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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

624TH SYNOD
AGM 2024

156 YEARS OF WITNESS AND MISSION

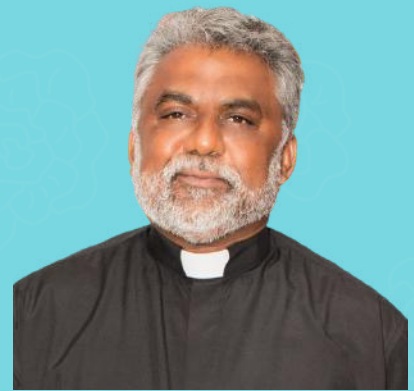
THEME: "PILGRIMAGE OF JUSTICE,
RECONCILIATION AND UNITY"

Isaiah 43: 18-21

*¹⁸ But the Lord says, "Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago.
¹⁹ Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already - you can see it now! I will make
a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there. ²⁰ Even the wild animals will honor
me; jackals and ostriches will praise me when I make rivers flow in the desert to give water to my
chosen people. ²¹ They are the people I made for myself, and they will sing my praises!"*

THE MODERATOR SPEAKS

PCTT MODERATOR, THE RIGHT REVEREND DANIEL CHANCE



“Stewardship and Accountability”

As the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago makes preparation for its 64th Annual meeting of Synod, we recognize it as an opportunity to spend time reflecting and recalling the bountiful blessings of God. Often, we are so “busy going about the business of the Church” that we forget that the Church continues to be God’s sacred institution. Consequently, we also forget that what we do, as members of the Body of Christ, must, above all, bring honor and glory to God and God alone.

The system of government to which the PCTT adheres mandates that each Local Board, Session, Presbytery, constituted Boards and Committees of Synod give an account of its stewardship for the period under review. Subsequently, evaluations and assessments would be done. These evaluation exercises would seek to determine the extent to which set goals were accomplished. The degree of successful completion would further determine if we move forward and act as the brainstorming platform generating ideas for new strategies, approaches and programmes to be applied or implemented as we forge ahead to achieve revised goals and objectives.

In moving forward, we must recognize the sacred partnership afforded to us. God continues to build His Church and he is allowing us the opportunity to share in his mission. The Church, which was founded by Christ, will be sustained, and propelled by his Spirit dwelling in us. Men and women, and entire families, who recognize and truly appreciate their blessings from God, continue to share those blessings and are a blessing to those in their charge.

I take this opportunity again to challenge all of us to move away from ‘maintenance’ and or ‘self-preservation’ mode and to rediscover our missionary zeal. In the secular, prominent men, like Maxwell and Drucker, allude to “leadership as determining the success of the organization.” As Bible directed men and women, who have been called by God to positions of leadership and authority within the Church, we are reminded that Christian leadership demands that we be servants first - like Jesus was. It commands that we be followers of Christ and that the biblical image of “Shepherd and sheep” be forever etched upon our hearts and be visible in our daily lives.



Moments OF INSPIRATION

MONDAYS | 8:30 A.M. |



EDITORIAL

THE IMPACT OF A TEACHER ON A STUDENT'S LIFE.

Author, Paulo Coelho writes, "The world is changed by your example not by your opinion." An epitome of the immeasurable impact made upon our students by our nation's teachers.

Whilst society prefers to view teachers as merely curriculum facilitators, glorified babysitters, or holiday seekers, not necessarily in that order, we fail to recognize teachers as surrogate parents who spend more time with their young charges than the actual parents and so impact our nation's children subliminally through what is coined the 'hidden curriculum'. Hence, the reason teaching is likened to a form of ministry upon the vineyard.

We exist in the syndrome of high stakes examination at both primary and secondary levels, thus acknowledging the obvious impact of effective classroom instruction and support, key factors in boosting a learners' self-confidence and reducing academic-related stress and anxiety. Furthermore, contemporary teachers differentiate their instruction and adapt their teaching methods to individual learning styles, helping struggling students to build self-efficacy and a more positive outlook on their abilities.

Yet, the impact of a teacher transcends the classroom and becomes enshrined within the idea of in 'loco parentis'. This duty of care entrusts our teachers with the parental obligation of creating a safe and supportive environment ensuring students feel valued, respected, and accepted. Daily, teachers foster strong, reassuring relationships which create a sense of trust and belonging, enhancing the emotional well-being of those within their care.

This intimate knowledge of their students allows recognition of individual strengths and talents. When combined with constructive feedback and encouragement, they help students develop a healthy sense of self-esteem and self-worth. Thereby, boosting students' confidence and resilience. At a time when society talks about caring for mental health, teachers "walk the talk", providing essential skills for emotional regulation and empowering students to navigate challenges and setbacks more effectively.

Teachers often serve as positive role models for their students, subliminally demonstrating empathy, kindness, and patience, qualities which may be alien to some pupils given their varied backgrounds. These efforts help shape students' attitudes and behaviors, promoting positive values.

Quite possibly, the most significant impact is fostering the resilience that is needed in today's world. Teachers both intentionally and incidentally demonstrate practical, and pragmatic problem-solving and coping skills. These efforts help our students become more resilient in the face of life's challenges.

It is said "not all superheroes wear capes", this is specifically true for teachers across this twin-isle. Their selfless acts of giving their time, talents, abilities, and resources create an indelible impression upon each student whose life has been impacted in a positive and profound manner.



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ELEVATION SERVICE OF MR. ASHFORD DEVAN TAMBY TO ORDER OF PRESIDING ELDER OF PCTT

By Rumonia Drepaulsingh, Secretary, South-Eastern Presbytery

The New Century Presbyterian Church within the Tableland Pastoral Region was in a celebratory mood as son of the soil, Mr. Ashford Devan Tamby, was elevated to the order for Presiding Elder within the South-Eastern Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday 21st April, 2024.

The service was enhanced with the beautiful renditions of songs by the New Century Presbyterian Choir and musical preludes by Mr. Kevin Rabgir on the organ.

Leader of worship was by Rev. Peter Arjoon, newly appointed Minister of Tableland Pastoral Region. Prayers were offered by Lay Pastor Reginald Amman, PE William Gokool, Deaconess Calpurnia Chance and Rev. Stephen Harripersad. The Secretary of the South-Eastern Presbytery, Mrs. Rumonia Drepaulsingh, welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending. The Responsive Reading was said by Elder Mrs. Glenna Sooknanan and scripture readings were read by Presiding Elder Martin Sahadath (Jeremiah 29:10-14) and Presiding Elder Krishna Persad (1st John 4:12-21).

The message was delivered by Rev. Robert Dinnoo, Minister of the Tabaquite Pastoral Region, on the topic "LOVE". Rev. Robert Dinnoo asked Mr. Ashford Tamby "How are you feeling this evening" Mr. Ashford replied "Calm!" Rev. Robert Dinnoo stated in all things we find that calm and that peace, and quoting from Jeremiah 29:10 – "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place."

He stated that as faithful believers we need to be in our homes to serve your people and the wider Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago. When we are called to serve, remember to serve in love and unity and we are the shepherd and to be your brother's and sister's keeper and love one another. Rev. Dinnoo stated that when he was asked to do this service he asked Mr. Tamby for his favourite verse which came from these readings. 1st John 3:16 says "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us- and we ought to lay down your lives for one another." This vocation has chosen you, not you have chosen it. Go out and proclaim the Good Words. You have chosen to give your life to God, he will use you, anoint you, and place his blessings and the Holy Spirit and powers unto you. Always remember to leave everyone with a smile, no matter their problems and when they are leaving, reassure them that they are loved and cared for. Love each one as you love yourself, love your neighbor as you love yourself. Love one another as Jesus loves you. No one has greater love than to lay down one's life for all around you.

Mr. Ashford Devan Tamby was presented by Secretary of South Eastern Presbytery Mrs. Rumonia Drepaulsingh and the Act of Elevation to the Order of Presiding Elder was conducted by Vice-Chairman of South Eastern Presbytery Rev. Keron Khellawan. After the act of elevation, he presented the newly elevated Presiding Elder Mr. Ashford Tamby with a Presiding Elder stoll.

