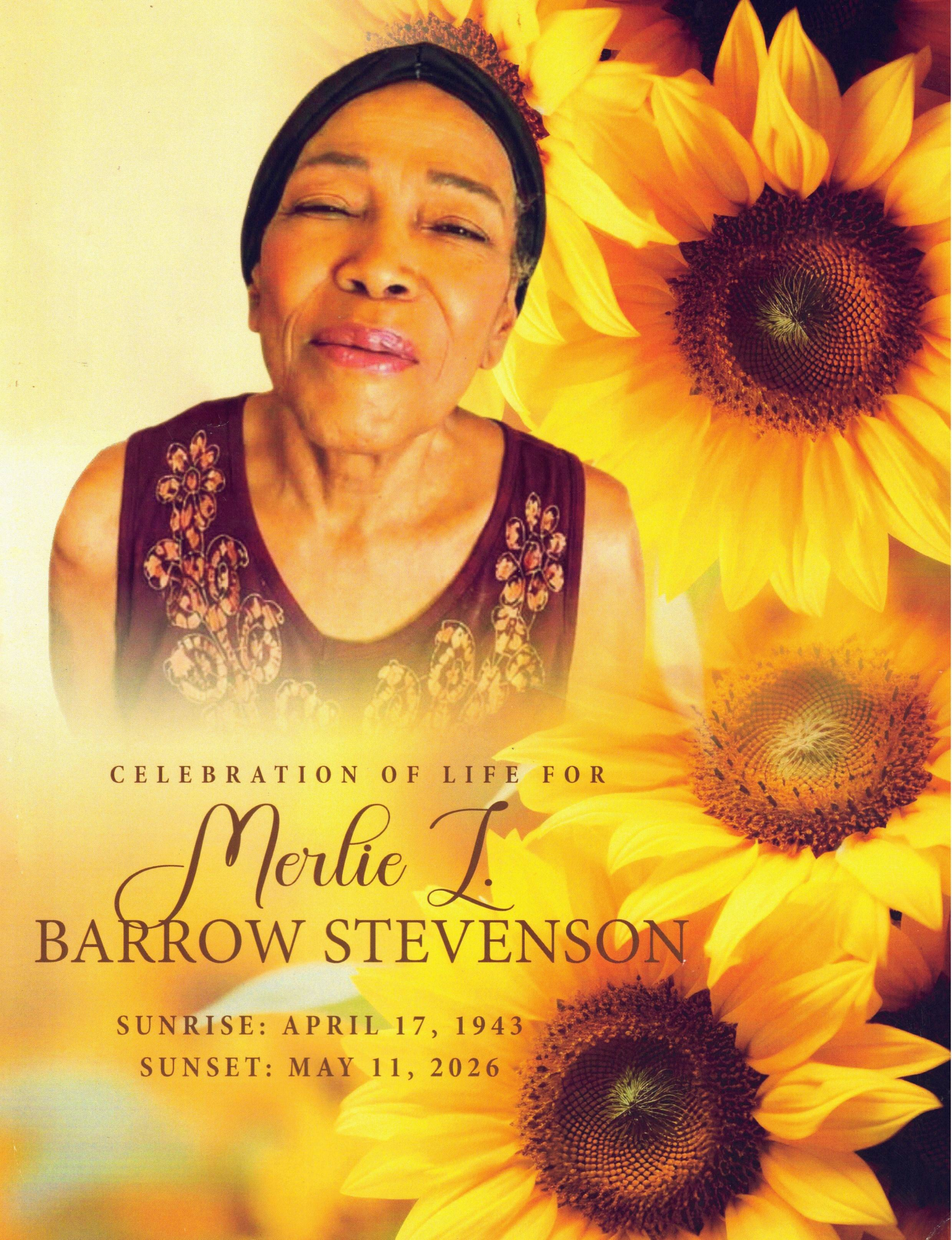




CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

Merlie L.
BARROW STEVENSON

SUNRISE: APRIL 17, 1943

SUNSET: MAY 11, 2026

Order of Service

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 - TIME: 11:00 A.M.

