

The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

The Official Publication of The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad & Tobago
July 2023



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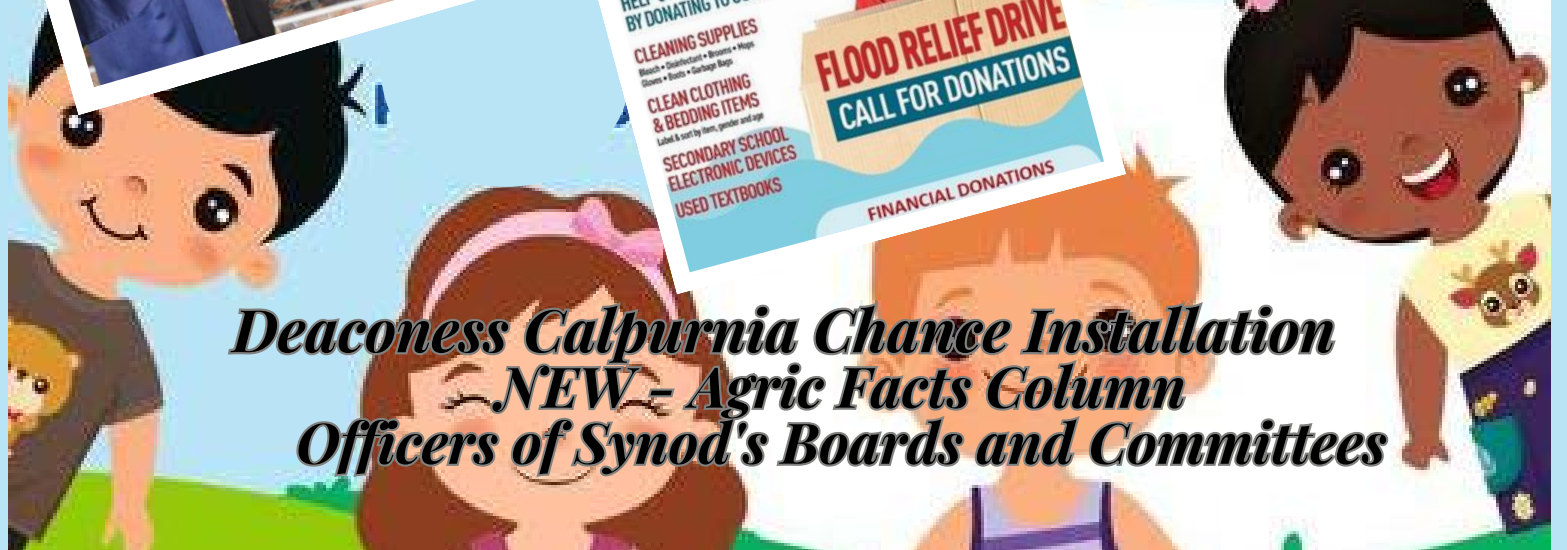
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*Deaconess Calpurnia Chance Installation
NEW - Agric Facts Column
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THE MODERATOR SPEAKS

PCTT MODERATOR, THE RIGHT REVEREND DANIEL CHANCE



Gratitude for the Journey

I use this column to express gratitude to all the God-fearing and dedicated principals and teachers within our Primary and Secondary Presbyterian Schools for their commitment to being a Godly influence and for their excellent service to the children under their care. All institutions must also be commended for a smooth transition to full in-person school for the 2022-2023 academic year, catering to COVID-19 protocols, ensuring the health and well-being of all students, teachers and auxiliary staff.

We are again in the graduation season where students at the Pre-School, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels of education have successfully completed their course of study and have gone through the rigors of physical and academic training, and are now prepared for the next phase in their journey. The certificates being presented at graduation ceremonies symbolize the successful completion of their level of study.

However, there are many other lessons that our children have acquired over the years. These include acknowledging and expressing gratitude to their parents for their commitment to love, care and provide for their needs to the best of their ability. Our children have acquired the discipline and have seen the rewards of applying themselves to their studies, they have learned time management, learned to make sacrifices, found the proper balance between study and recreation, and above all, discovered what it means to trust God with their future.

Trusting God with our future allows him to map the way forward. We learn to depend on him as we open ourselves to be used for his Holy purpose. As a result of God's presence and power in our lives, anything that seemed impossible become possible. Indeed, God has a bright and positive future planned for all his children. He calls us into a meaningful and permanent relationship with him.

Given the opportunity during this very significant time in the lives of educational institutions; principals, teachers, students, parents, and all other stakeholders should be thankful that we are able to actively participate in God's great plan for all of humanity. As our children move on to the next chapter of their journey, may the established foundation, along with their zeal and perseverance, continue to be the motivating factor which leads them to success.

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



Objectives:

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

• How we are going to operate?

Services at Beth-Rapha include:

- Meeting the Religious/Spiritual needs of persons
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- Legal counselling
- Social Welfare advice and counselling
- Training for e.g. (Training would be made available for those who would like to serve.) Other services will be included as the project develops overtime e.g. 24 hours hotline access.

The highest quality of trained and licensed professionals in their respective fields will be engaged to ensure that those accessing these services are given the best care and that the highest level of confidentiality is maintained.

To access the services of Beth-Rapha you can call the Synod's Office at 652-4829/653-4788 or email: synod@pctt.org.tt.

EDITORIAL

MENTAL HEALTH

*“For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline”
(2 Timothy 1: 7 NRSV).*

It is a true reality that anybody can struggle with their mental health whether the individual is young or old, a believer or an unbeliever. If you struggle with mental health, you are not alone. Although, the mental health of a nation may manifest itself in many ways – in its purposes, courage, moral responsibility, scientific and cultural achievements, and quality of daily life – its health and resources derive ultimately from the individual within it.


All of us are concerned with mental health for personal as well as humane reasons, we want to overcome the troublesome problems of modern living and find our share of happiness in a meaningful and fulfilling life. To do so, we may sometimes need the courage to admit that our own problems are too much for us. Struggling with mental health does not make you less of a Christian or less than a person. In fact, nobody is less than a person if they have any type of mental illness. Each individual is made in God’s image – each person is fearfully and wonderfully made. When existence seems futile or the going becomes too difficult, it may help to remind ourselves of the following basic facts:

1. From time to time each of us has serious difficulties in coping with the problems of daily living.
2. During such crisis periods, we may need psychological and related assistance.
3. Such difficulties are not a disgrace; they can happen to anyone if the stress is sufficiently severe.
4. The early detection and correction of maladaptive behaviour is of great importance in preventing more severe conditions.
5. Preventive measures are the most effective long-range approach to the solution of both individual and group mental health problems.

We need to recognize how essential these facts are as almost all of us will, at some time in our lives, have to deal with mental disorder in ourselves or in someone close to us. Thus, it is crucial that as believers, we do not judge, belittle, or condemn those struggling with mental illnesses. Rather than condemning those with mental illness, Christians are to help, show kindness, and love them. “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13: 34 – 35 NRSVUE).

We are interdependent and the loss to us all, individually, and collectively, when anyone of us fails to achieve his or her potential is devastating. What happens to the rest of the world affects us also.

It seems vital that more effective planning needs to be done at community, national, and international levels before it is too late. In fact, to be planless in our complex interdependent, and rapidly changing world is to invite – and perhaps - ensure disaster.