Greetings were brought by Mrs. Annette Dipchan, Chairperson of New Century Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Sadhna Ramsingh, Clerk of Session of the Tableland Pastoral Region and the Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance, Moderator of Synod of Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.

On behalf of the South Eastern Presbytery, the Treasurer Presiding Elder Martin Sahadath presented the newly elevated Presiding Elder Ashford Devan Tamby with a Study Bible. Tokens of appreciation were also presented to him and to his beautiful wife, Mrs. Ria Tamby. In his response Presiding Elder Ashford Tamby thanked God for the gift of life as he believes that this blessing has been God's miracle in his life.

The South-Eastern Presbytery would like to specially thank the Tableland Pastoral session and Mrs. Sadhna Ramsingh and Mr. Alex Tamby for making all the arrangements for the service, and the Communication Department of Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago for live streaming the service.

The service ended with a prayer and the Benediction by the Moderator of Synod, the Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance. Mr. Ashford Tamby is also the General Secretary of the Synod of the PCTT and becomes the first of his order to hold that prestigious position. We pray God's continued blessing to Mr. Tamby and his family as he begins this new journey in God's ministry.

ELEVATION SERVICE OF MR. ASHFORD DEVAN TAMBY TO ORDER OF PRESIDING ELDER OF PCTT

By Rumonia Drepaulsingh, Secretary, South-Eastern Presbytery



AGRI FACTS COLUMN

MOTHER'S DAY

SUBMITTED BY RAYANNA BOODRAM
rayannaboodram@hotmail.com

Mother's Day is a much-celebrated day when we shower mom with lots of gifts and love. Mother's Day dates back to 1907 where Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia as celebration to her mother who had organized women's groups to promote friendship and health. On May 12, she held a memorial service at her late mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia. Within five years virtually every state was observing the day, and in 1914, the United States President, Woodrow Wilson, made it a national holiday. Although Jarvis had promoted the wearing of a white carnation as a tribute to one's mother, the custom developed of wearing a red or pink carnation to represent a living mother or a white carnation for a mother who was deceased.

The commercialization of the holiday has significantly increased since 1914. If you are gifting your mom flowers this Mother's Day, in addition to Carnations, you can try Chrysanthemums which are also very ideal. Caring for Chrysanthemums are very easy once you stick to the following tips:

1. Chrysanthemums prefer full sunlight during the growing season hence ensure that they are placed in the right areas for this however blooms will last longer if they are moved to a shadier spot after flower buds develop.
2. For transplanting your Chrysanthemums use a rich, well-drained soil.
3. Ensure you water frequently due to their shallow root system, especially in high heat or little rainfall.
4. For pruning, pinch using secateurs, approximately 1 inch from the branch tips two to three times during after the plant have blossomed to encourage branching and a sturdier plant.
5. Chrysanthemums require a dilute fertilizer several times before they begin to bud. A 5-10-5 fertilizer formulation will have the greatest effect on flower production and overall growth.
6. Lookout for diseases such as leaf spot, powdery mildew. Viral diseases such as mosaic or stunt can also cause your plant to die. Avoid overcrowding your plants to prevent pest and diseases.

I want to wish all Mothers and Mother figures a Happy Mother's Day!

64TH SYNOD AGM, 2024

PCTT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Announcements from Synod Meeting.

- * Installation service for the General Secretary of Synod, Mr. Ashford Tamby - Sunday 26th May 2024 @ 4 p.m. Susamachar Presbyterian Church
- * Induction Service for Rev. Adrian Sieunarine as Minister of the Arima Pastoral Region - Sunday 9th June @ the Arima Presbyterian Church at 4 p.m.
- * Installation service for the Principal of St. Andrew's Theological College, Rev. Keron Khellawan - Sunday 23rd June 2024 @4 p.m. SATC chapel
- * Special service of Thanksgiving to honour those who have retired after having served the church faithfully through the various orders within the PCTT. Sunday 30th June at 4 p.m. at Susamachar Presbyterian church.
- * Day 4 of Synod Meeting - Saturday 20th July.
- * National Sports - August 1st 2024
- * Board of Men - Annual Conference on May 18th 2024 from 9 a.m. Balmain Pres. Church.
- * Elder's Training course - May 4th 2024, Online, \$500



VALUES EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Contributed by Mr Harry Partap

As reported in the Trinidad Guardian of 29th February 2024, on his return, from the last CARICOM Heads of Government Conference, Dr Rowley referred to “the trauma faced when people lose loved ones and see the outcomes of violent crime”. He also noted that his colleague, the St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister, Dr Terrence Drew, raised concerns “about children being damaged after experiencing violence in the home” as well as their “being brought up without any semblance of training or values”. My mother used to say, children who grow up without values will be a danger to themselves and others. Take heed dear friends!

The reality in Trinidad and Tobago, is that crime is out of control. The criminal element grows in strength, gangs seem to be growing in confidence, and data suggests that all responses to crime thus far, have proven futile. There is urgent need therefore, for hard and soft measures in response.

The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) has made a step in the right direction. The leadership, including the Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance (Moderator of Synod) and, newly appointed General Secretary of Synod, Mr. Ashford Tamby, with the support of the Ministry of Education, has initiated a two-day *Values Education* programme in its five secondary schools, for all teachers and principals. It is the hope that this intervention will be extended to its seventy-two primary schools.

Rev. Elvis Elahie, former Moderator of the Synod and also a past Principal of St. Andrew’s Theological College (SATC), has been engaging Values Education since 2002 in response to societal decay. Over the past five years, this response has evolved into a Values Education Programme (VEP) for teachers and principals. And through this programme, the Presbyterian Church in this country, continues to lead in its holistic approach to education.

My conversation with Rev. Elahie has brought clarity as regards the content, character and aim of the Values Education Programme. In it he shares the background to the programme which is as follows:

- *The societal collapse which we are experiencing in Trinidad and Tobago, especially in the area of crime and violence, could only become worse if not addressed from various entry points and perspectives.*
- *One entry point is to further equip teachers with tools that will contribute to their personal and professional development and as a consequence, will impact the lives of their students.*
- *The historian Henry Adams (1838-1915), in his autobiography suggested that “A teacher affects eternity, you can never tell where their influence stops”.*
- *Thus, a teacher is not someone who only teaches what is in the textbooks, but what is required for life.*
- *As a consequence, continuing education toward teacher formation, can have a positive impact on cultural transformation in response to the breakdown in society.*

Thus, the VEP has specific aims with desired outcomes. His introduction points teachers and all persons in positions of influence, to become Role Models as values are emulated. He defines a role model as “One in whom there is goodness and, in whose life, there is continuous improvement.” He quotes Jalal al-Din Muhammed Rumi (1207-1273), who said, “yesterday I was clever and I wanted to change the world, today I am wise so I am changing myself “. The emphasis therefore is on personal transformation.

The VEP consists of five modules. The first module looks at “Finding a Moral Compass”. Here Ethics is defined as the science of morality; basic ethical theories are explored, and issues of morality are deliberated upon as referenced by reality. Module two addresses “Thinking”, and explores the benefits of Critical, Creative and Collaborative Thinking. A third module focuses on Self-understanding and delves into Self-actualization as a process for personality creation and character development. Module four asks the question, “Why am I Here?” And deals with “Meaning and Purpose”. The final module investigates, “How should I live?” and identifies what determines good behaviour and the authentic life.

THE FAMILY CAN

THE PILGRIMAGE OF PARENTING: [PART 4] - 'PARENTING IS MULTI-DIMENSIONAL'

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

At this step 4 of The PILGRIMAGE OF PARENTING we consider '**Parenting is multi-dimensional**' in the context '**Parenting is a Relationship**' with the participants being the 'parenter' and the 'parentee'. We also keep in mind the PCTT's theme for 2024 '**Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation and Unity**'.

