

The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

The Official Publication of The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad & Tobago

May 2023



63RD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SYNOD 2023
155 YEARS OF WITNESS AND MISSION

**THEME: "PERSEVERE IN YOUR WITNESS
AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST"**

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith,
who for the sake of the joy that was set before him
endured the cross, disregarding its shame,
and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."
(Hebrews 12:1-2) NRSV.



Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance
Moderator of Synod

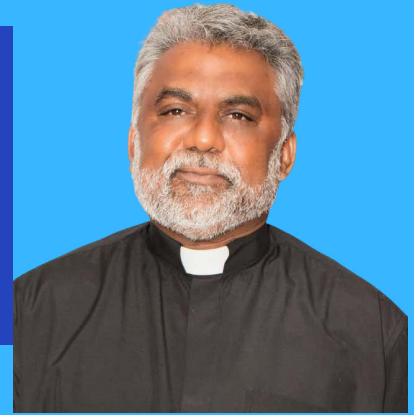
Reverend Errol Ragnauth Induction Address

Celebrating Mothers

Indian Arrival Day

B.O.C.E Sunday School Rally

NEW MODERATOR



The Right Reverend Daniel Chance

The Right Reverend Daniel Chance is the new Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT).

On Thursday, 27th April, 2023, the Minister of the Tabaquite Pastoral Region was elected as the new Moderator of the Synod of the PCTT. The Right Reverend Daniel Chance received the majority of the votes cast by the Synod when members met at Naparima College Auditorium for the 63rd Annual General Meeting.

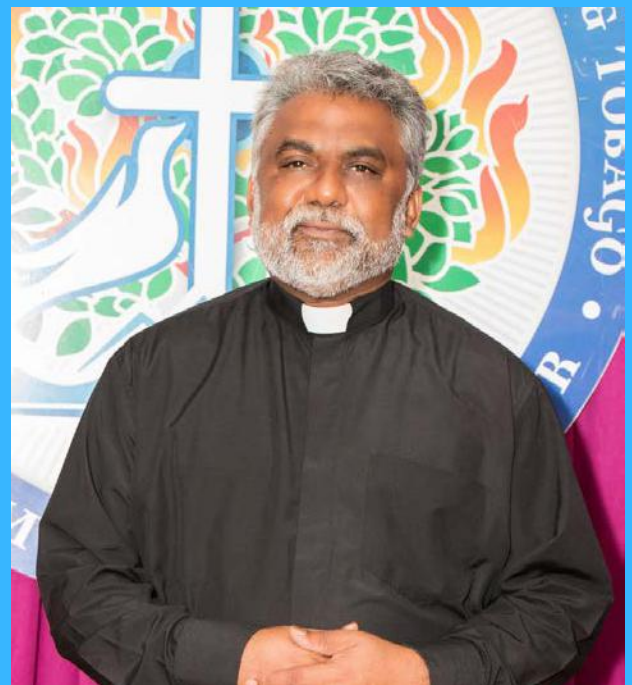
The Right Reverend Chance hails from St Mary's, Moruga. He is married to Deaconess Calpurnia Chance, also of the Presbyterian Church. They have one daughter.

The Right Reverend Chance's journey into Ministry began in 1991 as a Lay Pastor who served in the Oropouche, Claxton Bay, Point Fortin/Cedros, Nariva/Mayaro, Marabella/Bonne Aventure and Tableland Pastoral Regions of the PCTT. He was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacraments on 8th March, 2009, and was subsequently assigned to the Riversdale, Penal and then Tabaquite Pastoral Region.

Speaking after being elected, the Moderator said it was his prayer that the will of God will continue to be manifested in the church as it journeys into the future especially after the turbulent years of COVID 19. He confirmed that a firm foundation had been established by his predecessors and he looks forward to building upon it. He challenged all believers, that they pledge, commit, and be dedicated to God's hand and purpose for his Church and their lives.

Immediate past Moderator, Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, stated, "God's eternal blessings on our newly elected Moderator, The Right Reverend Daniel Chance, and his family. God has called and anointed him to serve in this era of the church's history. May God's guiding hands lead him through the next two years to fulfil the mission of Christ even beyond the four walls of the church."

The Right Reverend Chance takes up the position of the Moderator of the Synod of PCTT immediately. He will be formally installed in a service to be held soon. To God be the Glory!



EDITORIAL

TO FEEL SAFE AGAIN.

Citizens are disillusioned about the state of crime in our country of Trinidad and Tobago. It is heart rending to see how victims of crime, especially those affected by home invasions, are brutalized without regard to age and robbed of their hard-earned property. Our guard dogs, alarm systems, burglar proofing, steel doors and other security measures prove to be no challenge to those bent on making our property theirs. They know how to penetrate every security device.

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval...” (Romans 13: 1 – 3, NRSVU)

Citizens are disillusioned and there seems to be a sense of helplessness because of the snail’s pace at which the criminal justice system moves, the loopholes in the law which allow for bail thus encouraging repeat offenders and the extremely low detection rate when crimes are committed are among the reasons which lead to the increase in criminal activities. Citizens would have hope that the crime situation is being addressed if they see an increase in police patrols, intelligence-based policing, an increase in detection and arrests, and an effective criminal justice system.

For any rehabilitation to take place, those engaged in criminal activities first must be caught, brought to justice, and exposed to rehabilitation programmes such as training and or providing them with skills to make them employable and self-reliant, provide them with recreational activities to occupy their time.

The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago continues to do its part in rehabilitating those who perpetrate these injustices through its Prison Reform Ministry, through its values education programme in our primary as well as our secondary schools, and to pray with and for our children. Our School Chaplains play an important role in educating our young people to differentiate, to put it simply, between right and wrong. Schools need to time-table values education programmes. We know the Schools’ Curriculum is heavily weighted, Principals feel that as much time must be given to academics and often this is to the disadvantage of the children’s moral upbringing. Credit needs to be given to those who do Religious Education in our government secondary schools on a weekly basis. This is very necessary because of the increasing level of school indiscipline which has already spilled over into the streets.

The PCTT has also committed to render professional counselling through its newly launched Beth-Rapha Mission. Through a consistent Values Education Programme and its anti-bullying initiative and stance which can make a difference to turn our young people from a life of violence and crime.

We pray for the day when citizens will feel safe in their homes and when they venture out.

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.

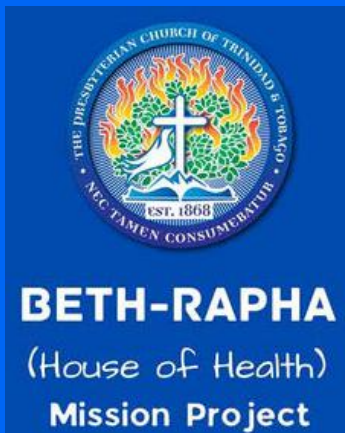
Objectives:

- 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.

63RD SYNOD AGM

PCTT Communications

The 63rd AGM of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) took place at Naparima College between Thursday 27th April, and Saturday 29th April, 2023, under the theme: "Persevere in Your Witness as Disciples of Christ".

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2.)looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2, NRSV).

The opening devotion on Day 1 was led by the sitting Moderator, the Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan. Music was performed by Terry and Debbie Soogrim and their daughters Andrea and Alana from the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. Other persons taking part in the service were General Secretary of Synod, Mr Terrence Warde; General Treasurer of Synod, Mr Leslie Naipaul; Property Manager, Mr Rodney Boodram; and Communications Manager, Mr. Michael Cooper-Ochiengh. The sitting Moderator, the Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, presented her report highlighting the many activities in which she engaged over the past year. Her recommendations included a structured Chaplaincy programme in the PCTT's five (5) Secondary Schools and the creation of a more structured Hospital Chaplaincy in consultation with other stake holders including S.A.T.C, Ministry of Health and Beth Rapha.

The most anticipated event of the day was the Election of a new Moderator by members of Synod. The Moderator is elected from among its Ministerial members, biennially.

