

THE MODERATOR SPEAKS



PCTT MODERATOR, THE RIGHT REVEREND DANIEL CHANCE

Celebrating Indian Arrival Day

The arrival of East Indian indentured labourers to Trinidad and Tobago in the 19th century marked the beginning of a new and challenging chapter in their lives. Uprooted from their homeland, they faced harsh working conditions, cultural displacement, and linguistic barriers. Yet, in the midst of struggle, the Presbyterian Church emerged as a beacon of hope and transformation.

One of the Church's most significant contributions was through education. Beginning with the efforts of Canadian missionary Rev. John Morton and others in the late 19th century, schools were established across East Indian settlements—starting in places like Iere Village, Siparia, and Tunapuna. These schools did more than teach reading and writing; they taught English while embracing aspects of the students' language, culture, and identity. The Church sought not to erase difference, but to bridge the gap between communities and to cultivate the value of every human soul—each one made in the image of God.

Many leaders in Trinidad and Tobago trace their beginnings to this legacy. Notable alumni of Presbyterian schools include former President Sir Noor Hassanali, Nobel Laureate Sir V.S. Naipaul, and former Prime Minister Basdeo Panday. These individuals stand as a testament to how Christian compassion and quality education can uplift entire communities.

Moreover, the Church showed **cultural sensitivity and inclusiveness**, taking time to understand the traditions, festivals, and values of the East Indian people. Rather than demand complete cultural assimilation, the Church fostered mutual respect, helping to preserve elements of Indian identity while introducing Christian values. This spirit of bridge-building laid the foundation for a more unified national identity in a multicultural Trinidad and Tobago.

Spiritually, the message of the Gospel brought comfort and dignity to many. The words of Galatians 3:28 resound with relevance: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." The Church's outreach embodied this truth, affirming that all people, regardless of race or background, are equal in the eyes of God.

Today, the rich cultural heritage of the East Indian community still permeates Presbyterian worship. One of the most beautiful examples of this is the continued singing of bhajans, devotional songs that are now offered in praise of Jesus Christ. These bhajans, sung in Hindi and Bhojpuri-style melodies, have been lovingly adapted to express Christian themes, allowing believers to worship in both spirit and cultural truth. As Psalm 150:6 proclaims: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" Stay Strong, Stay Focused, Stay Blessed



FROM THE **DESK OF T**

PCTT GENERAL SECRETARY, PRESIDING ELDER MR. ASHFORD D TAMBY

Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." We have just concluded the first three days of the 65th AGM of the Synod of the PCTT, whereby the Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance was re-elected to serve a second term as Moderator of the Synod. In writing this article, I am reminded of the principles outlined in Philippians 2:3-4, which serve as a profound guide for us as leaders and volunteers alike. This scripture calls for a radical shift from self-centeredness to a community-focused approach, emphasising humility and selflessness.

Humility is a cornerstone of Christian leadership. As leaders, we face the challenge of letting go of selfish ambition and vain conceit. This means that by holding any position on a board or committee, we need to prioritise the needs and well-being of the members over personal gain or recognition. Leaders are encouraged to serve with a heart of humility, recognising that their role is not about elevating themselves but about uplifting others.

The directive to "value others above yourselves" is a call to genuine care and respect for each member of the church community. Therefore, the process involves listening to the concerns and needs of the members of your congregation, making decisions that benefit the collective rather than a select few who may be your friends or family, and fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and heard. This approach helps build a strong, supportive church where members are motivated to contribute and grow.

Let us remember to embrace the model of servant leadership, where the primary goal is to serve others. Handle conflicts with grace and fairness, always aiming for solutions that benefit the church rather than personal interests. Implement ethical standards and practices that ensure accountability and transparency. Actively engage with your members to understand their needs and concerns.

As many would have taken on various responsibilities, we need to ensure transparency in the decision-making processes, seeking input from all involved and ensuring fair and just actions are taken, while being mindful of how decisions impact the broader church. Embrace humility, value others; and prioritise the church's interests instead of letting personal vendettas dictate your decisions. We can foster a nurturing and inclusive environment. We will strengthen the church and reflect the teachings of Christ, who exemplified the ultimate act of selflessness and service. As leaders, we need to strive to embody these principles, as they contribute to a thriving, spiritually enriched community that honours God and supports one another.

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T CHANNELS

















SYNOD FOLDER COVER COMPETITION WINNERS

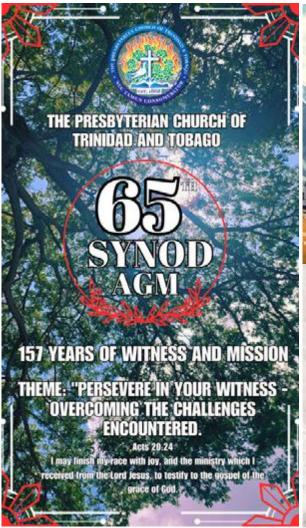
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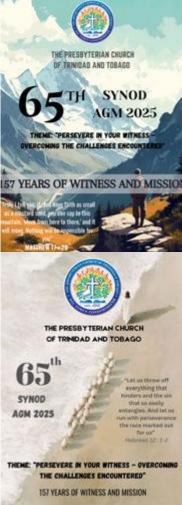
The Communications Unit of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago is delighted to announce the winners of the 65th Synod Folder Art Competition! Held under the inspiring theme, "Persevere in your witness – overcoming the challenges encountered," this competition invited members of all ages across our Church to express their faith and creativity through visual art.

We were truly moved by the powerful submissions received—each design a testament to the enduring spirit, hope, and artistic talent within our Presbyterian community. We proudly recognize and celebrate those whose artwork captured the heart of the theme with originality, meaning, and excellence.

The Third Place goes to Lexi Mahabir of the Iere Memorial Presbyterian Church, located in the Princes Town Pastoral Region. The illustration of Jesus leading a flock of sheep, accompanied by Hebrews 12:1-3, highlights the endurance required to follow Christ amid challenges. This passage urges believers to run with perseverance, shedding distractions and focusing on Jesus, the perfecter of our faith. Like sheep trusting their shepherd, believers are reminded to rely on Jesus' guidance, finding strength in His example of enduring the cross. It emphasizes that overcoming challenges is possible when we keep our eyes fixed on Him and draw inspiration from His unwavering commitment.