Parenting is multi-dimensional but can any parent be multi-dimensional? This is the challenge to meeting the needs and wholistic development of the 'parentee' more so, if a young child. No one or two persons can fully/totally parent an individual wholistically or successfully. The adult-child parenting model may even limit the potential of an individual to appropriate human development. Parenting support is not only necessary but fundamental but can result in challenges and conflicts when for an adult (parent) 'too many people want to tell me what is best or how to raise my child.' Biological parents, yes, it is your duty and responsibility to be the primary parents but you must acknowledge the need and roles of secondary and tertiary and further tiers of parenting.

Throughout an individual's age and life stages, parenting is needed to guide and establish boundaries and assist/provide 'parenters' with a variety of perspectives and necessary human resources including, traits, skills, abilities, information, intelligences, critical thinking and aptitudes. Can a 'single' adult parent or two 'biological' adult parents bring all these to bear on a young 'parentee'? With this perspective then, is it not clearer to understand why 'it takes a village to raise a child?' Today, with the global impacts of the mass media and social media on the young, impressive minds of the child, who or what adult can parent to this multi-dimensional extent? So then, who are the 'parenter' and the parentee?

We are familiar with, 'actions speak louder than words... a child learns what he/she sees... children should be seen and not heard... train up a child in the way he should go', but can what is espoused as parenting allow or does it limit and frustrate human development? In traditional societies, and villages, a child or parentee's life is impacted, influenced and affected by the many perspectives of parenting from adults, peers, culture, religion, norms and values. Sadly, today, most are lost and obsolete with modern parenting stressing individualism and does not emphasise identity. A person may have several identifications cards but can any indicate the individual's true identity? For the adult parent and the child, it is about conformity, what upholds the status quo, what gives prestige, fame and glory or what makes the money, etc. Is this what parenting has become and is this what is imposed by the parenters? Can this explain the pervasive adult-child parenting dilemma?

As I have posited, parenting is a relationship between the 'parenter' and the 'parentee' but I here add, it is with the acceptance and understanding that the parenter has to be multi-dimensional and cannot be limited to one or two persons. This requires an extended family, a village, and do NOT forget the impact and influence of social media and mass media!

As I go slowly in presenting the parameters of this model 'parenting is a relationship' I hope that this different perspective can guide the understanding and effect change and adjustment to the approach to parenting where the participants interact in a relational exchange that impacts their words and actions, behaviours and roles, duties and responsibilities. Can this approach improve our parenting relationships and skills, and improve intra-family and inter-family relationships?

Remember, the family is not just a group or gathering without a common purpose. Never let it ever be that the family can NOT adjust and adapt as changes occur. **Don't loose faith. Hold strong. Believe, The Family Can**

Encounteringthe Archives *of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago* Volunteering at the Archives

On January 9, 2024, Mr Julien Trevino and Ms Sardonyx Ruben, two assistant librarians from Naparima College visited the Central Archives of the PCTT (CAPCTT). Part1 of young Mr Trevino's encounter with the CAPCTT was published in TP March 2024. Here is Part 2.

'Over the course of the month of January, I visited the Central Archives of the PCTT several times, having discussions with Mr. Siboo, the Asst Archivist. Our conversations covered a vast scope of topics and time frames, ranging from the reality of Trinidad during indentureship to the impact religious bodies had on the education system in Trinidad overall, with particular reference to the Canadian Mission and the Presbyterian Church.

I began to get a glimpse of how life was very different more than 100 years ago. I slowly gained a more comprehensive understanding of the history of Trinidad as a whole, not only limited to the history surrounding Naparima College. There were artifacts and pictures from that period which further bridged the gap between an abstract idea of history and the reality of it.

As we had more discussions, slowly a comprehensive view of the history of Naparima College, its important persons, buildings, events, accomplishments, even challenges and...the reality of timelines began to emerge. Admittedly, the amount of information I had at this point needed to be processed and properly organized as history.

With the help of Mr. Siboo, I gained a well-rounded understanding of the history of Naparima College to the point where several different timelines were created all with their individual themes and purposes. All of which were later refined down to the final timeline which was presented at the Naparima College Founder's Day Celebration 2024'. On behalf of Naparima College, I thank the CAPCTT. *An encounter with the Archives is an encounter with ... yourself. Hoping to be there for your Encounter with the Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago..*

Archivist: Reverend Ken K Kalloo, Asst Archivist: Hilton R Bill Siboo 788-2685

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

COUNSELLING COLUMN

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

HOW CAN I FIND PEACE IN THE BUSYNESS OF EXAM SEASON

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" (1st Peter 5:7).

While the regal pink and yellow hues of the Poui blossoms adorn hillsides and byways, the radiant colours carry with them the signal of the pending exam season that will soon be upon many Caribbean students.

During the months of May and June, Forms Five, Six, and Tertiary level students prepare for exams of one kind or another. This can be an extremely challenging time for any student and Christian students are not exempt from the inner battle that ravages their hearts and minds at this time. However, amidst the chaos, there are time-tested strategies rooted in Christian principles that can help them find peace and serenity in the face of one unavoidable Goliath.

There are a myriad of tools they can use to provide them with the mental clarity and spiritual strength needed to navigate through exams with peace and confidence. Incorporating practices such as journaling, mindfulness, and deep breathing into their exam preparation routine can aid in many ways, such as;

1. **Journaling:** Reflecting on God's Promises with Faith and Gratitude. Journaling is not merely about chronicling daily events but also serves as a powerful self-reflection tool that aids in spiritual growth. It has been effective especially for coping with stress. As students of faith, they can use journaling as a means of deepening their connection with God and finding solace in his promises during this strenuous exam season. Journaling has many facets and variations, therefore, a 'safe' place to begin, would be with gratitude. Research indicates that gratitude boosts their ability to learn, balance out negative emotions, and helps them to be more resilient. Students engaging in exams can consider starting a gratitude journal where they can write down things, they are thankful for each day. They can take a few moments before or after study sessions to jot down their thoughts, prayers, and reflections on how their faith is guiding them through the exam period. Writing down their worries and concerns can also help to alleviate anxiety and provide a sense of perspective. Remember the words of Philippians 4:6-7, which encourages believers to present their requests to God with thanksgiving, and promises that the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
2. **Mindfulness:** Focusing on the Present Moment. In the hustle and bustle of exam preparation, it's easy to become overwhelmed by worries about the future or regrets about the past. Mindfulness, rooted in the Christian tradition of being present with God, as well as being grounded in prayer and scripture, offers a remedy to their exam anxiety by redirecting their focus to the present moment. They can practice mindfulness by engaging in activities that cultivate awareness of the present, such as prayerful meditation or mindful walking. Set aside time each day to sit in silence, focusing on their breathing and inviting God's presence to fill their heart and mind. Incorporate scripture into their mindfulness, practice by meditating on verses that bring comfort and strength. For example, Psalm 46:10 encourages believers to "be still and know that I am God," reminding them to trust in God's sovereignty and to find peace in his presence. As they practice mindfulness, they'll learn to let go of distracting thoughts and worries, finding peace in the stillness of God's presence.
3. **Deep breathing:** Inviting God's Spirit. Deep breathing is a simple yet effective technique for calming the mind and body, allowing students to approach exams with clarity and composure. As they inhale deeply, they can envision themselves breathing in God's peace and strength. With each exhale, release tension and anxiety, surrendering their worries to God's care. Incorporate deep breathing exercises into their daily routine, especially during moments of stress or overwhelm. Take a few minutes before starting their study sessions or exams to practice deep breathing, centering themselves in God's presence. Allow his Spirit to fill them with calmness and confidence, knowing that he is with them every step of the way. One effective deep breathing exercise is the 4-7-8 technique: inhale deeply through one's nose for a count of four, hold your breath for a count of seven, and then exhale slowly through your mouth for a count of eight. Repeat this cycle several times, focusing on the sensation of your breath filling your lungs and releasing tension with each exhale. As they practice deep breathing, they should invite God's presence to fill their mind and spirit, trusting in his peace to sustain them through the challenges ahead. Remember the words of Jesus in John 14:27, where he promises to give his followers peace that the world cannot give—a peace that surpasses all understanding.

