Ohe Orinidad DRESBYTERIAN The Official Publication of The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad & Tobago August 2023



Leadership Camp

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ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

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Matthew 8:25

He Calms the

For Info: Alex Tamby: 323-3538 Stephen Kaseram: 704-3712

THE MODERATOR SPEAKS



PCTT MODERATOR, THE RIGHT REVEREND DANIEL CHANCE

Journey of F.A.I.T.H

The vacation period continues to be an exciting time for the children within the church and community. Traditionally, we have grown accustomed to Vacation Bible School (VBS) classes being conducted annually in most, if not all, of our Sunday Schools. This provides the opportunity for us to share our faith in Christ with persons of all ages, especially the children who are "beyond the walls of the church building."

The chosen theme, F.A.I.T.H. (Fantastic Adventures In Trusting Him), sought to direct and encourage our children to learn the many ways in which they can trust God with each new day. The Bible lessons taught during the week shared how God can work in and through the lives of those who truly believe that God will do what He says He will do. Our prayer is that the young ones who received these messages will grow into spiritual maturity and that they will develop a meaningful and fulfilling relationship with God. In this way, when challenges come to them, they will look to God for wisdom and strength.

As a Church, it is our responsibility to adhere to the Word of God which says to us in St. John's Gospel, 21: 15 "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" To which Simon responded, "Yes Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my lambs" (GNB). Over the years, the Ministry of the Sunday School has sought to shape young, impressionable minds. The society in which we live, the place that we call home, can only rest upon a firm faith foundation when we share with our children and others who cross our path values and principles which are biblically sound. Colossians 2: 7, states, "Keep your roots deep in Him, build your lives on Him and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught." (GNB) As one writer puts it, "Where do our spiritual leaders come from? They come from our homes."

The Church extends sincere gratitude to all those who contributed towards the success of this year's Vacation Bible School program: The Board of Christian Education, all parents, Sunday School children and teachers, our Sunday School Superintendents, Church Workers, Elders, friends of the Sunday School and supporters of Children's Ministry. May we, as we move forward into the blessings of tomorrow, encourage the Ministry of the Sunday School within each Presbyterian Church, as we continue to build upon the foundation of faith, already established in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

Beth-Rapha is an all-embracing and umbrella organization of the PCTT which is not limited by space and personnel. Its aim is to establish a religious/spiritual, bio-medical and psycho-social centre/agency, where the agency will provide interventions for healing, support, training and other services to members of the PCTT family and the wider community.



Objectives:

To minister to the religious and spiritual needs of persons.
To care for all persons who are experiencing life crises.
To collaborate with external stakeholders for intervention.

• How we are going to operate?

Services at Beth-Rapha include:

Meeting the Religious/Spiritual needs of persons

- Psycho-Social Bio-Medical
- Legal counselling
- Social Welfare advice and counselling
- Training for e.g. (Training would be made available for those who would like to serve.) Other services will be included as the project develops overtime e.g. 24 hours hotline access.

The highest quality of trained and licensed professionals in their respective fields will be engaged to ensure that those accessing these services are given the best care and that the highest level of confidentiality is maintained. To access the services of Beth-Rapha you can call the Synod's Office at 652-4829/653-4788 or email: synod@pctt.org.tt.

EDITORAL CHALLENGES FACED BY PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND CHILDREN

Congratulations to all students who recently received their SEA 2023 results, many of you would have registered at your new school and would have been taken on a tour of the school. However, since SEA 2023 results were released, one has been reading in the daily newspapers of students who have excelled despite the challenges they faced – some immediately prior to the exam, while for others challenges surfaced years before. Isaiah 64:8 (NRSVUE) encourages us to appreciate our individuality,

"Yet, Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand."

Parents and loved ones of these children must be singled out for not giving up, for accepting and facing the challenges experienced by their children and for actively seeking solutions. The teachers who did not ignore these children and included them in class activities are also to be commended, especially those who did not lose their temper.

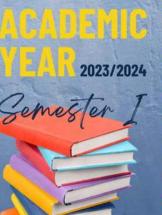
Governmental agencies are far from equipped to assist as needed. They do not have enough personnel to make early and quick diagnoses, therapists, or medication to treat the various challenges. Attention must be paid to the developmental challenges these children face so they can grow and mature into independent individuals who will not be a burden on the economy. It is time for wider recognition be given to these children with challenges so they can be integrated successfully into the school system and then as adults into society.

Parents and teachers play a critical role in recognizing the challenges faced by our young children and must act immediately. Many caregivers have adjusted their lifestyles in keeping with the challenges faced by their children. Those with the financial wherewithal seek private help and intervention and follow through with their child until the child attains a measure of independence. Unfortunately, many more parents cannot afford to be 'stay at home parents' nor can they finance long term expensive treatments and therapies.

It seems imperative that more effective planning be done at school, community, and national levels before it is too late and before it becomes burdensome and is ignored altogether. Hence, there is need for more governmental recognition of these challenges and address these issues. Society requires understanding and moral commitment from concerned citizens, not only from those whose children face challenges. Many challenges must be met if we are to create a better world for ourselves and future generations. Congratulations to our children who beat the odds and succeeded! We wish you continued success.

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\$500 (per s

NUMODICION ION ION IN THE BIBLE Lecturer: Rev. Damien Sieunarine Start Date: 4th September 2023 Day: Monday | Time: 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm

SOCIOLOGY FOR CHURCH LEADER Lecturer: Major Joseph Bridgewater Start Date: 5th September 2023 Day: Tuesday | Time: 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm

TEACHING THE BIBLE TO ADULTS Lecturer: Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah Start Date: 6th September 2023 Day: Wednesday | Time: 10 am - noon

CONSTITUTION OF THE P.C.T.T. Lecturer: Rev. Keron Khellawan Start Date: 6th September 2023 Day: Wednesday | Time: 5.30 pm - 8.30 pr

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS Lecturer: Rev. Errol Inshanally Start Date: 7th September 2023 Day: Thursday | Time: 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm

MUSIC FOR CHURCH LEADERS Facilitator: Rev. Adrian Sieunarine Start Date: 8th September 2023 Day: Friday | Time: 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm



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AUGUST 2023

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INSTALLATION OF DEACONESS ANUPA NANAN IN THE SAN JUAN/SANTA CRUZ/WOODBROOK PASTORAL REGION

Submitted by Elder Caryl Sahadath on Behalf of the Northern Presbytery

On Sunday 11th June, 2023, Deaconess Anupa Nanan, the sole Deaconess within the Northern Presbytery was installed as the Deaconess of the San Juan/Santa Cruz/Woodbrook Pastoral Region. The installation took place at a service held at the Woodbrook Presbyterian Church and was hosted by the Northern Presbytery.

Mr. Daniel Haradan, Secretary of the Presbytery, welcomed all present. He encouraged members of the region to support the work of Deaconess Nanan and extended best wishes to her for a very fruitful tenure in the region. Mr. Haradan presented Deaconess Nanan for installation and the Chairperson of the Northern Presbytery, Reverend Sanya Beharry, conducted the Act of Installation on behalf of the Northern Presbytery.

The Minister of the Region, Reverend Bjorn Warde, served as Leader of Worship, and Mr. Ranjit Boodoo, Mr. Sunil Ramkaran, P.E. Dianne Phillip-Ramjattan and P.E. Peter Babulal assisted in readings and prayers. The Message was brought by Reverend Errol Ragnauth, Minister of the Chase Village Pastoral Region. The melodious voices of the Regional Choir led by choir leader, Ms. Caryl Sahadath, filled the sanctuary and enhanced the worship session as the choir led in the various hymns and anthems. In addition, Ms. Nerissa Bacchus, member of the Woodbrook Presbyterian Church, blessed the congregation with a solo.

Mrs. Susanne Sadaphal, the Clerk of Session, brought greetings and welcomed Deaconess Nanan to the region. She stated that the region had been without the service of an appointed Deaconess for more than twenty years. As such, the region was truly thankful for the services of a Deaconess to assist with the Sunday Schools, Youth Work and Ladies Groups within the Region.

Greetings were also brought on behalf of the Synod by the General Secretary, Mr. Terrence Warde; on behalf of the South-Central Presbytery by Deaconess Amber Seesahai-Payne and on behalf of the South-Eastern Presbytery by Reverend Errol Ragnauth who read greetings sent by Deaconess Calpurnia Chance who, unfortunately, could not attend the function due to the inclement weather in South Trinidad.