The duties of this Office include chairing Meetings of Synod, Synodical Council and Executive of Synodical Council, giving leadership to the Church in spiritual matters, representing the Church on public occasions and at Heads of Churches conferences, visiting Pastoral Regions and Presbyteries to give guidance and counsel and serving as the Pastor-Pastorum during his/her term of Office. The Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance was elected as the Moderator of Synod with immediate effect for the next two years (2023 - 2025), succeeding Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan. Day 1 ended with the acceptance of the Property Manager's report and the report of the Communications Unit.

The morning of Day 2 commenced with devotions conducted by the Northern Presbytery. Leading in worship was Reverend Cynara Dube-Khan, Reverend Sanya Beharry brought the message and Reverend Errol Ragnauth offered the Pastoral Prayer.

The morning's proceedings were cut short by the email bomb threats that affected many of the schools in the country. The Naparima College Auditorium where the proceedings were taking place had to be evacuated that morning together with the rest of the college.

Members of Synod made their way to the Muster point at the school field where they awaited further instructions. Following consultation with the emergency services and the Principal of Naparima College, Mr. Roger Ali, the meeting was adjourned. The newly elected Moderator the Rt. Reverend Chance put out the following statement that very evening.

The advent of today's disruptive, heinous and mischievous act demonstrated that the scourge of crime in Trinidad and Tobago continues to be a widespread issue which plagues our citizenry. As members of Synod, I issue and support a clarion call for all of us. Mothers, fathers, children, leaders, and those in authority I implore you, together, let us all actively pray for healing to take place in our "sweet T&T."

For far too long we have lost so many of our sons and our daughters to such monstrous acts. In fact, it would be remiss of me not to appeal to each of you, my fellow patriots, country men, and believers to stand and be our brother's and sister's keeper and to support our fellow institutions in executing their duties and upholding the Rule of Law.

The Lord Jesus Christ reminds us, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10, NIV).

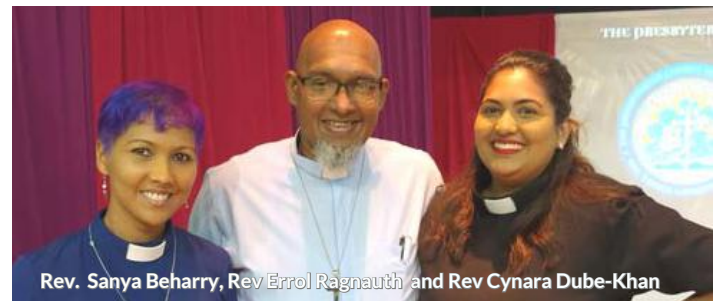
God Bless you all and God Bless Trinidad and Tobago!

Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance

Moderator of Synod

Day 3 began with Devotions led by South Central Presbytery. The Scripture was read by Secretary, Ms Geeta Maharaj, and the message brought by Reverend Mathura. The reports of the General Treasurer, Iere Bookstore Financials, Nominations Committee, Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education, South Central Presbytery and South Eastern Presbytery were all accepted.

Glory to God!



EXCERPTS FROM RESPONSE OF REVEREND ERROL RAGNAUTH AT HIS INDUCTION SERVICE

Last year was a nightmare that simply didn't want to end. Stephen Covey said, "What you do has far greater impact than what you say."

My love and special thanks to my dear friends, Dr. Renata Ramsaywak-Lalla and Dr. Ramona Sankar-Khellawan.

I, too, hold with that statement, "What you do has far greater impact than what you say."

My Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago has done exactly that for my family and me. What you have done, words cannot ever be enough to thank you all, giving and assisting in my time of need, donating blood at the last minute, called on Holy Thursday for an emergency operation on the Tuesday after Easter Monday, April 19th, organising prayer vigils...

Your support truly moved me and motivated me to fight to get better to return and be of service to you - my people, our church, our communities, our country and indeed the world.

Jesus said, "I am among you as he that serves" (Luke 22:27). As true followers of Jesus, we must also serve others. Service is helping others who need assistance. Christ like service grows out of genuine love for our Saviour and out of love and concern for those whom He gives us opportunities, resources and direction to help. Your actions and great love have really left an imprint in my mind, soul and heart which I will never forget.

God has really brought me back and I take this opportunity to let you know briefly what happened, only a few persons actually know what occurred starting on April 1st into the 2nd 2022. I could not breathe and was taken by ambulance to San Fernando General Hospital, my lungs were flooded, the diagnosis was bad. Vanessa, my wife, was notified that it didn't look good, blood oxygen spO2 % was below 34.

I got a heart attack there. When I was revived, I tested positive for COVID 19 and was sent to the Augustus Long COVID Facility and placed in HDU and then transferred to the ICU. After another life altering scare, staring death in its face, I was told that I was the sickest person there with little or hardly any chance of survival. Your prayers, like my friend Reverend Keron, mentioned in his prayer for me before the operation were like kites going to God. My greatest fear was that I was born at Augustus Long and will die at Augustus Long.

Skipping forward I was retested for COVID, it was found that I had dead COVID cells, but COVID had done its damage. Long COVID had affected my lungs; the arteries to the heart became porous and leaky; my kidneys were affected and I suffered a blood stroke in my right eye.

I thank God for His healing mercies, my wife and children, Michelle and Michael, close friends and dearest colleagues who are like family and my church family who never wavered and extended their arms to help in so many, many ways. You were with us throughout. God never left my side, and neither did you.

Thanks be to GOD for this day and this opportunity to be of service.

"Service is what prayer looks like when it gets up off its knees and walks around in the world." Michael J. Graham, S.J.

There were times I would feel as though I would never be able to serve again, but God is awesome. We are reminded that, "Great acts are made up of small deeds."

Please, remember, self care and mental health are important for all of us. Saying no is always an option.

We are four congregations Waterloo, St John, Nistar and Anugrah, let us help one another with Presiding Elders Ralph and Emmanuel.

Four men carried their sick friend to Jesus, removing the roof. Friends let us work together hand in hand caring for one another.

Remember $5+2=7$, but $3+4$ also equal to 7 and $9-2$ also equals 7. Different approaches to do things with the same results.

I have a strategic plan, developed with the help of Franklin Dookheran, with some 14 areas which we will look at and move forward with small steps.

For it has been said, "People say, 'What is the sense of our small effort?' They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do." Dorothy Day.





KNOW YOUR FAITH

THE CHURCH AS MOTHER

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

Cyprian of Carthage lived from about the year 210 until he was executed by the Roman authorities on September 14, 258. His Church was small and persecuted, yet Cyprian declared, "You cannot have God for your Father unless you have the Church for your Mother."

Being in, and belonging to, that maligned, mistreated, miniscule community meant so much to Cyprian! What does it mean to us? Who can we be when we are not just in Church but when we ARE Church?

John Calvin followed Cyprian's thinking and asserted, "the church, into whose bosom God is pleased to gather his children, not only that they may be nourished by her help and ministry as long as they are infants and children, but also that they may be guided by her motherly care until they mature and at last reach the goal of faith...so that, for those to whom he is Father the church may also be Mother." (Institutes 4.1.1).

When we think of the church, it may be difficult to raise our eyes above the agglomeration of individuals to discern that the Church is the manifestation of a super-terrestrial entity, the Body of Christ, which is embodied and expressed in the caring community.

Making the Church into the pattern and paradigm envisaged by people like Cyprian and Calvin engages our hearts, minds, souls and bodies. We create safe space for those who are vulnerable and marginalized, Pioneers of the Church used the term "mother" to indicate that the Church was necessary, honourable, glorious, and a place where we are all related and interconnected, and where we could receive and provide care and guidance, inspiration and encouragement.

If there is something about the Church we would like to change, then let us create the Church that we would like to be and become!



ST. ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
92 Paradise Hill, San Fernando | @SATC1892
www.satc.edu.tt | raquel.paul@satc.edu.tt
1.868.657.7554 | 1.868.653.0449

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For School Teachers

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

- Date 17th June 2023
- Day Saturday
- Duration 12 Weeks
- Time 9am - noon
- Delivery Online
- Cost \$1,500



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CONFLICT MANAGEMENT & MINISTRY Seminar

REGISTER NOW

- 📅 Saturday, May 27th, 2023
- 🕒 9 am - noon
- 📍 SATC Chapel & Online
- 💰 \$100
- 📄 Register Online



NEW LEADERSHIP AT THE ST. ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE (S.A.T.C.)