While exams can be a challenging time for any student, the advantage students who are raised on the fundamentals of Christ's teachings have, is the knowledge that God provides one with his comfort, guidance and grace. As they lean on him and trust in his promises, they can navigate exams with confidence and peace, knowing that his love never fails.



Welcome readers. We continue in this series unraveling
“Worship in Presbyterianism.”

The Holy Spirit empowers us for worship. Apart from the Spirit, we would not want to see or want to respond to God’s glory. We need to ask God to help us praise him. For us, mortal men and women, praise is not a natural thing. We cannot just turn on the tap and let it flow. Praise is a response that God energizes in us. It is an act that God works in us. Praise in worship is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus makes our worship to God acceptable. *“Like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 2:5). The Holy Spirit turns our hearts into treasures.

The Holy Spirit unifies us in worship. We are not commanded by God to create unity with other believers. Instead, we should be *“eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit”* (Ephesians 4:3).

While Christ made our unity possible through his sacrifice, Paul calls what we enjoy together as believers the *“fellowship of the Holy Spirit”* (2 Corinthians 13:14). Can our unity as believers be strengthened and deepened? Definitely. However, we are helpless to create it. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers us to forgive, enables us to find evidence of the working of God in those around us, and to love others with a love that rises above our petty differences, squabbles, and cold heartedness.

The Spirit comes to transform us. God never intends for us to leave worship unchanged or unaffected. Just as God saves us to make us like his Son, *“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family”* (Romans 8:29).

He calls us together as believer for the same purpose. How do we change? Surely not by hearing a list of things we are not doing, by declaring to do better next time, or grovelling in our sinfulness. The Spirit changes us as we behold the glory of God in his Word. *“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit”* (2 Corinthians 3:18).

It is the Holy Spirit that works to free us from all the defiling effects of sin.

Stay tuned for more in our June article.

MOTHER OF WORTH!

Submitted by Caroline Diana Sampath Aramalaya Presbyterian Church
 Dedicated in memory of my mother: Mrs. Lystra Sampath.

When God created mothers,
 He took the very best He had,
 He blended them together,
 And voila! The result of which I’m so glad!

Eve was the first mom in the Bible,
 Her children were Cain and Abel.
 Her love for them was quite remarkable,
 Even when Cain would later rebel.

Jochebed hid Moses in the bushes,
 For she knew the things he’d have to do.
 In a woven basket, on water that rushes,
 She watched him go, and later, as he grew.

Elizabeth, a mother so devout,
 Believed at once she would bear this son,
 In her mind, she had no doubt,
 That he’d be great, and so named him John.

Beautiful Mary! O what a lass!
 Strong, resilient in heart and mind,
 She never complained, she knew her task,
 To bear Jesus - to save mankind.

Today, as we celebrate our mothers,
 Those in Heaven, those on Earth,
 For throughout the realms, there is no other
 Like your own - Mother of Worth!

MOTHERS, THE SILENT ARCHITECTS OF THE FUTURE

Submitted by Dr. Diana Narinesingh, Psychiatrist.



The birth of a mother – motherhood - is an experience in a woman's life that is like no other. It is a profound, impactful, life-altering and all-encompassing. It is more than the biological changes that take place within her body. The transition from woman to mother has a deep and lasting impact on a woman's psychological state. Life with a child redefines a woman's sense of identity in ways she may not have expected. For some, the metamorphosis into motherhood is seamless. Some mothers are born the moment they first desire to have a child. For others, each stage of change is associated with challenges. Some mothers are not fully born until weeks, months or even years after the physical birth of their first child.

Antenatal (before the birth of child) mental health conditions such as Mood Disorders (Depression/Bipolar Disorder), Psychotic Illnesses and Substance Use Disorders are associated with worsening outcomes in the post-partum (after the birth of child) period. Other risk factors include obstetric factors (e.g. unplanned pregnancy, threatened loss of pregnancy, premature labor), postpartum hormonal changes and psychosocial, factors (e.g. disrupted sleeping patterns, marital/family dysfunction, abuse, financial stress, "difficult baby", history/family history of psychiatric conditions) and unrealistic expectations. According to Goodman (2006), postpartum mental health problems can have chronic, adverse mental health effects for women and can lead to maladaptive maternal behaviour.

Although both mother and involved father go through a transformative process as they enter parenthood, the journey is especially unique for the mother as an intense bond can be formed through that period of time when the baby is spent in-utero. When a woman has a better understanding of the psychological process of becoming a mother, it can impact her children in a positive way. With a greater awareness and understanding of her mental health, she may be better able to tune into the physical and emotional needs of her child. Addressing psychological issues and seeking support and treatment prior to, during or even after pregnancy, improve both physical and mental wellbeing outcomes for both mother and child in the future.

For some, Mother's Day is a time to celebrate and make memories with family and the women who surround us. For others, it is an unjust "holiday" forced upon those who have lost a mother, lost a child, hate their mothers, hate their children, want to be a mother or even shamed because they don't want to be a mother (amongst other reasons). It can be horribly sad, painful, emotionally complex and lonely even in the presence of loved ones.

Some mothers may feel unappreciated, disappointed or even angry on Mother's Day due to unmet needs and wounds that stem from childhood that play in the unconscious mind- expressing on sentimental days such as this. Some may mourn that we don't feel the way we would have hoped to on Mother's Day- special and loved. A mother's growth come with healing and taking care of herself. Accepting that her loved ones are with limits and imperfect is sometimes the hardest part.

Motherhood is a rollercoaster of ecstasy, confusion, joy, pain, heart-warming and sometimes- terrifying experiences. It is the likely most powerful job in the world, with the mother's emotional and psychological wellbeing, the greatest influence on the future.

BIBLE LESSONS FROM THE POUI

Submitted by: P.E Dr George Sammy



Poui trees have bloomed spectacularly this year, giving us a view of nature's beauty that lifts our spirits. It also reminds us of the description of the Third Day of Creation in Genesis 1:12 1 , which may be paraphrased "The land produced vegetation ... and God saw that it was good." In addition to their beauty, Poui trees can teach us three lessons about our Christian Faith, which I have titled the Golden Poui, the Pink Poui and Drought.

The Golden Poui

Many persons consider the Golden Poui, more commonly known as the Yellow Poui, the more eye-catching of the two species. This year, fairly large numbers can be seen on the slopes of the Northern Range between Arima and St. Joseph; and to see them is to admire them.

The Golden Poui reminds us that Christ is our King. In Psalm 21:3, we are told that the King is joyful because God **"... came to greet him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head."** Who is the King that is joyful in this passage? A plain reading of the text suggests that it might be King David, but some scholars suggest that the King is in fact Jesus Christ, Himself.

The three Wise Men also recognized Christ's kingship when they brought Him a gift of gold (Matthew 2:8-11). Similarly, Revelation 14:14 tells of a vision of **"... a white cloud and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand."** Bible Scholars tell us that the term Son of Man in this context is a reference to Jesus Christ.

The Golden Poui sits on mountain slopes like the crowns of pure gold on Jesus' head in these passages. When we see the Golden Poui in bloom, therefore, let us always remember that Christ is our King.

The Pink Poui

The colour of Pink Poui flowers varies among trees, ranging from a very faint pink to almost-magenta. These colours can remind us of blood mixed with water, which is a fundamental part of Jesus' sacrifice for all our sakes.

Zechariah 12:10 prophesied that the House of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will look on **"the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child."** In John's Gospel (John 19:33-34), the piercing of Jesus side is described in graphic detail,

"But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water."

In spite of the cruelty of the piercing of Jesus' side, a wonderful promise is associated with that act in Revelation 1:7, **"Look, He is coming with the Clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him."** So, when we see the Pink Poui, let us remember that Jesus died for the sins of all people, with blood and water flowing from His side.