The Second Place goes to Candace Mahabir of the Iere Memorial Presbyterian Church, located in the Princes Town Pastoral Region. Mountains, paired with the verse Matthew 17:20, beautifully illustrate the idea of perseverance in faith. Mountains symbolize the challenges and obstacles we encounter in life and this verse encourages believers to overcome these challenges by holding steadfast to their faith. Even the smallest measure of true faith can empower us to confront and surmount trials, embodying the call to persevere in our witness for Christ.





And the Winner of the 65th Synod Cover Competition with the most online votes is Stephen Kaseram of Mac Donald Memorial Presbyterian Church Princes Town Pastoral Region. "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Perseverance"

cover-page captures essence of the Presbyterian Church Trinidad and Tobago's of unwavering commitment to faith and mission over 157 years. The background showcases a tree that once stood at the back of SYNOD's svmbolizina Office. strenath. growth, and renewal. This tree, now repurposed for the foundation of a new building. represents the ability church's to overcome challenges while continuing to build for the future. The red, white, and black accents reflect the national colors of Trinidad and Tobago, uniting the church's spiritual legacy with its cultural heritage. With the theme "Persevere in Your Witness -Overcomina the Challenges Encountered," and the scriptural inspiration from Acts 20:24, the design is a testament to the enduring journey of faith, resilience, and mission.

THE FAMILY CAN

A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE THE FAMILY - HILTON R SIBOO: CONTACT: 788-2685)
THE PILGRIMAGE OF PARENTING: [part 13(b)] - Can PERSONALITY be Parented?

In this series, our approach established that parenting is a relationship between the 'parenter' and the 'parentee'. Last month part 13 (a) began to consider - Can PERSONALITY be Parented? and more specifically, can the 'parenter' parent the personality formation of the 'parentee? If so, ... why and how even when the 'parentee' may not always be a young child.

This continuing article considers ... What determines personality? What influences personality formation?

All behaviours whether desirable or undesirable reflects personality development and formation through life stages. Generally, personality is determined by approval and affirmations or negation from adults, peers... and the social and mass media, which as 'parenters' often guide or force the development of personality traits. As to what is socially acceptable, results from the exposures and experiences to norms and values, rules and laws but can be poles apart on a spectrum or continuum. The aspects and factors that impacts and influences personality formation are determined by factors arising from 'nature' and 'nurture' including:

- **1. Biological Medical** shape and size of body, head, skin colour, etc. Socio-psychological exposures and experiences related to/from financial/wealth, education, culture, religion, lifestyle, diet, alcohol, drugs and other substances used.
- 2. Personality formation begins to develop within the **Home and family** If the intent, objectives and goals of parenting are the 'Raising responsible adults' this begins with the raising of responsible children to themself and others. Today's parents reside in a world different from previous generations, where both are working, continue studying... employed with even migratory relocations, where today's challenges in a global tech-virtual village of ... social media, communication technology, religion or spirituality... are towards choices and decisions with regards to relationships, self-care, lifestyles, career, occupation, vocations and influenced by guidance and counselling or indifference, demand and bullying? Should the verbal communication and language, the behaviours, actions and attitudes be accepted and/or rejected? Child rearing practices have changed and despite the wide array of information, what was suitable then have become 'confusing, contradictory and conflicting'. Does child-rearing today influence personality formation? Whether as a as bio-parent or surrogate parents, a parenter's identity and personality impacts the personality formation of the child-parentee. Is parental guidance needed?
- **3. External to the home,** Education and schooling impacts personality formation before the age of five where Play school, day care centres, 'ECCE" juxtapose academic knowledge vs personality human maturation [Froebel early 19th C to Montessori 1960's. During the early years of life, the child's personality is influenced and formed by psychological and basic physical human needs and not particularly 'discipline, alienation or parental guilt. Good schools... develop the 'self- image, self-concept... bio-physical, mental, the child's communication and view of others and his inner feelings. This view of self comes often from approval and praise, acceptance by playmates. Disapproval, negative criticisms, condemnations and name calling e.g. fat, dummy, smarty, messy, brat, etc, can result in emotional scarring to self-concept and self-identity, when compared to others. No two children are alike in human development and maturation rate and personality formation.

Within this context then, Can this approach improve our parenting relationships and skills and improve intra-family and inter-family relationships? I hope that this perspective can guide the understanding and effect changes and adjustments to the narrative and approach to parenting where the participants interact in a relational exchange that affects and impacts their words and actions, attitudes, behaviours and roles, duties and responsibilities.

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 PCTT

2025 is a most significant milestone for the Archives of the PCTT (CAPCTT) as this marks the 50th Anniversary since the establishment of the present physical location in September 1975. Therefore, over the next months, 'Encountering ... the Archives' will share information with you to 'KNOW THE CAPCTT'.

Having previously been brief on Location and Administration and aspects of Archives Development since 2020 let us consider CONTENT. We can begin with the question, Does the PCTT need an Archives? What is its worth and value and relevance and to whom?

The value of the CAPCTT is not only to the PCTT, Synod's boards and committees but each member and individual, extending into all the PCTT where the impact, influence and inspiration commenced with the CM, PCC in 1868. Of note is that Rev John Morton's mission to the El in Trinidad was the second from the PCC, the first being to the New Hebrides by Rev Dr John Geddie. However, before the Canadian Mission, the Presbyterian presence in Trinidad included the Church of Scotland, The United Presbyterian Church of the USA and the Portuguese Madeiran refugees.

Since that time historical records and documents have been kept and stored and utilised for research and studies, here in Trinidad and in Canada. In Trinidad, the records of the Field Missionaries include reports to Canada and an array of statistics, minutes and volumes of church history of which the Trinidad Presbyterian, first published in 1904 is best known. The content of the CAPCTT includes sources of records from the Canadian Mission, the PTC/SATC, NTC, church office, schools and churches, Presbytery, Synod – its boards and committees. There is also some personal records of church workers and members. Added to these there are the collections of museum artifacts, photographs and publications of the archival library.

Projecting into the future, the collections of the CAPCTT can only grow and expand with contributions, deposits and gifts to its repository, museum and archival library. This information only touches the tip of the content of the CAPCTT.

To members of the PCTT and all persons interested in study and research, the CAPCTT is available and can in some way assist. Therefore, over the next months, 'Encountering ... the Archives' will share information on the Sections, Content, Operations, etc. of the CAPCTT.

