

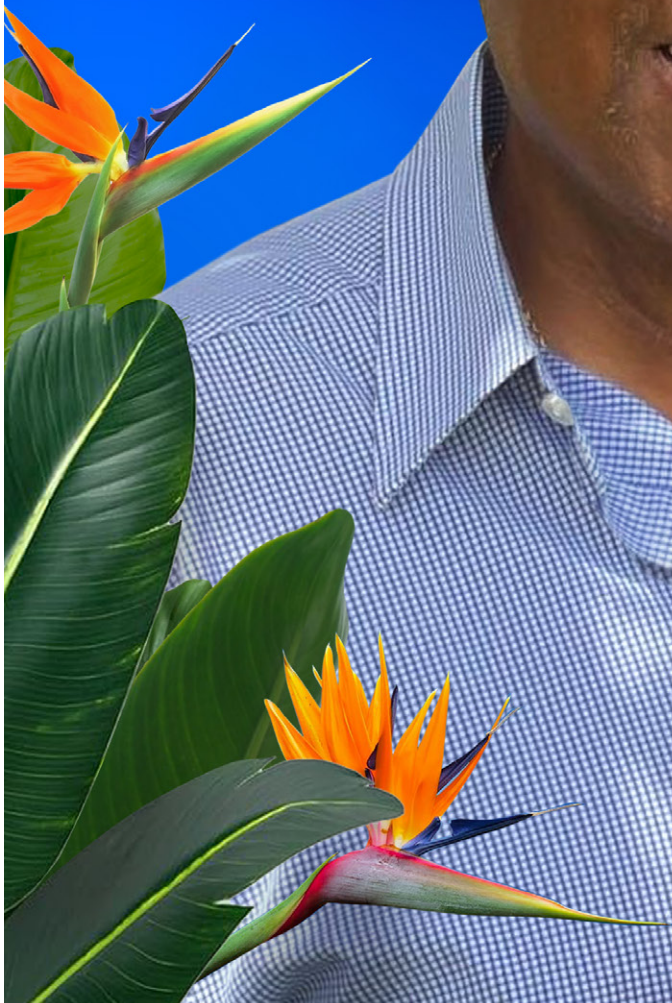
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

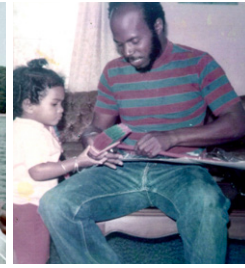
DR. MELVYN E. BASSETT, J.P.



SUNRISE **SEPTEMBER 1, 1947**

SUNSET **MAY 28, 2025**





A CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 | 1:00 pm
New Testament Church of God Heritage Worship Centre
59 Dundonald St, Hamilton, Bermuda

OFFICIATING MINISTER Pastor D. Troy Hassell, *Calvary Gospel Chapel*
SONG LEADER Tricray Astwood

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional Minister and family
Dance Tribute Eden Furbert, *Granddaughter*
Welcome & Prayer Pastor D. Troy Hassell
Congregational Song "Because He Lives"
Scripture Reading
Psalm 121 Isaiah Furbert, *Grandson*
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 Marcus Furbert, *Grandson*

Tributes

Senator, The Honourable Crystal C. Caesar, JP, *Minister of Education*

Dr. Glen Bascome, *Sandys Secondary School*

Mr. Mychal Wynn, *Educational Consultant, Author*

Child Evangelism Fellowship: Dr. Jeremiah Cho, *President*,
Sean Miller, *Assistant to Regional Director*, & Steven Powell, *Treasurer, CEF Bermuda*

Mr. Jeff Allison, *Chairman, Willowbank Resort*

Mr. Anthony Hall, *Deacon, Calvary Gospel Chapel*

Mr. Calvin Smith, *Friend*

Musical Selection *Composed & performed by Eli Furbert, Grandson*
Spoken Word *Written & performed by Micaiah Furbert, Grandson*
Obituary Pastor Joseph Furbert, *Son-in-law*

Video Tribute

Words of Comfort Pastor D. Troy Hassell
Recessional "When We All Get to Heaven"

INTERMENT

St. James Anglican Church Cemetery, Somerset

THERE WILL BE NO WAKE.

PALLBEARERS

Out of Church (*golf buddies*)

Dale Butler | Stan Lee | Wayne Carey | Edward Lewis
Mark Crabb | Warren Jones

To Grave

Grandsons: Micaiah Furbert and Eli Furbert | *Nephews:* Dwayne Dillas, and
Neville Hassell (*honorary*) | *Cousins:* Malcolm Bassett and Leonard Astwood

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SUNRISE SEPTEMBER 1, 1947 | SUNSET MAY 28, 2025

OBITUARY

Dr. Melvyn E. Bassett, a devoted educator, community leader, and man of unwavering faith, departed this life on May 28, 2025. He was a beloved son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, mentor, and friend.