The SATC welcomed a new Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Board Director recently at their 30th Statutory Meeting held in April 2023.

Murella Sambucharan, appointed to the position of Chairperson, has served on the Board of Directors of the SATC since June 2020, in the capacity of Vice-Chairperson and has acted as Chair upon the resignation of Reverend Manan Deo from the Board and as Chairman in June 2022. Joining her at the helm as new Vice-Chair, is John Roopchan who served in the capacity of Director since 2020. Dexter Rampersad filled the vacant position on the Board and now fills the position of a newly appointed Director. All three appointees come with a long-standing background in education and service to the Presbyterian church.

Murella Sambucharan is presently a Lecturer in Education at The University of the West Indies. She also chairs the Management Board of the School of Education's Family Development and Children's Research at The UWI. The author of research-driven publications on education, Murella has presented at regional and international research fora. She comes from a Presbyterian family of educators with her father, mother, brother and sister being involved in education. A devout Presbyterian, she also serves the Local Board of her Church, is a Sunday School Teacher and assists her Alma Mater, St. Augustine Girls' High School, as the Chair of the PTA Education Committee.

Her work at the SATC since 2020 has focused on curriculum development and technology integration. Through the unstinting support of the Board of Directors, these areas of focus have brought the College to a higher level of accessibility to the diverse array of programmes of the College, with the launch and development of the online delivery option. She spearheaded the College's first Research Series and strives to foster a focus on academia and research-driven practices at the SATC.

Also receiving confirmation as Vice-Chairperson, was former Director the Curriculum Planning and Development Division of the Ministry of Education, John Roopchan. John, a long-standing member and past Chairman of the Local Board of Borde Narve Presbyterian Church, brings a wealth of experience in education, expertise in curriculum development as well as training in management and leadership to the SATC.

Dexter Rampersad, former Principal (Primary) and current School Supervisor with the Ministry of Education joins this cadre of educational professionals, as a newly appointed Director. No stranger to the PCTT as a Lay Preacher who has served on over 80 pulpits across Presbyterian churches in Trinidad, Dexter brings his educational expertise as a Director to the Board of the SATC. His training in Educational Leadership, Human Resource Management, Counselling and Law will undoubtedly benefit the strategic direction of the College as he commences his service on the Board of Directors.

The Rt. Rev. Joy Abdul-Mohan Moderator of the PCTT and past Principal of the SATC, convened these new appointments to the leadership of the College's Board of Directors in April 2023. Along with the General Secretary of Synod Mr. Terrence Warde, she wished them God's guidance and wisdom in their decision-making as they work together to steer the strategic direction and support operational growth of the oldest tertiary institution in Trinidad and Tobago, the St. Andrew's Theological College.

Synod Office,
April 2023



L to R: General Secretary Terrence Warde, Moderator Rt. Rev Joy Abdul-Mohan, SATC Principal Rev. Adrian Sieunarine, SATC Board Chair Ms Murella Sambucharan

“REV. KEN KALLOO’S HISTORICAL RESEARCH "PRESBYTERIAN FIRST" - A TREASURE TROVE.

Submitted by Mrs Judy Sastoo – Kowlessar, Librarian (SATC)



St Andrew’s Theological College (SATC) library invites the general public to visit the library to browse or read the rich documentation of the history of the Presbyterian Church held in the library and the archives. One may also consider making an appointment to partake of an intellectual dialogue or discussion with Reverend Kalloo who is multi-talented as an historian, sportsman, archivist, writer, and teacher. This article briefly describes the theologian with a difference and illustrates some of his works held in the library.

Each theologian is a specialist in his own right and Reverend Kalloo, in particular, has helped to chart the theological history of the Presbyterian church in this era. His articles found mainly in The Trinidad Presbyterian titled, “Presbyterian First” will give the younger generation an opportunity to learn

of the early history of the Presbyterian Church and the Canadian missionaries who contributed to Presbyterianism. He has chronicled over eighty (80) articles that record information from 1868 to the present and recounted events such as the first in the following: school, church, missionaries, baptisms, converts, ordinands, volleyball games and church buildings. These articles appeal to all social levels because of their simplicity and will allow readers to enter the Presbyterian church narrative.



NO.	ARTICLE IN TRINIDAD PRESBYTERIAN Magazine	YEAR
1.	The First theological building	February 2012
2.	First Baptisms/First Converts	March 2012
3.	First Ordinands/First Ordinations	April 2012
4.	First Secondary School	May 2012
5.	Our First Missionaries	June 2012
6.	The First Church/Synod Office	July 2012
7.	Commemorating the 100 th Anniversary of the passing of...	August 2012
8.	The first volleyball game	September 2012
9.	“The first Founder’s Day Service”	January 2013
10	The first Board of Managers and the first Session	February 2013
11	The first WMS/PCW Conference	March 2013
12	First Men’s Fellowship in PCTT	April 2013
13	First Canaan Presbyterian Church/School 1895	June 2013
14	The first ‘Jamaica’ Ordinands Part 1	August 2013
15	The first ‘Jamaica’ Ordinands Part 11	October 2013
16	First Presbyterian Church/School at St. Julien 1880 - 2013	November 2013
17	The first church of Ministers	February 2014
18	Morning Star Presbyterian Church: Presbyterian Church Women; The first 100 years 1915 - 2015	March 2015
19	“The First Presbyterian Mela – 1915”	April 2015
20	Presbyterian First: The first Warrenville Presbyterian Church/School	July 2014
21	The first Minister to be trained abroad: Rev. Charles Bliss Ragbir - 1865 - 1951	August 2014
22	Archives 40 th Anniversary 1975 - 2015	September 2015
23	Going, Going 2015 Almost gone	December 2015
24	It happened on this day 145 years ago – 20 th February 1871 – Founding of the Susamachar congregation and Grant Memorial Presbyterian School.....	February 2016
25	Commemorating our sesquicentenary 1868-2018	June 2017
26	Archives update 1975 - 2017	July 2017
27	The hills are alive with the music of history	September 2017
28	Notes from the Archives	May 2019
29	History of the Presbyterian Church: celebrating 152 years in Trinidad and Tobago	January 2020

Reverend Kalloo is generally regarded as the archivist of the Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) , which was established in September 1975.

He is characterized by his inquisitive intellect, interpersonal skills, his great capacity for writing, sharing and his appreciation for both West Indian and world history. As the archivist, he is greatly admired for his germinal ideas, his place in the theological spectrum of Trinidad’s Presbyterian Church history, and his chief contribution to the climate of Presbyterian history in the Caribbean.

Please take some time to browse some of the titles listed in the table below and visit the library or archives to immerse yourself in the pages of the history of the "Presbyterian first".

THE FAMILY CAN

CRISIS IN THE FAMILY: THE BREAKDOWN IN FAMILY LIFE - PART 3 - DEMOGRAPHICS

A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE THE FAMILY - HILTON R SIBOO: CONTACT: 788-2685)

The Question that arises here is, can **demographics** impact and result in The Breakdown in Family Life?

In 1993, the UN General Assembly established **The International Day of Families (IDF)** or World Family Day and decided in a resolution (A/RES/47/237) that the IDF be observed on 15 May of every year.

'This day is celebrated with a dual purpose in mind - to raise awareness of the significance of families and the different aspects that are negatively affecting this unit. It acknowledges the power and abilities of what is considered the most basic unit of society in several parts of the world. Each year, the day is used as a launch pad to highlight the issues plaguing families and the appropriate individuals, societies, and the actions governments can take to resolve said issues. The day is also used to showcase how a strengthened family unit eventually helps strengthen societies and nations.'

'As part of the preparations for the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family, 2024 (IYF+30), the 2023 in-person observance of the International Day of Families (IDF) focuses on the megatrend of demographic change and its impact on families. The event is to share current knowledge on demographic trends, including ageing and intergenerational solidarity; facilitate the analysis of their impacts on family life and recommend responsive family-oriented policies to respond to the needs of families around the world.'

