

# Saying goodbye to Enid Golding

Crowd turns out  
to support PM,  
family at service



PHOTOS BY GLADSTONE TAYLOR/PHOTOGRAPHER

Pall-bearers, including Steven Golding (right), carry the coffin containing his grandmother's body out of the church.

**Nadisha Hunter**

Staff Reporter

**H**UNDREDS OF mourners, both young and old, turned out to bid farewell to the mother of Prime Minister Bruce Golding, Enid Louise Golding, during a thanksgiving service yesterday at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Old Harbour, St Catherine.

Golding, who this week announced he would not be seeking re-election at the Jamaica Labour Party's (JLP) annual conference in November, was largely supported by members of the JLP hierarchy and representatives from the People's National Party, led by their president, Portia Simpson Miller.

Also in attendance to pay their respects to the Enid Golding were members of the education fraternity, Governor General Sir Patrick Allen, as well as other dignitaries and close friends.

Despite a second building being set up with a projector for persons to watch the service, not all of the massive gathering could be accommodated.

Instead, persons were forced to crowd the doorways of the church in a bid to share in the celebration of the Enid Golding's life.



Prime Minister Bruce Golding (second right) is comforted by Opposition Leader Portia Simpson Miller (second left) during his mother's, Enid Golding, funeral at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Old Harbour in St Catherine yesterday. Looking on are People's National Party Chairman Robert Pickersgill and Mr Golding's wife, Lorna.

There was laughter in the congregation amid the tears, as family members spoke about their fond memories with the stalwart educator and dedicated family woman.

Enid Golding was remembered by the prime minister as a good teacher and a good family woman.

He said his mother was always set on instilling discipline in the family

as she took the lead role in rearing her children.

"She was the disciplinarian in the family. Dad was cool, he would reason with you, but Mom wasn't into too much of this reasoning business and so a strap was never too far away," the prime minister said.

He added that his mother was generous, caring and possessive of her children and grandchildren.



The prime minister is flocked by hundreds of mourners during yesterday's funeral for his mother.

The prime minister said based on her many years of service in education at Old Harbour High School, the family had agreed to sponsor a scholarship to the value of \$1 million for advanced training in teachers' education.

**AN EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN**

Sherene Golding Campbell hailed her grandmother as an extraordinary woman who was an adviser, mentor, confidante and friend.

"When I was at university, I could call her in the wee hours of the morning and she was always up.

"Since her passing, I have had many phone calls speaking of the

impact she had on the life of people and yet she was humble in spirit. I never once heard her bragging about her accomplishments," Golding Campbell said as her voice cracked and tears flowed.

Bishop of Mandeville, the Right Reverend Harold Daniels, encouraged the gathering to take the occasion as an opportunity to know what the future holds and make their lives right with God.

He lauded the exemplary service Mrs Golding had displayed in society.

"What I understand about our sister is that she wasn't sitting down

waiting on milk and honey but instead, she was actively involved in the transformation process in society," he said.

It was a chaotic sight as the body exited the church. Persons fought through the thick crowd to get a glimpse of the coffin before it was locked away in the hearse.

"Mi wah si di casket dat mama Enid is in. Lord shi gone. We a go miss her," one person shouted.

"Mi couldn't miss this yah funeral fi nutt'n 'cause dis yah woman was too good to people," said Sharon, who said she reached the church from as early as minutes to 9 a.m. so that she could be comfortably seated.

The crowd grew even larger when the attention was diverted to the prime minister.

"Mr Golding, a yuh a di driva an' yuh won't stop driving," one person shouted from the crowd.

"Mi prime minister, mek mi touch because mi know yuh a go bi mi leada foreva, suh it nuh mek sense yuh seh yuh a go leave," another person said, while pushing her way through the crowd to greet him.

Enid Golding, 91, died September 14 from complications related to pneumonia.