Melvyn was the second child and only son of Carl Eugene and Cecily Edwina Bassett. He was born and raised in Somerset, where he enjoyed a joyful and adventurous childhood. Melvyn told many stories of growing up with his siblings and cousins. He often reminisced about swimming at Scott's Bay and paddling with (Dr.) Johnny Cann and Joe Richards down to Robinson's Marina and back—simple pleasures that formed the foundation of a life rooted in community and camaraderie. He attended Southampton Glebe School, where older boys like Lance Furbert affectionately nicknamed him "Pixie."

He later enrolled at Sandys Secondary School, where he forged lifelong friendships that remained strong through every season of his life. His family often heard stories from his high school and college years, full of fun and mischief with close friends such as Larry Scott, Melvin Simmons, and others. His sister Barbara recalls that although Melvyn was a great tease, he was also the best big brother—protective, kind, and always ready with a story or a joke. As a young man, Melvyn demonstrated a strong curiosity for learning, a love for music, and an early sense of leadership that would later define his career and service.

A proud alumnus of Wilberforce University (B.Sc., 1970), Howard University (M.Ed., 1977), and St. John's University (Ed.D., 2004), Dr. Bassett dedicated his life to education and youth development. His remarkable 37-year career in education began as a classroom teacher at Sandys Secondary School, where he later rose to

the roles of Deputy Principal and then Principal. He led the school through its transition to Sandys Secondary Middle School and became its longest-serving principal, leaving an enduring legacy of leadership and dedication. He also co-directed the Bermuda Learning Styles Centre and served on the International Learning Styles Network.

As a contributing editor and published author, Dr. Bassett was instrumental in shaping academic and character-building resources for Bermudian students, always with a vision for their future success. One notable example was his organization of college tours to the United States to inspire students to pursue higher education.

Melvyn was a champion of others and a guiding light to many. Countless individuals have shared how he served as a mentor and a steadfast source of encouragement, inspiring students and professionals alike to realize their full potential.

Dr. Bassett served Bermuda faithfully through numerous national initiatives, including the Tumin and Archibald Commissions. He held leadership and advisory roles on several boards, including West End Development Corporation (WEDCo), the Sandys Parish Council, the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE), Endeavour, the Bermuda Education Network, and the Bermuda Middle School Association. His love for youth and the arts was evident in his role as Co-Director of Bermuda's first drumline production and the Bermuda National Youth Jazz Ensemble. In recognition of his lifelong dedication to education and community service, Dr. Bassett received the Queen's Certificate and Badge of Honour in 2010. In 2015, he was further recognized for his outstanding contributions to the island by being inducted as an Honorary Fellow of Bermuda College.



Melvyn's entrepreneurial spirit was evident throughout his life. In the 1970s and 1980s, while balancing a demanding teaching career and a young family, he pursued various business ventures. He was part-owner of the Game Fish Inn Restaurant, the owner of the Lawn and Garden Centre, and engaged in several other enterprises with varying degrees of success. He was never afraid to try something new and embraced each opportunity with enthusiasm and determination.

Melvyn's life was defined by his deep faith in Jesus Christ. His passion for the gospel fueled his dedication to Child Evangelism Fellowship. At the time of his passing, Dr. Bassett served as the Executive Director/National Leader of Child Evangelism Fellowship (Bermuda), and a member of the Executive Committee of the Child Evangelism Fellowship International Board of Trustees in Warrenton, Missouri.

His leadership extended across many spheres — a Deacon at Calvary Gospel Chapel, Chairman of Preserve Marriage & Family Bermuda, Vice-President of Peak Potential Ltd., and Trustee and former Deputy Chair of the Willowbank Foundation.

Melvyn was a faithful friend who will be dearly missed by his Friday golf crew, Saturday hot dog lunch group, Sunday Growth Group, and the many others whose lives he touched through the friendships he so intentionally and lovingly nurtured.

Despite Melvyn's many responsibilities and commitments, he always made time for family. In the late 1960s, while still a student at Wilberforce University, he met Sushila Mendis, a young nurse from Sri Lanka. They married in 1970, and their love remained strong until Sushila's passing—on this very day—June 25th, twelve years ago. Their union was blessed with one daughter, Rusheika, who remembers her father as a kind, loving, and no-nonsense man—intentional about creating joyful memories throughout her childhood and into her own journey of parenthood.

His grandchildren were his pride and joy, and he never missed an opportunity to share their accomplishments with anyone who would listen. They will fondly remember his funny—and sometimes not-so-funny—jokes and antics around the dinner table, the cherished tradition of Christmas Eve shopping followed by dinner at La Trattoria, and his faithful presence at their games and activities. Just two weeks before his passing, Melvyn traveled with his daughter, son-in-law, and sister, to celebrate the graduations of his eldest grandson from university and his only granddaughter from high school—both held on the same weekend in two different states.