An encounter with the Archives is an encounter with ... yourself. The Archives are opened on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Call to arrange a visit. **Contact: 652-4829** [Synod Office] and **653-4166** [SATC Library] Asst Archivist: Hilton R Bill Siboo **788-2685**

AGRIFACTS RAINY SEASON PLANTING TIPS COLUMN SUBMITTED BY RAYANNA BOODRAM rayannaboodram@hotmail.com

The 2025 rainy season so far is bringing an abundance of rainfall. While rain is vital for plant growth, excessive moisture and poor drainage can create conditions which stress the plant and attract pest and diseases. Despite this, you can still have your plants surviving and thriving this rainy season by following the tips below:

1. Choose plants that are flood tolerant

Some plants and varieties are naturally better suited for rainy conditions. These include vegetables such as Dasheen bush and Ochro, herbs such as Mint and Basil and ornamentals such as Ferns and Lilies.

2. Ensure that you have proper drainage

Too much water can lead to root rot, nutrient leaching, and fungal infections. To avoid this, use raised beds where the soil levels are elevated to improve runoff and aeration. Add sand, compost, or perlite to clay-heavy soils to increase porosity and if using containers or pots, ensure that they have sufficient drainage holes.

3. Use lots of Mulch

Mulching is an efficient and inexpensive tool in managing rainy-season gardening. It helps to reduce soil erosion, regulate soil temperature and suppress weeds which are usually out of control with the rainfall. Choose well-draining mulch like straw, bark chips and coconut husk.

4. Monitor for Pests and Diseases

Rainy weather creates ideal conditions for fungal diseases, slugs, snails, and other pests that can be harmful to the plants and even to humans. To help prevent these, ensure to inspect plants regularly for leaf spots, mold and pests. Ensure to prune affected areas to increase airflow and use organic fungicides like neem oil or baking soda sprays. An integrated pest management approach is always best.

In addition to the above, you should also avoid overwatering by checking soil moisture before watering manually and fertilize your garden with caution as rain can leach nutrients from the soil, particularly nitrogen and potassium and on the converse excessive fertilization can also stress plants during wet weather. Try using a slow-release fertilizers to avoid nutrient loss. Don't let the rainy season discourage you but rather encourage you to keep your gardens healthy and beautiful!

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

BY CLARENCE BHARATH, ARAMALAYA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were sitting in a house in one place. Suddenly a sound like a violent wind, came from heaven and filled up the space. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire, that separated and rested on them. Filled with the Spirit, they spoke many languages, 'twas the Spirit from whom all this stemmed.

Now there were in Jerusalem, foreign Jews from every nation.
On hearing their own language being spoken, this was a source of confusion, Totally stunned, they all asked, "Are not all who are speaking from Galilee?"

Then how is it possible that we understand them, that language is our "cup of tea?"
Parthians, Medes and Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Cappadocia.
Rome, Pamphylia and Egypt and the parts of Libya by Cyrene.

Jews, Cretans, Arabs,
Converts, all asked,
"What does this
mean?"
Some mockingly,
made fun of them
saying, "They have
drunk much too
much wine."
Unknown to them it
was the Holy Spirit,
making hearts Divine.

The Power of the Holy Spirit, here symbolized by wind and fire. Empowered the believers of God Almighty, to speak and to inspire. Pentecost marks the Birth of the Church, filling our cup to the brim. The Spirit descends to equip God's people: we too can walk with Him.

INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY AT ST JOSEPH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On Sunday 25th May 2025, St Joseph Presbyterian Church observed Indian Arrival Day. The specially invited guest preacher was Mrs. Jayanti Lutchmedial —Ramdial who was accompanied by husband Mr Ramdial. Her message was based on the Scripture Passage from Galatians 3: 21/29. The theme was "Hope of Arrival".

In Her message, she honoured the courage and faith of our ancestors that came across the Kalapani and eventually settled in Trinidad. Although it was a physical arrival it was also a "Spiritual Arrival". In Jesus' time the people were under the Law, but when He came, He freed the people from the law. They then enjoyed a life of freedom.



That same Hope now educated the labourers of the estates, the East Indian indentured labourers with the coming of the Canadian Missionaries in 1868. It removed the cutlasses and hoes from their hands and replaced it with books of learning and knowledge. The Presbyterian Church took the education to the people, to their doorsteps. Building schools everywhere there were estates and barracks. Giving them a "New Identity" as children of God. They became citizens and they now had the freedom to be all that they could be. Freedom to be the "Children of God".... Such was the legacy of the PCTT which boasts of the largest network of churches and schools in Trinidad today.

Gifts were given to Ms. Lutchmedial-Ramdial in appreciation for her visit. We sang HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Rev Emmanuel Ramdeen and presented him with a birthday fruit basket and Choka breakfast was served in the hall.

The congregation members were dressed in traditional Indian wear for the occasion. Bhajans were sung for the introit and also rendered by the Mens Choir accompanied by the Tabla. Rev Ramdeen also sang a longtime Bhajan which was very well received.

AT EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HONOURING THE LEGACY OF INDENTURED LABOURERS

By Mrs Carmelia Sammy, Assistant Treasurer of the Knox PCW Group

On June 1st, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church during their church service remembered the legacies of the Indian indentured labourers who arrived over a century ago. Their journey, marked by hardship, resilience, and deep faith, left an indelible impact not only on our communities but also on the spiritual life of the Presbyterian Church.

The indentured labourers, many of whom came to work on sugar plantations under harsh and oppressive conditions, brought with them a strong sense of family, culture, and a deep hunger for hope.



In time, as they encountered Christianity through mission schools and churches, they began to embrace the Presbyterian faith—infusing it with their own rich traditions, values, and spiritual fervour.

The Emmanuel Presbyterian Church reflected on how the East Indian Indentured labourers showed perseverance and faithfulness which helped lay the foundation for generations of Presbyterian believers. Today, the Presbyterian Church in communities like ours remains deeply influenced by their legacy—characterized by humility, devotion, and a commitment to justice and service. Emmanuel Presbyterian stands as a living testimony to that legacy.

As we remembered them on Indian Arrival Day, we were reminded that their story is our story—one of pain transformed into purpose through faith. May we continue to honor their memory by living out the gospel with courage and compassion.

THE THREE 'B'S OF FATHER'S DAY

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 11:11-13 (KJV)

We are in the month of June. Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June every year. Just like Mother's Day we would give our fathers a nice gift or a Father's Day card and tell our father that we love him and say, "Thank you" for all of the things he does for us each day.