In her response, Deaconess Anupa Nanan stated that she had been commissioned as a Deaconess since 24 January, 2010. She had previously served four Pastoral Regions within the Northern Presbytery: Aramalaya, Curepe/St Joseph, Arima and Sangre Chiquito. Deaconess Nanan remarked that given her training, wealth of experience, dedication for duty and willingness to serve she would provide exceptional service only through Almighty God's guidance and love. She also expressed the sentiments that she was elated to have been placed with effect from 1st May, 2023, to serve in the San Juan/Santa Cruz/Woodbrook Pastoral Region, for a period of four years.

The Northern Presbytery bestows its blessings upon Deaconess Anupa Nanan and prays that her work in the region with the various groups will be exceedingly fruitful and beneficial to the Glory of Almighty God.



105TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT RIO CLARO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Submitted by Ms. Merlene Persad (Vice Chairperson of the Local Board)

Sunday 9th July, 2023, was indeed a day which will remain embedded in the hearts of the members of the Rio Claro Presbyterian Church. Despite the rain, members began trickling into the sanctuary from as early as 6:15 a.m. to celebrate 105 years of mission and evangelism. The theme chosen to commemorate this momentous occasion was: "Remembering the Past, Embracing the Future."

The choir rendered some beautiful hymns of praise including a bhajan. A liturgical dance was done by Ms. Nelisha Mohammed, and Ms. Angelisah Khan gave a comprehensive history of the work and witness of the church. The Sacrament of Holy Communion was also celebrated.

We were blessed to have our newly appointed Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, The Right Reverend Daniel Chance, who proclaimed God's message. Reverend Chance based his message on 1st Timothy 6: 6-10 by urging each member of the congregation to always remember his/her identity in Christ and seek recognition from God, not man. He emphasized that Christ has placed his Spirit in our hearts. He is the abiding, guiding, purifying and healing power which the world needs. Reverend Chance issued the challenge that to move God's church forward, we need to work for the greater glory of God and be cognizant of what people are experiencing and their needs. The church must always be a place of refuge where burdens are lifted. We were reminded that we can only do that when we are empowered by God.

After the message, presentations and tokens of appreciation were made to Reverend Chance and a few of our youths for their commitment to building the future of the church. A celebratory cake was also cut by Elder, Mr. James Gajadhar, and Youth Group President, Ms. Andrea Maraj. Fellowship followed with a sumptuous breakfast in the church's Unity Hall. As we reflect on our legacy, we eagerly walk into the future with God as our guide.





KNOW YOUR FAITH

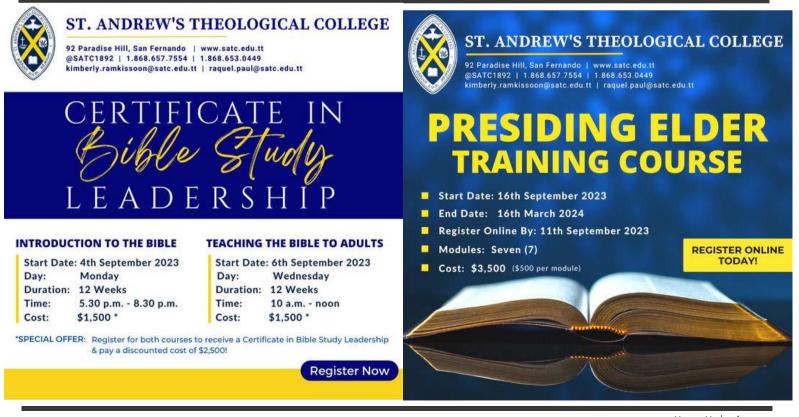
THEODICY REVEREND ADRIAN SIEUNARINE, PRINCIPAL, ST ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Why does evil exist? This question is at the heart of the branch of theology called "theodicy" which seeks to outline perspectives that explain that even though God is all-knowing (omniscient), all-good (omnibenevolent) and all-powerful (omnipotent), bad things still happen.

The Bible describes our relationship to God. Attempts to systematize the teachings of the Bible always contend with polyphonic voices delineating diverse narratives. Throughout the Bible, the sovereignty of God is emphasized in the context of mortal frailty and ignorance. In the book of Job, the reader is told about the discussion that God and Satan have, but the content of that conversation is never disclosed to Job, who instead is reminded of the glory of God and the vastness of the universe. Job is warned, as we are, against self-righteousness springing from a sense of spiritual entitlement. We cannot understand our own existence and the ways of nature, so we are utterly unable to fathom the deepest mysteries of the supernatural cosmos.

Biblical prophets emphasized individual and national roles and responsibilities. They focused on our duty to do what is good. A recurring trend in the Bible is the interconnection between theodicy and eschatology (the last things). We are called to work for what is good, and to watch, pray, and wait for God to accomplish his will on earth as in heaven.

Brian Irwin and Tim Perry recently released the insightful and inspirational book *After Dispensationalism: Reading the Bible for the End of the World* which carefully explores the origin and context of various views about the end of the world. It is a thought-provoking book to read as we receive and reflect on our calling to be "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation" (Philippians 2:15) shining like stars in a dark sky.



CRISIS IN THE FAMILY: THE BREAKDOWN IN FAMILY LIFE - PART 6 - HOME INVASION A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE THE FAMILY - HILTON R SIBOO: CONTACT: 788-2685)

As we continue considering the question, 'Has the crisis in the family led or resulted to the breakdown in family life or has the breakdown in family life in family life led to the crises of the family? - Part 6 may be a 'rant' on Home Invasion.

In every discussion on the family, we are constantly reminded that the 'family is the basic unit of society' with an over-emphasis on the nuclear family type. The responsibilities, influences, and vision of both past and future, the support by the extended family whether maternal or paternal or both and also the societal and 'community families' of religion, is there a breakdown in family life? Is this societal breakdown global? Can studies analyse the stability and instability of the family?

What then can explain the circumstances that results in migration, the 'refugee family', the 'squatter family' and the 'ghetto family?' Is it the international economic, political, and social disorders or is just the 'empire striking back' on the oppressors with their culture of war and domination that pervades even the hidden corners of the world which international and social media now livestream for everyone to see, and to mimic as an option or excuse for the choices of family existence.

Has the family now become victim to or captive prisoners of global and national, political and economic expediency? Has the external world both physically and virtually broken down the doors and walls and invaded of the family's home resulting in its breakdown, dysfunctional destruction and eventual annihilation?

Instead of the family socializing its members to go into the world with cultures, religion, morals and values, discipline, kindness, and love that create harmony and mutual coexistence, what we find are justifications and explanations for wars, crime, poverty and wealth which catapult the family, whatever it structures, into breakdown and destruction. However, whatever the challenges, there will always remain the roots of true family life, living and meaning. Would it take the destruction of the world as we know it today - when all is obliterated and consumed by the fires and brimstone of global war, nationalistic bigotry, and criminal endeavours of gangs - to have nothing left to remind that human extinction can be delayed by human family bonding. Will this bring peace, a cessation of human conflict and violence to family living once again the 'the basic unit of society?'

The evolution in the structure of the family and the roles of members certainly result in chaos and challenges. Can the family adjust and resolve these if they cannot understand the causes that contribute to the breakdown of family?

Remember, the family is not just a group or gathering without a common purpose. Never let it ever be that the family can NOT adjust and adapt as changes occur.

Don't loose faith. Hold strong. Believe, The Family Can

Encounteringthe Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago

Over recent months, two groups of students visited, and toured the CAPCTT. The F1 students and teacher of Naparima College were introduced to photos and learnt about the naming of Houses, the first three after Canadian Missionaries (CM) or missionary teachers. Flemington House was named after Flying Officer Allen S **Flemington** who died during World War 2 action on 29th April 1943. Reverend Kenneth J **Grant** was the 2nd CM who founded NC in 1894. Reverend Victor B. **Walls** was the principal from 1925 - 1953. Mr James **Sammy** was a Trinidad born descendent of East Indian immigrants who taught at Naparima College from 1910 - 1913 and 1915 until retirement in1967.

For the Venezuelan students, mostly teenage children of migrant parents, they were intrigued by the historical treasures and although finding little in their native language found that the Archives and SATC Library had resources for learning and practicing their English and for improving their experience with their English-speaking neighbour, Trinidad. They learned of the connection of the Trinidad-Venezuelan Mission of 1873 by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, USA. Unfortunately, the missionary remained in Trinidad until 1876 before he was recalled to his homeland. Some students expressed a desire to return.

What is there for you to encounter at the Archives of the PCTT?