For the observance and celebration of the International Day of Families on **May 15, 2023**, the theme is... **'Families and Demographic Change'**. What is Demography? 'Demo' means people and 'graphy' means measurement. Demography is defined as 'the science that studies human population... is a statistical study of humans with regard to their size and structure, their composition by sex, age, marital, status and ethnic origin and the change of these population in their birth rates, death rates and immigration ...; especially with reference to size and density, fertility, mortality, growth, age distribution, migration and the intersection of all these with social and economic conditions.'

The breakdown in family life can stem from family demographics and the intersection of these whether biological, social, economic, religious, cultural, national or political.

IDF can be celebrated by families. More information can be sourced at un.org/en/observances/international-day-of-families. Some suggested activities for IDF 2023 are: Create family bonds based on trust and love. Spend family time with indoor and outdoor games, singing and praying. Create memories with a family photo shoot. Have family members talk about personal-family issues, ensuring that the conversation takes place in a safe space. Celebrate this day with families in your neighbourhood.

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 lose faith. Hold strong. Believe, The Family Can.

Encounteringthe Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago

The Central Archives of the PCTT (CAPCTT)

'Visit and Tour' activity July to August 2023

OPEN INVITATION

to all members of the PCTT. This includes all orders of Church Workers and Lay Persons involved and active in every area of church work at Synod, its Boards and Committees, Presbytery, Sessions, Local Boards and groups - PCW, AOTS Men's Groups, Youth, Sunday Schools, Prayer Groups, Choirs and Institutions, etc.

OBJECTIVES

to inform and familiarise, to educate and evangelize all PCTT peoples and non-PCTT persons as to the location and activities of the CAPCTT and its accessibility for various purposes such as obtaining information, studies and research, the duties and responsibilities, the roles and contribution, the challenges and achievements to the development of the Archives which would celebrate the 50th year of its establishment in 2025. Also, how to partner with the CAPCTT.

TO SCHEDULE ARRANGEMENTS

for **'Visit and Tour'**: please contact **by June 13, 2023**:

652-4829 [Synod Office]; **788-2685** [Asst Archivist: Hilton R 'Bill' Siboo] or you can visit in person or call **653-4166**
[SATC Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.]

As expressed by our volunteers, 'Our Archives is a place for all to visit, especially Presbyterians. We encourage you to visit as an individual or as a group. You will be inspired and enlightened by the history of the PCTT'.

"An encounter with the Archives is an encounter with ... yourself. Hoping to be there for your 'Encountering ... the Archives'."

SACRAMENTAL INSIGHTS

“Components of a renewed Eucharistic Theology”
 Reverend Dr. Annabell Lalla-Ramkhelawan, Curepe/St Joseph Pastoral Region



In the month of March, we began our in-depth look into Laurance Hull Stookey’s six “Components of a renewed Eucharistic Theology.” To date we have reflected on:

1.The Eucharist/Lord’s Supper is to be seen above all as a Sacrament – God’s gift to the church.

2.A necessary corollary is that the Eucharist is a reliable means of Grace yet is not grace itself.

In this month’s issue of the *Trinidadian Presbyterian*, we will explore component three and four:

3.The Christ who is proclaimed through the Lord’s Supper/ Eucharist is the whole Christ, and the proclamation should embody the full saving work of the feast’s Host.

4.Inseparable from all of this, and often also obscure, is the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Christ who is proclaimed through the Lord’s Supper/ Eucharist is the whole Christ, and the proclamation should embody the full saving work of the feast’s Host.

Jesus is the Host at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper/Eucharist feast. Just as God came to us in Jesus, so also, He comes to us in bread and wine. The many references in the New Testament of Jesus engaging in meals, Table Fellowship, tie the Eucharist to His ministry of teaching and healing. At the Lord’s Supper, the breaking of bread and the pouring of wine recalls the Body of Christ broken and hanging on the cross and His blood pouring out.

At the Lord’s Supper, we also celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The Lord’s Supper is both the memorial of Emmaus made present to us *anamnesis*[1] and the foretaste of the Great Feast in heaven, already with us through hope. [2]

Throughout the New Testament, the sacramental action associated with the Lord’s Supper/ Eucharist finds basis in the narrative of Christ’s life, passion, and resurrection. The breaking of bread became the action in which Jesus Christ was encountered and the early church gained empowerment for mission. The Lord’s Supper, a shared meal, becomes connected to the central gospel narratives. The command in the institutional narratives of the Eucharist to remember Jesus (*anamnesis*) grounds the lives of believers in the path of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. In these communal settings of Christian Sacramental actions, we are immersed into the redemptive action of God through Christ in the Power of the Holy Spirit.[3]

Inseparable from all of this, and often also obscure, is the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit has always played an important role in the life and work of the Church. The Holy Spirit plays a specific function in the Lord’s Supper/ Eucharistic *anamnesis*. Jesus, before going to the cross, tells His disciples, “*The Holy Spirit... will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you*” (John 14:26). The act of “reminding” is closely related to *anamnesis* and has, on occasions, given the Spirit the name of “The Remembrancer.” Therefore, anything we do in “remembrance” of Jesus Christ is done through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that ordinary everyday table items of bread and wine can be the body and blood of Christ, the Christ who is God incarnate, crucified, risen, and present in the world and reigning in righteousness.[4]

The Holy Spirit is the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ with the Church. Therefore, the work of the Spirit in the celebration of the Eucharist is the Holy Spirit’s mission of transformation. The Holy Spirit that makes common table items of bread and wine mean more than our minds can conjure up acts in a similar manner in our lives and in the whole world.[5]

At first glance, it is difficult to declare that the Holy Spirit can give to things more meaning than they have on their own. By the power of the Holy Spirit, ordinary objects can be made into signs of divine love and power. The Spirit gives to bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper/ Eucharist new meaning, they become “signs of grace.” The Spirit also makes the bread and wine signs filled with the living Presence of the risen Christ.[6]

In recent years, both the Catholic and the Protestant Church have moved to restore to the Eucharist/ Lord’s Supper celebration a specific prayer for the invocation of the Holy Spirit. This prayer calls upon God to send the Holy Spirit upon the bread and wine so they can be for the believer the body and blood of Christ and upon the congregation in order that the Church may be the body of Christ in society.

If you have any questions you may submit same to trinidadpresbyterian@pctt.org.tt

[1] A “memorial, remembrance”

[2] Laurance Hull Stookey, *Eucharist: Christ’s Feast with the Church*. (Nashville Abingdon Press 1993), 98.

[3] *Invitation to Christ, Font to Table: A Guide to Sacramental Practices*. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (A Corporation, Louisville, Kentucky, 2006), 22.

[4] Laurance Hull Stookey, *Eucharist: Christ’s Feast with the Church*. (Nashville Abingdon Press. 1993), 100.

[5] Laurance Hull Stookey, *Eucharist: Christ’s Feast with the Church*. (Nashville Abingdon Press. 1993), 100.

[6] Laurance Hull Stookey, *Eucharist: Christ’s Feast with the Church*. (Nashville Abingdon Press. 1993), 103.

COUNSELLING COLUMN

**SUBMITTED BY VICTORIA AVIAN RAJKUMAR
(B.ED., M.ED., CERT. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING)**

HOW CAN I DEAL WITH CYBERBULLYING?

*"Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity"
(1 Timothy 4:12.)*

Even before the pandemic, children and adolescents had great access to technology than previous generations. The pandemic and the ensuing avenues for online/remote schooling and socializing gave rise to greater exposure, often unsupervised and without adult verification. Research conducted in the United States found that overall screen use among teens and tweens increased by 17 percent from 2019 to 2021 – growing more rapidly than in the four years prior. On average, daily screen use went up among tweens (ages 8 to 12) to five hours and 33 minutes from four hours and 44 minutes, and to eight hours and 39 minutes from seven hours and 22 minutes for teens (ages 13 to 18). Undoubtedly, the statistics may reflect similar figures, were any studies to be conducted locally. This increased online presence has brought with it a myriad of issues for children and youth including the social malady of bullying which now wears a new face. That of cyberbullying.