Some fathers are in heaven with Jesus but we still have wonderful memories of him. There was a lesson once told by a Sunday School teacher about three things that reminded her of her Father when she was growing up. All of these things started with the letter B.

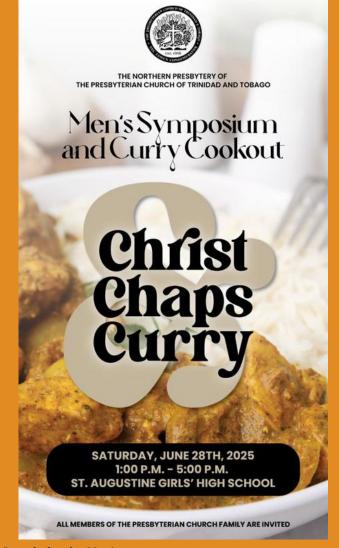
Bread -. All of our lives, God has provided food for the table at our house. God provided that "daily bread" through a hardworking father who made sure that our needs were provided. The "daily bread" does not only mean Kiss bread, hotdog bread or hops bread but all that is needed to sustain us. Our Scripture verse for today says, "If a son asks bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone?" The answer, of course, is, "No."

Ball - How many of you would play cricket or football with your father? Many fathers always take the time to do special things with their children. Some fathers get too busy and never seem to have time to do things with their children. But you must always remember that your Father loves you very much.

Bible - The most important 'B' word. Many Fathers would read the Bible with their children or go to church or read Bible stories. This will teach us about God's love and about how Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Of all the things a father would do, this can be the most important. Learning about our Heavenly Father, God and God's love is an amazing experience to share with our Earthly Fathers.

Our Earthly fathers are not only our "daddy" but also all the father figures in our lives.... An uncle, teacher, brother or friend. On Father's Day let us show them some love as well. This Father's Day let us pray for our Fathers who provide for our daily needs. Who will take time to play with their children and who loves their children enough to teach them about God's love. All our Fathers deserve a big... "THANK YOU" for all that they do.

Let us pray Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for our earthly fathers. Help us this day to show our love and appreciation to our fathers, and may we always remember to show our love for you, our heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



June is for the Men!

As we celebrate Father's Day and Men's Health Awareness Month, Join us for a flavorful afternoon as our male chefs face off in a friendly curried duck cook-off

— Who will take the crown for the most mouth-watering dish? Expect fun, food, & family-friendly activities for all ages. Sharpen your taste buds and get ready to enjoy some delicious curried duck, lovingly prepared by the men we hold dear!





A JOURNEY OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE

BY ENDERSON JAGESSAR, PRESIDENT - SUSAMACHAR MEN'S FELLOWSHIP (SMF)

What began as a vision in early March came to beautiful fruition in May, thanks to the unwavering dedication and collaborative spirit of many. The outreach initiative by the Susamachar Men's Fellowship (SMF), spearheaded by the insightful Mr. Raymond Ramsingh and supported by a core group of committed members, blossomed into an inspiring success, one rooted in compassion, unity, and spiritual service.

Our Outreach Service at the Divine Rock Presbyterian Church in Penal was more than just an event — it was a deeply moving and spiritually uplifting experience. The warmth and engagement of everyone who attended made the occasion one to remember.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the members of the SMF, their spouses, and the ever-enthusiastic Susamachar Youth Group. According to our records, we had 21 SMF members and their spouses, along with approximately 17 members and supporters from the Youth Group — a remarkable total of 38 individuals who lent their time, energy, and hearts to this project.

Special appreciation is extended to Mr. Roger Ali and the following devoted members who played vital roles in the success of this outreach: Enderson Jagessar, Vishnu Chakan, Carl Maharaj, Keith Charles, Hollis Sankar, Garth Ragbir, Roy Lalla, Joshep Lalchan, Neal Goberdan, Rajiv Nehorah, Rory Sukoorali and Ashton Bahadur. To all who contributed meaningfully, whether through participation in the service, coordination, or behind-the-scenes support — your efforts are recognized and valued.

We were truly blessed by the musical offerings of Prakash Ramlakhan, beautifully accompanied by Darrin Sankar. Their harmonious contribution filled the sanctuary with soulful music, elevating the spiritual ambiance and touching the hearts of all present.

I also wish to express profound gratitude to Rev. Sookansingh and his executive team led by Chairperson Carmilete Mohan and Secretary Lillian Sieunarine for their gracious hospitality. Their openness and warm welcome created an atmosphere that made everyone feel at home and appreciated. Their spiritual guidance and kindness enriched the entire experience.

Our Susamachar Youth Group, led by the capable and charismatic Giselle Hampton, deserves special commendation. Their organization of outreach items and coordination of distribution efforts reflected a remarkable blend of compassion, diligence, and youthful enthusiasm. The impact of your work was felt deeply in the smiles and gratitude of those we served.

Personally, I was moved by the spirit of unity that radiated throughout the day. Witnessing multiple generations working side by side — joined by a shared purpose and guided by faith — was a powerful reminder of the strength and beauty of community. The joy on the faces of those we reached out to was the most meaningful reward of all.

To everyone who supported this initiative from its inception to its successful conclusion — thank you. Your dedication embodies the true spirit of service. As we continue on this journey of faith, may we remain committed to lifting others, serving with humility, and working together in love and fellowship.







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PORT OF SPAIN . SAN FERNANDO . TRINCITY . CHAGUANAS . POINT FORTIN . TOBAGO

Real men don't cry "So they say"

I was told to be a man I needed to stand up tall, don't bend my knees, and let no one see me fall.

I was told to swallow my pride, not hide, and not cry. So, I had to decide when my father died, how to show this other side.



Written by: **Ceirid Sampson** Bereavement Counsellor Belgroves Funeral Home

Holding back the tears as all expected, I wish I could have exhaled as I wanted, but while I trembled beneath my clothes no one would have known how my lips froze. Handshakes were shared as sturdy as I could, while I quaked in my boots as I thought I should.

Good day, they said "You are holding it together", but to me, it didn't matter. Drowning in the sea of unsaid goodbyes, buried beneath the weight of a man who lived so many lives.

I now sit back and ponder, now in awe, as I never got to be the man I wanted to be because I was too busy being the man he told me I should be.

I am forced to reflect on the song "Holding Back the Years" as I curled up on the concrete and cried like a little boy lost in the darkest world. The pain pouring out of my soul, after years of being told "Real men don't cry"

But what is a man, where is his strength if not in the courage to feel, understand, and still stand? It was at that moment that I knew that Men Cry Too, not because we are weak and lost, but because we live and love.

