heaven, I know he has gone ahead to help prepare for when we are all together again.

Patsy Lake

Tribute to Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, MBE

Your quiet dedication to God's word is something I was grateful for. Your holy and reverent support meant a great deal to me. With the sincerest gratitude, you will forever be missed. To Sister Brenda Vanterpool and the rest of the family, be comforted at this time, knowing that God is able. "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also". John 14: 1 - 3

***Brother James W. Halliday, Sr., Local Preacher,
Methodist Church***

It is said that we are only remembered by the work we have done. As the caretaker for Mrs. Calmelita O'Neal, Rev. Vanterpool's sister, I was privileged to meet him on two occasions when he visited her. The last time being when he came to celebrate her birthday last February 2020. He was a caring, kind and humble man. He did not say very much but always had a smile and was thankful for what I did to assist him. I will never forget his quiet demeanor. The Lord saw that he was suffering and he took him to a better place to find rest from his suffering and pain. May God be with you till we meet again.. Prisca "Sister Annie" Marshall (Caretaker for Mrs. O'Neal)

My wife, and I share your sorrow in the recent passing of Rev. Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool, MBE. We knew him as a caring, humble and respectable leader. As a young man, he started a Boys' Brigade for boys and young men; he was a respected employee in the BVI Civil Service and later offered as a candidate for the Ministry of Christ. Rev. Vanterpool served as the Leeward Islands District President, in the St. Thomas St. John Circuit of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA). Among other accomplishments, he will be fondly remembered for the renovation and upgrade of Christchurch Methodist Chapel and for establishing a Methodist Afterschool Program for children as an outreach program of Christchurch.

We will always cherish the memory of Rev. Vanterpool and express our sincere condolences to his family. May his soul rest in Eternal Peace.

Theodore & Benet Fahie

To my dear sister Brenda and family,

May the light of God surround you, May the love of God enfold you, May the power of God protect you, And may the presence of God watch over you, now and the days to come!

Carla Boyce-Smith

To Mrs. Vanterpool and family our heartfelt condolences. We met on Aruba where we stayed at Family Young. Marva Woodley was Beverley's babysitter. We hold fond memories of those days. May Rev. Vanterpool's dearly departed soul rest in eternal peace and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Floyd Woodley

There are some tributes that are hard to write this is one. I knew Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool for many years, knew he was one of our Methodist Ministers, knew he was from here at home in the BVI, that carried a sense of pride with it whenever it was mentioned, however, our close relationship came when he agreed to be our Homiletic Tutor in our studies that would qualified us as Accredited Local Preachers in the Methodist Church.

I am grateful for his time, his prayers and his encouragement. There were times when we wanted to give up and to quit, however he was the little engine behind us that says yes you can, yes you can. Also, when the examinations were on the horizon I know God must have given him an extra dose of patience with us. When we tell him our fears and anxieties Rev. would sit there calmly and say 'but you all are prepared, you are ready for the exams.' He never gave up on us. A heartfelt thanks for his belief in us when we didn't think that we could do it. He reassured us and we did it. Today, thanks to him, we are all fully Accredited Local Preachers. From the pulpit it was always a blessing to see him in the congregation when you preached. His presence was reassuring and comforting. He sat there beaming. He knew he had given us the best he had to give, he now left us in the hands of Almighty God. He was the minister at my trial service.

I thank God for the role he played in my spiritual journey and for the legacy he left behind for us the people called Methodist not only here at home in his beloved BVI but throughout the Caribbean where he ministered. To Sis Brenda and the rest of the family underneath are still the everlasting arms. Take comfort that he is no longer suffering. May his soul rest in eternal peace and rise in glory.

Maisie Richardson

It is sad to say goodbye to Rev. Vanterpool. I first became acquainted with him in 1958, at the Virgin Islands Secondary School where he was a quiet, unassuming, yet memorable presence. He was in Form 3 and I was in Form 1. It was the same in 1966 when we worked in the British Virgin Islands Government's administration building, located above the old Post Office. I was working in the typing pool and he was with the Attorney General whose office was located just inside the entrance, on the left, overlooking the Main Street. I can still see him moving in and out of the building quietly, in pursuit of his tasks.