REMINDER - VISIT AND TOURS

We remind everyone of the **OPEN INVITATION FOR THE VISIT AND TOURS** during July to August, 2023. Details were previously published in the May and June issues of *The Trinidad Presbyterian*. However, you can still be scheduled by calling the contact # below. This is your opportunity as individuals and groups – whether family, Church (VBS), Boards and Committees for the experience and an encounter with the CAPCTT.

An encounter with the Archives is an encounter with ... yourself. Hoping to be there for your 'Encountering ... the Archives'... Archivist: Reverend Ken K Kalloo, Asst Archivist: Hilton R Bill Siboo,

Contact: 652-4829 [Synod Office] and 653-4166 [SATC Library], or Visit in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.



For all the dimensions of the Eucharist to come alive it must be infused by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that takes ordinary table items and makes them more than they are. Bread becomes the Body of Christ and wine becomes the Blood of Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that fills the Church with the ability to transform lives and become the Body of Christ for the world.

Brian Gerrish summed up John Calvin's understanding of the Lord's Supper in six propositions:

- 1. "The Lord's Supper is a gift ... it does not merely remind us of a gift."
- 2. "The gift is Jesus Christ Himself." That is, the gift given is the whole Christ and not only His divine nature separated from His human nature.
- 3. "The gift is given with the signs." The signs are not empty signs but are joined with the reality they signify.
- 4. "The gift is given by the Holy Spirit." It is "the secret power of the Spirit makes the gift efficacious."
- 5. "The gift is given to all who communicate." However, the unbeliever goes away empty.
- 6. "The gift is to be received by faith." The Sacrament does not work magically, but personally to those who receive in faith.[1]

John Calvin admitted that he did not have a clear definition of the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper when he said:

"Now if anyone should ask me how this takes place, I shall be ashamed to confess that it is a secret too lofty for either my mind to comprehend or my words to declare. And, to speak more plainly, I rather experience than understand it ... In the sacred supper [Christ] bid me take, eat, and drink his body and blood under the symbols of bread and wine. I do not doubt that he himself truly presents them, and that I receive them."[2] The Lord's Supper/Eucharist is "a meal of thanksgiving" to God for the gift of creation and redemption: a meal of communion with the crucified and living Christ who is God's gift to the world; and a meal of joy and hope in the power of the Spirit who gives us new life and provides a foretaste of the great messianic banquet of the end times, when God's liberating and reconciling activity will be completed."[3]

The Lord's Supper reveals what life by the grace of God is supposed to be: a life lived together in community and love. The meaning of Christian Baptism cannot be separated from Jesus' baptism as the beginning and embodiment of His life of obedience, love, and service. In like manner, it is impossible to separate the meaning of the Lord's Supper/Eucharist from Jesus' practice of table fellowship with the poor, the sinners, and the outcast during His ministry,.

"And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him" (Mark 2:15).

"Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them'" (Luke 15:1–2).

An appropriate understanding of the Lord's Supper should include not only the present truth of communion with Christ but also the hope of the joy to come with the messianic reign of justice, freedom, and peace. The Lord's Supper/Eucharist is a clear sign and seal of God's promise of a humanity that has been emancipated and reconciled into a new heaven and a new earth. When the believing community eats and drinks at the table, they are united with Christ by the presence of the Holy Spirit and are called to share the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ with all people. All are invited to feast at the table of the Lord, particularly the poor, the sick, and the outcast.



"One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited. 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So, the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner'" (Luke 14:15-24).

When the Lord's Supper is understood in this manner, it has important significance for the Church's mission in the world today.

"And then we gathered around that table. And there was more singing and standing, and someone was putting a piece of fresh, crumbly bread in my hand, saying "the body of Christ," and handing me the goblet of sweet wine, saying "the blood of Christ," and then something outrageous and terrifying happened. Jesus happened to me."[4]

To use the words of Sara Miles, Jesus happens at the table. At the Eucharist table, Jesus is present; Jesus is in fellowship with the believing community, and He feeds us there. Jesus happens at the table in spite of the depth of our belief. When Jesus happens, lives are changed, and individuals are fed to their amazement. At the Table, God's people are nourished, there they meet Jesus the Christ; what happens at the table is pure "mystery." [5]

[1] B. A. Gerrish, Grace and Gratitude: The Eucharistic Theology of John Calvin (Eugene, OR: WIPF and Stock Publishers, 2002), 135-139.

[2] Calvin, Institutes, 4.17.32.

- [4] Stephen Edmondson, Theology Revisited: Open Table, Baptism, Church (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2015), 1.
- [5] Stephen Edmondson, Theology Revisited: Open Table, Baptism, Church (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2015), 1.

^[3] Daniel L. Migliore, Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2014), 305.

VICTORIA AVIAN RAJKUMAR (B.ED., M.ED., CERT. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING) HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD'S HOLISTIC LEARNING THIS JULY/AUGUST VACATION (J.A.V.A)?

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

By the time of this publication, thousands of children nationwide would have received the results of various performance assessments from SEA 2023 to end of term test grades. Parents and guardians would have experienced a myriad of emotions with regards to these marks and outcomes for either the academic year or the cumulative work throughout their child's primary school life. While some may be pleased with their child's performance, many others have already read their child or children the riot act for underperforming because the child did not attain the "majestic A". As such, they have already determined that the vacation will not be wasted on "frivolous childish pursuits" and have enrolled them in numerous lessons to boost performance for the coming academic year. This, although done from a place of care and concern for their child's future success, fails to consider that they are still children and should enjoy activities related to their childhood.

While academic achievement is necessary for their role in future workplaces, parents and guardians need to recognize the role they fulfil in their offsprings' success as well. Children should not be bombarded with lessons and be expected to succeed and flourish. According to 2022 scholarship winner, Anjuli Ramnathsingh, a past student of Holy Faith Convent, Penal, "Balance is key to life; academics aren't everything. You need to be an all-rounded individual, put God first in your life and venture to Him when you are in need of help." Furthermore, she indicated that she would read her Bible every single morning and try to interpret the scripture in a way that was applicable to her life.

Although extra lessons do play a part in bolstering children's academic performance, it is not the panacea or cure-all. As such, this piece is not about disparaging those who are offering lessons nor is it calling for parents to not seek their child's academic success. However, the question to ask at this time would be, "How can I support my child's holistic learning this July/August Vacation (J.A.V.A)?"

Firstly, The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago fosters the spiritual enrichment of our children and teenagers, especially during the J.A.V.A through the hosting of V.B.S at the local church level and at a national level, Sunday School and Youth Camps. These offer our children an opportunity to engage not only with the Bible in fun ways, but also with peers from a similar faith perspective. These activities afford our children and young people opportunities to develop lifelong wholesome friendships.

Some additional activities include;

•Daily reading - use a variety of texts in different formats to nurture the love of reading. For those with kids who are unable to read independently, read with and for them.

•Family board games develop critical thinking and emotional regulation.

Involve them in shopping - this will foster numeracy and literacy outcomes.

Incorporate music and art activities into the home-use the online resources on YouTube to get ideas. There are many DIY (Do It Yourself) projects that strengthen family bonds.

•Combine movies with writing, do not take away TV/movie time but let them write reviews or summaries - a sentence or two a day works wonders.

•Answer their questions, even if they are repetitive or annoying to you. Use the online resources and let them know when you are unsure about something. Search online together to find the necessary answers.

•GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY! According to Piaget, "Play is the work of children." And Fred Rogers purported, "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning." Here in Trinidad and Tobago, we have many outdoor activities and experiences that can be enjoyed.

Freedom at last! A poem by Caroline Sampath,	Aramalaya Presbyterian Church	
From the belly of the ship came the haunting sound,	Though they suffered years of pain,	
Laboured breath, hearts that pound!	They never forgot from whence they came.	
Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide,	Traditions and heritage from generations past,	
Despair and distress with every turn of the tide.	Freedom was coming, freedom at last!	
They lost everything which once they possessed,	Out of the bondage of slavery they became	
Save their resilience, but even that was put to the test.	Free from the horrors that brought them shame.	
Their families bartered, and sold off,	Out of the shackles which once held them tight,	
Yet through it all, they were diamonds in the rough.	Into the radiance of God's Holy Light!	

THE TRINIDAD PRESBYTERIAN



Composting is a practise that has been around for many years. It was highly depended upon by the Greeks, Romans and Egyptians as a means of creating highly fertile gardens. Compost, is a mixture of ingredients, usually brown and green ingredients, used to fertilize and improve the soil. It is commonly prepared by decomposing plant waste, food waste and recycling organic materials. The resulting mixture is rich in plant nutrients and beneficial soil organisms.