Drought

We all suffer droughts in our lives: droughts of water, droughts of love and droughts of other things we need. One drought we are all aware of is the dry season every year. The dry season in the West Indies is not a drought in the Biblical sense, described in Deuteronomy 28:23 as: **"the sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron."** And the ending of a drought is described in Isaiah 35:7, as follows:

"The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow."

The Bible passages on drought and the coming of rain are very relevant to us. In our West Indian setting, the blooming of the Poui trees is a sign that the dry season is going to end. When the rains come, rivers flow in greater volume, pools of water form and the dried grass and shrubs spring back to life. Thus, the blooming of the Poui trees assure us that, by God's grace, no drought will last forever.

Conclusion

The beauty of the Poui trees in bloom at this time of year is a gift that God has given us to lift our spirits. But more than that, the Poui blossoms can teach us three lessons:

- The Golden Poui reminds us that Christ is our King;
- The Pink Poui reminds us that we are saved by the Blood of Christ; and
- The flowering of the Poui trees reminds us that, through God's grace, all of the Droughts in our Lives (literal as well as figurative) will come to an end.

It is fitting to end this article by quoting the remedy to the droughts in our lives, given to us in 2 Chronicles 7:14: **"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."**

HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOUR! EASTER CANTATA - ARAMALAYA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Submitted by: Caroline Diana Sampath



The Aramalaya Steel led by Sat Sharma



Mr. Sonnylal a.k.a "Killer"



The Friends in Christ Choir. Missing: Ms. Nadia Mitchell

On Sunday 14th. April 2024, the group Friends in Christ, under the leadership of Ms. Zara Lackhan, and consisting of members from the Aramalaya and Curepe churches held its Second Annual Easter Cantata aptly entitled: "Hallelujah! What A Saviour!" This cantata is a compilation of sacred music composed and arranged largely in part by famed American composer, Mr. Lloyd Larson.

Mr. Dexter Rampersad commenced the service with prayer and devotions, in which he reminded congregants of the significance of Easter and the joy it brings to everyone who believes in the Resurrected Lord.

Elder Anthony Sampath performed the duties of narrator. He captivated the congregation with his delivery of the Easter story via narrations which punctuated pivotal parts of the cantata. The choir's first selection was the powerful piece entitled:

"The King is coming today" depicting Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Throughout the cantata, persons relived Our Lord's last night with His disciples as they gathered in the upper room, His betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane, His sacrificial death on a cross, and lastly, His glorious resurrection and emergence from the tomb. The cantata culminated with the moving piece: "Worthy is the Lamb" based on scripture taken from the Book of Revelations chapter 5 verses 11 - 13 and whose very words evoked a host of emotions ranging from calm and surreal to euphoric and expectant, where one can only envision: "ten thousand angels gathered 'round the throne'..."

Hallelujah! What A Saviour! A cantata so exquisitely written, its accompanying music indeed lends itself to such beautiful harmonies, evident in the melodious voices where first and second sopranos harmonized seamlessly with first and second altos, the result can only be described as heavenly.

In closing, following the choral benediction: "Is it not written", Reverend Dr. Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan pronounced the Benediction.

The Friends In Christ Choir is eternally grateful to: the Local Board at Aramalaya for its unwavering and unstinting support; Mr. Christopher Khan and his team who graciously live-streamed the service; persons who watched, listened, shared and enjoyed the cantata both live and online; the hauntingly beautiful sounds of the Aramalaya Steel Orchestra and last but not least Mr. Sonnylal a.k.a "Killer" our resident Drummer Extraordinaire and whose talents know no bounds as he skilfully and artfully accompanied us throughout this cantata. We say thank you! To God be the glory!

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power and riches, and wisdom and strength. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive honour and glory, and praise for evermore..."

Pepper Chopin.



Narrator: Elder Anthony Sampath

ORPOUCHE PASTORAL REGION WELCOMED THE RETURN OF THE GOOD FRIDAY MELA THEME: PILGRIMAGE OF JUSTICE, UNITY, AND RECONCILIATION.

Good Friday dawned with members of the Morning Star (MSPC), Eternal Light (ELPC) and Sun of Righteousness (SORPC, the host church) Presbyterian Churches anticipating this Regional Service. It was the 105th Good Friday Mela! In 2020, everything was ready for this annual worship service when the Pandemic struck. Reverend James Rameshwar initiated this service in 1915, it continued uninterrupted until 2019. This service has drawn Presbyterians from across the island who want to experience the Good Friday Mela at Oropouche. Initially, the Mela went from 9: 00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a break when lunch was provided for all. Today, the service is divided into three parts ending with the Sacrament of Holy Communion after which a tasty, filling, fellowship meal is provided on the compound of the school next to the host church.

At 8.30, the Secretary of SORPC's L. Bd. welcomed all and thanked them for choosing to worship as a Region. There were two Singspiration sessions to begin each of the two Sessions, these were lead by SORPC'S and the ELPC's choirs, which also sang during the service. In both sessions, the congregation sang lustily to God's glory. The MSPC choir sang two anthems in the first session. There were two musical items on the steel pan, from Student Minister, Mr. Brandon Paul, and Adam Ali and Avidis Ali. Both pieces were well received.

The first message was brought by Reverend Ria Thompson – Jimdar, the resident minister. She had looked forward to experience her first Mela. Her message urged us to take up our cross and follow Jesus, be the suffering servant. The cross will always stand as a symbol of sacrifice. To some, the cross is designed to torture, to inflict as much pain as possible on the victim. The cross also reminds us of God's grace and love. The cross sets us free and is the centrality of our faith.



She referenced Galatians 6:14 (NRSVUE) “May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.” Our faith reminds us we must be transformed.

The second message was brought by Reverend Kelvin Sookhansingh, the Region's immediate past resident minister, who, over the years, every Good Friday when he is finished preaching in his region would find himself in Oropouche to join in the Mela. Reverend Sookhansingh focused on reconciliation. How can the church offer a ray of hope amid a broken world, broken by illnesses, refugees who have had to flee their homeland, war, loss of jobs. Despite the fractured world in which we live, Jesus died on the cross to reconcile the relationship between God and man. How can the church offer hope and demonstrate the love of God in our society? Reverend Sookhansingh referred to Genesis 45: 15, when Joseph was reunited with his brothers, he wept over them, kissed them, and talked with them. The past was forgiven. The absence of reconciliation robs the church of its power and unity. Reconciliation must be intentional; it must be wanted. Christ's death on the cross made us ambassadors to carry the message, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”

Both Ministers shared in the liturgy for The Sacrament of Holy Communion. Mr Selwyn Pragg of MSPC, as he has done for decades, closed off this section with a rendition of ‘The Robe’, he was accompanied by Mr Kevin Ragbir on the organ.

After the service, worshippers chatted with those they had not seen for the last five years over a fellowship meal prepared by Mr Rodan Ramroop and his team.

CELEBRATING NEW COMMUNICANT MEMBERS AT STAR OF BETHLEHEM CHURCH, TABAQUITE.

Submitted by Bevon Maylan

On Sunday, April 7th, 2024, the Star of Bethlehem Church in Tabaquite witnessed a momentous occasion as **Fifteen (15)** members were confirmed.

The Worship was led by Presiding Elder Roy Ramlogan and with a powerful sermon by Reverend Robert Dinnoo. The service was a profound spiritual experience for all involved. The theme of the sermon, **"Recognizing Jesus in Our Everyday Lives,"** was drawn from Ephesians 1:15-20, Luke 24:13-20, and Luke 24:28-32, and encouraged the congregation to seek and recognize the presence of Jesus in their daily experiences. Reverend Dinnoo's message urged attendees to reflect on their faith journey and the significance of Christ's presence in their lives. The service was also marked by heartfelt worship and participation from the congregation.