However, what I remember best is the time spent with him in recent years, 2016-2018, as a member of the last group of persons whom he tutored, in preparation for the Local Preachers' Examination. He was dedicated to the task and he gave willingly of himself, although it must have been at the expense of the precious time he had left. Always with a ready white toothed smile, you would never have guessed. I was grateful to have been able to conduct the service at Valley Methodist when he was visiting, not so long ago. It never occurred to me that it might be the last occasion on which I would have the opportunity to greet him. Rev. Vanterpool was a model of humble, dedicated, and sacrificial service to God and his fellowman. May the wonderful memories of him bring comfort to his family and all who mourn, and may he rest in eternal peace.

Marilyn Nibbs

Tribute To Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool

Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool was the best boss in the world. He was kind and very thoughtful and full of wisdom. I had the privilege of working for him when he was the Superintendent Minister and Pastor at Christchurch Methodist Church in St. Thomas. It was a pleasure working for him. He loved his family dearly. He always had a smile on his face while talking about his wife Brenda, daughters Beverly and Karen, his son Ken and the rest of the family. When he superannuated and went back to Tortola, I felt a sense of loss. He will be greatly missed. God loves you Reverend and we do too, and I know the Lord is happy to have you there in heaven at his right hand. Rest in Peace, Reverend Vanterpool.

Grace Rhymer.

Sincerest condolences to Sis. Vanterpool, Beverly, Ken and Karen. I served as one of the Circuit Stewards when Rev. Vanterpool was Superintendent of the St. Croix Circuit. He was very serious and meticulous about his ministerial duties and wasted no words. At one meeting I expressed concern about the Women's League and his response was "Join them Sister." He had a light side reflected in his smile. His birthday fell during the District Synod and one

year, I believe it was his 70th birthday, he asked me to stand in for Sis. Vanterpool and cut his cake; what an honor. They celebrated their silver wedding anniversary while in the circuit and to this day Sis. Vanterpool talks about the limousine that picked them up from the Manse and drove them to the Bethel chapel. It was during his tenure that I began to pray with the minister and family. As a supernumerary Rev. Vanterpool always reached out to me when we both attended the District Conference and we had meals together with pleasant chats. Well Done Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool! Enter into the joy of your Lord.

Sis. Joyce Heyliger

Rev. Vanterpool is the reason that my walk with God continues in the Methodist Church today. During a time in my life that I became dishearten with church, Rev. sought me out. He showed concern and compassion and ensured that I did not go astray. I am forever grateful to him. I will surely miss you and continue to remember you on the day we share, the 24th of January (our birthday).

To Sis. Brenda, Karen and the entire family our prayers are with you during this time.

LeRue C. Browne
St. Thomas/St. John Circuit

Tribute To The Late Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool

I am deeply saddened over the passing of our beloved Pastor & Friend, the late Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool. The MCCA has lost an endearing, Genuine, Caring, Hardworking Shepherd. He will be solely missed. To his immediate family: wife Brenda, daughters, Beverly & Karen, son, Kenneth "Kenn," sister Calmelita "Cammy," my heartfelt condolences. I wish you God's Perfect Peace & Comfort, Strength & Courage as you grapple with a long difficult bereavement. We take comfort in the words of the hymn writer: "There's no earthly sorrow heaven cannot cure". To be absent from this body is to be present with the Lord, so says scripture.

Rev. Vanterpool fought a good fight, ran with purpose & completed the race set before him. His reward awaits him on the other side. To God be the Glory. May his soul RIEP.

Mrs. Sybil Rhymer

A Tribute To A Great Man Of God, Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool

Rev. Vanterpool meant a whole lot to me!

I always admired his humility and Christlikeness. He was a great encourager and I was truly blessed by his words. I see him as my spiritual guide. I have learnt some deep spiritual principles from his sermons and his life on a whole. I first heard this quote, by Missionary William Carey from Rev. Vanterpool during one of his sermons "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God. This has impacted my life.