This is a story, of a man who was able to release, heal, and finally surrender.

Does it make you Wonder?



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"PROPHECY FULFILLED" AT CUREPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S GOOD FRIDAY MELA

By Joy Ramlogan



With pews filled to capacity by 220 attendees, the Curepe Presbyterian Church hosted its third Good Friday Mela on April 18 2025. This year's theme was "Prophecy Fulfilled" and our talented cast of congregational members of all ages presented a powerful and gripping enactment of our Lord Jesus Christ's journey from his trials, condemnation and suffering on the cross. Directed by Ms. Sarah Robinson-Gibbs and Mr. Adrian Pierre, the dramatization was sprinkled with typical Trini humour successfully bringing to life the unfolding of the prophecy of the Messiah. The cast included Honorary Elder Mrs. Elaine Mungroo, Mr. Adil Dattoo (as Jesus), Professor Sanjay Bahadoorsingh, Mr. Avinash Maharajh and other members of the congregation and Sunday School.

The mela (refers to a gathering or religious festival)'s music and songs were led by the Curepe Presbyterian Choir and Organist, Mr. Mark Anthony Peter, and included strikingly appropriate selections such as "King of Kings", "Crucify Him" and "In Christ Alone". Meditations on the fulfilment of prophecy were delivered by Reverend Kimberley Ramlochan, Elder Stefan Wilson and Presiding Elder Larry Kowlessar. Each meditation gave the congregation much to ponder as various aspects of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice were illuminated by reference to scripture and living examples. Piercing the emotions of the congregation at the end of the play were the dramatic and heartfelt cries of Elder Nadia Mitchell and Lauren Robinson.

Following the mela, the congregation was treated to a luncheon and deeper fellowship. Our attendees were uniformly uplifted by the morning of prayer, scripture, dramatization, sermons and music. The leading visionary, organiser and script writer of the Mela in the North, Mrs. Kokaram summed up the event, "Everyone had a joyful, happy spirit. Let this happy spirit bind us together as one in the Spirit of the Lord."

The Curepe Presbyterian Church wishes to thank all donors, tireless church workers, guest preachers and the congregation for their wonderful and unstinting support to present this wonderful Mela. In Christ Alone all is possible.





THE FOLD IS EXPANDED AT DIVINE ROCK

Carmileté Mohan-Penal Pastoral Region

Oh, what a marvelous occasion it was on Sunday 27th April, 2025, when the Divine Rock Presbyterian Church (8 Mile), welcomed two new communicant members and witnessed the baptism of four precious little boys and one adult!

Reverend Kelvin Sookhansingh, dedicated Minister of the Penal Pastoral Region, performed the sacrament of Baptism and served First Communion in the presence of an overflowing congregation which comprised regular church members and friends as well as well-wishers of the newly baptized and confirmed individuals.

Aden Mohan, Liam Vasquez, Noah Samkaran and twin boys, Kai and Levi Seenathsingh, were offered up to Almighty God through Baptism while Aden Mohan and Jerneisha Thomas received First Communion after being confirmed in a very moving Confirmation ceremony.



All the parents were commended for the initiative they took in choosing to bring their children to God, recognizing that a sound spiritual foundation is of utmost importance, especially in the society in which these young persons must grow and live.

Rev. Sookhansingh encouraged the new members in Christ to bear witness to the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, just as He had commanded the women at the tomb to go and tell the disciples that He is not dead. The congregation at Divine Rock, though very small in number, is committed to fostering Christian values within the church and aims to reflect and radiate the immense love of Christ within the small community of 8 Mile. May God continue to be the divine rock on which our members can faithfully and confidently stand.

PENAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WOMEN (PCW) DEVOTION AND DINNER

By Tracy-Ann Vallabh-Patel-PCW Vice President.

Fellowship. Camaraderie and sister-ship over a hearty meal filled the atmosphere at Phoenix City Chinese Restaurant in Debe where the group of women shared a welldeserved evening together as a family. The Penal Presbyterian **PCW** incorporated their monthly meeting, Mother's Day Function and Dinner 2025 as they fellowshipped together.



The group all gathered, decked in their beautiful floral prints, adorned with flowers in their hair, to celebrate Motherhood as strong, caring and courageous women, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and friends – forged from a loving God, bounded with the finest adhesive that holds the church together. The women shared experiences of what motherhood meant to them and reflected on the women in the Bible, female leaders of the church and country whose values help to shape them today.

This dynamic group continues to extend their hands through outreach within their communities, visitation to the sick and persons in need and the conducting of Worship and sharing of God's goodness. The President, Mrs. Patricia Beepat, urged the women to continue with their dynamic work with the charges under their care.

CUNUPIA PRESBYTERIAN 135 YEARS ANNIVERSARY SERVICE Sherman Gokool, Assistant-Secretary, Cunupia Presbyterian Church

"We are witnesses to these things." — Acts 5:32

On Sunday, April 27th, 2025, the Cunupia Presbyterian Church joyfully celebrated 135 years of Christian witnessing under the theme "Honoring the Past, Grateful for the Present, and Embracing the Future."

Nestled in the Chaquanas Pastoral Region, the Cunupia Presbyterian Church has long stood as a beacon of faith, hope, and community service.

The Anniversary Service. rich reverence and thanksgiving, was led by Reverend Cynara Dube-Khan, with a spirit of unity and celebration filling the sanctuary. Special highlights of the service included inspiring messages from guest preachers Reverend Dr. Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan. Reverend Ria Thompson-Jimdar. Reverend Bjorn Warde. Each brought heartfelt reflections. encouraging congregation to remember the legacy of faith built by generations past, to express gratitude for the blessings of the present, and to commit to the continued growth and mission of the Church in the years to come. The service was punctuated with uplifting hymns, prayers of thanksgiving, and readings that reminded all gathered of God's enduring presence through every season of the church's life. Congregants young and old joined in joyous worship, demonstrating the vibrant, living witness that has characterized Cunupia Presbyterian for more than a century.

The service reminded all present that the journey of 135 years was possible because of faithful witnesses who trusted God's call.









