

## NEWS

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### HUNDREDS OF JAMAICANS ATTEND MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MANLEY IN OTTAWA

OTTAWA, March 25 (JAMPRESS):

Hundreds of Jamaicans, members of the diplomatic corps and Canadian politicians paid tribute to the late former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Michael Manley at a memorial service held in Canada's capital city, Ottawa on Sunday, March 23.

The St. George's Anglican Church on Metcalfe Street came alive with songs and praises for the life of Mr. Manley. Jamaica's High Commissioner to Canada, Her Excellency Maxine Roberts read the first lesson from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Mr. Manley was eulogized by Ewart Walters as a "patriot, a visionary, a giant of compassion, a man who brought out the best in people, a friend of the oppressed, an optimist, a man who believed it was better to do something about the ills that beset, even if it did not work out, than to do nothing".

Mr. Walters, who is editor of Spectrum, a community newspaper published in Ottawa, said Mr. Manley commanded a place of honour among a rare group of leaders who dared to live by their vision and their principles, and not by opinion polls.

Detailing Mr. Manley's links to Canada, Walters said they were many. "He had been a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force at Guelph; he attended McGill University, and he enjoyed great friendships with two Canadian Prime Ministers, Pierre Trudeau and Brian Mulroney".

In describing Mr. Manley's legacy to the people of Jamaica, Mr. Walters said he gave them a sense of belonging, a sense of pride in themselves, and the Hon. Louise Bennett-Coverley summed it up quite appropriately: "Dark night got peenie wallie, sun hot got shady tree, yuh struggles fi human dignity tun stalwart victory".

Rev. R.C. Nelson of the Ottawa Church of God, recalled when he joined the Jamaica youth corps as a teenager and later became President of the St. Elizabeth chapter. He said it was because of Mr. Manley that he started to develop a keen interest in the political and economical conditions of third world countries.

"Michael Manley stood as a central figure in challenging the ordinary person to stand up and make a difference. He was an advocate for equality and justice. He was the voice of the poor and the oppressed. Like the artist whose masterpiece after his death catapults him into the balcony of the heroes, Michael Manley's legacy will continue to snowball with increasing significance as the years go by," he said.

Rev. Leicester Bigby of the Union United Church in Montreal gave the sermon. He likened Michael Manley to Jamaica's National Hero, Marcus Garvey - a leader with a vision. He said it was never an easy task for any leader with a vision.

He quoted the Montreal Gazette's editorial of Mr. Manley: "Sometimes strident, often eloquent, but always the energetic politician who was always able to instill a sense of pride in his fellow citizens".

Rev. Bigby urged the congregation to continue to offer love and companionship to Mr. Manley's family.

Also in attendance were members of the Jamaica (Ottawa) Community Association and the National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada (NCJSOC); Jamaica's Deputy High Commissioner, Ann Scott and staff of the High Commission; Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Cameroon's High Commissioner, Philemon Yang; Dean of the Commonwealth Corps, Tanzania's High Commissioner, Sadhil Mbagala; Guyana's High Commissioner, Brindley Benn; South Africa's High Commissioner, Billy Modise and representatives of other diplomatic missions and the Ottawa Police Race Relations Unit.

Another memorial service in honour of Mr. Manley will be held in Toronto at St. Paul's Anglican Church on Bloor Street East on April 27.

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