In November 2019 I was blessed with the privilege of spending quality time with him at his home here in Tortola. Then in February 2020 I traveled to Virgin Gorda where he was visiting his sister, Nurse Calmelita O'Neal on her 95th birthday. As we spent time together I felt like, Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus. These visits will forever live on in my heart.

As Rev. Vanterpool's health dwindled, his faith remained anchored in His God whom he had served so faithfully. During our conversations on the phone he always assured me that his strong faith In God was the factor that was keeping him in the time of his failing health.

I thank God for having known such an exemplary man as Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool. His memories will forever live on in my heart.
May his soul Rest In Peace.

Sis. Valerie Lettsome

Tribute to The Reverend Selwyn Vanterpool

Rev Selwyn Vanterpool was one of three pioneering Virgin Islanders, who in the late 1960s, submitted their lives to ministerial training for service in the vineyard of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

When Rev. Vanterpool served as pastor of my Church, the East End Methodist, and later as Superintendent Minister of the BVI Circuit during the period Sept 1988 – August 31, 1995, I was living abroad and therefore, did not have the privilege of receiving his direct pastoral care. However, after I returned home, I had the opportunity to experience his diligence and true humility, during the years after August 31, 2007, when he had superannuated.

Rev Vanterpool encouraged my research projects and was always willing and ready to assist whenever his input was requested. In 2010, he submitted his 'Missionary Zeal' item for the East End Methodist Church Bicentennial Book, and later in 2014, he helped to research the biographies of Virgin Gorda preachers for the Methodist Local Preachers Book (1858-2015). I have gained valuable insight by attending several workshops and seminars in which he ably presented and discussed various pressing issues affecting Church and Community.

But it was with working on the project of his own 'Spiritual Biography' as he termed it, that I really learnt of the breadth and depth of his missionary zeal and his genuine humility. I trust that his dear family will in due course, complete the work and have it published posthumously, so that it could be shared with all of us and the world.

Writing about stalwart servants of Christ who had passed on, Rev Vanterpool penned, "may their lives inspire us to press on and never give up, until we hear from the lips of Jesus, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Rev. Vanterpool, your life and work have been that inspiration for us all.
May you now rest in peace.

Verna Penn Moll

East End Methodist Congregation



Quiet, gentle, soft-spoken, diligent, faithful, Christian. Schoolmate at Virgin Islands Secondary. Worked with my husband, Joseph, in the Crown Attorney's Office [now re-designated Attorney General's Chambers], Government of the Virgin Islands. I thank God that, twenty-five years later, my husband came to faith, under Reverend Vanterpool's preaching.

My family and I extend condolences to his wife, Brenda and her three children, Beverly, Kenneth and Karen; and to his sister, Nurse Calmelita O'Neal on Virgin Gorda and her family.
May his soul RIP.

Vivian Archibald
Tribute To Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool

Tribute In Memory Of A Dear Brother And Friend –
Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool

In times like these, we need our Savior more, more than ever. To the Vanterpool Family especially, Sis Brenda Vanterpool, children Beverly, Kenneth, and Karen Vanterpool and sister Calmelita O'Neal, we share with you all our Deepest Sympathy with the loss of a great, loving, compassionate, humbly, and great leader with the spiritual and education field and the whole community. Rev. Vanterpool was dear to my heart and family in many ways, I can record on many occasions we shared in memories, such as traveling on conferences, our first Caribbean Cruise in 1999, Church meetings, birthday celebrations, visiting at the different homes and on and on we can go. He never was too busy to lend an open ear or being in the presence of my family gatherings on special occasions. He even baptized and played a role in my first grandchild by Lencia aka Lency Confirmation Service at the Zion Hill Methodist Church.

He really would be missed by us.
R.I.P Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, with the Blessed Assurance that your family and friends will meet one day on that beautiful shore.

Sis. Olga and Lencia Mills

I pause in my activities to reflect and pay a well-deserved tribute to the memory of a devoted and highly esteemed Pastor and friend, Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, who some days ago passed on to his eternal rest.