The congregation was challenged to keep shining their light into the community, bearing witness to God's love with renewed passion. As Cunupia Presbyterian Church honours its remarkable past, it also stands ready with grateful hearts and hopeful spirits — to embrace the future, trusting in the God who has been, who is, and who will always be with them. Cunupia Presbyterian continues to live the call of Acts 5:32: to be witnesses to God's grace, truth, and transformative power, now and for generations to come.

SUSAMACHAR PASTORAL REGION WELCOMES COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION (CWM) DELEGATES

by Shelly K. Maharaj - Communications Committee Susamachar Presbyterian Church

On Wednesday, 7th May, 2025, the Susamachar Pastoral Region welcomed delegates from the Council for World Mission (CWM) during their official visit to Trinidad and Tobago. The Susamachar Presbyterian Church was honoured to host the distinguished delegation, which included





Dr. Natalie Lin (Moderator), Dr. Sudipta Singh (Deputy General Secretary), Rev. Dylan Rhys Parry (Director for Europe), and Mr. Trevor Liewellyn Benn (Director for the Caribbean). They were accompanied by the Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance, Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT), and Presiding Elder, Mr. Ashford Tamby, Synod General Secretary.

Rev. Letra Jacob, resident Minister, along with Intern Minister, Ms. Jessica Mahadeo, and the executives of the Local Board and Session, extended a warm welcome. The guests enjoyed a guided tour of the church compound led by Mr. Timothy Bally, who also performed *How Great Thou Art* on the double tenor pan. The Susamachar Senior Choir, under Mr. George Poliah's direction, presented a moving rendition of *Be unto Your Name*.

In the Conference Room, Mrs. Sharon May Nagir, Secretary of the Local Board, gave an overview of the church's activities, noting the involvement of 17 active groups and their outreach efforts. This was followed by a historical presentation by Ms. Joy Sammah, Clerk of Session, on the Susamachar congregation and the Church's role in San Fernando.

The evening concluded with a fellowship dinner shared between the delegates and members of the Susamachar Pastoral Region. As tokens of appreciation, guests received CDs—*The Great Hymns* by Mr. Bally and *Melodies of Heaven* by the Susamachar Presbyterian Youth Steel Orchestra. The Fifth Naparima Scout Group also presented their commemorative 100-year magazine, lapel pin, pop socket, and badge, marking the end of a meaningful and memorable visit.

- Pic 1- CWM Delegates with Susamachar members
- Pic 2- CWM Delegates with Susamachar members and the Susamachar Senior Choir
- Pic 3: Ms. Joy Sammah, Clerk of Session, addresses the group on the history of Susamachar Presbyterian Church.
- Pic 4- Mr. Timothy Bally gives the group a tour of Susamachar Presbyterian Church



FOOD FOR THOUGHT - A GOOD CALLALOO!

By Rev Errol Ragnauth

If there's one thing we Trini Presbyterians know, it's how to blend reverence with vibrancy, just like a good Sunday callaloo. We take our faith seriously, but that does not mean we cannot enjoy the journey with a little humour, warmth and wisdom.

Living in our twin island republic, means our faith is like the mango season, year round. Its also sweet and at times messy, but always worth it. So whether we are in traffic, dodging a pothole or sharing in a good choka, we are reminded that God's grace is like a good pelau, tasty, well seasoned and always enough to go around with plenty meat.

Some think Presbyterian worship is all solemn hymns and stern faces, but just check our YouTube videos and social media platforms, clapping and singing to modern hymns and excitement in our worship. Our faith has rhythm just like the beats of the tassa and steelpan, that are sometimes incorporated in our worship, because this is Trinidad and Tobago!

We say some have "sweethand" when it comes to cooking food, but the realsweetness comes from serving others. From our Sunday school teachers to our devoted elders, from our young peopleto our dedicated church workers, our church is a living recipe of love, faith, and reality.

We are called to keep living out our faith with that flair, boldness, joyfulness, in our Trini dialect all rooted in the graceof our LordJesus Christ.

So if the apostle Paul could find joy in chains, surely we can find that joy in gridlock traffic, power outagesand who makesthe best doublesor bake and shark. Be safe as you go, shine brightly and be good or at leasttry. Forward in faith... but watch out for potholes!

CELEBRATING 80 REMARKABLE YEARS: MAGDALENE PERSAD



On April 16th, 2025, Magdalene Persad celebrated her 80th birthday, a milestone that reflects a life of faith, dedication, and love. A devoted member of the Bethel Presbyterian Church in Carolina, Sister Magdalene has been a cherished part of her church community for many years.

Her birthday celebration was marked by a special service led by Mr. Stephen Harripersad, honouring not only her age but the grace and wisdom she continues to share with those around her. As Bethel Church gave thanks for her life, her family, friends, and fellow congregants reflected on the impact she has made over the decades.

Happy 80th Birthday, Sister Magdalene — may your days continue to be filled with joy, peace, and God's blessings/

ST. JULIEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YOUTH GROUP "MUMMY AND ME SIP AND PAINT" FUNDRAISER

By Handella Ramsingh

On May 10th, 2025, the St. Julien Presbyterian Church Youth Group celebrated Mother's Day in a creative and memorable way with their "Mummy and Me Sip and Paint" fundraiser. Held in the church's beautifully transformed hall, the event brought together over 45 mothers and their children for an evening of art, laughter, and bonding.

The church hall was turned into an artist's haven, buzzing with creativity and joy. Leading the session was the talented Ms. Krystal Ann Bachan, a gifted artist from the village. With patience and passion, she guided participants step-by-step in painting a heartfelt masterpiece titled "Love You to the Moon and Back"; a moonlit lake scene featuring tree branches forming a heart, symbolizing the love between a mother and child.

No celebration is complete without great food, and this one certainly delivered. Attendees were treated to an impressive spread of sumptuous finger foods, including homemade pizza, pholourie, buttery croissants, delicious cupcakes, pineapple chow, moist coffee cake, apple strudels and more.

To complement the snacks, a variety of refreshing mocktails were served, such as strawberry spritzers, mojitos, tropical punch, and iced tea. The beverage lineup also included the nostalgic Chubby drinks and a cozy tea station for the more traditional palate.

The evening was filled with smiles, chatter, and the warmth of shared memories. It was a successful and heartwarming event that not only celebrated mothers but also strengthened community ties and supported the church youth group's initiatives.



CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF LOVE: SYLMARIE SAHAI & TYRONE SANEY



On April 21st, 2025—Easter Monday—Sylmarie Sahai and Tyrone Saney joyfully celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, a beautiful testament to enduring love and faith.