What is cyberbullying?

According to Kids Health, cyberbullying is the use of technology to harass, threaten, embarrass, or target another person. Online threats and mean, aggressive, or rude texts, tweets, posts, or messages all count. So does posting personal information, pictures, or videos designed to hurt or embarrass someone else.

This includes photos, messages, or pages that don't get taken down, even after the person has been asked to do so. In other words, it's anything that gets posted online and is meant to hurt, harass, or upset someone else.

Intimidation or mean comments that focus on things like a person's gender, religion, sexual orientation, race, or physical differences count as discrimination and can have legal ramifications and consequences.

Although many sites have strict policies and reporting platforms, cyberbullies can sometimes override these and find ways to target their victims.

The Mental Health Effects of Cyberbullying

Newport Academy delineates that online harassment does significant psychological and emotional damage. Research shows that adolescents who experience cyberbullying are more likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, loneliness, suicidal behavior, and physical symptoms triggered by mental health issues. Moreover, young people who perpetrate cyberbullying have higher rates of substance use, aggression, and delinquent behaviors. Furthermore, researchers have found that being a victim of cyberbullying has a more negative effect on adolescents' social and emotional well-being than traditional bullying.

TO BE CONTINUED IN JUNE ISSUE!



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INDENTURE, SLAVERY, AND PSALM 137

Submitted by Presiding Elder George Sammy

Psalm 137 is a Psalm of Lament set during the Jewish Exile in Babylon. The concept of Exile is familiar to many of us in the West Indies since our fore-parents were brought/came to the West Indies as slaves or indentured labourers. We can, therefore, relate to many of the sentiments in this Psalm:

- The Acknowledgement of Exile (verse 1),
- A rather curious Request for a Song (verses 2 to 4),
- Fear of Forgetting one's Homeland (verses 5 & 6), and
- A Plea for Retribution (verses 7 to 9).

The Plea for Retribution is set in very harsh language (**Happy the one who takes and dashes your little ones against the rock! Psalm 137 verse 9**); so much so that several people have asked why such language is included in the Bible. In her book, *Jewish and Christian Approaches to the Psalms*, Susan Gillingham notes that in some Jewish communities this verse is simply omitted when this Psalm is read.

In his article, "Psalms of Communal Lament", Chwi-Woo Kim provides one reason why this psalm has persisted. He notes that when a suffering generation does not have a chance to grieve their losses fully, they pass on a part of their wounded selves and unfinished grief to future generations. In many of our families, slavery and indenture are also unfinished business, since we have not thought through what these things really mean. We, therefore, accept the facts of slavery and indenture intellectually, without fully internalizing them.



Carts loaded with harvested sugar cane ready for weighing at Rochard Road, Penal, South Trinidad.

Homestead. Photos AngeloBissesarsingh Virtual Museum

It is interesting to speculate what Psalm 137 would sound like if it were written from the perspective of one of our ancestors. Perhaps it would sound like this:

LAMENT OF A BOUND-COOLIE (founded on Psalm 137)

I leave Madras and come quite here
to cut this cane in Trinidad.
We cross the kali pani and
it frighten me bad-bad.

This place real different! A whole family
crowd-up in one small barracks room.
The people different too – creole and white-man –
so we can't live just by we-self alone.

A white-man hear we beating
we tabla and we tassa.
He say he like the rhythm,
so play for he to hear.
But better take a sharpen knife
and slash the drum and them
because we music is for we, not he.

I find I does forget the things
we leave-back there in India,
and family who stay-back when we leave.
I don't want to forget them,
so I does try my best to remember
but it not easy after all these years.

Man, I hate that Driver,
shouting out "work hard! work hard!"
even when we tired-tired-tired.
He always touching up we women – and worse.
I wish the bison break-away
and butt he down and stamp on he
and break up all he ribs until he dead.

FINDING BALANCE IN WOMEN'S LIVES THROUGH FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST

SUBMITTED BY JOY RAMLOGAN

“Overwhelming and busy are two common words from women assessing their life balance. Our Curepe Presbyterian Women’s Group has been creating a space for our women to find balance in Christ, as emphasise that we are Women of Worth,” commented Lauren Robinson, President. The group has been re-defining what a welcoming space can be as ladies are encouraged to bring their children to the meetings and activities are selected to maximise participation.

At February’s meeting, after an inspiring worship by Elder Ann Bharath on Hannah and her legacy as a woman of the Bible, the members experienced a gentle yoga session by instructor Robin Richards. Outside in the church garden, on a beautiful blue and breezy afternoon, all ages and fitness levels joined in the beginner’s yoga moves with much laughter and enthusiasm.

Balancing this physical fitness activity, at the March meeting a gala cupcake decorating extravaganza was enjoyed by all. Marianne Nandlal-Mohan and volunteers prepared delicious buttercream frosting and members were joined by husbands, uncles and children in the mayhem of decorating and tasting cupcakes and icing.

On the spiritual side, the March meeting Reverend Dr. Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan inspired with a meditation on the group of women who provided financing to Jesus’s mission. Discussions were frank as women shared their experiences, prejudices that they face in Trinidad and Tobago, and the role of faith in Christ as a fundamental part of this journey. From the group, Leanna Ramphal presented on the woman who suffered from a bleeding illness as part of the Women in the Bible series, and members related the attitudes that women face during menstruation, menopause and other natural phases of womanhood. Our sisterhood in Christ is growing in strength and numbers as members volunteer their time and talent to forge a new balance in their lives.



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Please contact Naparima Girls' High School's office at 652-2049 or 610-7708 for further enquires.

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MOTHERHOOD

A UNIQUE ROLLERCOASTER OF A JOURNEY ...

SUBMITTED BY DR DIANA NARINESINGH, PSYCHIATRIST. ARIMA PASTORAL REGION

This Mother's Day and beyond, let us be aware, celebrate and support the mental, emotional and spiritual health of all the women who have made our lives worth the while.

Motherhood. A unique rollercoaster of a journey that is so individualized, no two paths are ever the same. The selfless role of the mother in society should not only be celebrated on one day, but thoroughly appreciated with understanding of the great physical and mental challenges which go along with it. Traditionally, gender differences in women's mental health have been well documented with increased rates of illness such as depression, anxiety and eating disorders. Clinically, significant considerations during a woman's life that may affect her mental health include: a specific phase of the menstrual cycle, use of hormonal contraception, pregnancy, the postpartum period, miscarriages, abortions, infertility treatment, hysterectomies and peri/menopause. Maternal burnout due to caring for children (or others present in the home) requiring special needs/ attention, homework, activities, juggling employment and household chores with minimal time for self-care is all too common in contributing to a decline in mental health.

Maternal mental health starts prior to conception. The presence of underlying psychiatric conditions, deep psychological distress, family history of psychiatric illness, substance use disorders (drugs), abuse, unplanned/unwanted pregnancies, poor paternal/ social support, teenage pregnancies, poverty, medical illness and peripartum hormonal changes may contribute to worsening mental health outcomes during pregnancy (prenatal) and in the postpartum period. Awareness of traditional social roles and pressures made by society may influence a woman's ability to cope and make her vulnerable to psychopathology. The increasing number of female-headed households with a lower source of income coupled with inadequate childcare support are two factors which bring economic stress and fatigue to women. The presence of good mental health during pregnancy allows for a healthier foetus, less maternal/child complications, adherence to a healthy diet/exercise/ medication contributing towards a safer delivery.

Depression comes in many forms and has many causes. It can occur in pregnancy or after having a baby. Baby blues occur in up to 80% of women at around three to five days after delivery and can last up to about 48 hours. It is a brief episode of tearfulness and emotional instability, and treatment is not usually required. For some women the baby blues are more severe and last longer. We know from research that this can be a predictor of subsequent depression as up to 40% of women affected by severe baby blues go on to develop postpartum depression.