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ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024
Semester I

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Cost: \$1,500 (per course)
Registration: \$500 (per semester)



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BRUNCH

INSTALLATION OF DEACONESS CALPURNIA CHANCE

Submitted by Ashford Tamby

A little over twenty (20) years ago Deaconess Calpurnia Chance was welcomed into the Tableland Pastoral Region and once again on Sunday June 4th 2023 the South-Eastern Presbytery welcomed her back once again. The rain poured throughout the country that day, but from around 4 p.m. it all stopped as the service began. Leader of Worship was La Pastor Reginald Amman while retired minister attached to the Barrackpore Pastoral region, Rev. Manan Deo delivered the sermon. Rev. Deo, began by stating that Deaconess Calpurnia possesses a wonderful mix of gifts – humility, brilliance, faithfulness to the Church. Rev. Deo stated that women workers, and deaconesses are no less important in the Kingdom of Jesus; and their contributions to the ministry, must never be doubted or diminished. Instead it must be uplifted and honoured. Rev. Deo went on to say that women today are still having issues with being seen, believed, and heard. He said that in certain Pastoral Regions, the Deaconess might be the only fulltime Church worker, for specific periods, therefore, how can the work of the Deaconess, or any other servant of God, be effective, if we behave like the disciples, and fail to give credibility to the work they do.

The support that should be given to Deaconesses must never be divided or sporadic. But it must be united, unanimous, and whole-hearted, and we must always be prepared to listen seriously and take action on their suggestions and recommendations.

He concluded his sermon by stating that he was confident that if God were to evaluate the work of our women today, especially our Deaconesses, God will highlight their work done in love and truth and obedience. God sees our women, God listens to our women, and God takes action on behalf of women and God is well pleased with the work of our women workers at all levels of the Church. Rev. Stephen Harripersad performed the act of installation as the Presiding Officer on behalf of the South-Eastern Presbytery. It should also be noted that all five (5) active Deaconesses in the PCTT were in attendance for this service. May God continue to bless Deaconess

Calpurnia Chance as she continues her journey of faith in the Tableland Pastoral region!





KNOW YOUR FAITH

LOVE STORY OF LIBERATION

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

When we begin our interpretation of Scripture by recognizing that the Bible is a love story of liberation, then we embrace our deliverance and our divinely directed destiny.

One of the main challenges in interpreting the Bible comes from what scholar Sarah Ruden describes as “over two thousand years of mostly inapplicable experience.” The cultures and contexts in which the Bible was written over generations are very different from our own. These days, most often, when we hear the term “Biblical” it means that something is terrifying and/or has become weaponized, whether it is a flood, famine, or policy.

We are so used to the terminology of “brothers and sisters” that we miss how revolutionary those words were in the Jewish/Greek/Roman world. Slaves and free people, women and men, ethnic “others” ... are all siblings? How? In a world where familial bloodlines meant everything, and where genealogy guided belief and behaviour, Christianity proclaimed a faith-formed family where fellowship and kinship were synonyms. We are all related by blood- the blood of Jesus Christ!

In a world where women were subjugated and classes of women were painstakingly differentiated, the apostle Paul prescribed and practiced what Sarah Ruden observes is “outrageous equality.” In a world where women caught attending the Olympics were subjected to the death penalty, Christianity had women as church leaders.

Difficulties in translating and interpreting challenging passages in the Bible should not distract us from applying the truths in John 8:32 that we shall know the truth and the truth shall set us free, and John 8:36 that when the Son sets us free, we are free indeed, in a new world where ethnic, economic, and/or gender separations and hierarchies are eliminated in the shared unity that is the one Body of Christ (Galatians 3:28).



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THE FAMILY CAN

CRISIS IN THE FAMILY: THE BREAKDOWN IN FAMILY LIFE - PART 5 - ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

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

As we continue considering the question, 'Has the crisis in the family led or resulted to the breakdown in family life or has the breakdown in family life resulted or led to the crises of the family?' - Part 5 considers - How does global **economics and politics** impact the sociological structure and function, the everyday life and living, the existence and survival of households and residences of the family and individuals? Global geopolitics and global economics continue to redefine the structure of the family and the residential establishments, layouts and settlements that result in a deepening national and global dependence, further exacerbated by increasing population, migration across national borders and natural disasters.

The core concept of the family evolved from the historical agrarian and nomadic 'herdsmen' structures which were 'blood' linked kith and kin and based on communal resources, where the economies of the family and community ranged from subsistence to the exchange/bartering of commodities that have since evolved to the multinational, transnational and the online cyber business of today. The dual over-arching of national and global economic and political structures and systems impact the social structure and functioning of the family - on its size, structure... and survival, wealth poverty, education, health, land and property ownership.

So, was the Eurocentric 'nuclear type family' a social or economic based construct of the 18-19th C Industrial Revolution, which easily facilitated relocation and resettlement of a smaller family group and promoted as the 'ideal family type' - a father [male parent] a mother [female parent] and children - residing as a unit. Variation to the ideal type resulted when reduced to single or one-parent family [by separation or death]. From this evolved the blended type and what came to be known as the female headed household type with several generations of females, often without any adult male resident or presence. Can today's family with same sex parents [not gender defined] be considered as nuclear type?

As family types and **structure** continue to evolve, determined nationally and internationally by the world's economic and political orders, geopolitics control business and finance, food production and security, technology and [planned] warfare. Can the prevailing and recent definition of the family remain as - 'two or more persons sharing common residence and resources?'

Within this context today, what is the basis for the definition of a family? is it religious and culture or is it **politics and economics** - wealth or poverty or displacement; place of residence - high rise, refugee camps, slums, gated communities? Can research studies analyse and assesses the stability and instability of the family?

The changes/evolution in the structure and function of the family and the roles of members certainly results in crises, chaos and challenges. Can the family adjust and resolve these if they cannot understand the causes that contributes to the breakdown of family?

Remember, the family is not just a group or gathering without a common purpose. Never let it ever be that the 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

This month is historically significant to the development of the [Central] Archives of the PCTT.

On Saturday, 20th May 2023 on day 4 of the 63rd AGM of Synod recently, The Archives Committee of the PCTT was fully established as an official Synod's Committee.

Members appointed to The Archives Committee of the PCTT for the two-year period 2023 to 2025 were:

Mr Harry Partap, Mrs Donna Partap, Mr Micheal Ochiengh-Cooper (Synod Representative)

Ministers: Rev Letra Jacob and Rev Bjorn Warde.

Ex-Officio members: the Moderator, the General Secretary and the Principal of the SATC.

Archives Staff: The Archivist Rev Kenneth K Kalloo and Asst Archivist Hilton R 'Bill' Siboo.

The Archivist and voluntary staff of the CAPCTT hereby takes the opportunity to welcome the first official standing Archives Committee of Synod [CAPCTT] to Encounter with the Archives as we look toward 2025, the 50th year since its physical-locational establishment.

History is marked this month in this year 2023 for the '**ARCHIVES**'.

REMINDER -VISIT AND TOURS

We also remind everyone of the **OPEN INVITATION FOR THE VISIT AND TOURS** during July to August 2023, for which details including contacts were previously published in the May and June issues of the Trinidad Presbyterian. This is your opportunity as individuals and groups - whether family, Church (VBS), Boards and Committees for the experience and an encounter with the [CAPCTT].

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

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

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

SACRAMENTAL INSIGHTS

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



In this issue of *The Trinidad Presbyterian*, we will unravel the sixth and final “component of a renewed Eucharistic Theology” put forward by Laurence Hull Stookey in Chapter 5 of his book, *Eucharist: Christ feast with the Church*.

