

CELEBRATING THE LIFE

OF

Robert Bowen

A born storyteller, Robert captivated his family with tales from their shared childhood, each narrative a testament to his deep-seated affection for those moments.”



Alpha
December 31, 1973

Omega
March 21, 2024

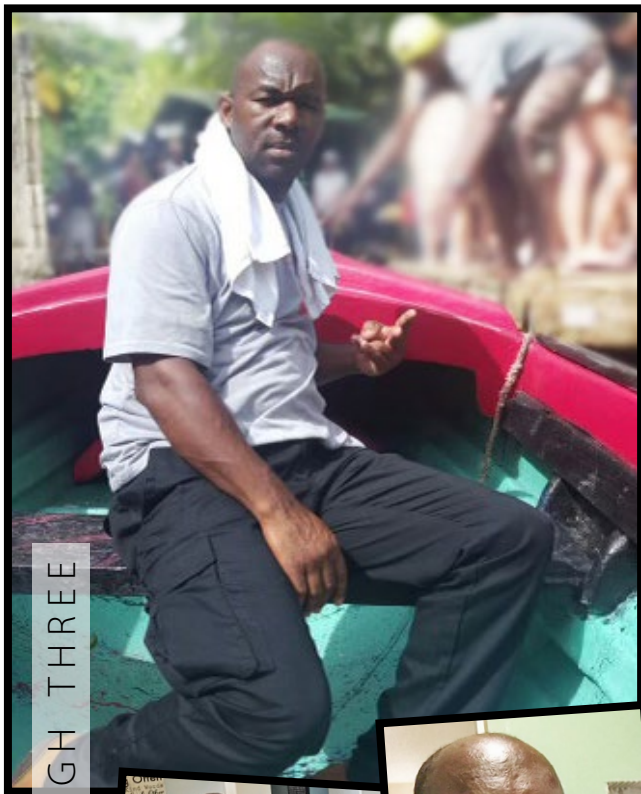
“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

– Isaiah 41:10

Friday, April 26, 2024
10:00 AM

IN THE CHAPEL OF
Mitchell’s Funeral Home
501 Fairvilla Road, Orlando, FL 32808

Officiating Pastors
Pastor Newton King
Pastor (Retired) Alfred Morris
Deacon Phillip Morris, Jr.



*Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You believe in God; believe also in Me.*

*My Father's house has many rooms; if that
were not so, would I have told you that I am
going there to prepare a place for you?*

*And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I WILL come back and take you to be with
Me, so that you also may be where I am.*

ORDER OF CELEBRATION

9 – 10am Public Viewing / Pictorial Memories (by Michael Rose)
10 – 11:30am Service of Celebration

Musical Prelude

Opening Sentences Pastor Alfred Morris [uncle]

Opening Hymn – “*How Great Thou Art*” #86 [SDA hymnal]

Chairperson's Opening Remarks Phillip Morris, Jr. [cousin]

1st Lesson – *Psalm 90:1-12* Lillian Scott [aunt]
Special Item – Charles Rose [brother-in-law]

2nd Lesson – *Revelation 21:1-7* Diana Gonzalez [co-worker]
Special Item – Trudean Scott [cousin]

Tributes

Roger Bowen [brother]
Ransford Ricketts [brother]
David Atkinson [Rev Team]
Pastor John Troffo [Deaf Baptist Church – Pinellas Park]

Offertory Elder Galvin Mitchell
Special Item Marsha Allen [Family Friend]

Eulogy Kathia Hylton [Family Friend]

Introduction of the Speaker Phillip Morris, Jr.

Meditation Song Michael Rose [brother-in-law]

The Spoken Word Pastor Newton King

Prayer for the Bereaved Family Elder Galvin Mitchell

Instruction Phillip Morris, Jr.

Acknowledgments

Closing Song – “*When We All Get to Heaven*” #633 [SDA hymnal]

GRAVESIDE SERVICE at Washington Park Cemetery

Prayer – Pastor Newton King

Committal – Pastor Newton King

Song – “*Amazing Grace*”

Benediction



A Legacy™

a heritage: character qualities, memoirs...

Yet we have this assurance: Those who belong to God will live; their bodies will rise again! Those who sleep in the earth will rise up and sing for joy!