Postpartum depression (PPD) is under recognized and under treated. PPD affects up to 15% of mothers. Half of the women who get postnatal depression develop it by three months after delivery, and three quarters develop it by six months. Symptoms and signs include depressed mood, feeling anxious, social withdrawal, irritability, poor self-care, limited pleasure, negative thinking, numbness, altered sleep, changes in appetite, low energy, unfair and unrealistic thinking, suicidal/infanticidal thoughts and harsh self-criticism. Recent research has identified several psychosocial and biologic risk factors for PPD such as a previous history of mood disorders/PPD, family history of PPD and poor social support. The negative short-term and long-term effects of PPD on child development are well-established. PPD in the mother can be dangerous, not only for the mother herself, but can also affect a baby's cognitive and social development and the family which surrounds her. In addition, if left untreated, there is the risk of suicide/infanticide.

To be continued in the June issue



What makes a Mother by Caroline Sampath Aramalaya Presbyterian Church

This poem is entitled - What makes a Mother.
Well, I can tell you right now - she's like no other!
Her ticking brain is always in motion,
Full of thoughts, vast like the ocean!

What makes a mother? You ask?
Well, let's discuss the numerous tasks!
Jobs of all description, she can perform!
Nothing's impossible - like that is norm!

What makes a mother? Can you see?
It's all the things she does for you and me!
She's more than an expert - a cut above the rest,
I'm sure no one can dispute - Mom's really the best!

What makes a mother? Can you say?
Well, how about when she starts to pray!
Our Father who art in Heaven,
Lord, Father, help me to forgive seventy times
seven!

What makes a mother? Do you remember?
It's when you fall and bruise your knee and finger!
She holds no degree in the medical field,
but trust me when I tell you - there's no ailment she
can't heal.

What makes a mother? Can you think?
Is it when she can fix anything - including the
kitchen sink?
She's always chanting: "All appliances work the
same."
Mother dearest, you could put any technician to
shame!

What makes a mother? You may wonder,
it's when you do nonsense and she says:
"Reconsider."
Don't bother spending your cash on a therapist,
Mom's far better, for there's nothing she does miss!

What makes a mother? Can you tell?
Well, there's no squabble on earth she cannot quell!
Arbitrator, mediator, teacher, friend!
We love you Mother - you're such a GODSEND!

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SUSAMACHAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS 152ND ANNIVERSARY

Julia Sampath for Susamachar Communications

Susamachar Presbyterian Church celebrated 152 years of glorious service on Sunday March 12, 2023. Reverend Letra Jacob commenced worship by rejoicing in the hymn, "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together." Reverend Jacob prayed for leadership and guidance upon the freshly installed Local Board 2023-2024 encouraging them to always keep the Lord in mind as they work and witness in the Lord's vineyard.

"This is a special day!" Guest Speaker, the Honorable Justice Frank Seepersad, stated as he congratulated the Presbyterian Secondary Schools in their award of government scholarships and overall excellence in the area of education. Justice Seepersad asked that the congregation, church and the wider community to focus on collective spirituality, to resonate in truth through starting change in our homes by creating inclusivity, no to tolerate

corruption of any kind, and to reset the patriarchal mindset. He encouraged the church to stand up and resonate its voice on gender equality and equity. Justice Seepersad asserted that we must endeavor to alter the world in accordance with God's Word, reject the illusion of normalcy, identify areas where change is required, grieve the dysfunction and allow the hope and grace of God to flow through our lives so as to guide our thoughts and actions. Justice Seepersad definitely prayed for Susamachar to be a beacon of truth, hope and change.

Clerk of Session, Ms. Joy Sammah followed with a prayer of blessing upon Susamachar in the work and witness of those who, through groups and activities, unremittingly volunteer their time, gifts and talents to minister and share the love of Christ. Chairman of the Local Board, Mr. V. Chackan, expressed gratitude to Justice Seepersad for his powerful message and continued support.

Music at this service was provided by organist, Rowena Wattley, vocalists: Marcia Baboolal, Ronda Cleghorn, Hayley Silochan and Christopher Sookhoo, and the Susamachar Acoustic Strings. Also present at the service was the 5th Naparima Scout Group who has been associated with Susamachar since its inception in 1919.



Marcia Baboolal, Ronda Cleghorn



Christopher Sookhoo



Reverend Jacob



Honorable Justice Frank Seepersad



Rowena Wattley



MARABELLA/ BONNE AVENTURE PASTORAL REGION FAMILY DAY

SUBMITTED BY BY FLORABELLE LUTCHMAN

Everyone felt welcomed on glorious Easter Monday- 10th April 2023, at the Family Day organized by the resident Minister of the Marabella/Bonne Aventure Pastoral Region, Reverend Clifton Mathura, and a committee of Session members including the Clerk of Session, Mrs. Shirlyn Beharry, and Presiding Elder, Mrs. Indra Debysingh, and one representative from each of the six churches. The Ben Lomond Recreation Ground was bursting to capacity as people from the six churches kept coming. It was really a sight to behold - the great fun, fellowship and excitement as the young children enjoyed the Bouncy Castle, and young, old and middle aged enjoyed throwing the bean bags into a bucket or trying to fill bottles of water by just scooping up the water in the palms of their hands and racing to the person holding the bottle.

More excitement followed with the game of cricket and the friendly rivalry among the churches. It was a joy to see Reverend Mathura join the Marabella team and caught out a batsman and Mrs. Lana Dattoo - Mathura join the Reform team which eventually won the match. The Game of musical chairs was just as exciting for all participants and those looking on. The crowd displayed a wonderful unity of spirit. Even a resident female dog enjoyed herself strutting around and trying to greet everyone.

This Family Day was indeed a healthy distraction from the challenges of daily life. There were drinks, snacks, lunch, delicious pholourie, popcorn, snow cone and cotton candy which were enjoyed by all and everything was free.

It was truly a day of fun, fellowship and much excitement. We thank Reverend Clifton Mathura for such an innovative idea of a Family Day for the Region and all who assisted in making this Family Day such a great success giving lifelong, beautiful memories to the region.

Romans 15: 7 "Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."



SUSAMACHAR EASTER SUNDAY BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Susamachar Communications

What a beautiful thing indeed, where we can celebrate our Lord's victory over death by welcoming new members to our fold and to the Lord's table through Baptism and Confirmation. On Easter Sunday, Susamachar warmly welcomed twenty one (21) newly confirmed members to our church. Having attended Confirmation classes, these new communicants completed a significant milestone on their faith journey. Susamachar takes this opportunity to congratulate them and remind them that the Church is there to support them on this journey.

Reverend Letra Jacob, Minister of the Susamachar Pastoral Region, reminded the congregation in her sermon which included various components of the church working together, that 'The church is empty without you.' Taking her inspiration from Luke 24:13-35, The Walk to Emmaus, Reverend Jacob reminded the new communicant members that they 'came because God placed in your heart, a desire to be in his presence and you want to walk that journey with Him,' she further implored them to 'take that walk seriously.'

The message was a strong reminder to all in the congregation, and all those viewing online, that we are on our own walk with Jesus, and that we are on our faith journey. She again reminded us that we must work together, and that we can't do His work on our own, but rather that we all need one other.

The service, very much in the Susamachar style, featured lots of music, with the Susamachar Presbyterian Church Junior Choir, led by organist Kevin Ragbir lending their voices to uplift the service with their Introit and Anthem, and the Susamachar Pan Stars steel orchestra adding their flavour to the service with their own Prelude and Anthem.

Deaconess Jenifa Sinanan, new to the region, led the service and offered several moving prayers. After the service, the new communicant and their families, together with the congregation were invited to Grant House to participate in refreshments and fellowship.



CUREPE PRESBYTERIAN GOOD FRIDAY MELA

SUBMITTED BY ADIL N DATTOO



With the symbol of the cross mounted in the foreground of the congregation, the Curepe Presbyterian Church bonded its members in the first mela service in the Northern Presbytery. It was one filled with drama, music, praise and worship that engaged a packed church.

Coordinator of this special service, Mrs. Lynette Kokaram, welcomed the congregation with opening remarks. She explained the aims of a mela to build strong community bonds by citing the first one held in Fyzabad. She then stressed the need to mend the anxiety of the pandemic as the key reason for this mela.