Food scraps and yard waste together currently make up more than 30 percent of what we throw away from our homes and could be composted instead. You can create your own compost heap for your home garden or for your commercial garden. The compost heap comprises layers of brown materials and green materials with proper aeration. You can use fruits and vegetables, eggshells, tea bags, shredded newspaper, cardboard, paper, grass clippings, houseplants, hay, straw and leaves in as ingredients in your compost heap. Do not use materials such as dairy products, raw meat and diseased plants in the compost heap.

The use of compost has many benefits to your soil and overall garden. Compost helps bind clusters of soil particles which provide good soil structure. Compost helps sandy soil retain water and nutrients making the soil more appropriate for growing crops. It can also loosen tightly bound particles in clay or silt soil so roots can spread, water drain and air penetrate. Compost can hold nutrients tight enough to prevent them from washing out, but loosely enough so plants can take them up as needed and finally, compost makes any soil easier to work.

Scientifically, compost bacteria break down organics into plant available nutrients making the soil highly rich in primary and secondary nutrients needed for plant growth. Some bacteria convert nitrogen from the air into a plant available nutrient. The composted soil has lots of beneficial insects, worms and other organisms that burrow through soil keeping it well aerated. The benefits of compost are endless and let's not forget it's an absolutely free method of obtaining rich quality soil for your garden.

BEYOND INDENTURESHIP, INDO-TRINIDADIAN ENTREPRENUERS



The Synod office is grateful to Dr. Rupert Indar (Sr.) of Southern Medical Clinic who on 25th May, 2023 donated 115 copies of "Beyond Indentureship Indo-Trinidadian Entrepreneurs" which were received by General Secretary Terrence Warde and Immediate Past Moderator Rev Joy Abdul-Mohan.

Written by Trinidadian born, Canadian based, global business strategist, Hemraj Ramdath, the inspirational book, charts the success stories of numerous family-owned Indian businesses in Trinidad and Tobago.

THE CONFERENCE ON THEOLOGY IN THE CARIBBEAN TODAY (CTCT) 2023 SUBMITTED BY STEPHANIE BALDEOSINGH



The Conference on Theology in the Caribbean Today (CTCT) 2023 was held in Grenada during the period of June 26th - June 30th. I was blessed to represent the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago in this ecumenical space, and to present my Paper titled "Breaking Tides, Reshaping Land; Living in a World Shaped by the Pandemic - a Youth Perspective on Socio-Economic Issues in Poverty and Access to Education". I am grateful to the Local Board of Aramalaya Presbyterian Church, the St Andrew's Theological College and the organizers of the Conference for their financial support through which my attendance was fully funded.

The majority of the Conference was held at the St. Martin Retreat Centre, located in Grenville. Most of each day was spent in panel discussions and lectures. I was able to participate by contributing ideas and by my probing questions, which brought clarity to me and to other young persons in attendance.

The following are brief summaries of each day:

Day 1 – Welcome and Introductions, Opening Service (held at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Grenville) and the Opening Ceremony and Founder's Lecture. I participated in the Service by reading the Old Testament Scripture, and by sharing ideas and youth perspectives.

Day 2 – An address from the President of the Senate of Grenada; four panel discussions and lectures; and an Anniversary Service for the Bishop of Grenada's 47 years of Priestly Ordination (a Trinidadian, Bishop Father Clyde Harvey). I participated in the service by providing musical accompaniment through impromptu guitar playing. I also contributed to different panel discussions.

Day 3 – Five panel discussions, all held at the Kirani James Stadium, St. George's. The last panel was a youth panel which comprised four youths – two representing Trinidad and two representing Grenada. I presented on the paper that I wrote for the conference – "Breaking Tides, Reshaping Land; Living in a World Shaped by the Pandemic – a Youth Perspective on Socio-Economic Issues in Poverty and Access to Education".

The link to the youth panel can be found here: <u>https://fb.watch/lsplgtIWiE/?</u> <u>mibextid=RUbZ1f</u>

Day 4 - The CTCT, myself included, participated in a local parish's celebration of "Fisherman's Birthday", also known as the "Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul" - a Roman Catholic tradition that involves the special blessing of fishermen - both their trade and their boats. We attended a service presided over by the Bishop of Grenada. This was held at St. Peter's Catholic Church in the picturesque coastal village of Gouyave. I joined in the 15minute processional from the Church to a beach, De Lance Bay, where boats and fisherfolk were blessed. Later that day. we were taken on a yacht tour where

we visited the "Grenada Underwater Sculpture Park".

Day 5 - The CTCT facilitated the final two lectures and panel discussions of the week, and then, a closing business meeting where plans for the next upcoming conference in 2025 were made. Overall, I feel so blessed that I was given the opportunity to attend and to participate in the CTCT 2023. Being the only Presbyterian at the Conference, I was able to learn so much about other Christian traditions, as well as informally teach so much about ours as well. I was proud to hear of the work of our own Reverend Dr. Idris Hamid who contributed to the establishment of this Conference. emanating from the Caribbean Conference of Churches. Being one of the youngest persons to attend, I was able to learn so much from my elders, while also providing new perspectives and ideas ลร а youth/student. I have now gained new relationships with many people who share a common need, and with common goals regarding the growth of the

Christian Church within the Caribbean. I have gained experience and knowledge that I will always want to share, a new network of support persons, and memories to last a lifetime. All Glory be to Jesus!



KELLY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 90TH ANNIVERSARY Submitted by Susan Ragbir

Kelly Presbyterian Church began in 1933 under the shade of a famous mango tree, where the St. David's RC School and Holy Family RC church are presently situated. Kelly Presbyterian Church's congregation celebrated the glorious milestone of its 90th anniversary on the 11th June, 2023, joining them in a Thanksgiving Service in the beautifully structured sanctuary were people from the various churches in the community and the Pastoral Region.

Enhancing the service were the melodious voices of soloists: Mr. James Seecharan, and Ms. Faith Changa. Dynamic saxophonist, Mr. Jamie Ghany, uplifted our worship, and Ms. Adrienne Baptiste performed a Liturgical dance proclaiming "The Goodness of God." Mr. Nicolai Ali on the steelpan with organist, Ms Zara Lackhan, led in songs of praise, beginning with "I have decided to follow Jesus" in English and Hindi as members rededicated themselves to the Master's service.

Reverend Adrian Sieunarine, in his profound sermon on the theme, "Follow Me" from Genesis 12: 1 – 9 and Matthew 9: 9 - 13, captivated the congregation with his powerful sermon resonating that the structure of the church was built by people through their love of God and their love of worship. He emphasised that it is about the people and, moreover, about the presence of God within the people.

We saw this manifested in a major project that was undertaken in 1995, where Mr. Doyle Seunarine piloted a project together with the congregation to build a home for a member who became paralysed after an accident. It was the intent of the congregation, their commitment to God and to one another, and the presence of God within them that guided their hearts and minds to perform such a noteworthy project. Kelly Presbyterian Church grows in unity as a community of believers, in fellowship and with faith in the Lord, in themselves and with one another with the presence of God within them with each step taken.

Special tokens of appreciation were presented to some persons and a meal was served to everyone at the end of the service.

The Kelly congregation noted with sadness as they remembered that in January 2023, Reverend Anthony Rampersad left this earthly life as he joined the cloud of witnesses.

We are thankful to the Northern Presbytery and Interim Ministers who guide us. With God's grace, may the Kelly Presbyterian Church continue to be empowered as faithful stewards in Christ's service.





AKASHBANI PCW SIP & PAINT FUNDRAISER AT SIPARIA Submitted by M. Singh

"It is more blessed to give than to receive". (Acts 20: 35)

These are not just words to the members of Akashbani PCW as May 2023 marked one year since they launched their outreach program (a \$5 gift box) to assist underprivileged school children within the community.

As a means of generating more funds towards the program, the group hosted its first ever Sip and Paint Fundraiser on Sunday 25th June at the church's compound. Members chose this event due to its growing popularity nationwide and to use this opportunity to step away from the usual fundraising ideas. The event was held upstairs the recently renovated Christian Education Center where patrons were welcomed to a windy and relaxing atmosphere. The use of a decorated beautifully backdrop. placement of original art pieces around the room, and soothing instrumental selections helped set the tone for the afternoon. With clear and informative instructions from Tracy Villafana, the Instructor, patrons were able to produce their own unique masterpiece of a Moonscape. Additionally, they were able to enjoy a variety of light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages during and after the painting session. In the end, the event provided a fun and creative experience where people came together socialize, unwind, and express to themselves through art, all for a worthy cause.

Special thanks to the members of the Local Board, the congregation, and the community for supporting this venture and for contributing to the further success of this outreach program. And to this end I urge you to remember, "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25: 40).



