



Mr. Ferdie Germain

February 3, 1939 - December 15, 2023

Obituary & Family Letter for Mr. Ferdie Germain

A. OBITUARY

Ferdie Joseph Germain entered the gates of heaven peacefully on Dec 15, 2023. He was surrounded by family at the time of his death.

If a picture paints a thousand words, the life and legacy of Ferdie Joseph Germain painted ten thousand words over and over and over again.

Ferdie was a native of the island of Dominica, the nature isle of the Caribbean, where he established a productive and very successful life. He sacrificially immigrated to the US to help ensure more opportunities and a better life for his family.

On August 29, 1962, Ferdie married a beautiful French woman and the love of his life, Bertille Edmond Benoit. He gave her a house from which she created a home. Together they cultivated a life of sacrifice and love for their family. They collected a host of friends and adopted family members along the way. Sundays always brought friends to their home for lunch. That was on top of the many folks who would spend time at their home either for school, work or just to be with their family. Ferdie was selfless and loved helping others. The result of his huge heart, according to his children, is that he was sarcastically

named “Best I Walk.” That was because a 10-minute car trip could take an hour due to all the “hi’s” and “hello’s” he gave and received from passersby as they drove.

Ferdie worked with the Dominica Public Works where he led teams to cut and develop roads into the innermost and most inaccessible regions of the island. He was a grandmaster caterpillar operator. Ferdie was called many times to get these machines out of difficult situations such as being stuck on a hillside in the rich mud of the rainforest. Following the Category 4 hurricane David which devastated his island in 1979, Ferdie took his family to Guadeloupe for safety. However, he returned to Dominica to lead a team of 300 individuals to help rebuild roads. His career was filled with resilience, determination, and grit after making the sacrificial move to the US. His early start in the US involved sacrifices such as choosing to work two jobs; his main job with the government and a side job with a fast-food restaurant. Being as resourceful as he was, he charmed his way into the difficult-to-enter construction union in Miami in the 1980’s. The work was so physically taxing compared to his work in Dominica that his family would have to massage his hands, feet, and back at the end of the day. He finally joined the Dade County FL school board where he retired in the spring of 2001 before moving to Atlanta, GA.

Ferdie lived life boldly and cherished every moment. In his words, he was always “copasetic” meaning he was fine. He worked hard and played harder. He was a passionate political enthusiast and was known for his active participation in Dominican politics before coming to the US. He was a great cook and loved to eat. Some of his most loved dishes were island delicacies like Souse, Broth, and Rice with Pigeon Peas. Ferdie had an amazing voice and could be found randomly serenading his wife with that special voice. What Ferdie was best known for, however, was his kind, caring, and loving spirit who never met a stranger.

His genuine and authentic soul treated everyone fairly regardless of the person's status. He was selfless and a giver at heart. An example of Ferdie's huge heart was that one night in Dominica, he ran into a drunk Swedish gentleman, named Carl, who could not remember his hotel. Ferdie took Carl to his house and took such good care of him that when Carl got sober, he asked to rent a room in their home. They became life-long friends.

Ferdie was also known for his jokes, pranks, and amazing sense of humor. As he would say, "All my daughters are girls, and all my boys are sons." His family knew early on to guard their choice last bite on their plates. That's because Ferdie would distract you so that he can grab that piece you saved for last because you enjoyed it so much. He would often share a joke about his friend who went to England and tried to show how smart he was. The friend would approach his horse handler and say to him, "You male domestic biped, apprehend my quadruped, stable him, and provide him with a sufficient supply of nutritious elements, and when the sun is baborialis, you will be highly recompensed." That simply meant would you place my horse in a stable and feed it dinner at sunset? Yes. Ferdie had a joke for just about any occasion.

He impacted many lives across multiple countries starting with his family who experienced first-hand the love, strength, passion, and commitment of a man, a husband, a dad and a brother.

Ferdie accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior later in life. However, he was always involved in The Lord's business. He helped and supported every pastor of his church, the People's Pentecostal Church in Dominica. He was well-known and loved by all the members. That spirit continued in the US. Daddy Germain, as he was affectionately called, became a deacon of New Bethel International Ministries in Atlanta, GA where he served diligently.