— Isaiah 26:19 NLT

Robert G. Bowen

Introduction

Family, friends, and everyone gathered here today – we've come together to celebrate the life of Robert George Bowen, a man who exemplified courage in the face of adversity and spread kindness to all those he encountered.

Throughout life's journey, we often come across remarkable individuals who face difficult challenges. It's during these trying times that their true bravery is revealed. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's words beautifully capture the importance of perseverance and hard work when he said, *"The heights of great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight; but while their companions slept, they were toiling upward through the night."* This quote accurately describes Robert's approach to life.

Early Life and Family

Robert, a special child, was born to Mary Ricketts and George Bowen on December 31, 1973, at 11:45pm after 17 hours of labor. His family was full of love, fellowship, and faith, and they always put God first. Unfortunately, George passed away when Robert was still young. Although Robert's time with his dad was short, he had many cherished memories. From the start, Robert's childhood was filled with warmth, love, and affection. George's two daughters, Elizabeth and Marcia, were thrilled to have a little brother to adore and spoil.

Robert was eventually joined in his home by Claudine, a cousin who was raised in the home as if she were his sister. Later on, Roger and Shelly-Ann also became part of the family. Ransford, Avalann, and Richard were added to the family circle through Mary's second marriage. Robert found immeasurable joy in having siblings and embraced his role as their protector with unwavering dedication. He later shared this role with Roger, as they both saw it necessary to protect the females in the family.

Claudine recently recalled her childhood and remembered that there was never any fighting among them. They were very close and shared a strong bond, which was a testament to the love and peace that filled their home. She shared that Robert had a generous spirit, and it shone brightly in their home. He was always willing to share his things and himself with others, and he effortlessly brought people together.



Robert's early memories were remarkably vivid. His affection for the cherished moments of his childhood was profound, and his ability to recall even the smallest details was nothing short of remarkable. A born storyteller, he captivated his family with tales from their shared childhood, each narrative a testament to his deep-seated affection for those moments. His recollection of details was uncanny, often leaving skeptics in disbelief until the accuracy of his stories was confirmed time and again.

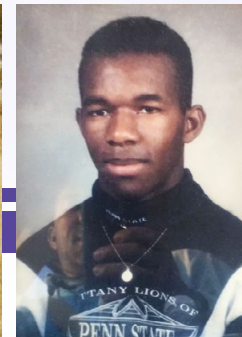
Overcoming Challenges

Despite facing obstacles, Robert's journey was a source of inspiration. At the age of 3 ½, he lost his hearing, which could have made his learning process difficult. However, with the help of his mother Mary, who had taken a special education and sign language course to enhance her teaching career years before, Robert was able to overcome this challenge. Unknown to her then, God was preparing her, many years in advance, to care for this special child. Mary's preparation and dedication enabled her to provide the necessary support for Robert's development and education, making his journey a testament to the power of perseverance and love.

Robert's formal education started in Jamaica in a small community named Berry Hill. He then moved to Mandeville School of Hope, where after a year, due to his brilliance, the principal recommended that he move to Maranatha School for the Deaf in Top Hill, St. Elizabeth. After graduating, he went to Montego Bay, Jamaica, and attended the Jamaica Christian School for the Deaf, where Dawn Ricketts was the principal. Robert's thirst for knowledge led him to the United States to continue his education with the help of Ray Roush. He graduated with a diploma from Chambersburg Area Senior High School in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, then continued his studies at the University of the District of Columbia and St. Petersburg Junior College in Clearwater, Florida, where he studied Computer Science.

Robert was not only great at Computer Technology, but he was also a highly skilled craftsman. His exceptional talent for innovation and his ability to create, build, and repair virtually anything was truly inspiring. Whether it was to a family with a stranded vehicle on the roadside or a complete bathroom renovation, Robert was always ready to offer his expertise and assistance to those in need, no matter how big or small the task. His attainment of Level III cabinet builder status at his latest company came as little surprise. With an arsenal of tools rivaling that of a

Legacy continues on the next page...





small hardware store, he was well-prepared for any project that came his way.