Sorrow fills my heart at this sad moment. A sorrow that is deep and personal. Rev. Vanterpool was a man of God; a man of humility. He was a man who had a listening ear for each and every one. He lived what he preached. Love and compassion for others.

I had the privilege of serving as Circuit Steward, during his tenure in St. Maarten/Saint Martin Circuit as Superintendent Minister and benefited tremendously from his knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ. His relationship with the people called Methodist who pastored was beyond his call of duty. Long after Rev. Vanterpool and his family left St. Maarten/Saint Martin, many persons would always be talking and asking about his wellbeing and that of his dear wife Brenda and children. Rev. Vanterpool knew how he was loved and appreciated by his members and others and therefore visited St. Maarten for short trips and vacations. Just to stay in touch with those he loved. Sister Shirley Dollison a dear friend of the family as well, joins me in extending deepest condolences to his dear wife Brenda, daughters Beverley and Karen and son Ken.

May the bereaved family find solace in the inspiring memories of the exemplary life Rev. Vanterpool lived.
We pray that his soul will rest in eternal peace.

FRANK ARNELL
St. Maarten
7 Buttercup Road
Saunders
St. Maarten

Words Of Remembrance In The Celebration Of Rev. Vanterpool's Life:

On behalf of my family - the Lettsomes, we send condolences to the Vanterpool family. This tribute is for Reverend Vanterpool who added so much to the lives of many. I recall meeting him as young person in the BVI and he was so approachable. My dad and mom share memories of him as they all grew up in the British Virgin Islands and knew each other. We thank God for his gifts that were used for God's glory and the sacrifice that he made to spread the gospel.

An individual made the following statement: "The measure of a life is not in its duration but in its donation." When we think of Rev. Vanterpool's donation and what he contributed; we have much to be thankful for his time here on earth. We keep his family in our prayers and asked God's comfort to be with them during this time.

Tracy Lettsome and Family

A Tribute To Rev. Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool

The tears began to trickle for Rev. Selwyn Lorenzo Vanterpool, our beloved cousin, neighbour, faithful son of the Virgin Gorda soil, but most importantly, a faithful man of God. His departure has brought back countless memories of the Road that we all grew up on: going by Mrs. Etma (his Mom) on the right side of the fence to buy candy and Maria biscuits; going to the left side to make the same purchases by Mrs. Lora for Mr. Polo; visiting his family home constantly and especially when his sister Nenie Ismay Vanterpool-Harrigan and family and other relatives returned for numerous visits (both Nenie Ismay and his brother, Pepe James were my godparents along with Nenie Elsie Vanterpool).

Christmas was a special event, for most of our presents were bought at the family store in the Virgin Inn, an edifice that still provides housing for persons in our community. When electricity was installed at Rev. Selwyn's family home, our family home was blessed with the same privilege. Our Road, along with our wider communities, has always demonstrated the qualities of humility, sharing, caring and serving mankind as we walk our faith journey.

Rev. Selwyn always ended a Worship Service with MHB 745, "All praise to our redeeming Lord." This classic Hymn reminds us of the power of grace, the power of restoration, the power of love, the power of harmony, the power of joy, and the power of fellowship. May God equip us to preach, live and serve our communities in the same manner as Rev. Selwyn emulated. We are trusting and hoping for God to console all of Rev. Selwyn's immediate family and relatives during this season of bereavement. Most of all, "And if our fellowship below, In Jesus be so sweet, What heights of rapture shall we know, When round His Throne we meet."

Peace and blessings from the neighbourhood families of Capt. William Rudolph Vanterpool and the late Erllys O'Neal Vanterpool and Capt. Malcolm Hope

Our prayers and thoughts are with you as you mourn the loss of your husband and father. Life is the greatest gift that God has given us. Death is only a bridge towards eternal life with God. Certainly, heaven is rejoicing for another soul has finally reached his true home. Rest in peace

***Judith Smith and Family
Julian, Janice, and Jeffrey***

His kingdom is glorious and rules overall.
Rest In Peace My Friend.
Edith Cornelius and Family

Rev. Vanterpool as we know was a Methodist Minister, a true servant of God.