THE LIVING GOSPEL - MAIN STREET

5225 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, | California 90037

Officiant: Pastor D. Keith Green, Sr.

Processional with Music Interlude.....Pastor D. Keith Green, Sr.

Welcome and Opening Prayer.....Pastor D. Keith Green, Sr.

Song..... Musician/Soloist Pastor George Cowart

Scripture Reading:

Old Testament: Job 19:25-27 DevinCain

New Testament: John 14:1-6. Bernadette Andrewin Lamb

Song..... Musician/Soloist Pastor George Cowart

23rd Psalm..... Congregation

Obituary..... Ernest Gordon

Hymn (it is well)..... Congregation

Video tribute - Holding on to Memories

Remarks.....Two Minutes Please

Acknowledgment.....Pastor D. Keith Green, Sr.

Song..... Musician/Soloist Pastor George Cowart

Eulogy.....Pastor D. Keith Green, Sr.

Recessional hymn.....Going Up Yonder

Obituary

Today we celebrate the beautiful life of **Merlie Louise Barrow Stevenson**, a strong Belizean woman whose love, laughter, strength, and vibrant spirit touched everyone blessed to know her. Merlie peacefully departed this life on Monday, May 11, 2026 at the Palmdale Regional Medical Center in Palmdale, California, at the age of eighty-three, leaving behind a legacy filled with love, faith, family, good food, and unforgettable memories.

Merlie was born on April 17, 1943, in the beautiful village of Gales Point Manatee, Belize District, Belize, to Edward Barrow, Sr. and Mrs. Ionie Andrewin, affectionately known as "Ms. Mina." Raised as the fourth of sixteen children, she grew up surrounded by the rich culture, close family bonds, and strong community spirit which is the heart of Belizean life. She attended St. John's School and carried the values of faith, resilience, and hard work with her throughout her life.

As a young woman, Merlie left Gales Point and moved to Belize City to live with her sister Rita Barrow. She later worked at Bowen Bottling Works for a number of years. Merlie was blessed with nine children. Determined to create a better future for herself and her children, she later migrated to Los Angeles, California in 1989, where she built a life rooted in love, sacrifice, and perseverance.

Merlie met and married the love of her life, James Stevenson, with whom she shared many years of companionship, laughter, and memories. They met in the summer of 2010. Their love quickly blossomed, and not too long after, James proposed. The two were happily married on September 29, 2012, in Las Vegas, Nevada and began a beautiful journey together filled with love, laughter, travel and unforgettable memories. According to James, "my girl" as he affectionately called her was the best thing that ever happened to him. They traveled together, played together and had fun together. According to James, Merlie was truly his best friend.

No matter where Merlie went, she carried Belize with her. Through her storytelling, laughter, music, and especially her cooking, she made everyone feel at home. Her rice and beans, bread and bun were legendary - seasoned with love, laughter, and that special Belizean touch that nobody else could quite duplicate. Family gatherings were never complete without Merlie making sure everyone had a full plate and something to laugh about.

Merlie loved music and loved to celebrate life. If punta, brukdown, or old-school tunes started playing, she was ready to dance. Even in her later years, she welcomed every opportunity to "get down" and enjoy herself. She believed life was meant to be lived with joy, good company, and plenty of laughter.

She was known for being kind-hearted, generous, funny, and wonderfully outspoken. Merlie had a sharp wit and a quick comeback that kept everyone on their toes. Her sharp tongue became legendary among family and friends, and practically everyone who knew her "got a taste of it" at one time or another — always with humor and love behind it. Whether family, friend, or stranger, everyone eventually received one of her classic remarks. Her favorite saying, "Yo Bitch Yo," became one of the many unforgettable expressions her loved ones will cherish forever.

Merlie devoted her life to caring for others, faithfully working as a caregiver and always putting people before herself. Above all, she was a woman of deep Christian faith who loved the Lord wholeheartedly. She found joy in attending church, praising God, and encouraging others to trust Him through every season of life.