A Life of Kindness and Love

Robert never let his hearing loss hold him back. He lived his life with unwavering determination, showing love, kindness, and resilience to all. He was a protector of his family and a friend to everyone he met. Everyone gathered here today can undoubtedly attest to Robert's impact on their lives. Since his passing, countless stories have emerged, highlighting his remarkable influence. We've heard accounts of how he alleviated the anxieties surrounding new virtual reality technology, patiently assisting a friend's deaf mother in mastering its use

for communication. Others have shared anecdotes of his keen perceptiveness, sharp intellect, boundless energy, and infectious sense of humor. Robert's unwavering commitment to helping others is a common thread woven through these narratives. Whether offering rides and meals to visitors, comforting a frightened child on an escalator, or intervening in a dangerous situation like a robbery in Washington DC, Robert never hesitated to lend a hand, even at his own risk.

His selfless actions have left a long-lasting impact on everyone around him, inspiring kindness and gratitude. His legacy is one of compassion, gentleness, and the importance of maintaining connections with our loved ones. He will always be remembered by those who knew him, and his words of wisdom and encouragement will continue to resonate in their hearts for generations to come. The memory of his bravery, compassion, and generosity will forever be treasured by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Words for Loved Ones

Robert was a true inspiration to all who knew him. He became a man of greatness in his own unique time and space, spreading his love and kindness to everyone around him. His memory will forever live on in our hearts, reminding us of the power of compassion and the impact one person can have on the world.

To his beloved **mother**, Mary Ricketts, his parting words would echo with love and tenderness: *"Are you okay? I love you, Mom."* To his **siblings** – Elizabeth Bowen, Marcia Bowen, Claudine Millwood, Roger Bowen, Shelly-Ann Bowen (Michael Rose), Mark Bowen, Avia Bowen, Ransford Ricketts, Avalann Ricketts, Richard Ricketts; his adopted **sisters** – Dawn Ricketts (Mervin Ricketts), Naeika Shaw, and **brother** Hansel Roush. To his **nieces** – Kim Ricketts, Amanda Bowen, Trishawna Bowen, and Nickayla Ricketts; **nephews** – Corey and RJ; **uncles and aunts** – Lloyd Morris, Phillip Morris, Alfred Morris, Gloria Bailey (Derek Bailey), Rose Williams, and Yvonne Scott (Lancelot Scott Sr.); and a host of **cousins**, other **family members**, and **cherished friends**, Robert's message would be clear: *stay connected, love God, cultivate peace, and extend kindness and care to all you encounter.*

Finding Comfort

Robert's arrival into this world was a laborious 17-hour process. However, his life was tragically cut short by evil hands in a matter of seconds, leaving a profound void in our hearts. Despite the brevity of his time with us, Robert made a significant impact that will be treasured forever. Rather than focusing on the way he was taken from us, let us remember him for the love he gave and the inspiration he provided.

As we gather to say goodbye to Robert, let us remember that even in the face of evil, the Divine watches over us. May the knowledge of God's grace bring us comfort and strength during this difficult time. Let us honor Robert's memory by embracing the love, grace, and courage that he embodied – qualities that will continue to inspire us long after today.

Rest in peace, dear Robert. Your light will forever shine bright in our hearts.

May God bless you all.



And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.

– Revelation 21:4

Pall Bearers

Roger Bowen [brother] • Ransford Ricketts [brother]
Richard Ricketts [brother] • Hansel Roush [adopted brother]
Mervin Ricketts [adopted brother] • Kevon Cedeno [friend]

Interment

Washington Park Cemetery

2700 Bruton Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 34734

Sign Language Interpreters

God's Hands Agency, Inc.

GodsHandsAgency.com
Orlando, Florida

Acknowledgment

We, the Family of the late Robert George Bowen, thank each and every one of you for your calls, visits, words of encouragement, gifts of assistance, love, prayers, and expressions of sympathy. It would be impossible for us to list your names individually, but you all know yourselves. We thank you!

God's richest blessings on you! We take comfort in 1 Corinthians 2:9....

*“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man,
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

– The Family of Robert George Bowen

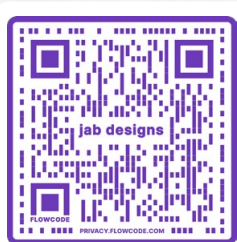


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