The service was split into three sessions, the first led by Reverend Dr. Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan, the second by Presiding Elder Mr. Larry Kowlessar and the third by Reverend Damien Sieunarine.

The service opened with a dramatic performance depicting Jesus' march with his cross and his crucifixion. With bells ringing throughout the long march and the sounds of a whip cracking, members of the congregation were brought to tears as they witnessed Jesus falling and crying out in pain. "I don't think there was a dry eye in there," observed one member.

The symbol of the cross remained an important theme for the three sessions. Reverend Dr. Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan told the worshippers of the importance of Jesus' sacrifice and why they needed to trust him. P.E. Larry Kowlessar explained the emotional impact and importance for Jesus' suffering, ending by leaving the congregation to think about the importance of these symbols. To close, Reverend Damien Sieunarine explained that Jesus' final words were a declaration of victory, as he connected his message to the words of the previous speakers.

After a long and energetic service, members recharged themselves in the church hall. They were treated to lunch and fellowship as the mela closed with cheers all around.

THE UNVEILING OF THE PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE WALL AT LENGUA PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

By Mrs. Melissa Siew Sankar.



From left to right: Kelvin Ganpat, Bunny James- Maicoo (PP), Danny Gokool, Rose Drepaulsingh, John Roopchan, Jennylynd Ramjohn, Harrilal Arjoon, Peter Arjoon, Vickram Ramlal, William Gokool

Friday 31st March, 2023, will go down as an historic day in the annals of the Lengua Presbyterian Primary School. On this day, the “Presbyterian Heritage Wall” was dedicated and unveiled. The wall was dedicated by Presiding Elder Mr. William Gokool.

Among those present to witness this historic event were: the Chairman of the Presbyterian Primary Schools’ Board of Education (PPSBE), Mr. Vickram Ramlal, former principals, Mrs. Rose Drepaulsingh and Mrs. Jennylynd Ramjohn, past students and current stakeholders, Mr. Kelvin Ganpat (also former teacher at the school), Mr. Peter Arjoon, Mr. Danny Gokool, Mr. Harrilal Arjoon and Mr. John Roopchan - all of whom were recognized for their contributions in their different fields.

The aim of the ‘Presbyterian Wall’ is to not only educate our pupils, but also visitors who enter the premises, on the rich history of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago and Lengua Presbyterian Primary School. It is hoped that students would be motivated to work hard to be as successful as the many students who have gone before them and to develop a sense of pride and love for their school.



The wall includes a brief history and facts about the PCTT as well as the Lengua Presbyterian Primary School. Former administrators and some successful graduates are mentioned. Recognition was given to the people/graduates who would have remained in and around the community of Lengua and who, to this day, continue to support the school in all its endeavours.

In bringing greetings, Mr. Ramlal, commended the Principal, Mrs. Maicoo, and Staff on the project and indicated that it was strongly endorsed by the PPSBE. He stated that it was the Board’s wish that all principals consider similar projects to preserve the history of their schools and their Presbyterian identity. He further reiterated the value of daily worship during the morning’s assembly as well as the teaching of Religious Instruction. In her closing remarks, Mrs. Maicoo, thanked everyone for their contribution towards making the project a success. She stated that having this display, will serve to remind and inspire everyone to emulate the achievements of past students and live up to the school’s motto: “Let Knowledge Increase”.

MESSAGE TO ARPT RETIREES MEMBERS CONTINUE TO BE COVID-CAUTIOUS

Submitted by Mohan Bhagan

Owing to the COVID 19 virus pandemic since 2020, and the government's stringent restrictions re having assemblies, we had to abide by the necessary health protocols.

However, during the latter part of 2022, restrictions were lifted due to the drop in severe cases and even deaths. This was a most positive sign. Freedom, with restrictions, was gladly welcomed. While 2023 promises to be a more relaxed period for business, social events and church services, we remain cautious.

Many of our retirees, during the dreadful pandemic, had to endure periods of trauma and suffering. Unfortunately, some of our stalwarts who served the PCTT and education faithfully and diligently, succumbed to the illness and passed on. We remember them with sincere gratitude in our hearts. May their souls rest peacefully in the loving arms of our heavenly Master and may their bereaved families be blessed with spiritual strength and comfort in the Lord.

The pandemic has once again raised its ugly head and poses a threat, especially to our elderly. Because of this unfortunate threat, we, as an organization, are once more forced to shelve all our physical activities. But friends, we serve a God who cares for His people, and hopefully, this new threat will be short lived. In the meantime, however, as responsible citizens we should take care of our families and ourselves and continue to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

Easter greetings and blessings to all our members and their families.

You may contact anyone of the undermentioned for further information.

Mr. Mohan Bhagan: 665- 3871/760- 1310, Mr. Orlando Nagessar: 672-4427/682-1655,

Ms. Leemoy Rampersadsingh: 655-2328/380-5159

PALM SUNDAY AT VISTABELLA

Submitted by : Mrs. Rosemarie Ali – Superintendent

The Vistabella Presbyterian Church was beautifully adorned with palm branches on Palm Sunday. It was a wonderful Service indeed. At the start of the services, the Sunday School pupils and congregation members entered the sanctuary to the song 'Enter into Jerusalem' played on the steel pan by Steel in Ministry which comprises members of the Youth Group. They entered joyfully to the sound of the pan, waving their palm branches.

The Service was conducted by Mr. Christopher Sookhoo. We were led in choruses all in keeping with the theme of the day. Mr. Sean Parasram read the Scriptures and a solo was done by Justine Sookoo entitled 'Hosanna'.

Mr. Christopher Sookhoo brought the message on that day. He focused on being a humble servant following the example that Christ set when he walked on the earth.

It was indeed a very spirit filled service. After Church, the kids were led in choruses, paraded, quiz, searching for their easter baskets and a scrumptious meal provided by our Sunday School Superintendent.

Prizes were awarded, to the first, second, and third winners in the three categories. The enjoyed this time of fellowship.



PALM SUNDAY WALK AT ROUSILLAC PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL

Submitted by Ria Pooran-Gopaul.

The Palm Sunday Walk reenactment at the Rousillac Presbyterian School first began in 2009 under the then Principal, Mr. Gabriel Kokaram. This has become an annual event at the school except for the years 2020 to 2022 during the COVID19 Pandemic.

A church service prior to the walk created the atmosphere. The service began with a lively praise and worship lead by Ms Maria Dassyne and the Principal, (Ag.) Mr Robert Seerattan. This year, the staff and students happily joined in worship, some wore their floral wreaths from World Day of Prayer service earlier in March.

Presiding Elder Aasha Anna Mahabir officiated and led us into worship, she pointed out the significance of Jesus entering Jerusalem, riding on a donkey over 2000 years ago. Jesus' reason for coming into this world is to save us from our sins. On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus came to heal us, to set an example of love for us to follow and to make us better boys and girls and better people. The people who were there welcomed him as their king, their Messiah, yet they also recognized him as the prophet from Nazareth. She shared with the children that **Jesus is our king, he is our Messiah or Saviour.**

At the close of the service, the students and teachers waved palm branches as they sang, "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!" accompanied on the guitar by Mr. R Seerattan. After the church service ended, students were grouped and followed the cross in an outdoor procession waving palm branches and singing songs. All to God's glory!



SPORTS DAY AT PIPARO PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL

Submitted by Magdalene Ali



On 24th February, 2023, Piparo Presbyterian School hosted its Sports Day which was sponsored by Sagikor Life Inc. The Staff, specially invited guests, parents and students were happy to have a day filled with physical activities after the period of inactivity during COVID 19 and all the lock downs. It was a day full of excitement, fun and recreation.

Medals were won by many. There were races for students, parents and staff. Some of the races were marble and spoon, musical chairs, bunny hop, shuttle races and obstacle races. Everyone was treated to refreshments throughout the day. It was a very memorable day for members of staff, parents, and students.

The Principal and staff would like to thank all those who participated as well as those who sponsored this day – One full of pleasant memories, enjoyment and relaxation.