Several of the new communicant members participated in the service by leading in prayers, reading of scripture passages, dedication of the offering, and singing an anthem. .

Elder Kathy-Ann Seucharan's dedication in teaching the anthem "Amazing Love" to the students was particularly noteworthy, with Reverend Dinnoo himself joining in the song alongside the students. The musical talents of Dr. Alicia Gayah-Batchasingh and Miss Renisa Ramlogan further enriched the worship experience.

The journey leading to Confirmation and Holy Baptism was marked by dedicated learning and spiritual growth. Over the course of six online classes, which commenced on February 9th and concluded on April 5th, 2024. Twenty Seven (27) students from churches in the pastoral region actively participated. Fifteen (15) students hailed from the Star of Bethlehem Church in Tabaquite. The culmination of these classes occurred in an in-person session on April 5th at the Star of Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, members recapped their learnings and were enlightened on the significance of the vows for Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Reverend Dinnoo challenged the newly confirmed

communicants to continue growing in their faith and allowing themselves to be vessels for God's work.

Expressing his desire to witness emerging church workers from this group, he emphasized the importance of each individual's role in furthering God's mission. As we celebrate these new members and their commitment to their faith, let us continue to support and uplift one another on our spiritual journeys. May their dedication inspire us all to deepen our relationship with God and actively engage in His work in the world. Together, let us rejoice in the grace that has brought us together and the blessings that flow abundantly from the communion of saints. In the words of the psalmist, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him" (Psalm 34:8)

The names of the newly confirmed communicant members are as follows:

Krystal Abass
Alena Batchasingh
Anuradha Chanka
Rebecca Harripaul
Natalya Lalchan
Sonny Matmungal
Bevon Maylan
Zane Maylan
Zaydon Maylan
Alexandria Saunders
Shiloh Seucharan
Anaya Sookdeo
Meagan Subero
Mickyle Subero
Elizabeth Gurah



KARAMCHAND AND PANDORA CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



April 13th 2024 was the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Karamchand Budri Mitchell and Pandora, formerly Indarsingh. Fifty years ago, this couple was married at the Susamachar Presbyterian Church by Reverend Idris Hamid and Reverend Roy Bachan. Today, they both worship and serve at the Barrackpore Union Presbyterian Church which was a common denominator in both their lives since childhood. Karamchand is the Clerk of Session of the Barrackpore Pastoral Region, a position he has held for over twenty-five years of dedicated service. Pandora is Choir Leader and Organist, and has spent most of her life in this role. Their combined service to God's Kingdom is seen within their congregation, in the Pastoral Region, and in the wider Church and Community.

Both Karamchand and Pandora entered the teaching profession at an early age, and attended Teachers' College at the same time. They both excelled in their chosen field and were responsible for shaping the lives of numerous individuals over their vocation as educators. Karamchand retired as a Schools' Supervisor, while Pandora was Principal of Princes Town Presbyterian No. 1 School. They have also mentored many within and outside of the Church.

Over the years, they remember Missionaries, Church Workers, Elders who were instrumental in encouraging them in their path of service and devotion to God. These include: Members of National Choir in celebration of 125th Anniversary of PCTT and Convention Choir. Karamchand represented his Region on various Courts, Boards and Committees of PCTT. He has completed the Presiding Elders Course and is actively involved in assisting with the spiritual growth in the Region.

As they celebrated their golden anniversary, they were also privileged to be blessed by the marriage of their daughter Kadyne, also a youth leader in the Church, to Michael Khan. They also enjoy the blessing of siblings, nephews, nieces, cousins, extended family, and community members whose lives they have touched over the years.

As they look back at their journey together – a journey of love, faith, achievement, happiness – they give all the glory to Almighty God.

The Trinidad Presbyterian extends congratulations to Karamchand and Pandora Mitchell, and every good wish as they continue their journey together.

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL FELLOWSHIP AT CARONI SWAMP

Submitted by : Joy Ramlogan

The women of the Curepe Presbyterian Church are continuing the mission of building fellowship and friendships in Christ. On Saturday March 23, 2024, the day started with showers in the North and the long-awaited trip to the Caroni Swamp appeared to be in jeopardy. With prayers and confidence, a group of thirty intrepid women, men and children came at the appointed time to journey together into the Caroni Swamp. Many of the group had been to the Swamp when they were younger, while others had never been and appreciated the opportunity to visit with the church group. All were excited to see the mysteries of God's work in nature.

Blessed with good weather, and well prepared for mosquitoes and the stinging sun, one boatload of our members and their families and friends ventured into the mangroves under the guidance of Nanan's Tours. For some, the quiet of the Caroni Swamp drew them to contemplation of the great beauty of our country, just off the busy highway. For others, the sight of the flocks of red Scarlet Ibises flying to cover the trees was a significant reminder of God's awesome power in the creation of the natural wonders of fauna and flora. The group was delighted to learn from the knowledgeable tour guide, Omesh, that the collective noun for a group of pink flamingos is "flamboyance".

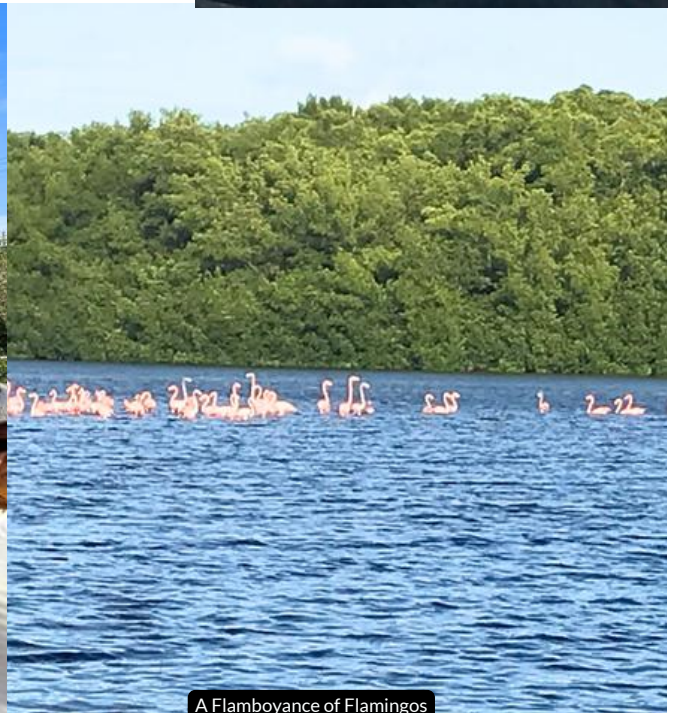
President of the Ladies Group, Ms. Lauren Robinson, commended the organisers, Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Marianne Nandlal-Mohan, and Treasurer, Mrs. Danielle Bajnath for arranging such a successful outing. She commented, "This was a happy experience of fellowship for those who trekked out on this hot bright Saturday afternoon. It emphasised how God's creation is all around us, if we just seek Him."



Peaceful evening, Caroni Swamp



Starting our Swamp Adventure.



A Flamboyance of Flamingos

Susamachar Men's Fellowship Blesses Lengua Presbyterian Church with Transformative Worship Experience

Responding to the Moderator's clarion call for transformation and outreach, the Susamachar Men's Fellowship (SMF), a distinguished Men's group within the PCTT, orchestrated an impactful Worship Service at the Lengua Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 14th, starting at 9 AM.

The sanctuary overflowed with congregants as 35 members of the SMF, accompanied by their families, joined hands with the Lengua congregation, creating an atmosphere of unity and spiritual fervor. Leading the service was Mr. Roger Ali, Acting Principal of Naparima College, guiding the gathering through a profound exploration of "The risen Christ."

Hymns filled the air, resonating with the hearts of those present, including soul-stirring renditions of "Precious Lord, take my hand" and "Lord of the Dance," skillfully led by Mr. Raymond Ramsingh and Mr. David Maharaj, with Mr. Darin Sankar providing exquisite accompaniment on the keyboard.