The couple were married on April 21st, 1960, at Susumachar Presbyterian Church, in a ceremony officiated by Rev. Teelucksingh.

As they marked this remarkable milestone surrounded by family and friends, their love story continues to inspire generations. Congratulations to Sylmarie and Tyrone on 65 wonderful years together—may your bond remain as strong and beautiful as the day it began.

YOUTHFUL WEEK AT PENAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

by Nathaniel Vallabh-Patel (President of the Penal Presbyterian Youth Movement)

The Penal Presbyterian Youth Movement continues to be a powerful driving force within the church. The youths planned a week that started with a dramatic and dynamic service in March and ended with its Annual SEA bonfire and sleep over in April. On Youth Sunday, the youths brought their message through song, word and a skit encouraging the forgiveness of sin from the Prodigal son's story and the reenactment of the crucifixion of Jesus. The message about the Prodigal Son reminded the congregation about God's forgiveness of our sins and the remarkable love of our God drawing on the main reason of Jesus' death on that Old rugged Cross.

The SEA Exam Bonfire sought to fit the prayer needs of all exams students as Deaconess Marlene Seenathsingh, brought a powerful message about having faith as strong as a solid stone and reminded the youths gathered about the importance of leaning on God. The youths concluded the night in camaraderie, games and the fellowship of a meal.

The Penal Presbyterian Youth Movement continues to meet on Friday evenings at the church, serving as a beacon of hope to all youths in the church and the wider community of Penal. Their outreach programs, youth services and activities continues to reflect the work of God through youths.





TERENCE ALGERNON BISSESSAR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

C/O NISTAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SOUTHERN MAIN ROAD,

The Board of Trustees invites applications for scholarship awards
Applicants must satisfy the following criteria:

- 1. Must be a graduate of a Secondary School of Trinidad and Tobago;
- 2.Must be in financial need. This will be determined by the Applicant's completion of a Financial
 Assessment Form which must be submitted with a written application to the Board. The Financial
 Assessment Form can be obtained at the following venues: the Church Office at Paradise Hill, San
 Fernando, Nistar Presbyterian Church, Chase Village, and the Arima Presbyterian Church.
- 3. Must not be a recipient of an open scholarship, additional scholarship, bursary or any other institutional funding;
- 4. Must have gained admission to or attending the University of the West Indies or any accredited Tertiary Level Educational Institution at the time of application;
- 5. Must be a practising member of the Presbyterian Church, a communicant member and serving in at least one (i) group, board or committee of the Church;
- 6. Applicants who are already enrolled at the University of the West Indies or any accredited Tertiary Leve
 Educational Institution must have attained a G.P.A. of not lower than 3.0.

Applicants who are applying for the first time must provide the following:

- A letter of admission to and identification of the degree being pursued from the Tertiary Educational Institution:
- A letter from the Applicant's Local Church supporting the application and indicating the status and quality
 of the Applicant's church membership;
- Personal Data i.e. copy of birth certificate, copy of National Identification Card, telephone contact number and email address

All returning Applicants must provide the following:

- Transcript of academic performance for the academic year 2022-2023. Must have a G.P.A. of not lower than 3.0;
- A detailed statement of expenditure incurred from the 2022 Award;
- A letter from the Applicant's parent or guardian outlining the need for the Award for the academic year 2023-2024.

Applications are to be submitted by the 31st August,2025 to:
The Terence Algernon Bissessar Scholarship Fund
c/o The Synod's Office
Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago
P.O. Box 187, Paradise Hill
San Fernando



NAPARIMA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



Vacancy - TIII Geography

- · All applicants MUST be:
 - Assessed as Teacher III
 - 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

http://www.pssboe.com

via: Email: pssboe@pctt.org.tt

Submit a copy to: naparimagirls.sec@fac.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: 24th June, 2025

Unsuitable applications will not be acknowledged



HARMONY HALL PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL FOREIGN LANGUAGE DAY 2025

By Tracy-Ann Vallabh-Patel-PCW Vice President.

On Thursday, May 29th, 2025, Harmony Hall Presbyterian School came alive with vibrant sounds, dazzling performances, and cultural pride as it hosted its Foreign Language and Spanish Language Day, a key initiative under the Ministry of Education's Cultural Transformation program.

The event began reverently with an opening prayer by Ms. Rosanne Deo, followed by the National Anthem led by Miss Zita Ramroop. Mr. Gerald Ragnauth, Senior Teacher Ag. warmly welcomed the audience, and Ms. Reena Ramjit provided an insightful introduction, highlighting the significance of cultural awareness and diversity in today's education.

Each department at the school adopted a country and showcased the language and culture with creativity and passion. The Infant Department, representing Spain, enchanted the audience with a delightful Spanish song on colours, a charming poem about numbers, and a recital of the days of the week.

Lower Juniors (Standards 1 & 2) represented France, performing a French song and a humorous skit on common greetings. Standard 3 took everyone on a journey to China, presenting a graceful Chinese Fan Dance, counting in Mandarin, and modeling traditional Chinese attire. Standard 4 brought the rich culture of India to life with a soulful Hindi Bhajan, a captivating dance, and a colorful fashion show of East Indian wear.

An interactive quiz segment engaged students and tested their recall of facts from the presentations. The program concluded with a warm thank you from Acting Principal, Mrs. Michelle Doman-Ramkissoon.

This celebration was more than just a program—it was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and unity of the entire staff. Teachers, support staff, and students worked tirelessly to plan and execute a meaningful cultural showcase. It was a proud day for the Harmony Hall Presbyterian School family and a shining example of the transformative power of education rooted in respect for global cultures.



MARACAS PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL WALKATHON AND SPORTS DAY

By Victoria A. Rajkumar

The chants of 'No Violence' reverberated through the tranquil Maracas Valley on the overcast morning of Friday, 16th May, 2025 as the Maracas Presbyterian School family traversed the approximately



one kilometer distance: from the school's compound on Acono Road to the Maracas Recreation Ground. This walkathon was structured to align with the Ministry of Education's Cultural Transformation Policy and was held in tandem with our first Sports and Family Day post-pandemic. Incidentally, this date was also recognized by the United Nations as The International Day of Living in Peace.

The early morning showers could not put a damper on the day's events as our pupils, parents, staff, church family and even our School's Supervisor, Mr. Benil Niles, came out in full force from as early as 7:30 a.m. placards in hand.