ODP & PRIFS

RIVERSDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY AND FUN DAY 2023

Submitted by Jeneal Samaroo

It was a glorious Saturday morning in June when the congregation of the Riversdale Presbyterian Church assembled for their Annual Fun and Family Day. It was the first after 3 years and much anticipation and excitement filled the air.

First order of business was an Opening Prayer led by our Presiding Elder, Mr. Rawle Ramlogan.

If we can add another word to Fun and Family Day, it will be Food. Not only did our Chairman of the Local Board/ in house chef, cook a delicious pot of pelau on site, but many members brought mouth-watering treats to share. It was wonderful to see the fellowship.

We had many indoor games/challenges such as Ring Toss, Bible Trivia, a Chant Off and an Impromptu Talent Show. The church's walls reverberated with laughter and melodious renditions, there were also some back up dancing and fun fact learning.





The evening would not have been complete without some classic energetic activities. It was truly thrilling and heart-warming to see everyone, adults and children, playing together. Races ranged from filling the bottle with a punctured cup to the beloved musical chairs. There was no shortage of excitement.

With grateful hearts, we remain in awe of God's love and guidance on that day and always. All in all, it was a truly a blessed day spent together as a family in Christ.

SAMMY'S PRIVATE CAPE TUTORING SEPTEMBER 2023 REGISTRATION THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WILL BE OFFERED ONLINE	SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO OU COMUNICATION STUDIES SANJANA RAMINATH: NAPARIMA GIRLS HIGH SCHOC VAREANN ROOFINARINE: NAPARIMA GIRLS HIGH SCHOC	
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SERVICES PROVIDED Essay writing tips and corrections Extensive past papers reviews Detailed notes and handouts Marked assignments S.B.A guidance		PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIT 2 BRIANNA MODESTE: NAPARIMA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL REANNA RAMNANAN: NAPARIMA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL CHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2023 MEDAL: HOLY FAITH CONVENT COUVA ISABELLA MUNGAL RENESA JOSEPH,
Every year, students benefit from these classes by earning a scholarship, or ranking on the C.A.P.E. regional merit list for various subjects jason sammy jason_samsam jasonsammy88 CONTACT: 794-8865/707-0967/772-5467	AKSHAY RAMLOGAN ANGELINA SIEW ANJILI PERSAD ARI RAMINARINE CHRISTIAN SEECHARAN DARIAN RAMJITSINGH DAVID BICKRAM OF ESHA MAHADEO	JURSER RÖRERTIS SAKSH KUSHWAH KANARA RICHARDS SHAILA RAMDHAN KAYLA JOSEPH SHANE MARRICHARAN MIA WELCH SHVETA BACHAN MERCEDIS JERVIS SONJA MARAJ MICHAELA GARCIA TAHIRAH SHEPPARD TINILLAMURTI MAHABIR TAAHIRA KHAN REINELLE RAJKUMAR SHAI-AN LEE WEN RENESSA RAMSINGH ZAYDEN RAMKISSOON

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"THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE" AT CHANDERNAGORE PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SUBMITTED BY NANDY RAMSAROOP

On June 16th 2023, students at the Chandernagore Presbyterian Primary School welcomed members of Republic Bank. Over the past few weeks, the school introduced environmentally sustainable habits to its students. This initiative comes in partnership with Republic Bank's "Power to Make a Difference" programme. The bank's Legal Services and Corporate Affairs Departments have been working closely with the school to teach about and promote food and recycling among the

students. The impact of the programme has had visible changes to the school. There has been the implementation of recycling bins. There are also more flowering plants and greenery. The students have begun a plant nursery, where each class level is responsible for a different vegetable. Most notable is the eco-shed commissioned by Republic Bank. This shed was built to provide an area for the recycling bins and plant nursery and to give students a quiet, shady space to learn about sustainability and the environment.

The shed was opened with a small, interactive ceremony held on June 16th. The programme began with an opening prayer lead by Presiding Elder, Mrs Dianne Ramjattan.

The students were then addressed by Tisha Marajh, Senior Manager and Group Sustainability Officer at Republic Bank. Ms. Marajh spoke on the importance of sustainability and expressed her gratitude to the school for allowing her team to conduct this project. Additionally, in attendance from Republic Bank were Mr. Safraz Hussain, Legal Services (Senior Manager) and Ms. Ashlee Partap, Legal Services (Manager). The members in attendance had the opportunity to help the Infant 1 students as they displayed their crops from the plant nursery. Members, who assisted in making this project possible, but were not present were Ms. Kimberly Erriah-Ali, Group General Counsel; Ms. Andrea de Matas, Legal Services (Manager); and Ms. Dyan Wellington, Legal Services (Manager).

The ceremony closed with heartfelt gratitude from the school's acting principal, Mrs Donna Mungal-Pulwarty. She thanked Republic Bank on behalf of the staff and students. Mrs Mungal-Pulwarty also asked the students to extend a hearty "Thank you" to Republic Bank. The gratitude was evident in the students' screams. The students are excited to be a part of this project. They make conscious efforts to recycle their bottles and care for their plants and the environment. The changes inspired by the "Power to Make a Difference" programme are greatly appreciated, by both staff and students of Chandernagore Presbyterian Primary.





THE TRINIDAD PRESBYTERIAN

ANUGRAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PAYS TRIBUTE TO HONORARY ELDER MRS PAMELA JAGDEO

SUBMITTED BY BELLA SOOKNANAN, SECRETARY - ANUGRAH LOCAL BOARD. The News/Print/Publication Committee wishes to apologise for running this article in the July Edition with the incorrect heading. It is re-run here with the correct information and relevant pictures.

It is with a deep sense of pride that the congregants of Anugrah Presbyterian Church pay tribute to our hard working and beloved Honorary Elder, Mrs. Pamela Jagdeo. Mrs Jagdeo, seventy six years of age is a cherished servant of God. She has demonstrated true leadership. Her service extends beyond the walls of the church as she encompasses everyone with her genuine love, friendship, compassion and humility.

Mrs. Jagdeo started her faith journey at the Green Memorial Presbyterian Church in California where she was baptised. Four (4) years later, she moved to Calcutta Settlement, Road No 1. She was encouraged to join the Sunday School at Anugrah by her brother-in-law, the late Mr. David Bickram, an elder of the church.

After many years of church attendance, she became a Sunday School teacher. She later became secretary of the Local Board, a position she held for over 20 years. During this time, she became an Elder which spanned more than 25 years. She also served in the Women's group, the PCW, in the role Secretary and Treasurer.



She was a member of the choir and the famous Calcutta Bhajan group which she still leads. She served on the Board of Women and Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education. She welcomed those new and exciting challenges and served to the best of her ability.

Mrs. Jagdeo was elevated as an Honorary Elder at a service held on Sunday 21st August, 2022. This title is deserving of one who has dedicated her life and service to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and is reflected in her daily living.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful woman of God in our midst and we wish to thank her for her years of service and dedication. As she continues her faith journey, we pray that Almighty God will bless her life with peace, love, health and happiness in abundance.



THE TRINIDAD PRESBYTERIAN

LEARNING WITH TIMOTHY

SUBMITTED BY PRESIDING ELDER GEORGE SAMMY

Of the many individuals in the New Testament, I feel particularly close to Timothy; Timothy learned his sincere faith from his Grandmother Lois and his Mother Eunice, while the two people most responsible for my Christianity are my Grandmother Ivy and my Mother Myrtle. In this article, I will explore four lessons that we can all learn with Timothy.

Lesson 1 - Teaching our Children

Timothy was a Christian of mixed heritage who lived in Lystra – his father was Greek and his mother, Jewish (Acts 16:1). Timothy had been taught Christianity from a young age (2 Timothy 3:15), and he had sincere faith like his mother and grandmother before him (2 Timothy 1:5). In teaching Timothy their faith, these two women were obeying Proverbs 22:6, *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* (All Bible Verses are from the New King James Version except where otherwise indicated.) And as he learned his Christian lessons, Timothy obeyed Proverbs 1:8-9, *"My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother."* In Ephesians 6:4, Paul gives a similar instruction to all fathers, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." Clearly, it is the duty of each Christian parent to teach his/her children the Christian faith.

Lesson 2 - The Role of Young People

Attitudes to the participation of young people in our Presbyterian Church vary. In some churches, youths are encouraged to accept responsibilities and take an active part in services. In others, young people are expected to "wait their turn." Timothy was relatively young when he began his work with Paul, and it seems he faced some push-back on that score. But in 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul instructs him, "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." This instruction is relevant both to the young people in our churches, as well as our older members. We should not push our young people to the background, but instead we should allow them to display their belief in the Word, good conduct, love, spirit, faith, and purity.

