

'I am the resurrection and the life . . .'

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In solemn mourning the funeral service for Donald Burns Sangster, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Prime Minister of Jamaica, statesman, humanitarian, friend, Christian, was conducted in Kingston Parish Church yesterday afternoon.

The casket containing his remains lay high on dais, draped with the Jamaican Flag. And seated in several areas of the church and facing it were Their Excellencies the Governor-General, Sir Clifford Campbell, and Lady Campbell; the Hon. Hugh Shearer, the Prime Minister; and members of his Cabinet; Lady Bustamante, the President of the Senate and Senators; the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Members, the Chief Justice and the President of the Court of Appeal heading the Judiciary, High Commissioners and Ambassadors, the Leader of the Opposition, the Consular Corps., Privy Councillors, Heads of the Military and Police, Custodes, Mayors and Chairmen of Parish Councils, Government officials and members of the general populace.

Chief mourners

In a special block reserved for them were relatives of the late Knight, his chief mourners. These were Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Sangster, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Sangster, Mrs. Iris Sangster, Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Sangster, Mr. and Mrs. Astil Sangster, Mr. and Mrs. Caswell Sangster, Messrs. Derrick and Bindley Sangster, Mr. and Mrs. R. Kennedy, Mrs. E. Lindsay, Mrs. T. Latham, Miss Daphne Latham, Mrs. Hortense Moran, Miss Agnes Sangster, Mr. Tony Faloon, and his secretary of 25 years' standing, Miss Lilla Patrick.

Seats and amplifiers and television sets were provided for the vast crowds in the churchyard.

As the Anglican Bishop of Jamaica, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Percival Gibson, and his procession started up the aisle he intoned the opening words of the service: "I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord." With him were the Roman Catholic Bishop of Kingston, the Rt. Rev. John J. McEleney; the Suffragan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. John C. Swaby; the Auxiliary Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Samuel E. Carter, the Rev. M. E. W. Sawyers, chairman of the Jamaica Council of Churches; Rabbi Bernard Hooker, Archdeacon Eric L. Maxwell, Rev. Canon J. T. Clark, Rev. Canon R. O. C. King (who gave the eulogy), Rev. Robert Kemp, Rev. Austen Williams, Rev. Weeville Gordon, Rev. A. Hugh Smythe,

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Rev. Calvin Golding and Rev. Edmund G. Allsopp.

The Prime Minister read the Lesson from Revelation, Chapter 21, verses 1-7: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth..."

Eulogizing Sir Donald Sangster's contribution to this nation", the Rev. Canon King spoke of the dedication, devotion and sacrifice of the deceased, who had served his country, the Commonwealth and the world. His death was "a challenge to all Jamaicans, especially the youth of our fair land," said Canon King as he urged the congregation to emulate Sir Donald's Christian faith. "Without Christian standards Jamaica will be doomed... will lose her soul," he warned.

Prayers were then offered by the Rt. Rev. John J. McEleney and the Rev. Mr. Sawyers, Bishop Gibson afterwards enunciating the Grace.

The congregation joined in psalm and hymns. The sorrowing tones of the hymns "Sunset and Evening Star" and "Abide With Me" rose very slightly to the assurance of the 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is my Shepherd".

Leading the singing was a combined choir representative of many churches and accompanied by Mr. Gerald Lalor, organist. After the singing of the National Anthem, the cortege filed out to the music of Handel's Dead March in Saul.

First went the clergy followed by the casket borne high on the shoulders of members of the First Battalion of the Jamaica Regiment. The insignia of K.C.V.O. borne by an officer of the regiment and the Prime Minister's Standard, draped and borne by a warrant officer, followed.

Family mourners who went were followed by the official mourners, among whom were High Commissioners, Ambassadors and special representatives of overseas Governments — Mr. Muni Lal (India), Mr. William Doherty, Hon. Thurgood Marshall and Mr. Robin Vanderhoff (U.S.A.), the Hon. Lynden Pindling, the Hon. M. Butler and Mrs. James Shepherd (Bahamas), Senator Rafael Echeverria (Venezuela), Mr. Kensaku Maeda (Japan), Lord Caradon (U.K.), Mr. D. V. Walter Mr. Anthony Bodden, Mr. W. W. Connolly and Mr. M. L. Panton (Grand Cayman), the Hon. Forbes Burnham and Mr. Frank Pilgrim (Guyana), the Hon. John Compton (St. Lucia), the Hon. R. M. Bholia (Grenada), Mr. Benjamin Varon (Israel), the Hon. Maurice Sauve (Canada) the Hon. Errol Barrow (Barbados), the Hon. Kamaluddin Mohammed and Senator Carl Tull (Trinidad) and the Hon. F. C. Bryan (St. Kitts).

Other heads of churches among the congregation were the Rt. Rev. Hugh Sherlock, the Rt. Rev. S. U. Hastings, the Rev. Atherton Didier, and Col. Walter Morris and Col. George Wells of the Salvation Army.