Our morning's proceedings began with welcoming words by the school's Principal (Ag) Mr. Naresh Ragoonath. This was followed by an opening prayer by the newly appointed Vice Chairman of the Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education and Regional Representative of the Curepe/St Joseph Pastoral Region, Elder Nadia Mitchell. Escorted by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and Medical Response Services provided by GMRTT, we were eagerly on our way

On arrival at the recreation ground, teams were allowed a few moments to refresh themselves and prepare for the highly anticipated March Past Parade.





We were fortunate to have members of the Physical Training Instructors Department (P.T.I) of the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force present to assist with the execution and judging of the March Past and Field Events. Our SS1, accompanied by our Student Support Services Division Guidance Officer and Music Instructor took the Salute of the three house teams - Bluebell, Hibiscus and Poui. The students certainly did an excellent job and truly enjoyed every moment from planning to executing their routines.

Some additional highlights from the day's events included our Principal's and teachers' participation in the teachers' race, the daddy and child race and the standoff which occurred between the Poui and Hibiscus houses during the Tug of War preliminaries – at one point they all looked frozen in time as neither team budged. Despite their best efforts, neither team could vanquish the conquerors of the Tug of War – Bluebell House.

The final results, March Past winners: The Poui Royals with their ever majestic presentation; Spirit of the Games: Hibiscus Hous; Overall Winners and Tug of War Champs: Bluebell House.

The day was well organized and incident free. The stakeholders worked together to ensure there was ample supervision and support in all spheres and we are extremely grateful to God Almighty for all His blessings upon us during this event and always.

KIDS CORNER "GOOD GIFTS TO YOUR CHILDREN" LUKE 11

Submitted by the Chaguanas Pastoral Region

Hi kids! This month in Kids Corner, we are thinking about how much our heavenly Father loves us and gives us everything we need. Just like a good father on Earth gives his children bread, a ball to play with, or reads the Bible with them, our heavenly Father gives us the most important gift of all—His Holy Spirit! In Luke 11:11–13, Jesus reminds us that God is a loving Father who only gives good gifts to those who ask Him. Let us remember the three B's: Bread, which reminds us that God provides; Ball, which reminds us that our Father loves to spend time with us; and Bible, the greatest gift that teaches us about God's love through Jesus, the Light of the World! Let's always live in His light, give thanks for our fathers, and stay close to Jesus each day.

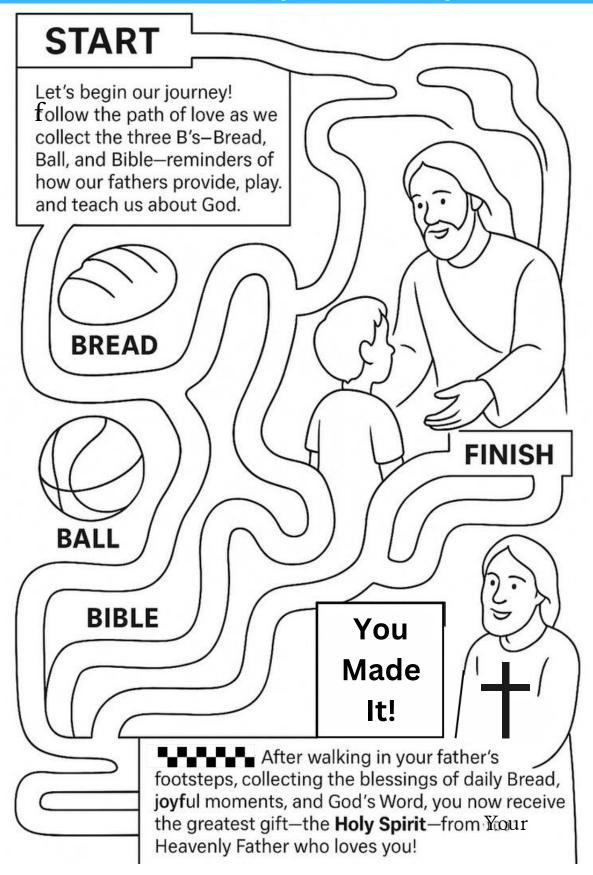
GOOD GIFTS FROM OUR FATHER-JESUS CHRIST

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T	T	E	С	D	D	D	K	В	F	С	0	D	Α	T	S	Т	С
Н	Н	R	Α	U	F	S	K	L	J	U	1	Y	E	U	Y	Z	Α
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В	L	0	С	K	J	Α	L	A	Н	K	С	T	1	F	C	D	N

- 1. Bread
- 2. Ball
- 3. **Bible**
- 4. Father
- 5. **Love**
- 6. Gift
- 7. Serpent
- 8. Scorpion
- 9. Stone
- 10. **Egg**
- 11. Jesus
- 12. **Pray**
- 13. Children
- 14. Thank
- 15. **Holy**
- 16. **Spirit**
- 17. Heaven
- 18. Earthlu
- 19. **Play**
- 20. Cross

KIDS CORNER "GOOD GIFTS TO YOUR CHILDREN" LUKE 11: 13

Submitted by the Chaguanas Pastoral Region





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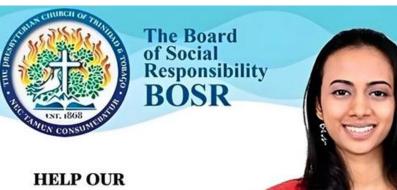
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Sometimes God picks the flower That is still in full bloom Sometimes the rose bud chosen That we feel He's picked too soon

Sometimes the flower is fading With petals floating down But God knows the perfect time To gather flowers from the ground

There is a heavenly garden In which God takes great pleasure Because he placed within it The loved ones that we treasure

Giving them eternal rest, Because I know that it must please Him Because He choose our very best.





THE BOARD OF MEN OF PCTT
PRESENTS THE

63rd Annual Whitsuntide Conference

Theme:

Persevere in your witness, be passionate in your wellness

3 JOHN 1:2

Feature Speaker: Dr. Joel Teelucksingh



ELECTION OF FLOOR MEMBERS BY THE RT. REVEREND DANIEL CHANCE

Date:

SATURDAY IUNE 21ST

> LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

Time:

8:00AM -12:00 NOON

> TEA AND COFFEE STATION

Venue:

ARUNODAI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BALMAIN

> GUEST PERFORMANCES

For Further information please contact <u>mr Roy Umraw - 357-14</u>55 (Chairman) or mr Christopher Morgan - 710-6889 (Secretary)