Just as there is always an ecclesiology, recognized or not, so also there is always an eschatology some assumptions about the goal and final outcome of things in the providence of God.

The Sacrament does not only have a past and present dimension but also a futuristic dimension. In other words, the element of hope. St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:26 said, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” Here, Paul binds Memorial and Hope together. At the Lord’s Supper/Eucharist, we proclaim an event of the past and look forward to an event in the future.

Scottish theologian Donald Baillie said: “The reason why we need this Sacrament at all is because in this present world we are strangers and pilgrims and all human history is a pilgrimage toward something that lies beyond, some supernatural reality.” We are only here for a while. The time will come when we leave this world and there will be waiting for us a better future in the presence of the Lord, which we encounter in the Eucharist.

D. S. Cairns, a Presbyterian Theologian, quoted the words of Jesus, “Verily I say unto you I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine until I drink it anew with you in the kingdom of God.” Cairns then adds, “At the very nadir of defeat and solitude, he finds a rite and sends it down through all history which will be a continual prophecy of victory.

In the Sacrament, we are really rehearsing or rather anticipating the day when the whole human race would be home gathered around the Father’s table.”

As the community of believers meet and celebrate the Lord’s Supper, it is only a preparation for the glory that awaits us at the end of earthly life. We celebrate in the present what will be revealed in the future.

The Church looks to the past, and that past becomes the present for us through faith. But we look to the future, to a victorious day of which the resurrection is the guarantee, a day when we will be in the presence of God forever. There, Christ who was made known to us in the breaking of bread at the Eucharist will be the Host who will preside at the great banquet.

Despite the struggles, we endure here on earth, the future pulls us to move forward. But at the same time there are frustrations and difficulties in the present that we cannot escape. With this vague reality the church must struggle continually like Jacob at the Jabbok, until day breaks, content in knowing all along that God blesses us in our blessing of the bread and wine.[1]

The Lord’s Supper/Eucharist is first and foremost a Sacrament, a sign or symbol instituted by Christ through which the Holy Spirit makes available to believers God’s grace. P. T. Forsyth, a Protestant scholar, said: “Prayer is a gift and sacrifice we make. Sacrament is a gift and sacrifice God makes.”

In prayer, we go to God; in Sacrament, God comes to us. Presbyterians believe that a Sacrament is a “means of grace,” an outward sign of an inward experience. God uses a Sacrament to awaken and strengthen our faith. There are three features of a sacrament: an outward sign, a promise attached to the sign, and an institution by Christ.

The Lord’s Supper/Eucharist offers to the believer the unmerited favour of God. At the Eucharistic celebration, God’s grace is extended to sinful humanity and Jesus Christ offers forgiveness and salvation which is undeserved.

The New Testament puts it this way in Romans 3:24: “they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” It is by the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ that humankind is saved. Ephesians 1:7 puts it this way: “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.” It is through the blood of Christ that redemption comes. It is at the Lord’s Supper we partake of the blood which in faith brings redemption. Titus 2:11 says, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,” God in Christ Jesus brings humankind salvation through His shed blood.

Salvation comes from the mighty acts of God and above all from the work of Jesus Christ, the Saviour. The New Testament speaks of salvation in past, present, and future tense: “we have been saved” (Ephesians 2:8); “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” and “We are being saved” (1 Corinthians); “through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain” and “We will be saved” (Romans 2:10). “For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.”[1]

The Eucharist has a past, present, and futuristic dimension: past in the sense of a memorial celebration of what Christ did on the night before his death, present when the believing community gathers for the Eucharist celebration, The Futuristic is seen in the hope of celebrating the banquet in the presence of Christ at the resurrection.

Look out for the conclusion of our study on the Sacrament of “Baptism” and “Holy Communion” in the August Issue.

[1] Laurence Hull Stookey, *Eucharist: Christ’s Feast with the Church* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993), 108

[2] Daniel L. Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2014), 303.

AGRI FACTS COLUMN

SUBMITTED BY RAYANNA BOODRAM
rayannaboodram@hotmail.com

A warm welcome to the Agri Facts Column! I am Rayanna Boodram, an Agricultural Enthusiast and your author for all facts and do-it yourself tips for agriculture and the green economy. In this article, I want to introduce to you the concept of Agriculture. Did you know that Agriculture dates back to over 12,000 years ago? As the human civilization grew, hunter-gatherer methods were upgraded to more sustainable means of attaining food which meant the growing of crops within their settlements. This led to the growth of cities as communities formed and more food was grown to meet the growing population's needs.

We have definitely evolved tremendously since ancient times and today, Agriculture is now mechanized and modernized where we now use artificial intelligence to run our farms. Before we can delve into the world of Modern Agricultural techniques, lets first start by understanding what Agriculture means. Agriculture can be defined as the practise of growing crops by the cultivating the soil and rearing of animals for food, fabrics and other products. The components of Aquaculture, fisheries and forestry for food and non-food products are also major components of Agriculture. In the upcoming articles, we will discuss all aspects of Agriculture including Horticulture, Poultry Farming, Livestock Farming and even Sericulture.

For this month's Agri fact, we will be discussing one of the major components of Agriculture, the very medium in which our crops grow; soil. How do we maintain healthy soil for home gardens or commercial gardens? The first tip is to ensure you have a high compost/ organic matter component in your soil. If you haven't started, composting is the most efficient and cost-effective method to ensure you have rich soil. Stay tuned for our composting guide in our upcoming article listing. The second tip is to integrate manure into your soil. Chicken manure is excellent for crops and horse manure is excellent for ornamental plants. Ensure that the manure is cured before applying it to your garden.

The Final tip is to reduce the use of harsh pesticides/chemicals in your garden. You are not only harming yourself but also the beneficial organisms that live in your soil such as earthworms. Pesticides reduce the overall fertility of the soil and can cause vast negative environmental impacts. There are many more tips that you can implement to improve your soil, but I can guarantee you, by applying the three tips, you will immediately change your soil's structure to one that is rich and fertile. In our next article, we will be exploring more fun Agri facts, however, if you also have a topic you would like to explore, please feel free to submit your question to my email. I look forward to hearing from you!

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MESSAGE FROM THE 2023 WCRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) met from 20-24 May 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme “Covenanting in God’s Mission.” This theme stands in the light of God’s new covenant with his people as proclaimed in Hosea 2:18-20:

“And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. And I will betroth you to me for ever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.”

We rejoice in meeting in person after only being able to meet virtually these last three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were especially pleased to be accompanied by many of our ecumenical partners. We thank our hosts, the member churches of the WCRC in South Africa, for their gracious hospitality. For us this is not an ordinary location. It is the place where the engagement with the South African churches during the time of apartheid shaped the self-understanding of the Communion as we know it today and gave it its true church identity. It is where the Belhar Confession was birthed, and the continent from which the Accra Confession sprang.

We once more commit ourselves to renew God’s covenant with us, in order to realize God’s mission by demonstrating love for God’s people and creation, seeking justice in God’s world. As Reformed people, we strive to keep reforming according to the Word of God, and therefore we continue to subject ourselves to a process of discernment—continuous self-examination with the purpose to test the spirits.

During the meeting of the Executive Committee, we took note of specific contexts of violence and injustice in Africa, of war in Sudan, Syria, Palestine, and Ukraine, paying attention to a newly developing, Cold War-oriented, geo-politico-economic order in the midst of the USA-China hegemonic struggle which critically affects people’s security in North East Asia. We were sensitized about global movements towards populism, fascism, and authoritarianism in a post-truth reality shaped by social media that threaten democracy.