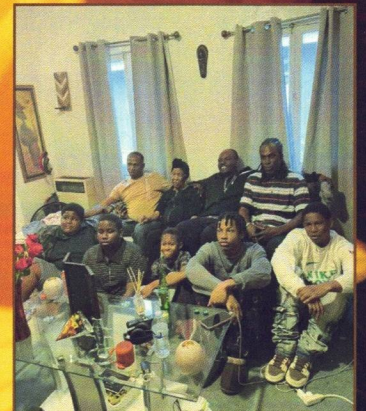
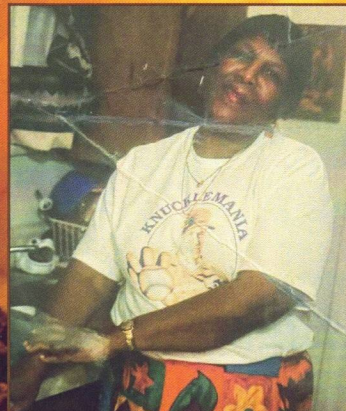
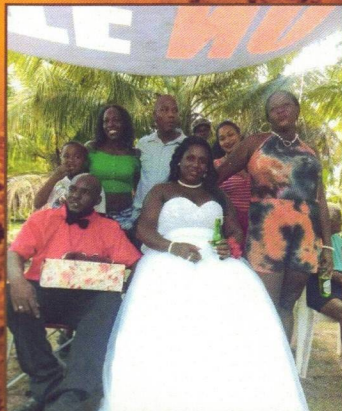
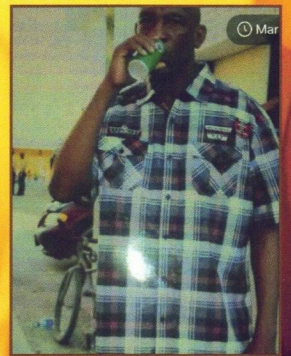
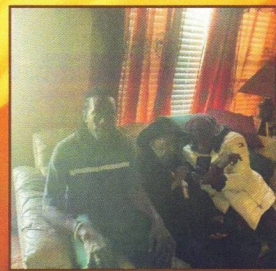
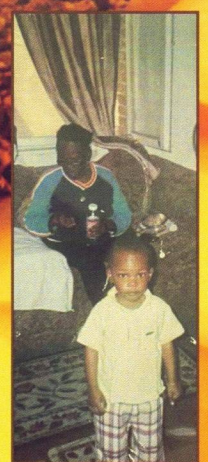
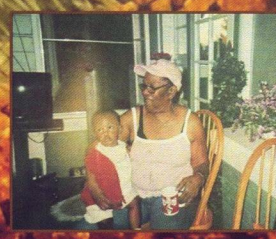
She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward Barrow, Sr. and Mrs. Ionie Andrewin ("Ms. Mina"); her children, David Vernon, Hugh Melvin and Denise Myles; her sisters, Mrs. Gwendolyn Fuller, Mrs. Lorraine Jenkins, Leonie Barrow Pitts, Olive and Louise Barrow; her brothers, Edward Andrewin, Kent Andrewin, Douglas Andrewin, Donald and Edward Barrow, Jr.; her aunt, Leonelle Adele Barrow; her uncles, Percy and Charles Barrow; her son-in-law, Peter Ruffin; and her grandsons, Shaheem Slusher and Kevin Chavez.