3. Engage in Active Service:

Ours is a multi-religious, multi-cultural society, so we see different religious beliefs all around us; and there are sometimes efforts to bring "other" beliefs into our Presbyterian churches. Paul and Timothy faced a similar situation, and guarding against false teachings is a common thread in Paul's letters to Timothy. Timothy was asked to stay in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3) in order to stop those who were teaching false doctrines. Later (1 Timothy 4:1), Paul conveys the Holy Spirit's warning that some people will abandon their faith, obey lying spirits and follow the teachings of demons.

True teaching is found in the Bible, since "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). False teaching is any doctrine that does not agree with Jesus Christ's words (1 Timothy 6:3), and false teachers show the outward form of our religion but reject its real power (2 Timothy 3:5). Equally important, we must avoid teachers who simply tell us what we want to hear (2 Timothy 4:3).

Lesson 4 - Self-Control

If the international Presbyterian Church adopted a motto, it would probably be 1 Corinthians 14:40, "Let all things be done decently and in order." This requires self-control. Paul indicates that Church Leaders should be sober, self-controlled, and orderly (1 Timothy 3:2), and church workers should "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Timothy 2:22). We should also, "... you must keep control of yourselves in all circumstances ..." (2 Timothy 4:5, Good News Translation).

So, self-control is important, but where do we get it? Not from our own intellectual strength, nor from our own purity. Rather, "... *the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, His Spirit fills us with power, love and self-control*" (2 Timothy 1:7, Good News Translation). Thus, self-control is given to us by the Holy Spirit, and it makes us better Christians.

A Lagniappe

To close this article, let me share two of the many lessons that I learned from my grandmother and my mother, on prayer and dedication. My grandmother was a great believer in prayer, and she prayed aloud each night. Her prayers were simple and direct - she brought her cares to the Lord. I now realize that "simple and direct" is a good formula for praying - God responds to sincerity in our prayers.

From my mother I learned dedication. She began playing music in church at the age of nine and continued right up to her passing at age 83. That's a total of 74 years!! Quite simply, she was the Music Lady of the PCTT. This lifetime of service was very much a part of Mummy's life and personality, even though she rarely commented on it. But we can all learn from her dedication, an example well worth emulating.

Conclusion:

These, then, are four lessons we can learn with Timothy as we read our Bibles, along with two extra lessons from my grandmother and my mother. As we go forward in our Christian lives, let us teach our religion to our children, work more closely with the young people in our Churches, adhere to true teaching, exercise self-control, pray simply and directly and be dedicated in our Church work; and in all of this, let us seek and listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

MRS VERA MAHABIR CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

SUBMITTED BY PE AASHA MAHABIR

Mrs Vera Toolsie Mahabir celebrated her 100th birthday with a Thanksgiving Service at her home on July 1st. 2023. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, Reverend Kelvin Sookhansingh and Rev Shirvan Siloch joined with her three surviving children: Aasha, Glen and Steve, seven of her nine grandchildren, relatives and friends to give God thanks for her long and productive life.

Mrs. Mahabir worshipped all her life at the Morning Star Presbyterian Church in the Oropouche Pastoral Region. She was in church on Mother's Day, 2023. Her family thanks Morning Star and the Oropouche Pastoral Region for their good wishes and congratulations. She believes in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (English Standard Version). She brought up her five children and grandchildren to have faith and trust in the Lord through her example.



She still prays the first thing upon waking up and before falling asleep at night. Her mother,

Mrs Jane Toolsie, instilled in her children allegiance to the Presbyterian Church. Her grandfather, Edward Tulsee/Toolsi, who came from India was a "Native Assistant" or catechist with Reverend K.J. Grant and Reverend S. A. Fraser in the San Fernando Field in 1893, as the records in the Archives show.

She is fondly addressed as 'Ma' or 'Aji' by those who know her in the village and at Morning Star. The villagers remember her kindness towards them. She would share whatever she baked or reaped with them.

Her children, daughters in law, grandchildren and surviving sister, Mrs Nora Ramnarine, are all blessed to have her with us to join in family gatherings and celebrations.

All glory and praise to God for life.

ETERNAL LIGHT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S VBS 2023



Bestive Constitution LIVING AN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN LIFE- WALKING THE TALK FOR OTHERS AND OURSELVES Submitted by elijah motieram, mba, elder - arima presbyterian church

Being a good Christian entails more than just attending church services or claiming to follow Christ or being on a Church Board or Committee. It involves a genuine commitment to embody the teachings of Jesus Christ in our daily lives, both in our interactions with others and in our personal relationship with God. This note explores how we can be true followers of Christ, not only for the benefit of those around us or our own agenda but for genuine spiritual growth. James1:22- 27 states how to be a doer.

1. Embrace Personal Transformation: (EPT)

To walk the talk as a Christian, self-reflection and personal transformation are crucial. Recognize that being a good Christian starts from within. Regularly assess your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviours against the teachings of Christ as cited in Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Identify areas where you honestly fall short and seek God's guidance to make necessary changes. Don't blame others for your actions. Remember, genuine Christianity is about continuous growth and becoming more Christlike.

2. Cultivate a Christ-Centred Character: (CCCC)

Developing a Christ-centred character requires aligning our values and actions with the principles found in the Bible. We cannot want to be like Christ and then serve a worldly requirement. Matthew 6: 24 states, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." Strive to incorporate virtues such as love, compassion, humility, forgiveness, and integrity into your daily life. Treat others with kindness and respect even though it challenges your inner core, demonstrate the unconditional love that Christ exemplified. Be mindful of your words, treat them as tools for encouragement, upliftment, and to spread the gospel.

3. Engage in Active Service:

Authentic Christianity extends beyond personal devotion and spills over into serving others selflessly. Look for opportunities to serve and bless those around you, especially the less fortunate. Volunteer your time, talents, and resources to charitable causes, reach out to those in need with empathy and compassion. By serving others, we emulate Christ's servant heart and bring His message of salvation to life.

4. Prioritize Prayer and Scripture Study:

Nurturing a vibrant relationship with God is essential for walking the talk as a Christian. Make prayer a regular part of your day, seek guidance, strength, and wisdom from the Lord. Dive into the Bible, study its teachings and apply its principles to your life. A well-nourished spiritual life enables you to draw closer to God, align your actions with His will, and become a living testimony of His grace and truth.

5. Foster Authentic Community:

Christianity is not meant to be lived in isolation. Engage in fellowship with other believers, become active in the church or small group where you can grow spiritually and encourage one another. Sunday School, Youth Group, PCW or create your own group that serves the vested interest of God's calling with the parameters of the policies of the church. Surround yourself with like-minded individuals who inspire and challenge you to live out your faith authentically. Through shared experiences and accountability and commonality, you can support one another in walking the talk as Christians.

Being a good Christian requires more than mere words or external appearances. It necessitates a genuine commitment to personal transformation, cultivate a Christ-centred character, active service, prioritize prayer, and Scripture study, and foster authentic community. By embodying the teachings of Jesus Christ, both in our interactions with others and in our personal lives, we become true ambassadors of His love and grace. Walking the talk as a Christian benefit not only those around us but also deepens our own spiritual journey and draws us closer to God.



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THE TRINIDAD PRESBYTERIAN



NORTHERN PRESBYTERY'S DEDICATION SERVICE OF SCIENCE BLOCK AND CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE AT ST. AUGUSTINE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

Submitted by Elder Shelley-Ann Ali-Ragbir, Northern Presbytery

'By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. Augustine Girls' High School "Proverbs 24: 3-4

St. Augustine Girls' High School (SAGHS) first opened its door on September 19, 1950, to provide holistic educational services and positive learning foster а environment so as to improve the lives of young ladies in our country. Throughout its 73 years of existence, this institution has produced many individuals who have served and continue to serve in various fields with pride and distinction. SAGHS' Legacy in Field of Education is the attributed to the Dedication and Visionary Leadership provided by its administrators through the years. Leadership which imparted and nurtured strong Christian and Moral Values with the emphasis on the School's Motto: "Per Adua Ad Astra". the hallmark of Teaching and Learning at the institution.