We also heard from our South African hosts about the continuing challenges they face, including the need for educating the youth; a “brain drain,” of highly skilled people leaving the country; violence, fostered in inequality; and corruption on all levels of the government.

But we were inspired by a visit to Constitution Hill where, on the one hand, we saw the inhuman conditions prisoners were subjected to during the apartheid regimes and on the other hand, saw the commitment South Africans have made to equality through their Constitutional Court.

We were further inspired by presentations from the GRAPE—Global Reformed Advocacy Platforms for Engagement—participants of Kenya and South Africa, who demonstrated both the need for and the power of advocating for justice.

We therefore call on our member churches to foster a just communion, and we call for the full and just participation of all those who have been excluded from our tables.

We call for those who have had their dignity stolen from them, who have been rejected and demeaned, to be at the centre of our spaces and our conversations.

We call on our member churches to covenant for justice and to work to remove inequalities, to dismantle patriarchy, and to stop the systemic exploitation of people and the earth.

We call on our member churches to adopt and support the calls of the Zacchaeus Tax campaign for tax justice and reparations which we relaunched in Africa during our gathering.

We call on our Communion members to proclaim and demonstrate how the gospel of Jesus Christ transforms us when we engage with God’s mission in contexts of crisis, giving hope to the world by humble and honest discernment, by fearless witness, and by boldly practicing justice.

With this spirit the Executive Committee invites our member churches to move together towards the 2025 General Council in Thailand under the theme “Persevere in your witness,” on a common journey for renewing our covenant in God’s mission.

As 2 Corinthians 4:8-11 states: “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our bodies.”

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

OFFICERS OF SYNOD'S BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

2023-2025 SYNODICAL TERM

PRIMARY SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION

POSITION	NAME
Chairperson	Mr. Vickram Ramlal
Vice Chairperson	Rev. Brenda Bullock
General Secretary	Ms. Geeta Kalapnath-Maharaj
Recording Secretary	Ms. Nerissa Sahadeo
Treasurer	Mr. Curtis Seepersad

SECONDARY SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION

POSITION	NAME
Chairperson	Mr. Ashford Tamby
Vice Chairperson	Mr. Roy Umraw
Secretary	Mr. Gary Samai
Recording Secretary	Ms. Susan Mathura
Treasurer	Mr. Kenny Arjoon

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

POSITION	NAME
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Vice Chairperson	Mr. Martin Sahadath
Secretary	Ms. Carmilete Mohan
Recording Secretary	Ms. Shaleine Sooklal
Treasurer	Mr. Damien Surajbally

BOARD OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

POSITION	NAME
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Vice Chairperson	Rev. Errol Ragnauth
Secretary	Ms. Judy-Ann Alfred
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Karen M-Jaggernath

BOARD OF WOMEN

POSITION	NAME
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Vice Chairperson	Ms. Merici Rampersadsingh
Secretary	Ms. Amelia Sonja Kanhai
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Chandra Ballyram
Treasurer	Ms. Naomi Kaseram
Assistant Treasurer	Ms. June Baboolal

BOARD OF MEN

POSITION	NAME
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Vice Chairperson	Mr. Wayne Maicoo
Secretary	Mr. Garry Soomarah
Recording Secretary	Mr. Roger Ali
Treasurer	Mr. Tyabali Khan
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. Christopher Morgan

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

POSITION	NAME
Chairperson	Mr. Michael Cooper-Ochiengh
Secretary	Ms. Donna Partap

BOARD OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

POSITION	NAME
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Vice Chairperson	Mr. Christopher John
Secretary	Mr. Stephen Kaseram
Recording Secretary	Ms. Sheena Ramoutar
Treasurer	Mrs. Raquel Sooklalsingh- Paul
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. Rodney Boodram

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

POSITION	NAME
Chairperson	Mrs. Judy Kalloo
Secretary	Mr. Curtis Seepersad

BOARD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

POSITION	NAME
Chairperson	Mr. Ronald Mootoo
Vice Chairperson	Mr. Dennis Ghouralal
Secretary	Mrs. Linda Sammy
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Shirlyn Beharry
Treasurer	Mrs. Carol Bedasie

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

POSITION	NAME
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Vice Chairperson	Rev. Sanya Beharry
Secretary	Mr. Amitabh Boodram

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

POSITION	NAME
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Vice Chairperson	Rev. Errol Ragnauth
Secretary	Mr. Daniel Haradan
Recording Secretary	P.E. Dianne Phillip- Ramjattan
Treasurer	Ms. Jen Latchu

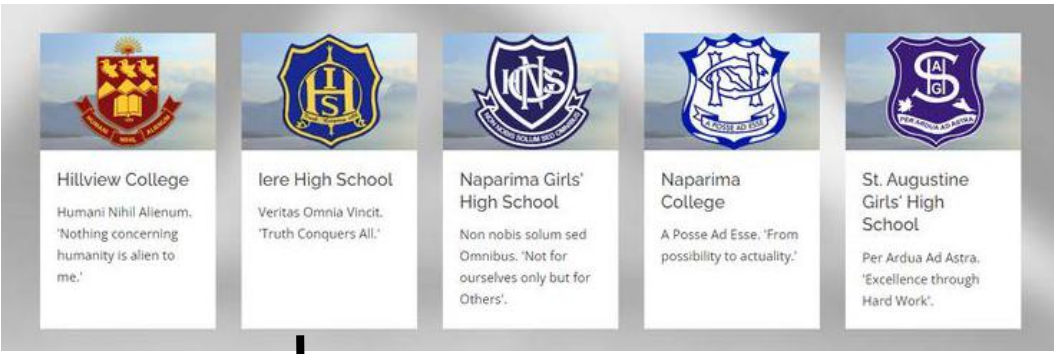
SOUTH CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

POSITION	NAME
Chairperson	Rev. Letra Jacob
Vice Chairperson	Rev. Clifton Mathura
Secretary	Ms. Geeta K. Maharaj
Recording Secretary	Ms. Joy Sammah
Treasurer	Mr. Mikhail Naipaul

SOUTH EASTERN PRESBYTERY

POSITION	NAME
Chairperson	Mr. Ashford Tamby
Vice Chairperson	Rev. Keron Khellawan
Secretary	Ms. Rumona Drepaulsingh
Assistant Secretary	Rev. Radica Samuel- Moonoo
Treasurer	P.E. Martin Sahadath

THE PRESBYTERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION



The Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education was convened on Saturday 6th May 2023 by Moderator of the Synod of PCTT, The Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance. The following is a list of persons who have been elected to serve for the Synodical Term 2023-2025.