I was introduced to Rev. Vanterpool by his wife Brenda, as the sister of Edith and Danny Cornelius and the mother of Latoya and Lisa Nisbett who are members of Methodist Church in St. Croix where he pastored for some time. While I did not worship at the Methodist Church as the rest of my family do, that did not stop Rev. Vanterpool from giving me that big smile every time he saw me, followed by an enquiry about how my family was doing.

Oh! how he was so humble! While he was sick, I saw Rev. Vanterpool and Sis. Vanterpool and she said that "Rev. is not feeling so well". However, Rev. Vanterpool had that big smile on his face. I pondered to myself whether Sis. Vanterpool was the one bearing the pain for him because he sure did not let on that he was in any pain.

What a wonderful relationship they had. I genuinely believe it was because they both love and trusted in God.

Sis. Vanterpool, my encouragement to you is to continue trusting in God. I know you are going to miss him very much. I pray you find comfort in all the wonderful memories you shared together, also knowing he is out of his pain and suffering. Rev has gone to be with his master, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One day you and Rev. Vanterpool will meet again according to the promise of God found in John 3:16.

Keep doing what he likes to do for the Lord; teaching, preaching, singing and helping people. My grandchildren love you at the Boys Choir.

May his lovely soul rest in peace.
Love you Sis. Brenda Vanterpool

From: Melrose, Latoya, Lisa, Andrea and the rest of my Methodist family.

Reverend Vanterpool will be remembered for his diligence and hard work in the St. Croix Circuit, and the countless encouraging words he offered to me and my family. May God bless his family.

Sis Eren Edwards, St. Croix USVI

Tribute In Memory Of My Beloved Rev. Vanterpool

I grew up knowing Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, his parents and all his siblings. It was so coincidental that there were two sets of Vanterpool families living near each other as neighbors in Taylor's Bay, Valley, Virgin Gorda, BVI.

The families were Jacob & Etma Vanterpool and William "Willie" Nathaniel & Beatrice (Ms. B) Vanterpool, of blessed memory. Later, two more Vanterpool siblings would live in the vicinity of us.

To this day I still have memories of both families living in love, peace, and humbleness. Another coincidence was when the two Vanterpools each had a daughter and named her Allegra. By marriage, their names would become Allegra Scatliffe and Allegra Frett, the latter being my dear mom. Rev. Vanterpool's late brother, James, was my godfather.

Rev. Vanterpool was gentle, meek, mild, humble, and loving: he held everyone he came across in high esteem; and so, I loved him, but Jesus loves him best. So, sleep on my beloved Reverend, you have journeyed this earth in a fulfilling mission tour as God's faithful missionary and servant. You will be greatly missed.

I extend my sincere condolences to his beloved wife Brenda, their children and his dearest sister, Nurse Calmelita O'Neal, née Vanterpool.

***In sympathy,
Alecia Frett***

It is said that we are only remembered by the work we have done. As the caretaker for Mrs. Calmelita O'Neal, Rev. Vanterpool's sister, I was privileged to meet him on two occasions when he visited her. The last time was when he came to celebrate her birthday last February 2020. He was a caring, kind and humble man. He did not say very much but always had a smile and was thankful for what I did to assist him. I will never forget his quiet demeanor. The Lord saw that he was suffering and he took him to a better place to find rest from his suffering and pain. May God be with you till we meet again.

***Prisca "Sister Annie" Marshall
(Caretaker for Mrs. O'Neal)***

To the Vanterpool Family

I have worked closely with Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool through the years and found him to be a very loyal person. He was a man of integrity who was also helpful, kind, and gentle to others. I can say that he loved the people that God gave him to work with although sometimes it was not easy, but God brought him through. Now that he has finished the work that his heavenly father gave him to do may he rest in the everlasting arms of God.

Brenda and the entire family, keep the faith and keep holding on.

