

## ADDRESS

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Maarten, in Anguilla, in the D.V.I., in St. Thomas, in Aruba, in Curacao.

He kept in constant touch with each superintendent in the other 11 circuits. I received a letter each week, often more. His "anxiety for", his 'care of' of the churches was something tremendous and indeed awesome. Today there are many who feel that the burden he carried was too great, that under that awful burden he collapsed. While we wish that he had shed some of that burden, while we wish that others could have shared it with him; while we wish it had not taken him from us, today we honour him for his clear sense of duty, his great passion for his work, his complete giving of himself.

William James Barrett came to these islands in 1927 and began his life's work out here at Marigot Moinica. There he was beloved and is still beloved. He later served for a short time in Nevis and St. Kitts, and for many years in St. Thomas, Aruba and Curacao. In these two Dutch islands his name is a household word and his memory will live on as long as the church remains. He then went back to Dominica to work in Roseau and to take charge of the circuit, and finally, after a brief acting appointment as Chairman he went on short furlough and returned here as Superintendent of the Circuit, and Chairman and General Superintendent of the District.

His 'anxiety for' his 'Care of' the churches, including the members of his staff. Their welfare was ever his con-

cern. A bachelor himself, he showed a great understanding of and concern for the families of his married members of staff. Those of us who are here today count it a great privilege to be here, though we never dreamed that he would go from us like this. We looked forward to receiving him back after his furlough and to have him as our colleague and friend working in one of the circuits for many years to come.

Very close and greatly loved members of his family in England have been eagerly anticipating his return next month. Our thoughts go out for them, and our prayers for them. He had planned to sail from New York on May 9th. All these plans, hopes, eager anticipations, have all been laid aside. God's plans for his faithful servant were otherwise. We are not permitted a glimpse into these plans. His orders were sealed orders. Nor dare we try to pry into the mystery. God knows his business and we must trust his purposes.

Some of us would like to believe as did the hymn writer, that our friend and Father in Christ has entered in to rest - that it is a case of:

"safe home, safe home in port."

Is it that?

Is it a case of furling sails and dropping anchor in some lovely and safe haven? Or is it rather a case of weighing anchor, the spreading of sails and the going out of the safe haven into the stormy seas of a great future in the limitless ages of time? We will have our choice. But whatever it is we know that our brother has entered into that new life with all his characteristic zeal and joy.

A little girl said to me on Friday night as a few of us talked: 'He is going to Heaven'. I turned to her and said: 'Yes, my dear, if anyone will be in heaven he will be'.

Heaven. Someone may ask of me 'Where is this place?' I do not know. But is that true. Don't I know? Yes. It is where God is. And with that knowledge I am content. There I rest my case.

With us here are the mortal remains of a very dear and loved friend and minister of the Church. We will take those remains to a spot he loved and lovingly lay them to rest in the bosom of the earth, knowing of a great surety that they are but his mortal remains. He has gone. He has winged his flight to the heart of God. And yet he is here, for God is here. And he will be in so many

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