- Chairman - Mr. Ashford Tamby
- Vice Chairman - Mr. Roy Umraw
- General Secretary - Mr. Gary Samai
- Recording Secretary - Ms. Susan Mathura
- Treasurer - Mr. Kenny Arjoon

Hillview College
 School Chaplain - Reverend Bjorn Warde
 Manager - Mr. Elijah Motieram
 Ad Com Chairperson - Deaconess Anupa Nanan

St. Augustine Girls' High School
 School Chaplain - Reverend Cynara Dube-Khan
 Manager - Mr. Andre Thompson
 Ad Com Chair - Presiding Elder Mrs. Dianne Phillip-Ramjattan

Naparima College
 School Chaplain - Reverend Letra Jacob
 Manager - Mr. Christian Dookhoo
 Administrative Committee Chairperson - Mr. Gary Soomarah

Naparima Girls' High School
 School Chaplain - Reverend Letra Jacob
 Manager - Mr. Kenny Arjoon
 Ad Com Chairperson - Presiding Elder Mrs. Indra Debysingh

Iere High School
 School Chaplain - Reverend Brenda Bullock
 Manager - Mr. Wayne Maicoo
 Ad Com Chairperson - Reverend Shirvan Siloch

Please feel free to contact us for any information or assistance you may require using the following information:
 Phone #: 473-6924 / 749-5851
 Website: <https://www.pssboe.com>
 Email: pssboe@pctt.org.tt

On May, 27th 2023 the PSSBoE installed the five (5) appointed Managers to our Presbyterian Secondary Schools. Presiding Elder Dianne Phillip-Ramjattan led in worship. Mr. Vickram Ramlal, Chairman of the Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education, covered the duties and responsibilities of a Manager as outlined by the Ministry of Education while Reverend Kelvin Sookhansingh's presentation focused on the responsibilities of a Manager with regards to the Presbyterian Church and the promotion of Presbyterianism in the schools. The Moderator of Synod of the PCTT, Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance, spoke about the pastoral care and guidance that Administrators, Managers and Chaplains must have towards staff and students. God's blessings to these Managers as they continue to work together with all administrators for our nation's students.



Front L-R Elijah Motieram, Andre Thompson, Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance, Wayne Maicoo, Christian Dookhoo, Kenny Arjoon. 2nd row L-R Derek Bissessar, Sharon Ramdeen, Maurisa Pollias, Shivanie Guyadeen, Bonnie Bissoon, Roger Ali, Shelly Sammah. Back row L-R Rev. Kelvin Sookhansingh, Koreen Mohammed, Dianne Phillip-Ramjattan, Gary Samai, Indra Debysingh, Susan Mathura, Gary Soomarah, Ashford Tamby, Deaconess Anupa Nanan



TWO NEW ELDERS INSTALLED AT SUSAMACHAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

submitted by Ms. Joy Sammah

On the Glorious Easter morn of Sunday 9th April, 2023, Susamachar Presbyterian Church welcomed two new elders to its fold. The Clerk of Session of the Pastoral Region, Ms. Joy Sammah, presented Mrs. Debra Pirtheesingh-Maharaj and Mr. Roger Ali (Principal, Ag. of Naparima College) to the Minister, Reverend Letra Jacob, and the large congregation in attendance. They both solemnly took their vows and were invited to serve Communion on that very morning. We pray God's grace and blessings as they have committed themselves to serve the church in this capacity.



Mrs. Debra Pirtheesingh-Maharaj taking her vows



Mr. Roger Ali taking his vows

SUSAMACHAR PRESBYTERIAN CREDIT UNION CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD (SPCU)

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE SPCU:

Email: suspresbycreditunion@outlook.com

Telephone: 657-8470 or 470-9503 (whatsapp)

Office Days and hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.30 am to 3.00 pm

The Susamachar Presbyterian Credit Union celebrates its thirty third (33rd) anniversary this year – 2023.

The service of the Board members continues to be voluntary and accountable to all its members.

Every effort is being made to increase the membership especially among the young members of the Presbyterian Church. As the Board members become older, it is extremely important to look at succession planning for the future of the Credit Union by seeking to attract our young men and women.

The SPCU continues to offer its membership the opportunities for savings and obtaining loans at reasonable rates. While we can do better in terms of offering higher returns to members, we can do this only if our membership grows with both savings and borrowing.

We invite all Presbyterians – age sixteen years and over, to avail themselves of the benefits that are available to members. Some of which are – purchase of shares, obtaining loans, Family Indemnity Plan (funeral grant), health care and critical illness.



ELEVATION TO HONORARY ELDER

Submitted by Ms. Joy Sammah

On a beautiful Sunday morning of 28th May 2023, at the Susamachar Presbyterian Church, the Pastoral Region welcomed Mrs. Nola Ramlogan as Honorary Elder at a Service of Elevation. Indeed, it was a joyful occasion and one that will remain etched in our memories for a long time. The Clerk of Session, Ms. Joy Sammah, presented Mrs. Ramlogan to the Minister, Reverend Letra Jacob to conduct the ceremonial vows. In attendance, were all her family members including the grandchildren.

This Elevation Service was a significant landmark in the spiritual life of Mrs. Nola Ramlogan – a life defined by her deep love for God and His Church and, a passion to serve His people. She was consistently involved in Church, Visitation Exercises, Wake and Funeral Services, Social Outreach Projects, Church Events, Youth Development and Counselling. Having completed courses at SATC, she was an inspiring Lay Preacher and was often asked to be the Feature Speaker at several Church-related functions across the country.



Mr. & Mrs. Ramlogan with their granddaughter

Eldership gave Mrs. Ramlogan the opportunity to serve at every level of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago. Notable she served as: Acting General Secretary of PCTT; Assistant General Secretary of PCTT; Secretary of the BOCE; Chairperson of PSSBE; Member of the South Central Presbytery; Chairperson of NGHS AdCom; Committee Member of the Susamachar Presbyterian Church Renovation Project in 2003; and of course, the Local Board Secretary for twenty-five years. During her tenure as Local Board Secretary, she also revived the 5th Naparima Scouts Group, a troop sponsored by the Church. Some of these roles, she served simultaneously.

It is noteworthy that Mrs. Ramlogan opted to serve her Church, Susamachar first and foremost and, eventually resigned as Acting General Secretary. She attended both Sunday Services to ensure the needs of all congregation members were met. To sum it all up, as in the words of the hymn writer, “Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,” Mrs. Nola Ramlogan has earned her Elevation to Honorary Elder.

CONGRATULATIONS KEVIN D. K. PERSAD

Submitted by Dylan Persad

Congratulations to Kevin D. K. Persad who graduated with the Bachelor of Laws(LLB) Degree Lower Second Class Honours from London University, England, in 2022. He was accepted to read for the Legal Practitioner's Course (LPC) by Northumbria University, New Castle, England.

Kevin is the son of Richard and Sharon Persad of Rahamut Lane, Phillipine, and the grandson of Reverend and Mrs. Paul Balliram Of Williamsville.

The Persad Family worships at Canaan Presbyterian Church, San Fernando, Trinidad.



MIZPAH CELEBRATES HARVEST AND THANKSGIVING IN HISTORIC 150TH YEAR

Submitted by Christian Dookhoo

It rained all morning on Sunday 4th June, 2023 (Trinity Sunday) in Claxton Bay but God sent bright sunshine all afternoon to allow Guest Minister, Reverend. Cynara Dube-Khan, to reach the Mizpah Presbyterian Church for the 4.00 p.m. special service. This year marks the 150th year of the work began by the Canadian Missionaries in Union (Claxton Bay).

An almost capacity congregation was blessed by the blended voices of the Penal Rock Choir under the leadership of Mr. Neil Forgenie. The Service began with some up-tempo choruses followed by a spirited Introit and 2 spirit-filled Anthems. Chairperson, Ms. Ann Ramnath, led in a Responsive Reading (Psalm 8: 1-9), while Scriptures were read by: Ms. Kerry Rajkumar (Genesis 1:1-24) and Ms. Kristen Dookhoo (Matthew 28: 16-20). Prayers were offered by Elders Mrs. Claudette Narine, Mr. Christopher Dookhoo, Mrs. Cynthia Ramraj and Mr. Damien Surajbally.