Melvyn also held a special place in his heart for his foster daughter, Darricka, and was proud to attend her wedding in the UK last summer.

A man who lived out the words of Hebrews 13:16 — “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” — Melvyn's life was a continuous offering of service, generosity, and grace.

Dr. Melvyn E. Bassett will be remembered as a man of vision, humility, and conviction—one who used every platform given to him to glorify God and uplift others. His impact on the Bermuda community, and all who knew him, is immeasurable.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 44 years, Sushila Bassett, and his sister Carol Jean Posthlewthwaite. He leaves behind his cherished daughter Rusheika and her husband Pastor Joseph Furbert; foster daughter Darricka (nee Williams) Furbert and her family; and five treasured grandchildren—Micaiah, Eli, Eden, Marcus, and Isaiah—each a testament to his enduring legacy of love and faith.

He will also be lovingly remembered by his sister Barbara Dillas, nephew Dwayne Dillas, the Bassett and Joell cousins, honorary nephew Neville Hassell, Calvary Gospel family, the Willowbank family, the CEF family, Sandys Secondary family, close friends Walter and Brenda Lister, Calvin and Suzanne Smith, Floyd Ming, and numerous other friends. ♥

Sushila loved Bird of Paradise flowers... Melvyn made it a point to plant them at their home so that she could always enjoy them.







Tributes

A Tribute to My Father

You walked this earth with quiet grace,
A steady light, a guiding face.
Your wisdom deep, your spirit kind,
A father's love, a sacred bind.
You taught with more than words could say—
By how you lived, by how you prayed.
A heart so firm, a soul so wide,
God's gentle servant, our family's guide.
Though heaven called, your light stays near,
In whispered winds, in memories dear.
Your legacy lives on in me—
A gift, a guide, eternally.
With love beyond this life,

Love, ❤️

Rusheika



My Dad, My Hero

My dad isn't just a father; he's an extraordinary soul, who illuminated my world with love and laughter.

You are my hero and have been by my side.

From the moment you opened your heart and your home to me, you have been my guide.

You gave me a loving mother and an amazing sister.

Growing up you taught me how to throw and catch a ball, ride a bike and even how to swim. You allowed me to express myself, fostering an environment where creativity thrived. And to never give up, no matter how hard things get.

You have always been there through thick and thin, supporting and encouraging me to win. These memories have become a testament of your exceptional parenting. Your guidance and faith in me, have given me strength, to overcome all obstacles no matter the length.

You taught me about the Lord, and how to live a life of Grace, to be kind and compassionate, and to have faith.

My dad, my hero, I'm grateful for ALL you've done, and I thank God for giving me the best one.

I will forever cherish our memories and I'm lucky to have a dad,

Like you.

Love you Always, your little girl ♥ *Darricka*



My Mentor and Cousin...

Dr. Melvyn Bassett was not only my mentor and cousin but also the heart of our Saturday gatherings, affectionately known as "Hot Dog Lunch" meet ups. Every week at 1:00pm, his home became a welcoming space where friends and family would gather to enjoy good food and lively conversation. I fondly referred to these gatherings as "hanging with the elders," where regular attendees included his good friends Larry Scott, Walter Lister, Dale Butler, Warren Jones, and Ernest Peets. These lunches often attracted local community leaders and special guests, including dignitaries from overseas, such as the Prime Minister of Jamaica, international celebrities, and important public figures from the USA, and St. Kitts. The atmosphere was always filled with laughter and camaraderie, and it was a special treat when our discussions led to impromptu adventures like sailing regattas, jet ski tours, or rounds of golf—often sparked by a friendly challenge from the previous week. Dr. Mel's spirit of community and joy for life will be deeply missed.

Doyle Butterfield



Dr. Melvyn Bassett gave me the opportunity to be independent when he gave me a position at the Sandys Secondary Middle School to work in the school cafeteria. I was later moved to assist in the school office.

Tribute to a Friend

He was a constant support and motivator locally and overseas. He was unwavering in his commitments.

His contribution to the Child Evangelism Fellowship was energized by his willingness to see this evangelism come to fruition in Bermuda.

We both travelled to Rich Crest, North Carolina for an International Child Evangelism Conference. He assisted me for the duration of the conference, thus our friendship grew even stronger.

Dr. Bassett was a true man of God, he gave me hope, he was "Lux In Tenebris", a light in Darkness for me.

My condolences to the entire family.

May he Rest in Peace,
Valerie Rose Wade



Tribute to Dr. Melvyn Bassett



It is almost impossible to imagine a world without Dr. Melvyn Bassett. His presence was so full of warmth, joy, and wisdom that even in his absence, he continues to shape the lives of those he touched.