Members of the Northern Presbytery infront of the Joanne Mahadeo Science Block

To provide opportunities in Creative Arts and careers in the Field of Science, Mrs. Kathleen Anderson, pursued the dream of expanding the Creative Arts and Science Departments. She received the approval of the PSSBOE and the Ministry of Education which agreed to the construction of a Creative Arts Centre and a new Science Block comprising 9 Science laboratories. Ms. Joanne Mahadeo succeeded Mrs. Anderson and continued this project. Mrs. Linda Dharrie, the subsequent and the last appointed principal of the school, had a testing time as construction was halted for a while. However, construction resumed after a few years, and under her tenure the building was completed. In 2022, under the leadership of Acting Principal, Mrs. Annu Ramphalie-Motilal, the buildings were formally opened and commissioned by the Minister of Education, Dr. Nyan Gatsby Dolly, at a ceremony held by the Ministry of Education, with the Creative Arts Centre being named after former teacher - Mrs. Jennifer Beckles and the Science Block after Former Principal -Ms. Joanne Mahadeo. Mrs. Motilal subsequently ensured that the buildings were ready for use. At the time of commissioning, the keys were not handed over by the MOE to the school so that teachers and students could have access to the facilities.

With the receipt of the keys by the present Acting Principal, Mrs. Bonnie Bissoon- Gosine, in April 2023, the Northern Presbytery held a Service of Dedication on Thursday 29th June, 2023, to dedicate the buildings to the Glory of God. The Service was held in the Anna Mahase Auditorium. Mr. Daniel Haradan, Secretary of the Northern Presbytery, welcomed all to the Service. The school's Chaplain, Reverend Cynara Dube-Khan, served as Leader of Worship and the Reverend Dr. Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan delivered the message based on Nehemiah 12:27-30.

Greetings were brought by stakeholders of the School: on behalf of the P.S.S.B.O.E. by the School's Manager - Mr. Thompson; the PTA- Mrs. Sambucharan; Alumni- Ms. Nikecia Moore-Burrowes; Member of Parliament for St Augustine -Ms. Khadijah Ameen; and by the General Secretary of Synod - Mr. Terrence Warde. At the end of the Worship and Greeting Session, the assembly congregated at the buildings where the Act of Dedication of the Buildings was conducted by the Chairperson of the Northern Presbytery, Reverend Sanya Beharry.

The Northern Presbytery gives thanks to the Almighty God for the availability of these buildings and the promotion of God's will for Education to all the students who would pass through the hallowed halls of St. Augustine Girls' High School.

The Northern Presbytery extends blessings to the Principal, Staff and Students for a truly bright and rewarding future and pray that the light of St. Augustine Girls' High School continues to shine brightly throughout the Nation and the Universe through its students and may many come to know of God's love and give him the honour and praise for the blessings received.

NATIONAL U - 12 MIXED TEAM CHAMPIONS ROCHARD DOUGLAS PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL SUBMITTED BY SPORTS MASTER MR EDDISON SURAJBALLI (RDPS)

The finals of the under 12 mixed team primary school cricket competition promised to be a contest of titans as the south champions Rochard Douglas Presbyterian School faced off against Northern Champs Madras Government Primary school. Rochard Douglas won the toss and elected to insert Madras Government to bat first.at the end of the fifth over Madras seemed set to mount a massive total with the score on 41 for the loss of 2 wickets.

The Rochard Douglas bowling attack started the second half of the innings with a resolve to win and took the remaining 6 wickets in the third ball of the eighth over, ending their innings on a score of 57. Leading the bowling attack for Rochard Douglas was Raashed Mohammed who conceded 8 runs and taking 2 wickets in 2 overs and Khaveer Maharaj who took 3 wickets and conceeded 2 runs in 5 deliveries. Leading the batting with 16 runs was Aidan Hamilton who was the only player on the Madras side to get to double digits with a score of 16. With a target of 58 runs to be gotten in 10 overs Rochard Douglas the Rochard Douglas batters seemed to be in trouble three quick wickets fell in the first four overs restricting the run rate to only 15. In the fifth over Rochard Douglas skipper Jaden Sankar and Rahul Ramoutar punished the bowler to add 23 runs to the score. This shifted the momentum and Rochard now needed 20 runs in four overs to win the game. In a nail biting final over Skipper Jaden Sankar was run out on the third ball of the last over with the scores tied on 57.



Facing for Rochard Douglas Presbyterian batter Dianne Basmatee hit the ball to score the final run with only one ball remaining. Rochard Douglas Presbyterian School won by 3 wickets. Commendable bowling performances for Madras bowlers Josiah Joseph who conceded 3 runs bowling 2 overs and Ashmir Jumaden who conceded 5 runs taking 2 wickets in 2 overs. Leading the batting for Rochard Douglas Presbyterian was skipper Jaden Sankar with 27 runs and Rahul Ramoutar with 11 runs. Jaden Sankar was awarded man of the match. Special thanks goes out to the member of the supervisory division of the Ministry of Education from both Victoria Education District represented by Rochard Douglas Presbyterian School and Caroni Education District represented by Madras Government Primary School. Special recognition to Mr Kenneth Samuel, Chairman of the National Primary Schools Cricket League and Mr. Azard Mohammed, Vice Chairman of the league who organized the competition and encouraged the development of cricket at the Primary school level across Trinidad and Tobago.



THE TRINIDAD PRESBYTERIAN

AUGUST 2023

IERE HOME NURSERY SCHOOL GRADUATION 2023



IERE HOME NURSERY SCHOOL (Founded by the Presbyterian Board of Women 1980) Tramline Street, Princes Town. 780-0577





IERE HOME NURSERY Registration is open!

What we offer

 Beautiful & clean learning environment
 Spacious Classrooms
 Visual & Audiovisual learning
 Exciting & fun learning activities
 Appealing area for fun games
 Field trips, camps & other events throughout the year





Information

School Fee: \$1200.00 per term

Mrs. Ruth Ramrattan-Hosein (Principal) 786-6377

Email: ierehomenursery156@gmail.com Graduation 2023 was a historical moment in time for the lere Home Nursery School.

It marked the retirement of Mrs. Priscilla Jute who served as Principal for 14 years and the beginning of Mrs. Ruth Ramrattan- Hosein's tenure as the new principal at the ECCE Institution.

The Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, the Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance, was the Guest Speaker. He spoke to the children about the importance of proper upbringing and simple etiquette displayed when interacting with people around them on a daily basis. Teachers and Administrators were thanked for their dedication and commitment over the years. The graduating classes of 2023 were able to sing the National Anthem, recite their prayer, sing choruses, dance, and listen attentively to instructions when it came to their turn to collect awards and special prizes. The beautiful smiles on their faces were indeed priceless.

Parents were elated and thanked the staff for the teaching and learning activities carried out at this noble ECCE Centre.

Special thanks to the Board of Women for ensuring the facilities are maintained and for continuing the work of the Presbyterian Church within the community of Princes Town and beyond.

TRANSFORMATION AT IERE HOME NURSERY SCHOOL

lere Home Nursery School, Princes Town, was started in1986 by the Board of Women. This ECCE institution is a non- profit organization for children between the ages of 3 - 5. It has moulded the lives of many, especially the less fortunate, by helping needy parents with books and uniform.

Recently, Mrs. Angeli Drene Celli attached to Grace Family Ministries Church, USA, contacted the lere Home Nursery school through the recommendation of Reverend Cynara Dube-Khan. Pastor Adam and his team arrived on July 4th, 2023, and worked with gusto and great team spirit to complete the work so they could meet with the preschoolers the following day.

Mrs. Celli and her group did the preparations for the transformation of the interior of the building, they were ably assisted by the Principal and Staff.

The interior was painted with murals to enhance the entrance and back wall with a large welcome sign, new furniture were provided for students, ceiling tiles were replaced, a new television set was procured and an attractive colourful play area was created.

This team of thirty members from various age groups returned to the school the next day at 8.15 a.m. and spent the morning doing a VBS session with the children. Everyone had a fantastic experience singing, dancing, saying bible verses, viewing a puppet show and engaging in craft activities. This was indeed an awesome experience for all present.

lere Home Nursery School feels honoured to have been chosen by Grace Family Ministries Church as part of its outreach program.





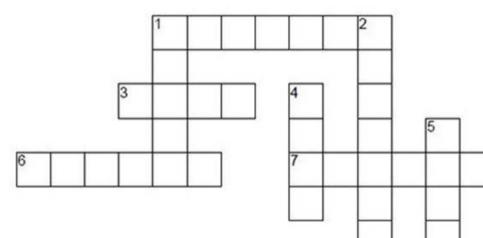
Hi kids! This month we focus on building our faith. At our V.B.S, we learned about all kinds of faith and the people who demonstrated this faith. Complete these activities which will remind you of your faith in Jesus and have fun!