Guest Preacher, Reverend Cynara Dube-Khan expounded on the text Matthew 28 vs.16-20 to a receptive congregation, who were themselves challenged to “Go and make Disciples”. She pointed out as Christians we are all Disciples of Jesus Christ! She used the word “disciple” as a verb and instructed all to “Go disciple” (others). She said that everyone has something to give and the “Holy Spirit must be allowed to work through us.”

Reverend Dube-Khan called the congregation to:

1. BAPTIZE: Bring people to Christ and be vessels of the Holy Spirit.
2. TEACH: His commandments and to love one another as he He loved.
3. REMEMBER: His Promises to “be with you always” and to “send the Holy Spirit”.

In conclusion, Rev. Cynara Dube-Khan engaged the congregation in learning the sign-language to express the Great Commission.

Mizpah’s Secretary, Mrs. Cassandra Chaitan, welcomed Guest Minister Reverend Cynara Dube-Khan and the congregation which included members of sister Churches: Ebenezer, Bethel, Esperanza and California. Elder Mr. Christian Dookhoo presented Reverend Cynara with a fruit basket symbolizing Harvest. Other fruit baskets were presented to Resident Minister Reverend Satnarine Ramnath, The Members of Penal Rock Choir, Mrs. Roseanne Dookhoo (Mizpah’s Choir Leader) and the Local I.T Specialist Mr. Stephenson Ramraj. Mrs. Chaitan thanked everyone for the contribution made towards the success of the Harvest and Thanksgiving Service.

Resident Minister Reverend Satnarine Ramnath closed the service with Prayer and the Benediction. Everyone was then invited to the Hall for refreshments and to partake of the Harvest 2023.



Rev. Cynara Dube Khan receives Fruit Basket from Elder Christian Dookhoo



Congregation at Harvest/ Thanksgiving - Mizpah Church



Guest Minister - Rev Cynara Dube Khan



Resident Minister Rev Satnarine Ramnath



Penal Rock Presbyterian Choir

CELEBRATING FATHER'S DAY AT THE SAN JUAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH : HONOURING THE PILLARS OF STRENGTH AND LOVE

Submitted by Sharon King

Father's Day, is a time of reflection and gratitude for the incredible fathers and father figures in our lives. This special day provides us with an opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering love, guidance, and strength that fathers bring into our families and communities.



MR EUGENE OWBULAND



MR HAROLD GUNNESS



MR DAVE ALI

At the San Juan Presbyterian Church, we have been fortunate to appreciate countless fathers who embody the teachings of faith, love, and selflessness. They personify the unconditional love of our Heavenly Father and inspire us to live our lives in a way that reflects His grace and compassion.

The impact of fathers extends far beyond their own families. They serve as role models and mentors, shaping the lives of future generations. Through their actions, fathers instil values of integrity, compassion, and resilience in their families.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for all of the exceptional fathers in our midst. These men have not only embraced the noble responsibility of fatherhood but have also exemplified the teachings of our faith through their unwavering commitment. As such, we gathered to honour and pay tribute to three remarkable fathers within our church community who have touched our lives in profound ways : Mr. Eugene Owbuland, Mr. Dave Ali and Mr. Harold Gunness.

These Senior members have truly embodied the essence of faith and devotion. Their dedication to nurturing their spiritual growth has instilled in them a deep love for the Lord and a desire to serve others.

The Word of God was brought to us by Deaconess Anupa Nanan whose words encouraged us to all reflect on many of life's experiences of trials, challenges, happiness, and faith from which to glean. The sermon was inspired by the Book of Job as there are many lessons to be learned, inspired by Job's life and ultimately, the providence of God.

As we celebrated Father's Day, may we not only cherish the memories and relationships we have with our earthly fathers; but also remember the boundless love of our Heavenly Father. His love knows no bounds, and He is always there to guide and protect us. Happy Father's Day in Love and Gratitude !



SJPC FATHERS DAY 2023 - GROUP PICTURE

THREE IN ONE SERVICE- BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION

SUBMITTED BY MR. ADIL DATTOO

Continuing to mend the bonds damaged by the pandemic, the Curepe Presbyterian Church united in a warm display of worship and fellowship, which emphasized the importance of community in God's church. Such a display embodied the words of Curepe's minister, Reverend Dr. Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan. At the service, Curepe's community grew as she baptized three infants and confirmed six young people and one adult into the church.

Given that it was Trinity Sunday, Reverend Dr. Lalla-Ramkelawan had the congregation focus on the meaning of the word and the Triune God. She used the idea of three points to explain the structure of her sermon as she reflected on Paul's life, in particular, on his second letter to the Corinthians. In understanding the importance of the word Trinity she ensured the congregation understood the three representations of God, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Doing so Reverend Dr. Lalla-Ramkelawan reflected on Paul's teachings of what communion meant and the importance of his benediction.

At the end of the service, light refreshments provided by members of the congregation were enjoyed by all, closing what was truly a blessed Sunday.



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TABLELAND PASTORAL REGION FUN AND FAMILY DAY

It was a cloudy and rainy day on the Indian Arrival Day holiday but by 9:02 a.m. the Moderator Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance had already made three laps around the St. Julien Recreational Ground as he waited for the start of the 1st Regional event since the pandemic. Deaconess Calpurnia Chance and Lay Pastor Reginald Amman conducted the opening worship. The rain did not deter the membership from the four congregations within the Tableland Pastoral Region from attending this event. Indeed, the day was filled with many novel activities such as 'catch d fowl', a 'strong man/woman', and we also included our undefeated championship event from National PCTT Sports - the tug-of-war. Definitely, it was a fun filled day. The Region is looking forward to many more events like these. Some pictures from the day



Rt. Rev. Daniel Chance sitting with the members of the region before officially opening the Fun and family day.



Baby race



Watermelon race

VACANCY

**One (1) Full-time Cleaner,
San Juan Presbyterian School.**

The Presbyterian Primary Schools'
Board of Education

is inviting applications from interested persons
no older than forty-five (45) years of age.

**All applications must be dropped off
at the school and addressed to :**

The Principal

San Juan Presbyterian School

Closing date for applications: 31st July, 2023.



Naparima College

Vacancy – Spanish TIII



- All applicants **MUST** be assessed as Teacher III/ TVT IV
- All applicants **MUST** be successfully interviewed by the Teaching Service Commission within a 3 (three) years period
- All applicants **MUST** attach their Assessment Letter and Placement on the Order of Merit list.
- Presbyterian candidates are encouraged to attach a Six Months Church Update with their application.

Kindly apply to:

The General Secretary

Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education

<https://www.pssboe.com/> pssthr@psboe.com

Submit a copy to:

Naparima College- naparimacollege.sec@fac.edu.tt

Deadline for applications: July 18th 2023

Unsuitable applications will not be acknowledged

MARABELLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MAYFAIR

SUBMITTED BY BY FLORABELLE LUTCHMAN

The Mayfair is back!!! After an absence of two Covid-ridden years, the Local Board of the Marabella Presbyterian Church decided to host what was once its annual Mayfair on Saturday 27th May 2023. The opening and blessing were done by Presiding Elder, Mrs. Indra Debysingh.

Hundreds from the immediate community and beyond attended. Present were guests Reverend Errol Ragnauth from the Chase Village Pastoral Region and Mrs. Margarita Paul-Abraham from the Susamachar Pastoral Region.