Ferdie was involved in the transportation ministry, the building committee, and the food bank. His involvement in the food bank resulted in its significant expansion over many years. He never missed an assignment. If he could not do it, he'd use his resourcefulness to find someone who would. This also meant that for anyone who was missing a key or could not get through a locked door at the church, Daddy Germain always had a key. Everyone felt connected to him at the church because he made everyone feel important and significant.

Ferdie was preceded in death by his parents, William and Cecilia Germain, siblings Vernon Germain, Rudolph Germain, and Roland Germain, and son Alexis Germain.

Central to his core values was the love of family. Those who will be most profoundly deprived of Ferdie's energizing personality, the strength of his character, and never-ending love include his wife, Bertille Germain, Children Alain Germain, Brenda Emerson, Catherine Germain, Franklin Germain, Johnson Germain, Joseph Germain, Kennedy Germain, Kenneth Germain, Lincoln Germain, and Marcus Germain; sister Althea Germain; brothers Egbert Germain, and Randy Germain. His legacy of love includes 21 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and an army of amazingly loving family and friends.

Ferdie's life exemplified a legacy of love, laughter, faith, and family. Though we grieve his passing, we are comforted knowing he is in heaven and will meet again.

B. FAMILY LETTER

Ferdie led a selfless life as a soldier in the army of Christ devoting many hours to helping the local church ministry. Over the last decade, he directed that

passion to the foodbank significantly increasing its reach to support the poor and needy. As a result, it is important to Ferdie that his legacy of reaching the less fortunate continues.

Therefore, in lieu of flowers, he would prefer donations be made to the Bridge of Hope Community Outreach Inc. A 501(c) (3) Charity, in support of the outreach being done by his church, New Bethel International Ministries.

Ways To send your tax-exempt donations:

PayPal

@bridgeofhope1025

Email: bridgeofhopecommunityoutreach@gmail.com

Cash App

\$1025Bridgeofhope

Email: bridgeofhopecommunityoutreach@gmail.com

Corporate lockbox for donations

Bridge of Hope Community Outreach Inc.,

2686 Springdale Rd, Snellville GA 30039

Celebration of Life Services for Ferdie Germain will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 11:00 AM. These services will be recorded and streamed live. If the event is interrupted at any time due to technical issues, the entire event will be uploaded and available to view later in the day. Please copy and paste the link to share, or simply click on the link to view the event.

<https://vimeo.com/event/3993436>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home - Lawrenceville Location
914 Scenic Highway South
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6353

That visitation will include a viewing from 4pm to 6pm and a memorial service from 6pm to 8pm.

Memorial Service

JAN 5. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons - Gwinnett Chapel
914 Scenic Hwy
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Celebration of Life

JAN 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home - Lawrenceville Location
914 Scenic Highway South
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6353

Burial

JAN 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Hill Haven Memory Gardens & Mausoleum
490 Edmondson Road
Monroe, GA 30656

Tribute Wall



“ Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Mr. Ferdie Germain



Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. - January 03, 2024 at 10:03 AM

EF

My grandfather wore many hats in his community, but to me he will always be “Papa”. As a child I followed him wherever he went. I never wanted to leave his side. I admired the way people looked at him. He was always there to put a smile on your face. It was his nature to be sociable and loving. My papa loved his family, and he did his best to make sure we had what we needed. He would go out of his way to get the job done. No matter what. Papa, I am glad you are resting now. I miss you so much. Forever your “Rik-Rik”. I love you.

Erika Fox - January 04, 2024 at 04:06 AM

MB

Daddy Germain you are missed, man of God thank you for being such a tireless worker in the kingdom. This always put a smile on my face when on Sunday morning you had the wheelchair by the door of the church and you would take my mom inside and put her in her seat thank you 🥹 I pray the Lord hug on your beautiful family 🙏 you will always be remembered for being a worker in the kingdom thank you.