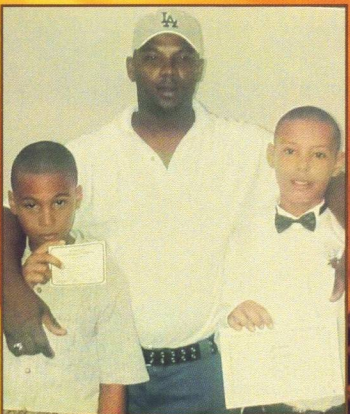
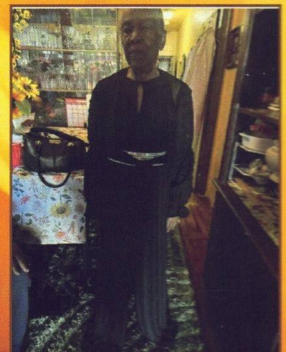
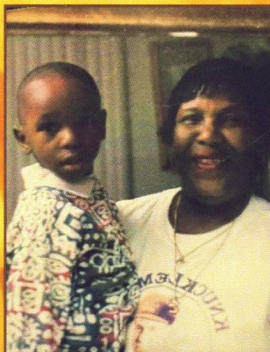
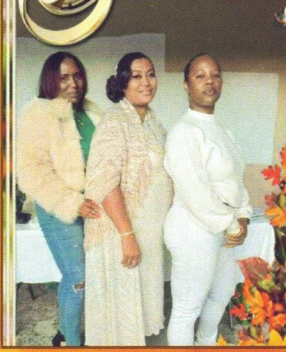
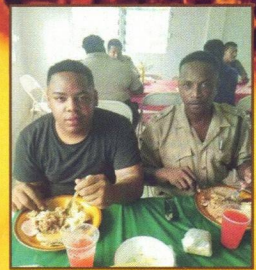
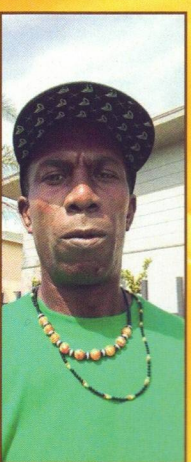
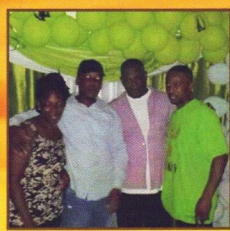
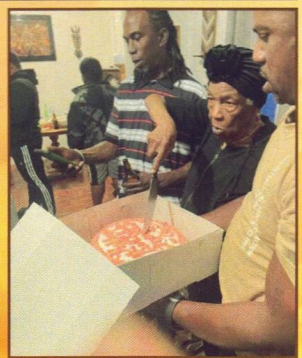
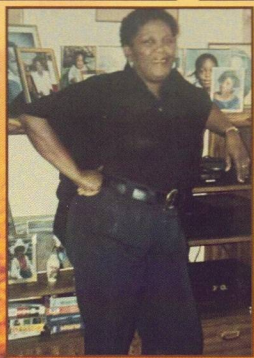
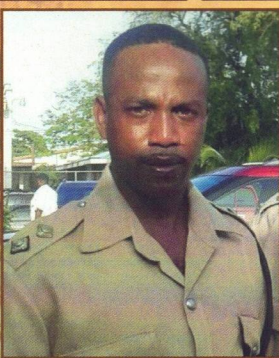
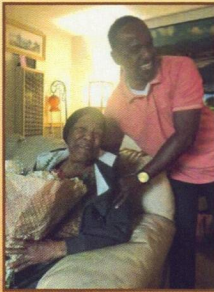
Left to celebrate her life and cherish her memory are her loving husband, James Stevenson; her children, Margaret Vernon Ruffin, Kimberly Vernon, Denroy Vernon Barrow, Randolph Vernon Barrow, Deon Vernon Barrow, and Mervin Vernon; her daughters-in-law, Ms. Cynthia Wade, Ms. Iris Vasquez, and Mrs. Kimberly Muslar Barrow; her sisters, Ms. Rita Barrow, Mrs. Bernadette Lamb, Mrs. Rachel Murillo, Mrs. Yvonne Davis, Mrs. Sylvia Bowen, and Mrs. Anna Moore; her brothers, Randolph Barrow, Hubert, Lionel, and Obidiah Andrewin; along with 34 grandchildren, 52 great-grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, lifelong friends, and loved ones both in Belize and abroad.