Everyone had a marvellous time purchasing from the various stalls. All the stalls were well patronized. The Tea Stall served delicious tea and snacks. The Indian Delicacy Stall was a sell-out. Drinks and special juices including pina colada were bought by the dozens on a hot afternoon.

Chairperson for this evening was Mr. Terrence Mohamed, Chairman of the Local Board and Convenor of the Mayfair. Everyone excitedly gathered to witness the Maypole Dance done by the young people chipping to the exciting tunes played by DJ 52. Other entertainment was provided by Mr. Winston Seupaul who sang that beautiful Indian song -Suhani Raat in commemoration of Indian Arrival Day, with Mr. Brandon Paul and Mr. Jovan Rambarran on the steel pan.

One of the high lights was the crowning of the Mayfair Princess - Cathryn Ali Kajim, and the Prince of the day - Jeremiah Lutchman and Queen of the Day - Lisanne Khan, and King of the day - Zachary Ali. One Participant also received a special prize donated by Gopaul Hardware.

It proved to be an excellent way to communicate, personalize and practise stewardship by sharing gifts of time and talent. The Mayfair helps remind the community that the church is there and invites people into the building, while at the same time raising funds for the church for its upkeep or for special projects. The Mayfair proved to be the church in action.



FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

Submitted by Rose Ragoo-Maraj

Our first Choka evening, post COVID, was a huge success! The California, Green Memorial Presbyterian Church, was able to continue its tradition on a sunny Corpus Christi afternoon with food, laughter and camaraderie. Members from the Sunday School, Youth Group, the congregation as well as our dear Deaconess, and some welcomed visitors met together to share in delicious food, games and of course, some 'ole' talk. The event started with an opening prayer by our Deaconess, Miss Amber Seesahai-Payne. Dishes were laid out and everyone delved into each choka to ensure they had a taste. The soft bake and sada roti were a pleasant vehicle for the bhaigan, tomatoes, bodi, eddoes and the many more sumptuous choka dishes. Creamy ice cream topped with fruit cocktail served as dessert. It was truly a wonderful evening spent together. All left feeling full and eager for next year.



CONGRATULATIONS TO EVAH COOPER

Submitted by Zahra Cooper

On Friday 16th June, 2023, the Rochard Douglas Presbyterian School held its 2023 Graduation Ceremony at Vikar's Country Club, Rochard Douglas Road, Barrackpore. It was the first graduation since COVID started 3 years ago.

Evah Cooper was recognised as the Top Female Performer in SEA 2020. Congratulations Evah.



The much anticipated PresbyTV is undergoing testing, check it out at www.twitch.tv/presbytv or www.pctt.org.tt/tv-test and tell us what you think via communications@pctt.org.tt

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DIAMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGRATULATES MR. DAVID BATTOO

Submitted by Mr. Craig Battoo

Mr. David Battoo, a husband, a father, a leader and just as in Acts chapter 13-verse 22 we can see that Mr. David Battoo, just like King David, is a man after God's own heart. Mr. Battoo strives to do everything that God wants him to do. As a husband and father he has consistently encouraged and ensured that his family puts Jesus Christ as the head of their home and this is evident from their regular attendance and participation at the Diamond Presbyterian Church. Mr. Battoo has grown from a child into an adult in the Diamond Presbyterian Church where he has actively been the chairman of the local board for the past thirteen (13) years as well as an Elder.

Mr. Battoo would have begun his teaching career many years ago at the Inverness Presbyterian Primary School. After which, he worked at Debe Presbyterian, Brothers Presbyterian, Balmain Presbyterian and Grant Memorial Presbyterian. He then proceeded to attend Valsayn Teacher's College to complete the necessary courses for being a primary school teacher, at that time. He was then appointed to Penal Presbyterian Primary School where he spent a few years and later transferred to Canaan Presbyterian Primary School. During his tenure at Canaan, his wife, Kelly, encouraged him to pursue his Bachelors in Education, part time at Roytec, University of New Brunswick. Mr. Battoo spent twenty-four (24) years at Canaan and in the latter years there, he took up the position of Acting Senior Teacher.

He then proceeded to Acting Principal at Brothers Presbyterian Primary School. He was then appointed as the Vice Principal at Rochard Douglas Presbyterian School under the leadership of Mr. Hendrickson H. Hublal where he worked for the past three and half years. Mr. Battoo applied for the position of Principal and prepared for his interview with the Teaching Service Commission. He recently found out that all his preparations and experience earned him the title of appointed Principal at the Tabaquite Presbyterian Primary School. He continues to work towards preparing the Nation's children for a brighter future. Mr. Battoo has attributed all of his success to the godness and graciousness of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, his family, his church and all those he has worked with.



DIAMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CONGRATULATES SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Submitted by David Battoo

The Diamond Presbyterian Church pays tribute to one of our members, **Aidan Reece Ramberan**. Mr. Aidan Ramberan was one of three scholarship winners at the Naparima College. He won an Additional Scholarship in Technical Studies.

The Ramberans are members of the Diamond Presbyterian Church. They attend church regularly and take part in all the activities of the church. Aidan's father, Mr. Rambindranath Ramberan, is the Assistant Treasurer for many consecutive years and presently holds that position.

Aidan attended Sunday School and then went on to become a member of the Youth Group. He attended Sunday School regularly and was always part of the activities, VBS, Sunday School Rally, Sports Day to name a few. He wrote the S.E.A. examination and went on to attend Naparima College. He was a member of the Youth Group taking part in the activities of the group.

Aidan attributes his success to hard work and hours of study coupled with prayer and God's guidance. He is also thankful to his parents, siblings, teachers, friends and church members for their encouragement and support.

The Diamond Presbyterian Church is proud of Mr. Aidan Reece Ramberan and wishes him all the best in his future endeavour.



PICTON PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL VICTORIA EDUCATION DISTRICT UNDER 14 HARDBALL T20 CRICKET CHAMPIONS 2023.

SUBMITTED BY MATTHEW MATHURA -T1

On Wednesday, 7th June ,2023 the Victoria Education District hosted the Under 14 Hardball Cricket T20 Finals. The two schools vying for the coveted trophy were Reigning champions Picton Presbyterian Primary School and Rochard Douglas Presbyterian Primary School. The Keenly Contested Game was played under a packed pavilion at Kennedy Park, Raghoo Village.

In attendance were Mr. Allan Ramdeen - S.S.11 Ag, Mr. Ferose Khan - S.S.1, Mr. Shazard Khan - SS1 and Mr. Azard Mohammed - Principal of Hardbargain Government Primary and Coordinator of the competition all of whom supported the return of cricket after Covid restrictions.

This act in itself signified a win for our children against the dreaded pandemic.

Official Umpires were used to officiate in the game. The game started at 10.00 a.m. The toss was won by Rochard Douglas' Captain Jaden Sankar and he sent Torres Sookdeo, captain of Picton Presbyterian and his team to bat.

Opening the batting for Picton Pres School were Arun Ramroop and Micah Ramdhan. Opening bowlers were Darius Badree and Ricardo Basdeo. After the fifth over the score stood at 18 without loss. Jaden Sankar broke the early partnership sending Arun back to the pavilion for nine. Picton eager to get a defendable score on the board would get three run-outs. Rochard Douglas seemed to be in control of the game.

Jaden Guevarro would have to steady the course as he would top score for his team making twenty one runs before being bowled by Siewsankar.

Picton Captain Torres would come and lead his team to a decent score scoring 15 not out although wickets continually fell around him.