***In sympathy,
Claudette Peters-Browne
St. Thomas/St. John Circuit***

New Life, New Body, New Outlook

The words of Charles Wesley's hymn, VIP Hymnal 392, give credence to our late brother, Rev. Selwyn Vanterpool, who was loved and respected by his family and other persons who knew him:

*And are we yet alive,
And see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give
For his redeeming grace!
Charles Wesley, (1707-1788) vs 1*

It was during a short stay in the hospital where I worked that I saw a real natural human side of Rev. Vanterpool. If you understand living, then it is understood that there is a difference between life and death. At that time James Vanterpool, Reverend's brother, had passed, and he was back for the funeral. It was a sad and stressful time for the family, including their sister, Nurse Calmelita O'Neal.

My husband Dennis and I give God thanks for the life and witness of Rev. Vanterpool who is now out of his pain and suffering and resting in the arms of our Saviour. We want Sis. Brenda and family, Nurse Calmelita and all the other relatives to know that we all miss him dearly but whom we love, God loves best!

***In sympathy,
Dennis and Gloria Rhymer***

Order of Service

Valley Methodist Church

Arrival of Funeral Cortege

Viewing

Hymn VIP 366 – It Is Well with My Soul

Prayer

Solo – Sis. Ianthe Vanterpool

The Senior Choir – The Lord's My Shepherd

Scripture Reading 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 – Sis. Dawn O'Neal-George, Niece

The Lord's Prayer (Chanted)

Benediction

Recessional Hymn – Washed in the Blood of the Lamb

Who, who are these beside the chilly wave, Just on the borders of the silent grave,
Shouting Jesus' power to save, "Washed in the blood of the Lamb"?

Refrain:

**"Sweeping through the gates" of the new Jerusalem, "Washed in the blood of the Lamb,"
"Sweeping through the gates" of the new Jerusalem, "Washed in the blood of the Lamb."**

These, these are they who in their youthful days, Found Jesus early, and in wisdom's ways
Proved the fullness of His grace, "Washed in the blood of the Lamb."

These, these are they who, in affliction's woes, Ever have found in Jesus calm repose,
Such as from a pure heart flows, "Washed in the blood of the Lamb."

These, these are they who, in the conflict dire, Boldly have stood amid the hottest fire;
Jesus now says: "Come up higher," "Washed in the blood of the Lamb."

Safe, safe upon the ever-shining shore,
Sin, pain, and death, and sorrow, all are o'er;

Happy now and evermore,

"Washed in the Blood of the Lamb."
Tullius Clinton O'Kane (1830-1912)

The Committal



Hymns At The Graveside

THE PEARLY WHITE CITY

There's a holy and beautiful city,
Whose builder and ruler is God;
John saw it descending from Heaven,
When Patmos, in exile, he trod;
Its high, massive wall is of jasper,
The city itself is pure gold;
And when my frail tent here is folded,
Mine eyes shall its glory behold.

Chorus:

**In that bright city, pearly white city,
I have a mansion, a harp, and a crown;
Now I am watching, waiting, and longing,
For the white city that's soon coming down.**

No sin is allowed in that city,
And nothing defiling or mean;
No pain and no sickness can enter,
No crepe on the doorknob is seen;
Earth's sorrows and cares are forgotten,
No tempter is there to annoy;
No parting words ever are spoken,
There's nothing to hurt or destroy.

No heartaches are known in that city,
No tears ever moisten the eyes;
There's no disappointment in Heaven,
No envy and strife in the sky;
The saints are all sanctified wholly,
They live in sweet harmony there;
My heart is now set on that city,
And some day its blessings I'll share.
My loved ones are gathering yonder,

My friends too are passing away,
And soon I shall join their bright number,
And dwell in eternity's day;
They're safe now in glory with Jesus,
Their trials and battles are past.
They overcame sin and the tempter,
They've reached that fair city at last



O SAFE TO THE ROCK THAT IS HIGHER THAN I

O safe to the Rock that is higher than I, My soul in its
conflicts and sorrows would fly.
So sinful, so weary, Thine, Thine would I be; Thou blest
Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.