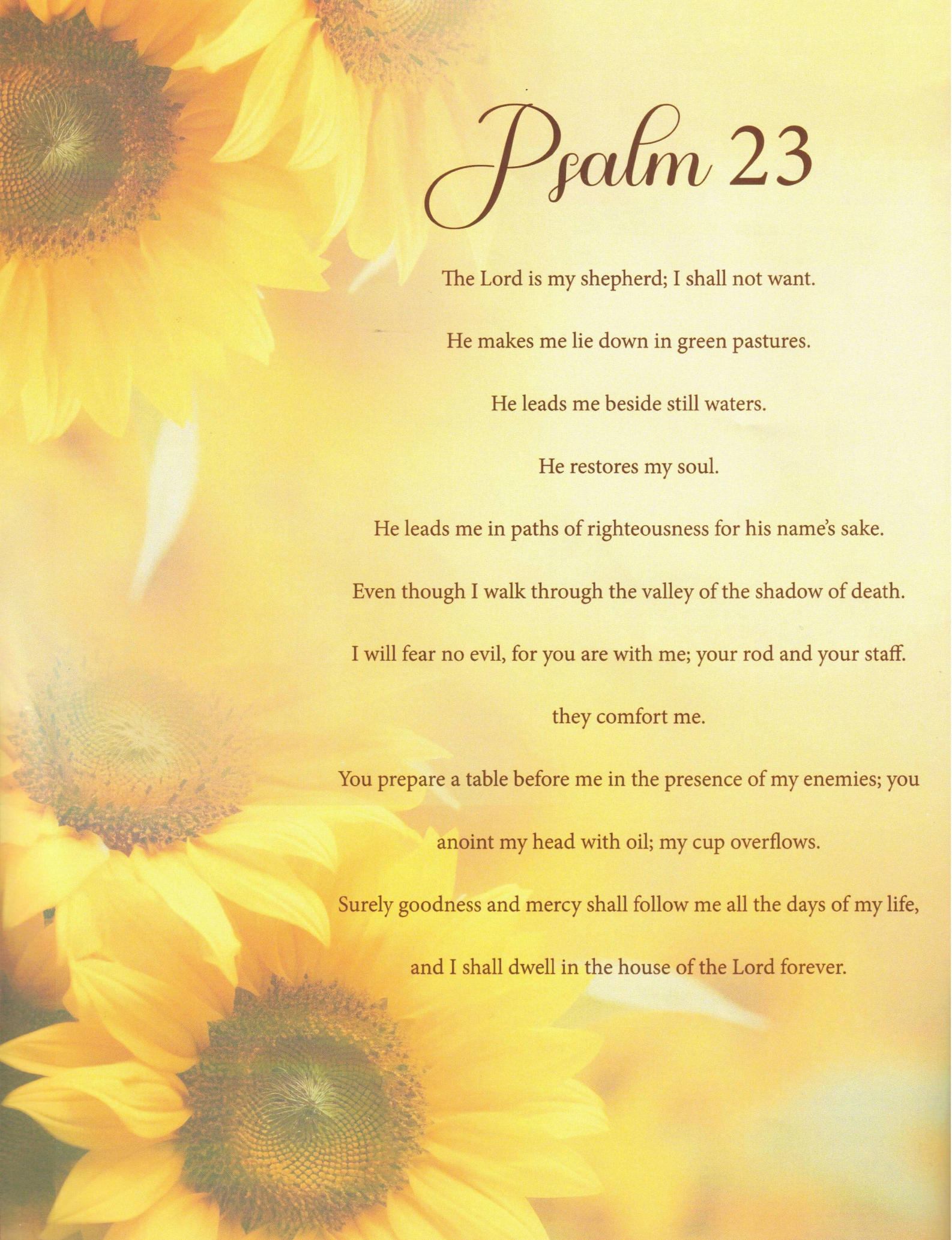
Though our hearts are heavy, we give thanks for the life Merlie lived. She loved deeply, laughed loudly, spoke her truth boldly, cooked with passion, praised God faithfully, and brought joy wherever she went. Her spirit will continue to live on in every family gathering, every pot of rice and beans, every song that makes us dance, and every story shared with laughter.

I have fought the good fight - I have finished the race - I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7.

Sleep in peace, Miss Merlie. Tek yuh rest. Yo journey done, but your love and legacy will live on forever.







Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff.

they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you

anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Expressions of Love

*He healeth the broken hearted and bindeth up their wounds
Psalm 147:3*

To My Beloved Sister,

My sister, my companion, through life's journey, Your love was a blessing beyond measure. We laughed together, cried together, And shared memories I will forever treasure. Your voice may now be silent, But your spirit still lives on in our

Your Sister, Rita!!

