

# A role model to be emulated

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24

Last week a great Bahamian, Sir Randol Fawkes, went to meet his maker.

We who live today have the privilege of living at a time when we could and did touch persons who made and changed the course of our history. By any yardstick, Sir Randol was such a person. We should never forget that Sir Randol changed our history in many ways prior to 1967. The initiation of the labour movement that led to the ability of persons to freely associate in trade unions was only one of such changes.

At a time when it is suggested that we need men to rise up and be "men of God", there is no question that Sir Randol was a man of God. He was a role model that our men could and should emulate.

First, he was a devoted husband and father. Lady Fawkes and he have celebrated almost 50 years of marriage. In this day of easy come easy go relationships, we must admire men and women who stick together through thick and thin, realising that there will be highs and lows in every aspect of life and trusting God to carry them safely through the lows. A cursory glance at the manner in which his children carry themselves and at their resumes tells us that valued in their home were discipline, Christian principles, education, culture, giving back to society, and family life and commitment. Each of his four children demonstrably possesses all of these qualities.

Second his was an indomitable, free, Christian spirit. This spirit was most greatly manifested in his battle for the labour movement. It was also manifested in the numerous legal

battles that he waged, many for no fee, for the downtrodden, exploited and under-privileged. Regrettably, some battles were against injustices that he suffered after numerous years of selfless contribution to his country. He and others have also recorded the battles that he fought against injustices in the party arena of politics. Without doubt, this free spirit, emanated from his worship of God in spirit and in truth.

This also enabled him to possess and express his fine sense of humour. Finally, I wish to highlight, what I regard as his most significant achievement as a political leader, that there has never been even a suggestion that Sir Randol was corrupt. In this day of cynicism about politicians, this is a stellar accomplishment. I hope that we note suggestions made about corrupt politicians even in the 1960s and 1970s. Sir Randol remained untainted by such suggestions while he was in and out of politics. Many politicians were bought off. Sir Randol publicly stated that offers were made to himself and his wife. He never succumbed to such temptation. When he made the statement, he was not looking for glory; he was simply stating that he lived within his means. He did not believe in quick fixes and free lunches.

Let us thank God that a man like Sir Randol touched our lives and changed the times. Let us also keep his family in our prayers in this time of their deep loss and let us pray for the



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peaceful repose of the soul of this indomitable free spirit who worshipped God in spirit and in truth.

Congratulations are extended to those honoured in The Queens Birthday List of Honours. At this time when we focus on the breakdown of family life, it is important that we acknowledge and build up strong Bahamian families, in the same way that we acknowledge and build up strong families from the United States and other nations. A cursory glance at their strong families and our reveals similar qualities such as: celebration and cherishing of Christian values and institutions; prominence of a good education; accent on self discipline and hard work; respect for others; good manners; commitment to service; integrity; and loyalty to family and country. Mrs. Eileen Carron was honoured for her contribution to the media (free press). I ask readers to note that her family, the Dupuch family, is by any measure, a great Bahamian family. It possesses the captioned and many other qualities. She is also to be congratulated and thanked for her commitment to family life and for acting as a role model who is an indomitable free spirit who worships God in spirit and in truth. Let us hold up some of our great Bahamian families and use them as examples of how our torn community may be rebuilt and family life reclaimed for future generations.

Finally, let us continue to pray for the speedy and complete recovery of another great Bahamian role model and indomitable free spirit who worshipped God in spirit and in truth, Archdeacon William Thompson. Let us also continue to keep in our prayers in beloved wife Rose, his mother and the rest of his family, and all families who suffer from the pain resulting from violence against their loved ones.