Chorus:

**Hiding in Thee, Hiding in Thee,
Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.**

In the calm of the noontide, in sorrow's lone hour, In
times when temptation casts o'er me its power,
In the tempests of life, on its wide, heaving sea, Thou blest
Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee.
How oft in the conflict, when pressed by the foe,
I have fled to my Refuge and breathed out my woe.
How often when trials like sea billows roll
Have I hidden in Thee, O Thou Rock of my soul.

PEACE PERFECT PEACE

Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin? The blood
of Jesus whispers peace within.
Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed? To do
the will of Jesus, this is rest.
Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours? Jesus
has vanquished death and all its powers.
Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown? Jesus we
know, and he is on the throne.
It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease, and Jesus
call to heaven's perfect peace.

GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN

God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsel's guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we
meet again.

Chorus:

**Till we meet, till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet
again**

God be with you till we meet again, 'Neath His wings
protecting hide you, Daily manna still divide you, God be
with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again, When life's perils
thick confound you, Put His arms unfailing round you,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again, Keep love's banner
floating o'er you, Smite death's threatening wave before
you, God be with you till we meet again.

SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS

Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on His gentle breast;
There by His love o'er-shaded, Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hark! 'tis the voice of angels. Borne in a song to me,
Over the fields of glory, Over the jasper sea.

Chorus:

**Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on His gentle breast;
There by His love o'er-shaded, Sweetly my soul shall rest.**

Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe from corroding care,
Safe from the world's temptations;
Sin cannot harm me there. Free from the blight of sorrow,
Free from my doubts and fears;
Only a few more trials, Only a few more tears!
Jesus, my heart's dear Refuge, Jesus has died for me;
Firm on the Rock of Ages
Ever my trust shall be. Here let me wait with patience,
Wait till the night is o'er;
Wait till I see the morning, Break on the golden shore.

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER

1 When the trumpet of the Lord
shall sound and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Chorus:

**When the roll is called up yonder, When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder, When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.**

On that bright and cloudless morning
when the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of his resurrection share;
When his chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Let us labor for the Master from
the dawn till setting sun;
Let us talk of all his wondrous love and care.
Then when all of life is over and
our work on earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

ABIDE WITH ME

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.[2]

ONLY REMEMBERED

Fading away like the stars of the morning, Losing their light in the glorious sun--
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling, Only remembered by what we have done.

Chorus:

**Only remembered, only remembered,
Only remembered by what we have done;
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,
Only remembered by what we have done.**

Shall we be miss'd though by others succeeded,
Reaping the fields we in springtime have sown?
No, for the sowers may pass from their labors, Only remembered by what they have done.

Only the truth that in life we have spoken,
Only the seed that on earth we have sown;
These shall pass onward when we are forgotten,
Fruits of the harvest and what we have done.

Oh, when the Savior shall make up His jewels,
When the bright crowns of rejoicing are won,
Then shall His weary and faithful disciples,
All be remembered by what they have done

August 5th, 2012
BRILLIANCE *of the SEAS*

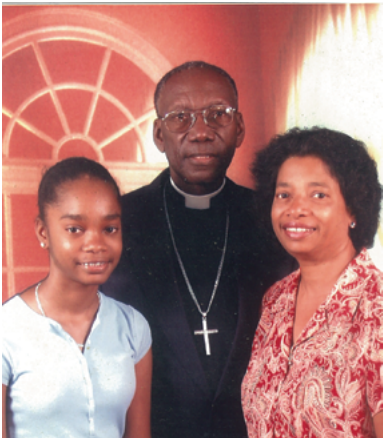
Minstrel
 Dining Room





Memories





Acknowledgements

The family of the late Rev. Vanterpool wishes to express their profound gratitude to all friends, members of the church and well-wishers, especially to those who travelled from overseas, wrote tributes, sent cards, flowers and in other ways sympathized with us in our bereavement.

Your support and expressions of care are deeply appreciated.
Thank you and may God bless you all.

The Vanterpool Family

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Thank you most sincerely for your support!

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