Mom, pieces of our hearts went with you to Heaven. Your love was God's greatest blessing in our lives, and even though we cannot hold you now, we feel you with us every day. Until we meet again, we will carry your love in our souls forever.

Your Children, Kimberley, Margaret, Denroy, Mervin, Deon & Randolph!!

We loved you more than words can say, you shaped our lives each day. With gentle hands and heart so true, we saw a world of love in you. From nieces and nephews' hearts, we say goodlye. Rest now in peace, calm and free, forever part of our memory.

Nieces & Nephews!!

My Beloved Wife,

God blessed my life with your love, and Heaven has now welcomed you home. Though my heart grieves your absence, I find peace knowing you rest in His eternal embrace. Until we meet again, you will forever live in my heart.

Your husband, James!!

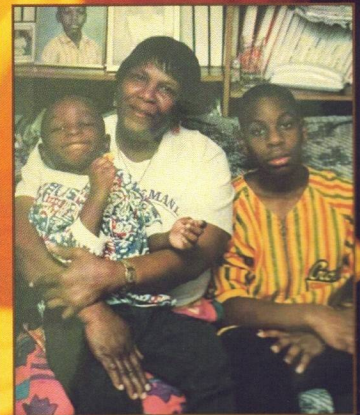
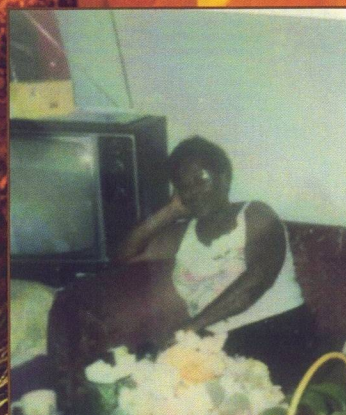
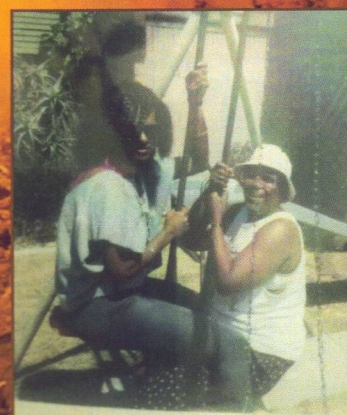
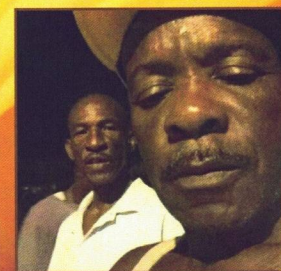
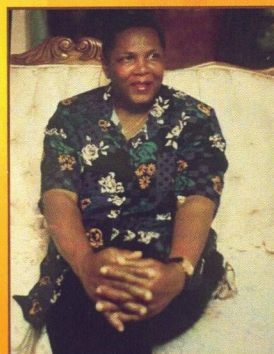
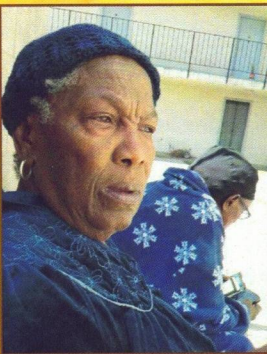
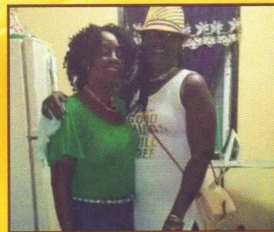
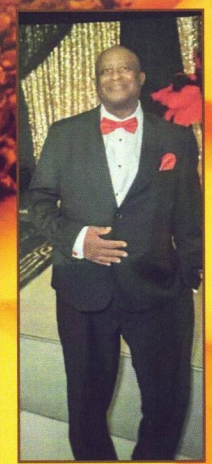
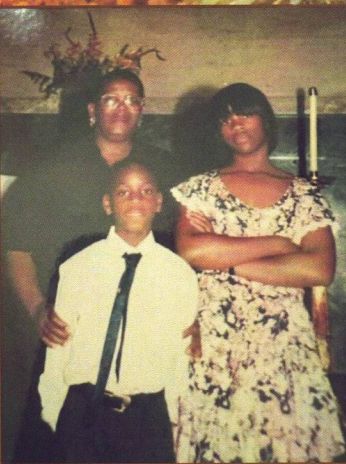
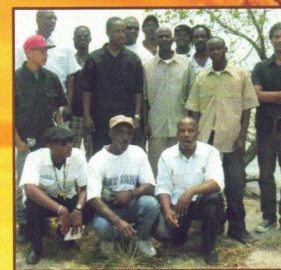
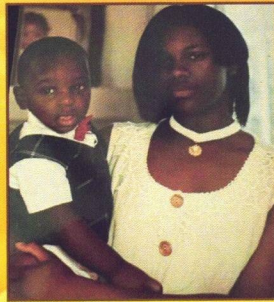
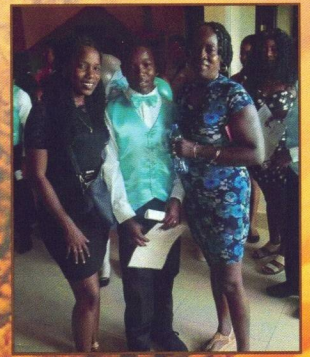
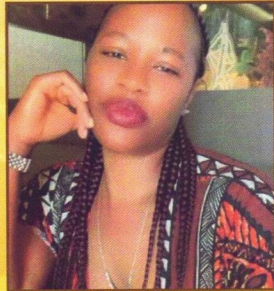
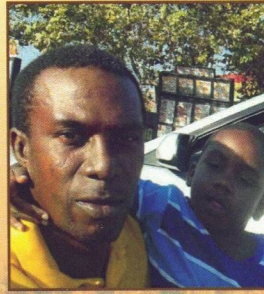
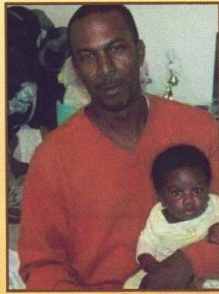
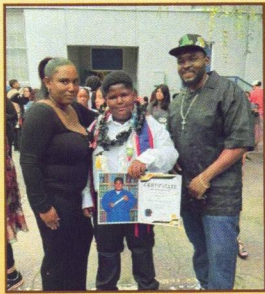
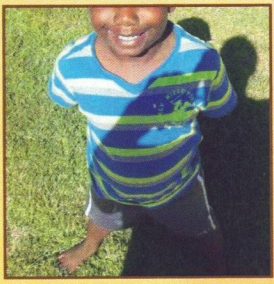
Ta Our Grandma:

From Belize to Los Angeles, our hearts reach you still. You were our love, our comfort, our guiding light. Though distance and heaven now separate us, your warmth lives in every memory we hold. We miss you deeply, Grandma, and we carry you with us always-today, tomorrow, and forever.

Your Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren!!

We will miss you dearly. We take comfort knowing that you are in a better place! Sleep in perfect peace!!

Family & Friends!!





THE *Broken Chain*

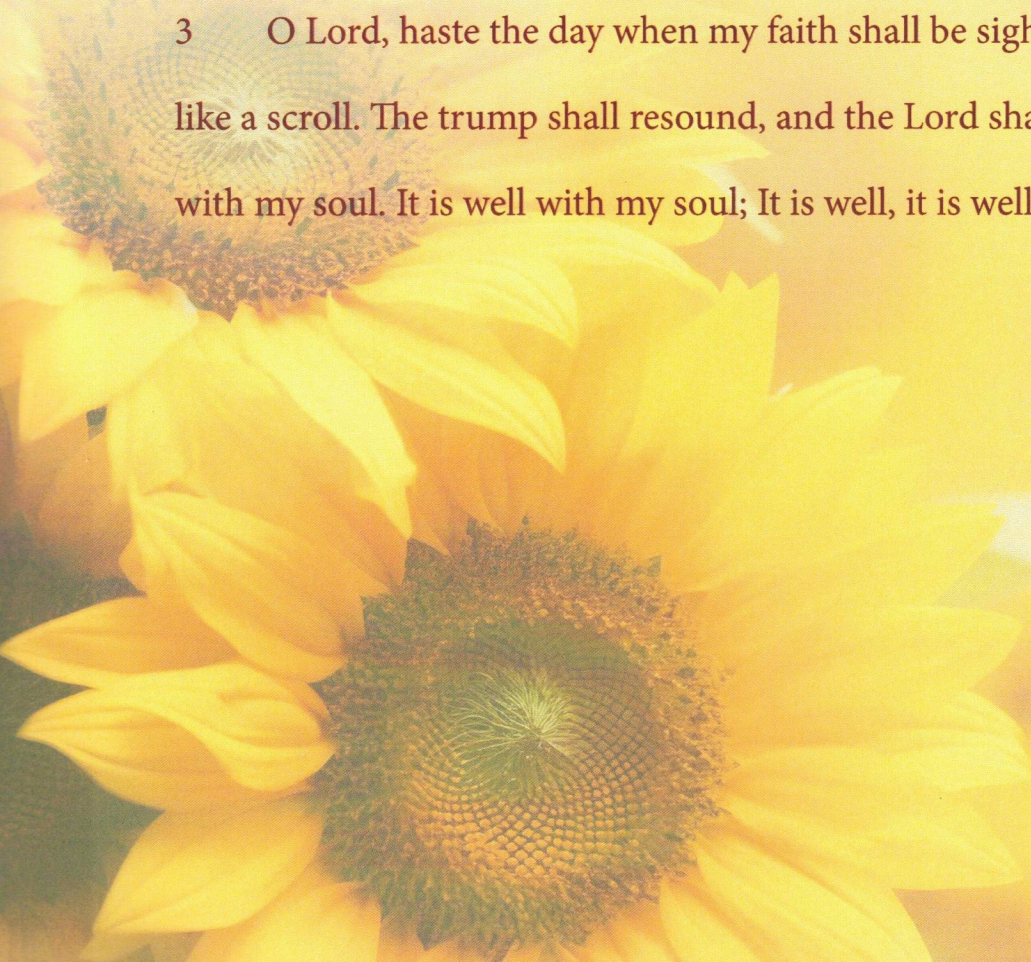
We knew little that morning that
God was going to call your name,
In life we loved you dearly,
In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems to be the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

It is Well with my Soul

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.” It is well with my soul; It is well, it is well with my soul.

2 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. It is well with my soul; It is well, it is well with my soul.

3 O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, The heav’ns be rolled back
like a scroll. The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend; Even so, it is well
with my soul. It is well with my soul; It is well, it is well with my soul.



Don't Grieve **FOR ME**

Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I've savored much,
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch
If my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free..



Active PALLBEARERS

James Stevenson, Jr.
Zion Palmer
Ronald McSweeney
Randolph Vernon Barrow
Ryan Myles
Khaylon Vernon

Honorary PALLBEARERS

Obadiah Andrewin
Mervin Vernon
Lionel Andrewin
Hubert Andrewin
Deon Vernon Barrow
Denroy Vernon Barrow

Acknowledgments

The family wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude for the many acts of kindness, love, prayers, phone calls, visits, and words of comfort shown to us during our time of bereavement. Your support has brought us strength and comfort as we mourn the loss of our beloved Merlie. May Almighty God richly bless each and every one of you for your thoughtfulness, generosity, and prayers.

*With heartfelt appreciation - The Family of Merlie Louise
Barrow Stevenson*

Thank You!!

Interment

The family wishes to announce that following the services here, Merlie will be laid to rest in Belize, where her body will be returned for final arrangements.

Repast

Repast immediately following the service at:
Caribbean Vibez
2147 W. Manchester Avenue
Los Angeles, CA arrangements.

Services Entrusted to

GREEN FAMILY CREMATION & BURIAL
Honoring the lives of those we serve
13819 Foothill Blvd., Suite D | Fontana, CA 92335
(909) 428-6650 / FD 2160
D. Keith Green Sr. - Operations Director