Melvyn was more than an educator. He was a teacher, a leader, a role model, a father figure, and a brother to many. He carried himself with grace and strength, always ready with a word of encouragement or a dose of well-placed, constructive criticism. He had a gift for seeing the best in others and helping them see it in themselves.

Melvyn was also part of a team of veteran principals who led the charge to establish Bermuda's middle school system. His leadership and voice helped to shape a generation of students and educators, setting a standard for excellence, equity, and innovation in education.

For me personally, Melvyn was a guiding light. It is no exaggeration to say that I became a middle school principal and pursued a doctoral degree because I was following in his footsteps. Every major milestone in my professional life,

whether becoming a principal, leading the principals' union, steering a curriculum initiative, or serving within the Ministry, was accompanied by his steady support and honest counsel.

And who could forget Melvyn's infectious laugh? That deep, full-bodied joy that would take over a room, leave him in tears, and have everyone around him laughing until their sides hurt. Or the unmistakable clap of his ring hitting the desk as he made a point, punctuating his message with passion and purpose.

Melvyn Bassett was a devoted husband, a proud father, a proud grandfather, a true friend, and a pillar of our community. He can never be forgotten because his legacy lives on in the countless lives he shaped, inspired, and uplifted.

Thank you, Melvyn, for your enduring contribution to my life and career.

Rest in peace, my friend. Your light continues to shine.

With love and respect
Dr. Freddie Evans, J.P.

TRIBUTE TO MELVYN BASSETT

Though we mourn the loss of Melvyn Bassett, we also celebrate the beautiful testimonies and transformation in the lives of Batswana boys and girls courtesy of his prayers and financial support.

As a children's missionary in Botswana, his encouragement and support gave me no reason to fail in my God-given duty. He was a beacon of kindness, compassion and generosity. His generosity knew no bounds and his love for lost souls especially children was evident. As a result of these, I have reached more than 2000 children with the gospel through his facilitation.

Through his faithful support, I run Six Good News Clubs weekly, conducting school assemblies and other CEF ministries.

May we honour his life by living with the same kindness and generosity he showed us everyday.

In loving memory of a wonderful person whose presence made our world brighter.



From Lydia M. Njoroge
CEF Missionary, Botswana



PHOTO: Old Naledi 2 GNC with about 200 children being reached with the gospel weekly courtesy of Melvyn's support.

Bermuda College Company of Fellows



The Company of Fellows of the Bermuda College sends deep condolences to Dr. Melvyn Bassett's daughter, Rusheika and family and the Dillas family. His untimely passing is a loss for all of Bermuda.

Dr. Bassett's 2015 induction into the Company of Fellows was inspired in large part by his storied contributions to education – as innovative teacher, beloved principal, textbook editor, and policy advisor amongst a legion of other civic contributions, including the 1993 Tumin Commission on policing. He was a person of strong commitment and conviction. He can truly be said to have made a difference particularly for the youth of this island. We appreciated his smile and gracious encouragement in all of our own endeavours. In deep respect, the flags at the Bermuda College have flown at half-mast since the sad news of his passing.

A humble servant of the people, Dr. Bassett was foremost a loving husband of his late, gracious wife Sushila, father, grandfather, and brother. The Company of Fellows of the Bermuda College pray that beautiful memories of him will be of comfort, strength and eternal peace.

His days, his faith and his passions counted. For this, all of Bermuda is grateful.



With sincere condolences,
Randolph Horton, *recent Chair of the Company of Fellows of the Bermuda College*
Arlene Brock, *current Chair*

BECAUSE HE LIVES

God sent His son,
They called Him, Jesus;
He came to love,
Heal and forgive;
He lived and died
To buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there
To prove my Savior lives!

Chorus

Because He lives,
I can face tomorrow!
Because He lives,
All fear is gone.
Because I know
He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold
A newborn baby,
And feel the pride
And joy he brings;
But greater still
The calm assurance:
This child can face
Uncertain days
Because He Lives!

Chorus

And then one day,
I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final
War with pain;
And then, as death
Gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory
And I'll know He lives!

Chorus

WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN

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!

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

Chorus

Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.

Chorus

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.

Chorus



MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family of Dr. Melvyn E. Bassett deeply appreciates your expressions of love, kindness, and support during this time of bereavement. Your calls, messages, cards, flowers, meals, and many acts of service have brought us great comfort.

To those who travelled from near and far to be with us, your presence has been especially meaningful, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to Heritage Worship Centre, Calvary Gospel Chapel, Augustus Funeral Home, Allana Simons of ID Associates, Tricray Astwood of Storyteller Films, Trevor Lindsay of TNN, Sandys Secondary Middle School family, and Jennifer Harvey and her crew of cousins for their support and care.

In honour of Melvyn's legacy, donations may be made to Child Evangelism Fellowship Bermuda. Banking Details: Clarien Bank 6000122597.