The sacred texts of Psalm 121 and Luke 24:36-48 were eloquently delivered by Mr. Nazrool Hosein and Mr. Rajiv Nehorah, respectively, setting the stage for fervent prayers offered to the Lengua community by Mr. Bridgelal Ramjit, Mr. Vishnu Chackan, Mr. Raymond Ramsingh, and Mr. Deonath Goora.

The sermon, delivered by Mr. Roger Ali, echoed with profound truths drawn from the scripture readings.

Photos by Holis Sankar



He expounded on the disciples' encounter with the risen Christ, emphasizing themes of faith over doubt, perseverance over distractions, and vigilance over complacency.

Mr. Mikhail Lochan, chairperson of the Lengua Presbyterian Church, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the SMF's outreach efforts, recognizing them as "Ambassadors of Christ" and underscoring the importance of supporting smaller congregations.

The service concluded with a demonstration of tangible love and support as Resource bags were distributed to students from both the Lengua Church and the Lengua Presbyterian School, facilitated by President Mr. Enderson Jagessar and Mr. Carl Maharaj. A joyous photo session immortalized the fellowship shared between SMF members and church officials.



The day culminated in a shared meal, symbolizing the communion of hearts and minds nourished by the word of the Lord. Gratitude was extended to Rev. Manan Deo, Minister of the church, and Mr. Richard Gobin, Local Board Secretary, for their invaluable contributions to the day's success.

In a testament to the transformative power of faith and fellowship, the Susamachar Men's Fellowship's visit left an indelible mark on the Lengua Presbyterian Church, igniting hearts with hope and inspiration.

Submitted by: Holis Sankar and Enderson Jagessar



FLANAGIN TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CELEBRATES FOUR NEW COMMUNICANT MEMBERS

SUBMITTED BY: Sheena Ramoutar-Villafana

On Sunday 7th April, 2024 the Flanagin Town Presbyterian celebrated a significant milestone with the welcoming of four new communicant members. The service, was a culmination of spiritual growth, learning, and dedication for these individuals. The service was led by Elder Mrs. Dinelle Ramoutar-Harnarine and featuring a profound sermon by Reverend Robert Dinnoo, the theme that resonated deeply with the congregation: Recognizing Jesus in our everyday lives.

The service drew inspiration from several scriptures, including Ephesians 1:15-20, Luke 24:13-20, and Luke 24:28-32, The message conveyed in this passage is centered around the biblical story of the walk to Emmaus, emphasizing how individuals can be blinded by their trials and personal issues, failing to recognize the presence of Jesus in their lives. It highlights that encountering Jesus can reignite one's spiritual fire and bring about a new understanding and experience with Him, particularly symbolized through partaking in the Lord's Table. Reverend Dinnoo referenced Ephesians 1:17-18, underscoring God's role in granting wisdom and revelation to individuals. Furthermore, he urged everyone to embrace the responsibility of sharing the good news, citing the Great Commission from Matthew 28:18-20.



This thematic foundation set the tone for the welcoming of Aveera Roodalsingh, Zachary Ali, Mark Hasranah, and Nick Hasranah as new communicant members.

Elder Mrs. Sheena Ramoutar-Villafana presented the new members, who took part in various aspects of the service, from leading in the prayer of adoration to delivering the offertory prayer and reading scripture passages. This inclusive involvement showcased their eagerness to contribute meaningfully to the church's mission.

The service was further enriched by the heartfelt contributions of the choir, offering an inspiring introit and anthem creating a memorable and uplifting experience for all present.

Reverend Robert Dinnoo issued a challenge to the new and existing communicants, urging them to nurture their relationship with the Lord and remain open to His guidance. He expressed his hope for future church workers to emerge from this group, continuing God's transformative work within the congregation and beyond.

The journey to becoming communicant members was not merely a Sunday event but a comprehensive process that began with online classes from Friday 9th February 2024, and culminated in an in-person gathering on Friday 5th April, 2024 at the Star of Bethlehem Presbyterian Church at Tabaquite. These sessions provided a platform for deepening understanding, exploring faith, and learning the vows for holy communion.

The new communicant members expressed gratitude for the enriching experience and the warm welcome they received from the Flanagin Town Presbyterian Church as all partook in refreshments provided by the families of these new members.

As the church embraces these new communicant members, it looks forward to witnessing their continued growth, service, and dedication to living out the teachings of Christ in their daily lives.

NAVET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PALM SUNDAY AND 94TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY A MESSAGE OF OBEDIENCE.

Submitted by Anniesha Narine, Secretary of the Local Board of the Navet Presbyterian

The Navet Presbyterian Church radiated with the vibrant green of palm leaves as congregants gathered for this momentous occasion. The sanctuary, adorned with these traditional symbols of joy and triumph, set the stage for a spiritually enriching service conducted by Presiding Elder Mr. Martin Sahadath.

The theme of obedience reverberated throughout the service, echoing the scriptural passages from Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, and Mark 14:1-15. Drawing inspiration from the ultimate act of obedience demonstrated by God's sacrifice on the cross.

Presiding Elder Sahadath urged the congregation to heed the call to obedience in every aspect of their lives - to love, to share, to show mercy, to forgive, and to care for one another.

The musical talents of Sophia Soodeen on the Steel Pan and Kareem Narine on the Keyboard added depth and emotion to the service. Sophia's rendition of "You Raised Me Up" and Kareem's performance of "Ten Thousand Reasons" stirred hearts and lifted

spirits, enhancing the atmosphere of worship and praise.

Elder Mrs. Alisa S. Boochoon took the congregation on a journey through the history of Navet Presbyterian Church, tracing its humble beginnings on March 24th, 1930, to its growth and impact over the past 94 years. Her reflections served as a reminder of the faithfulness of God and the dedication of generations past and present.

The Sunday School students engaged in a craft lesson to create crosses from palm leaves, symbolizing their understanding and commitment to the teachings of their faith.

As the service concluded, it was a moment of gratitude and reflection. The congregation looked back on their journey with thankfulness and the path forward with renewed commitment to their faith and obedience to God's calling.

In commemorating Palm Sunday and our 94th Church Anniversary, Navet Presbyterian Church embraced the timeless values of obedience, unity, and service, reaffirming our commitment to the teachings of Christ and the mission of our church.



Presiding Elder Mr. Martin Sahadath & Elders Mr. Edmund Pragsing, Mrs. Viola Seepersad and Mrs. Alisa S. Boochoon.

Tobago Hindu Society Inc.
Presents
Annual Indian Arrival Day Celebrations
2024
Officiating Pundit - Ramdath Mahase
Master of Ceremony: Bheemal Ramlogan

Live entertainment:

- Religious songs
- Film songs
- Folk songs
- Indian dances
- Tassa

Performances by:

- Veeraj Ramkissonn & Rambros Entertainment
- Sangeet Milan Orchestra
- Archarya Rukmines
- Holass Beepath
- Govinda Ramlogan
- Tobago Chhanna
- Princess Mia Beepath
- Simran Mia Sohan
- Sanjay Sharma

LOWLANDS MALL, LOWLANDS, TOBAGO.
SATURDAY, 25th MAY, 2024 from 3:00 pm TILL
ADMISSION - FREE FREE FREE!
Meals will be provided

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Submitted by Elijah Motieram

In an era where leadership is most needed, a noble creed, lies the essence of service, a selfless deed. For true greatness is not found in power or might, but in the willingness to serve, with all our might.

A servant leader, a beacon of light, guiding others through darkness, day and night. They put others first, their needs they attend with a heart that's open, a hand they extend.

In the footsteps of Matthew, they humbly tread, understand that leadership is not a crown on their head. It's a responsibility, a duty to fulfill, to uplift, empower, and inspire at will.

They do not seek glory, nor do they boast, their focus is on others, their needs foremost. For they know that true leadership lies within, In the act of serving, in the hearts they win.

They lead with compassion, empathy, and care, creating a culture where all can share. They listen, they understand, they lend a hand, they nurture, they guide, they help others stand.