BOCE SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY

OPENING REMARKS BY RAQUEL SOOKLALSINGH-PAUL

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this Sunday School rally. This is a day to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of Sunday School in our lives. Sunday School is a place where we learn about the teachings of Jesus Christ and grow in our faith.

Today, we have gathered here to recognize the contributions of our Sunday School teachers and students who have worked hard throughout the year. We are proud of the efforts of our teachers who have dedicated their time and energy to educate our children and instill in them the values of kindness, compassion, and love.

As we come together today, let us take a moment to reflect on the importance of Sunday School in our lives. Sunday School provides us with an opportunity to learn and grow in our faith, to build meaningful relationships, and to find a community of like-minded people who share our values.

I encourage all of you to take full advantage of this opportunity and to participate in the activities that have been planned for today. Let us come together in a spirit of fellowship and joy, and let us celebrate the blessings of God in our lives.

Once again, welcome to this Sunday School rally. May God bless us all and guide us on our journey of faith. Thank you.



BOCE SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY

SUBMITTED BY GARY SOOMARAH

The Board of Christian Education hosted its 35th annual Sunday School Rally at Naparima College where hundreds were gathered physically for the first time in such a setting after the COVID 19 pandemic restricted the hosting of such events. The theme chosen for this year's rally "Enter into Jerusalem" was fitting as it celebrated the return to physical interaction in this forum as well as acknowledged persons who would have contributed to the success of the Sunday School rally over the years.

The morning's session began with a parade in which Sunday schools were led by the Naparima College Band around the field before proceeding to the auditorium where the Dancers trained by Mrs. Reshma Sohan led the flag bearers on stage where they presented their flags to the theme song "Enter into Jerusalem". This was then followed by the national anthem that was played by Ashish Balramsingh, Sunday School student of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, after which the opening prayer was said. The Chairman of the Board of Christian Education, Mrs. Raquel Paul, led the day's proceedings.

The day was undoubtedly enjoyed by the children and the adults who eagerly participated in the spirit filled Praise and Worship led by the teams of Mrs. Dianne Doodnath and her group from the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church and Christopher Sookhoo and his team. The message was eagerly received by both young and old from Ms. Victoria Rajkumar who presented the theme in a story format. Sunday School students were then placed into classes and further discussed the theme with teachers attached to them. The final session was done by Mr. Kosi who did a puppet segment that further emphasized the day's theme. This was lastly followed by a short history about the Sunday School's Rally inception by Mr. Bill Siboo, after which tokens were presented to the specially invited guests who assisted in ensuring the Rally's success.

Special thanks must be given to the Board of Christian Education for hosting a successful Rally and for providing tokens to all the Sunday School students in attendance. To God be the glory!

BOCE SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY



Photos courtesy Reshma Sohan

HONOURING PAST MEMBERS OF BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Submitted by Raquel Sooklalsingh Paul

Dear Respected Past Members of the Board, I stand before you today to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the invaluable contribution you have made to the success of the Board of Christian Education.

As past members of the Board, you have played a vital role in providing leadership, guidance, and direction to the BOCE. Your commitment, hard work, and dedication have been the driving force behind our achievements, and we are truly grateful for your efforts.



Damien Surajbally BOCE Treasurer, Shelly Ann Ragbir, Raquel Sooklalsingh-Paul BOCE Chair, Rt. Rev Joy Abdul-Mohan, Shaleine Sooklal BOCE Secretary, PE Martin Sahadath BOCE Vice Chair, Deaconess Jenifa Sinanan

The decisions you have made, the ideas you have brought to the table, and the wisdom you have imparted have been instrumental in shaping the future of this Board. You have tirelessly given your time and expertise, and your tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed.

It is because of your selfless service that we have been able to overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and achieve our goals. Your contributions have inspired us to aim higher, work harder, and strive for excellence in everything we do.

On behalf of The Board of Christian Education, I want to express our heartfelt appreciation for the hard work and dedication you have shown to our cause. You have truly made a difference in the lives of so many people, and your legacy will continue to inspire us for years to come.

It is because of this we recognize your significant contribution and honour you on this the 35th Palm Saturday Rally. May God continue to Bless you.



The List of Awardees

The Rt. Rev Joy Abdul Mohan, Rev Bruce Kramer, Rev Emmanuel Ramdeen, Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah, Mr. Steve Budhu, Mr. Hilton Siboo, Mr. Winston Seupaul, Presiding Elder Ken Seepersad, Deaconess Ashmin Gajadhar, Presiding Elder Hazoon Baksh Dass, Mrs Grace Ramlackhansingh, Mrs. Hazel Kramer, Ms Sharon Ramjohn, Mrs Dianne Doodnath, Ms. Kathleen Keseram, Posthumously Rev. Everson T. Sieunarine, (Received by son Rev Damien Sieunarine and his grandson Evan), Mrs Myrtle Sammy (Received by her son, Mr James Sammy) Mrs Myrtle Brown (Received by Daughter-in-law, Mrs Salisha Brown)

BOCE SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY



Photos courtesy Reshma Sohan

In Loving Memory



**Sunrise 08/12/1935 -
Sunset 14/05/2021**
Former Member of
**Valencia
Presbyterian
Church**

Lovingly
Remembered by:
**6 Children
15 Grandchildren
13 Great Grandchildren**
Adopted
Mother of many
Adopted
Grandmother of many

Evelyn Haradan
1935-2021

The family of Charles Paragg would like to announce his sudden passing on December 13, 2022. Charles was born in Siparia on April 28, 1945. He spent his elementary and high school years in Lambeau, Tobago. He is dearly missed by his wife of 48 years, Deanne; children, Melanie, Michelle (Chris), grandchildren, Christopher Charles and Stella Anne, and grandpuppy, Max. He is also survived by many Paragg, Bhikarrie, Haqq, and Latiff relatives. Before emigrating to Canada in 1971, Charles worked at Hillview College, as well as Arima High School. A private service was held in December, and a Celebration of Life took place in April in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Charles Paragg

April 28, 1945 -
December 13, 2022



His full obituary can be read at www.neilbardalfuneralhome.com
If you would like to donate, a memorial fund has been established in his name to help medical students in need:
<http://give.umanitoba.ca/CharlesParaggMemorialFund>

Congratulations & Welcome

To our moderator,
the Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance
from the management and
staff of CarVey's Printery Ltd.

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Read your Bible

May

“Happy Are Those Who Hold Fast To The Lord”

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Ezekiel 34:17-23	Ezekiel 34:23-31	Jeremiah 23:1-8	Genesis 12:1-3	Exodus 3:1-12	Jeremiah 26:20-24
John 14:1-14	Exodus 3:5-12	Proverbs 3:5-12	Proverbs 3:13-18	Genesis 6:5-22	Genesis 7:1-24	Genesis 8:13-19
John 14:15-21	Acts 27:39-44	1 Peter 3:8-12	John 16:16-24	Ephesians 1:15-23	Ephesians 2:1-7	John 8:21-30
John 17:1-11	1 Peter 4:1-6	1 Peter 4:7-11	John 3:31-36	Acts 2:1-11	Romans 8:14-17	Matthew 5:1-12
John 20:19-23	Romans 8:18-24	Romans 8:26-27	John 7:37-39			

June

“Relying On God’s Faithful Guidance”

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				2 Timothy 1:8-12	2 Timothy 1:12b-14	Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13	1 Corinthians 12:1-3	1 Corinthians 12:4-13	John 14:25-26	2 Peter 2:17-22	Acts 28:1-10	Psalm 33:1-12
Genesis 12:1-9	Genesis 16:1-15	Genesis 17	Genesis 18:16-33	Genesis 21:1-7	Genesis 24:1-9	Psalm 116:1-2
Romans 5:1-8	1 Thessalonians 3:1-5	2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5	Luke 6:12-19	Hebrews 2:5-9	Acts 5:17-26	Psalm 86:1-10
Romans 6:1b-11	Revelation 2:1-7	Revelation 2:8-11	Matthew 10:5-23	Galatians 5:2-6	Galatians 5:7-12	