Faith Is the Key

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well. Luke 7:9-10 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 7:1-10





ACROSS

- People that you know well and regard with affection
- 3. To be physically ill
- 6. To deserve something
- 7. To be overwhelmed, surprised, or shocked

DOWN

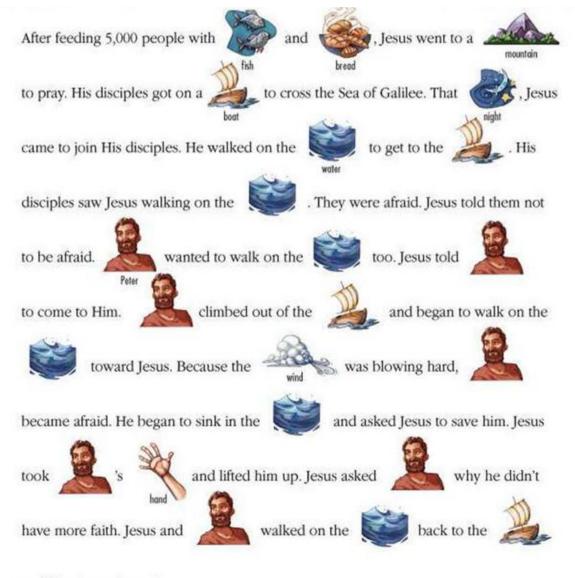
- 1. A strong belief in the power of God
- 2. A person working in the service of another
- 4. To cure or make healthy again
- 5. The Son of God

WORTHY	SERVANT	SICK	FRIENDS
FAITH	JESUS	HEAL	AMAZED

Joseph's Coat of Many Colours Word Search

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																10. Redemption

Jesus walks on water-Rebus Instructions: Write the name of the pictures shown to complete the story



and the storm stopped.

WE HAVE CHANGED IN T&T.

SUBMITTED BY ELIJAH MOTIERAM MBA

In a land where time unfolds, Where stories of the past are told, A change has swept through the air, Transforming how we all now share.

Once upon a distant day, In Trinidad and Tobago's sway, We would dial up, with care and charm, To hear a voice, thick with warm.

With phones in hand, we'd call and greet, And keep in touch with love so sweet, But now, in this new digital age, Our presence fades, like turning page.

The smartphone now our closest friend, Yet too busy to simply send, A message, short and full of cheer, On WhatsApp's screen, so near, so near.

Once, respect adorned each word, No malice spoken, cries unheard, But now, it seems, we've lost our way, In this world where friendship may decay. Life's troubles came, we'd lend a hand, With comforting support so grand, But now, it seems, condolence lies, In electronic waves that mesmerize.

"Why has society turned this way?" We ask our friends, at end of day, The sad reality we now find, Is selfishness that's intertwined.

"Gimme, gimme," the new world's chant, "It's all about me," our minds enchant, But let us pause, and take a stand, To change this trend across our land.

Let's turn a new leaf, my dear friends, Where kindness and respect transcends, Where love and care will guide our way, And brighter horizons come to stay.

For in our hearts, the power lies, To lift each soul, to touch the skies, So let us strive, with all our might, To change the world, and make it right.

NEWS/PRINT/PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE PCTT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT PLEASE SEND ALL ARTICLES BY THE 10TH FOR PUBLICATION THE FOLLOWING MONTH KINDLY NOTE THAT ARTICLES SENT AFTER THE 10TH WILL NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THE UPCOMING PUBLICATION, BUT MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR FUTURE ISSUES. DISCLAIMER: THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MAY NOT AGREE WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE WRITERS PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS TO: trinidadpresbyterian@pctt.org.tt PLEASE KEEP ALL ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAX 300 WORDS.



DUTIES : -

1) Manage the maintenance of all properties of the PCTT including but not limited to a) Review of ALL pastoral regions' property information and amending information; liaison with tenants, government offices. b)Oversee digitizing process of ALL property information. c) Review of valuation of ALL properties. d) Review of survey plans and cadastral sheets for ALL properties. e) Regular, frequent visits to ALL properties on a rotation basis and in liaison with the Sessions of the area f) Appropriate co-ordination with all stakeholders of the PCTT regarding properties. g)Presence in the Office for prompt responses to all enquiries. 2)Manage the development of properties for investment and commercial ventures OUALIFICATIONS: -Degree in Business or Land/Property-related field or Project Finance or

-Advanced specialty certification (Property-related). -Substantial experience/training in Land Management; Tenancy and Leases; Statutory requirements of T&T Law; Project/Maintenance or Project Management. -Must be a team-player.

-Good Communication skills

This is a FULL-TIME CONTRACTUAL POSITION which will require an efficient and results-oriented individual with an eye for property-related investments and projects and a knack for identifying and critically assessing opportunities for revenue-generation.

Send applications with resume by 16th September 2023 to The General Secretary, Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago P.O. Box 187 Paradise Hill, San Fernando or by email to : gs.warde@pctt.org.tt



HILLVIEW COLLLEGE Vacancy - (Spanish) TIII

· All applicants MUST be:

- Assessed as teacher III/TVTIV
- Successfully interviewed by the Teaching Service
 Commission within a three (3) year period (for applicants who are not currently employed with the Ministry of Education)

Kindly apply to:

The Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education via: Email : pssboe@pctt.org.tt

Submit a copy to: administration@hillviewcollege.edu.tt Applicants are required to submit their Appointment/Assessment Letters, Placement on the Order of Merit list, Letter of Interview Results along with other applicable documents.

> Deadline for applications: NOVEMBER 30TH 2023 Unsuitable applications will not be acknowledged



HILLVIEW COLLLEGE Vacancy - (Mathematics) TIII

· All applicants MUST be:

- · Assessed as teacher III/TVTIV
- · Successfully interviewed by the Teaching Service

Commission within a three (3) year period (for applicants who are not currently employed with the Ministry of Education)

Kindly apply to:

The Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education via: Email : pssboe@pctt.org.tt

Submit a copy to: administration@hillviewcollege.edu.tt Applicants are required to submit their Appointment/Assessment Letters, Placement on the Order of Merit list, Letter of Interview Results along with other applicable documents.

> Deadline for applications: SEPTEMBER 8th 2023 Unsuitable applications will not be acknowledged



Lot #19 Endevour Industrial Estate, Chaguanas, Trinidad W.I. TELEPHONE: 1 868 665 6955

143B, Maraj Avenue, Marabella, Trinidad W.I. TELEPHONE: 1 868 352 0625

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IN LOVING MEMORY ANDERSON SARVESHT SOOKLAL Sunrise: 10th January 1981

Sunset: 7th August 2004 Former Member of Morton Memorial Church This world, however beautiful was never meant to be the place that we should call home for all eternity And though we would not choose to leave, A loving God know best Love always from mom and dad Vashti and Emmanuel. Siblings Emmerson, Ravesht, Varunna Cousins, Aunts, Uncles and Dear Friends

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		Ephesians 6:10-18	Mark 4:30-34	lsaiah 14:1-2	lsaiah 41:8-10	Genesis 31:1-21
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	Romans 1:8-15	Acts 2:37-47	Matthew 15:32-39	Acts 17:10-15	Acts 18:24-28	Matthew 16:1-4
Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	2 Peter 2:4-10	Romans 9:14-29	Matthew 8:23-27	Revelation 15:1-4	Acts 14:19-28	Matthew 14:34-36
Psalm 67	Acts 15:1-21	Romans 11:13-29	Matthew 8:1-13	1 Corinthians 6:1-11	2 Corinthians 10:12-18	Matthew 16:5-12
Psalm 138	Romans 2:1-11	Romans 11:33-36	Matthew 26:6-13	Ephesians 5:1-6		

August

"The Lord Remains Faithful"

September

"Give Thanks For God's Lovingkindness & Tender Mercies"

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					Jeremiah 15:1-9	Jeremiah 15:10-14
Psalm 26:1-8	2 Samuel 11:2-26	2 Samuel 27-12:15	Jeremiah 17:5-18	Ezekiel 24:1-14	Ezekiel 24:15-27	Ezekiel 33:1-6
Psalm 119:33-40	Leviticus 4:27-31	Deuteronomy 17:2-13	Leviticus 16:1-5; 16:20-28	1 John 3:11-16	Exodus 14:1-18	Exodus 15:19-21
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13	Josua 3:1-17	Nehemiah 9:9-15	2 Kings 2:1-18	Exodus 15:22-27	Exodus 16:1-21	Exodus 16:22-30
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Romans 16:1-16	Romans 16:17-20	Matthew 18:1-5	James 4:11-16	Acts 13:32-41	Mark 11:27-33

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