Marlene brown - January 04, 2024 at 08:02 AM

TE

Father Germain, I already miss you. I was hoping to come back and sit with you to share the stories of my recent adventures but God had another plan. I am happy I was able to spend some time with you in your final days. Thank you for always encouraging me, even in the end, your last words to me were words of encouragement. I am going to miss you, my dearest Ferdie. I am going to miss you 😭 I will be there for your Queen Mother Germain just like you would want me to. I will cherish the great memories of you and they will live on forever in my heart. You've done well here on earth Ferdie, now take your rest in the arms of your savior. Love and miss you

Tess

Tess - January 05, 2024 at 07:01 AM

UP

Daddy Germain you are certainly missed. Your kind words and your jokes. You always love my soup. You will never be forgotten. My sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to Mother Germain and the family. Praying your strength and peace. RIP Daddy. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. From Ulet and family.

Ulet Phillip - January 05, 2024 at 10:03 AM

DV

Sincere condolences to Sister Germain, family and Dearest friends on Mr. Germain's home going! May the Peace of GOD be ever with you in the days ahead. May you find refuge in JESUS, the author and finisher of our Faith.

Danielle Valentine - January 06, 2024 at 05:00 PM



“ *I didn't know my uncle by marriage well, but he was kind enough to welcome me for a summer at his home in Miami, a few years ago. Despite all these years, I remember his great kindness. I am sad and I have a huge thought for my aunt Bertille and my cousins.*
Pascal BENOIT

Pascal Benoit - October 19, 2024 at 01:19 AM

GC

“ I knew Mr. Germain as a child on Dominica as I lived next to his job at the Public Works Department. His sons Kennedy and Lincoln were good friends of mine who attended the Goodwill Junior High School with me. The Germain's were kind and disciplined and Mr. & Mrs.. Germain's leadership birthed such kindness and grace. Though he is gone his work lives on in his family and those whose lives he touched. The Christian family extends its condolences May he rest in peace.

Gabriel J Christian - September 12, 2024 at 03:42 AM

RP

“ Sincere condolences to Mother Germain and family our thoughts and prayers are with you as you journey through this loss of a dare brother and friend Brother Germain . We cherish the memories of his willingness and humility to always help those around him as he serves in the Kingdom of God. May the grace of the Lord be with you always.

Robert Peddlar - January 06, 2024 at 04:33 PM

AM

“ Heartfelt condolences to Mother Germain and the entire Germain family. Deacon Germain was a gift of love and generosity. He made each of us feel special and went over and above to show us love and care. He has left a mark on my heart and I am thankful that I had the privilege to know him. I pray for God's peace and comfort for the entire family.

Apostle Maureen Miller - January 05, 2024 at 09:00 PM

DS

“ My sincere condolences to Pastor Germain and family. Deacon Germain was so full of life. It's hard to believe he is no longer here. Countless fond memories of him. He was always willing to help his fellow man and worked hard to make things right in all circumstances. RIP Brother Germain.

Deborah Simmonds-Omoriba - January 02, 2024 at 02:31 PM

HB

Condolences and prayers for God to grant Pastor Germain and family the strength and peace needed in this trying time. Deacon Germain was very supportive and sociable. I called him Mr fix-it because he always had a solution for whatever the problem was..Gone but not forgotten. Rest peacefully in the arms of the Sweet Deliverer

Hyacinth Bailey - January 02, 2024 at 03:04 PM

LR

My sincere condolences to Germain family God strength and comfort all the family during this time of sadness

Leticia Ramirez - January 03, 2024 at 04:51 PM

DW

My heartfelt condolences to Mrs Germain and family. Praying God's grace and covering over you all in this very difficult time.

Dr. Joan Williams - January 03, 2024 at 05:11 PM

RO

“ Daddy Germain called me his unruly child. The very thought of him brings a smile to my face. He greeted me warmly on my first visit to the church pantry and always remembered my name until I became a member of the church. He would ask if I was ok on every encounter. Every Sunday I missed I would hear "unruly child why weren't you at church". He will be missed dearly. Sleep in Peace Daddy Germain.

Roxanne - December 29, 2023 at 07:34 PM

CG

“ *Uncle Freddie was one of his nephew (Francis Germain) (Shot) favorite Uncles...Sending Condolence's and Love to all of you...my family....Grace and Mercy during this time. 🙏🙏🙏*

Celest Germain - December 29, 2023 at 03:32 PM


Diane
Hodge

My condolences, mother Germaine and family. What I knew about Daddy Germaine and my interactions with him was he was a hard and dedicated worker. He was always ready to put his shoulder to the wheel. You only had to say, Daddy Germaine, I need help, and he would help you figure it out either personally or point you in the right direction. He will be truly missed. May God's peace surround you, Mother Germaine, family, extended family and friends.