For even the Son of Man, in His divine grace, came not to be served, but to serve in this space. He gave His life as a ransom, a sacrifice so grand, to show us the power of servant leadership firsthand.

So let us embrace this noble call, to serve others, to stand tall.

For in the act of serving, we find our true worth, and create a world that's filled with love and mirth.

Their strength lies not in authority or might, but in the way they serve, with love shining bright. They inspire, they empower, they nurture and guide, with selflessness and humility as their guide.

So let us embrace this noble decree, to be servant leaders, for all to see.

For in serving others, we find our true worth, and create a world of unity and rebirth.

START THEM OFF, WHERE IT COUNTS!

Presiding Elder Mr. Martin Sahadath & Elders Mr. Edmund Pragsing, Mrs. Viola Seepersad and Mrs. Alisa S. Boochoon.

How many butterflies?
 11 eleven
 Infant 2 page 17

Learn fractions
 Measurement page 17

Recommended for students preparing for S.E.A.

Chocolate flavour $\frac{1}{2}$ or 50%
 Coconut
 Other
 Vanilla
 Chocolate
 Coconut flavour $\frac{1}{4}$ or 25%
 Upper Primary page 212

4 sets of 2 blocks
 4 sets of 2 blocks = 8 blocks
 4 times 2 = 8
 $4 \times 2 = 8$
 Book 1 page 106

Regroup.
 $3\frac{1}{3} = 2 + 1 + \frac{1}{3}$
 $= 2 + \frac{3}{3} + \frac{1}{3}$
 $= 2 + \frac{4}{3}$
 $3\frac{1}{3} = 2\frac{4}{3}$
 Book 3 page 146

Answers for Book 3 & UP are available FREE by email request.

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HEALING AND THE HEALING POWER OF KINDNESS

By Dr Lester Goetz, Elder, Susamachar Presbyterian Church, San Fernando



PART 2

A COMMAND

Kindness Is A Healing Command From God.

It is Not a Request. Not a Suggestion. It Is A Command!!

The Greatest Command Is To Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind (Matt 22:37).

And, The '2nd' Greatest Command Is To Love Your Neighbour As You Love Yourself (Matt 22:39). That is kindness indeed!

Jesus Gave Us a Command To Be Kind.

On these 'two' commandments hang 'the whole law' of Moses and the 'teachings' of the prophets (Matt 22:40).

When you disobey these commands and do not show any kindness, you commit a sin. It is a sin not to be kind (even with your words).

Kindness Is a Difficult Command to Follow Because We Are Usually Too Consumed by Our Own Problems to Have Any time at all For Other People's Problems.

What really Is Kindness?

1. Is It Only About Giving Money?
2. It Could Be a Listening Ear. Help Someone with Their Problems.
3. A Good Deed. Help Someone In Need, Do Not Expect Anything In Return.
4. Kind Words – What You Say About Others.

The Bible Says 'A Kind Word Turns Away Wrath' (Prov 15:1).

HOW TO REACT?

Did They Speak ill Behind Your Back? What Is Your Human Response?

What Do We Really Do?

First ask yourself 'How would Jesus react.'

Is it with Anger and Revenge? No! Should We Bad Mouth Someone We Do Not Like? – No!

Should We Recruit Others To Join Us In Pulling Down Another. No!

This is not the way of Jesus.

The Bible Teaches Us 'How' To React .

In Luke it says 'Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You (Luke 6:31/ Matt 7:12). It is known as the Golden Rule. You do not want someone to speak ill of you, so do not do it to anyone.

The Bible says, 'Kind Words Are Like Honey', Sweet to The Soul And Healthy to The Body' (Prov 16:24).

There Is Healing In 'Your' Mouth!

A JOKE: 'If You Hear Bad Things About Me It Means I Am Alive! People Only Say Good Things About The Dead.'

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Conducted by **Rev. Dr. Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan**

"When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and rescues them from all their troubles.

The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit". Psalm 34: 17-18



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ACT OF KINDNESS

SUBMITTED BY Louella Ramsingh, Youth Group Co-ordinator MSPC Youth Group (PCTT)

On March 23rd, 2024, the Fyzabad Morning Star Presbyterian Youths (PCTT) took to Gulf City Mall for an Act of Kindness Day. We gathered in the atrium of the mall and after prayer we handed out scripture stickers, silicone "Jesus Loves You" bands, scripture pencils to children, and scripture bookmarks and carnations and chrysanthemums to the adults. The idea was to emerge from our comfort zones, witness to our faith in Jesus and make a stranger smile. The goal was to let others know there is still good in the world, people can be kind without reciprocation, simply to spread some joy.

Everyone had a 'ball' meeting new people and seeing serious expressions change to broad smiles. It was wonderful to tell those we met that Jesus loves them. We wanted to do this activity as part of our Lenten Journey and to purpose our lives in fulfilling the Great Commission. May God keep this passion in our hearts to continue until every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus is Lord.



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KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL PALM SUNDAY SERVICE/ MARCH 24TH 2024

Submitted by Sunday School Administrative Team

It was a glorious morning when the children of the Sunday School entered the church waving their Palm Branches re-enacting Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. "Hosanna in the highest!" rang through the church atmosphere as the Choir melodiously sang whilst the children lined the Church's aisle waving their Palm branches just as the multitude did in Jesus' time.

The congregation was elated as their children engaged in such an auspicious act, celebrating the arrival of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The children engaged in a reading taken from the Gospel according to Mark 11:1-11.

MESSAGE

The Gospel reading taught the children that Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. He rode in on a donkey signifying his journey to the cross, as foretold by the prophet Zechariah (9:9), in the Old Testament which says, "Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey." Fulfilling the prophecy, Jesus willingly entered the city of Jerusalem knowing he would be betrayed, rejected, tried, and crucified on the cross for our sins.

Just as John the Baptist and the multitude prepared the way for the coming of our Lord and

Saviour so to must we prepare our hearts to receive Christ and follow Him. We should strive to embody the qualities displayed by Christ as he rode into Jerusalem, one of love for others, obedience to our Father in heaven and humility.

CRAFT

According to the Old Testament a Palm branch is symbolic of victory, joy, and triumph. The children made Palm crosses which represented Jesus' victory and triumph over sin and death.



The Susamachar Presbyterian Church Men's Fellowship

in collaboration with

The Barrackpore Pastoral Region Of The Presbyterian Church

cordially invite you to

A Medical Health Fair

At The Barrackpore West Secondary School
Location Pending Approval

Sunday July 21st 2024 , 10 AM to 2 PM.

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL – EASTER SUNDAY

“Let the little children come onto me...”

SUBMITTED BY Sunday School Administrative Team

Jesus said, “Let the little children come onto me and do not hinder them, for to such belong the kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 19: 14).

This verse was embodied when the Knox Presbyterian Church Sunday School students led the congregation in the introit with a rendition of “Our Father”. Their sweet voices delighted all as they sang with angelic voices, praising the one true God. The scripture, John 11:25-26, was used in the day’s lesson.

The Sunday School lesson was an interactive blend of an Easter Egg hunt, scripture analysis and reflection, and craft. The children thoroughly enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt where they were asked to sequence pictures highlighting the events of holy week along with supporting Bible scripture, an egg would be found, and the children would read the scripture. When all the eggs were found, the children were then able to sequence the story, re-telling the events that took place in Jesus’ life before his death and resurrection. The children were very elated and intrigued to make their craft. A headband titled: “The Easter Story” symbolized the events of Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the institution of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, his crucifixion on Good Friday and finally his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The children also received a beautiful treat bag thanks to the love and support of our Chairman, Mr. Curtis Bipat, his wife Mrs. Marilyn Bipat, and the parents of the Sunday School.





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Dad although we can no longer see you with our eyes or touch you with our hands. We feel you in our hearts forever. Love your wife and family





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Conference

Theme: Our Pilgrimage to Unity as a Church

1 Corinthians 1:10

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Venue : Arunodai (Balmain) Presbyterian Church

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