Diane Hodge - January 02, 2024 at 03:41 PM

BE

“ *Pastor Germaine, My deepest sympathy is extended to your entire family.. My God comfort and strength you all during this time of sadness..*



Bernadine - December 27, 2023 at 06:01 PM

CB

“ Dear Mother Germain and family,

Truly, Daddy Germain was a remarkable man, and I feel privileged to have known him. He had such an admirable spirit and was an inspiration to me and my family. Words cannot express how much the loss means to my family. Daddy will not be forgotten; he will always remain in our hearts and memories. I will surely not forget how much he made me laugh when his feisty character was displayed and how much I felt loved whenever he shared his kind words. He never ceased to make me smile. He was indeed special, a one-of-a-kind!

I pray you find peace amid your hurt by remembering the good times you shared over the years. May the memories of him be a source of peace and joy for you.

Please accept my heartfelt condolences for the passing of your beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, friend....our “Daddy-O”.

Cidia, Luther, and Alex

Cidia Bryan - December 27, 2023 at 03:31 PM

VB

Uncle loved to make us as children, very kind hearted and loved to SHARE. He would employ people just help them out. Uncle you will be MISSED.

Verli Bayard - December 29, 2023 at 07:27 PM

AT

“ Dear Pastor Germain, family and close friends

I was deeply saddened to hear about the loss of Deacon Germain. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Remember that your loved one is now in a better place, free from pain and suffering. They will always be with you in spirit, guiding you and watching over you from above.

May the love and support of those around you bring comfort and peace. May the memories of Deacon Germain bring joy and happiness. And may the hope of seeing him again in the afterlife give you strength and courage.

You are not alone, and I am here for you. Please reach out if you need anything.

*With love and condolences,
Sis. Adrienne Terrell*

Adrienne Terrell - December 26, 2023 at 11:36 AM

VH

“ My deepest condolences to you Pastor Germin & all your families. Pops and you were there in a time of need. Pops was like a grandpa to me, I knew he loved 😍 and cared for me and my two grandsons. I will always remember his good heart and all that he gave. He loved this drink and whenever I go to SXM had to bring him one back, and his pigfeet that he used to make, was just an island feeling took me way back, and he always asking Ve you ok and he make sure to asked me over and over yo really make sure I was. He used to encourage me about my cleaning of the church 🏛️ he used to say no one can do it like you Ve. I will remember him with his that unique smile 😊 and hard working. Ve continue to rest in God's arms 💪 until we meet up Pops 🙏❤️

Vernice Hodge - December 26, 2023 at 09:50 AM

RA

My dear sister Christ my deepest condolences to you and family. My brother is alright he was prepared to meet his saviour glory to God. This we know as the scriptures say to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. I rejoice with my brother. be comforted my sister joy will come again your saviour will let the Holy Spirit rest with you during this time.

Ruth Allen - December 26, 2023 at 12:51 PM

JA

My sincere condolences to Mother Germain on the passing of her dear husband Deacon Germain. I remember him as very kind and helpful. Rest in perfect peace.

Joyce P Anderson - December 26, 2023 at 05:23 PM

MT

*My condolences 🙏 to you and your family.
What I admire about Daddy 😊 Germin is the love and respect he had
for Bishop and pastor Jackie and the young ladies.
He was dedicated to the food pantry he has finished his task here on
earth 🌍 and is resting in the arms of his Lord may his soul rest in
peace.
Love ❤️ Mother Germaine*

Marcia & Delroy Thomas - December 27, 2023 at 04:28 PM

IC

*To pastor Jermaine and family. My sincere condolence to the family of
Deacon Germans he was faithful man of God. hard-working ,Kind ,
Willing to help you in any situation that he can,
Funny Always making me laugh. Always want to know what he can do
to help me we miss him dearly.
My prayer will continue to be with the family. for peace, comfort 🙏 and
strength in this sad time.
From min. Coke and family*

Isaiah Coke - January 02, 2024 at 04:17 PM