After 20 overs Picton Pres. made 92 for the loss of 9 wickets.

In their chase Rochard Douglas openers Raashid Mohammed and



Rickeem Nickolas were poised to match the required run rate 10 off the 5th ball. However, Kymani Mohan, opening bowler, would redeem himself by taking the prized wicket of Nickolas without scoring. After the 5th over the score stood at 27 for 1. The target seemed very attainable. However, Arun Ramroop would dismiss Raashid for 1 run. Ronaldo Siewsankar and Ricardo Basdeo showed why Rochard Douglas is a formidable team.

PAt the 10th over the runs were 48. Ricardo was on fire and single handedly he was taking away the win from Picton. Kymani, Torres and Matthias Ramdhan would seek to chip away at the other batsmen, taking the wicket of Siewsankar and the incoming batsmen. Jaden Guevarro would do the damage taking the wicket of Basdeo dismissing him for a well- deserved score of 32. He would go on to take 4 wickets for 10 runs.

Captain Torres would take the win for Picton in the last over bowling Bridgemohan for 0. Rochard Douglas all out for 83 in 19.1 overs.

PICTON PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL HAD WON !!!!! They were the defending champions and winners of The Victoria Education District Under 14 Hardball T20 cricket Competition for 2023. This title has been theirs since 2019.

All in all, it was truly an exciting and entertaining match where both teams displayed a very high level of cricket skills. The closing ceremony was well applauded by all the spectators as the supervisors and organizers gave out medals and trophies. We thank the principals, Mr. Roger Ramlakhan of Picton Pres. Primary School and Mr. Hendrickson Hublal of Rochard Douglas Pres. Primary School for their support in this competition.

A special thank you to the supervisors and organizers for making this event possible. Coaches Matthew Mathura and Hayden Mootoo must be applauded for their dedication and devotion to moulding these young cricketers at Picton Presbyterian.

Well done both teams. Congratulations as you continue to develop your skills and represent your schools and the beautiful game of cricket. Picton Presbyterian School continues to be the undefeated champions in Victoria.

WEEKEND OF ENJOYMENT FOR MSPC YOUTHS

By Celine Dinnoo, President, MSPC's Youth Group.

On Saturday 29th April, 2023 to Sunday 30th April, 2023, the Morning Star Presbyterian Church Youth Group commenced an eventful weekend. On Saturday, the youths embarked on a journey to the La Vega Estate for a day of fun and theme building. The day commenced with worship and singspiration by the Youth Coordinator (YC), Mr. Kevin Ramkissoon. The group then split into two teams, where face paint and bandanas were used to distinguish each team, and so the competition began between the team green vs team blue engaging twelve eager youths for the rest of the day. Activities ranged from untying the human knot, rock paper scissors relay, football, and an intense bible quiz, all emphasized the importance of teamwork and communication. These were led by Mr. Allan Ramdeen and the YC. Before departing, the youths took the opportunity to rehearse anthems to be sung at Youth Sunday service the following day.

The following morning, the MSPC's youths were rejuvenated and ready to proclaim God's Word for Youth Sunday Service. Eighteen youths, together with the YC, joyfully led in service with the theme, "Out of the Depths and Into the Presence of God." The sermon, adapted from 1st Kings 19:12-13, emphasized that God is always present and will lead us to the end of our journey, in the same way He led and provided for Elijah. The congregation was also reminded of God's promise to us in Isaiah 10: 41, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." This Youth Sunday also marked the re-emergence of the Youth Choir at the Morning Star Presbyterian Church.

It was truly an exciting weekend for the youths of the Morning Star Presbyterian Church whose enthusiasm and love for Christ contributed to a successful weekend.



THE FACE OF ADDICTION

PART I

SUBMITTED BY DR DIANA NARINESINGH, PSYCHIATRIST, ARIMA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Addiction is a complex disease. The question of what causes it and what defines it remains somewhat unsettled despite advances in science and medicine. Traditionally, in Trinidad and Tobago, when we think of Addiction, alcohol, cigarettes (nicotene), marijuana and cocaine come to mind. However, “Newer” substances such as “pills”, “shrooms (mushrooms)”, “lean” and vaping are infiltrating our society, starting at the upper primary and secondary level (including “prestige” schools). Gambling and Gaming (now classified as an addictions) and other addictive behaviours have been proposed (e.g. gaming, shopping, social media, food, [pornography](#), exercise, non-suicidal [self-injury](#)).

According to *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 5th Edition, Substance Use Disorders involve patterns of symptoms caused by using a substance that an individual continues taking despite its negative effects. These criteria fall under four basic categories – impaired control, physical dependence, social problems and risky use. Simply put, when individuals engage in an activity that is pleasurable but cannot stop doing it, even to the detriment of everyday living (such as work, hobbies, family time, finances, etc.), health and wellbeing suffer as a result. This behaviour would be considered an addiction.

Possible signs of addiction include declining grades or difficulty at school, poor performance at work, relationship difficulties (which often involve lashing out at people who identify the addiction), an inability to stop using a substance even though it may be causing health problems or personal problems, a noticeable lack of energy in daily activities, profound changes in appearance, including weight loss, a noticeable abandonment of hygiene and appearing defensive when asked about substance use. Some may even engage in acts of self-harm, suicide, theft (to support the habit) or become violent.

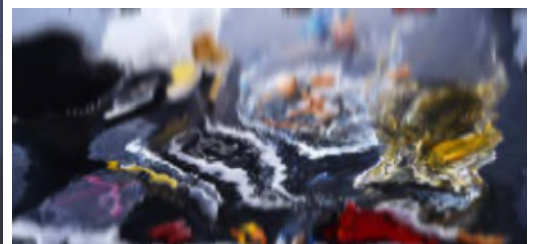
The neurotransmitter (chemical) that is naturally produced by the brain when a person does something pleasurable, and rewarding is called Dopamine. Evolutionarily, this is a survival mechanism; eating and drinking feels good (Dopamine released), but it also ensures the continuation of the person’s life, family, and the species overall. One of the effects of dopamine production is that it creates a memory of the experience, which compels us to seek out the experience again. If presented with our favourite food, we recall past exposures to that food (which are positive and reaffirming), so we continue the cycle.

Risk factors for developing an addiction are genetic/hereditary, exposure to adverse early life experiences (trauma, abuse, neglect), environmental (e.g. living in an area with a high crime rate, low socioeconomic status, easy access to substances), learned behaviours and having an underlying psychiatric condition. Having any of these risk factors does not guarantee that you will suffer from an addiction.

According to research, the majority of adults who meet the criteria for having a substance use disorder started using substances during their teen and young adult years. Risk factors for early onset of substance use include a family history of substance use, favourable parental attitudes towards the behaviour, poor parental monitoring, parental substance use, family rejection of sexual orientation or gender identity, association with delinquent or substance using peers, lack of school connectedness, low academic achievement, childhood sexual abuse and mental health issues.

Protective factors include parental involvement (encouraging open conversations, early discussions about addiction), good mental health (e.g. self-care, self-confidence), strong coping and problem solving skills, stable relationships, involvement in academia/hobbies/activities and delayed onset of substance use.

Addiction does not discriminate. Demystifying its power over the human brain and body, is and continues to be, a challenge for those struck by its effects.



BOARD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FLOOD RELIEF DRIVE CALL FOR DONATIONS



The Board
of Social
Responsibility
BOSR



HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
BY DONATING TO OUR RELIEF BANK

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Bleach • Disinfectant • Brooms • Mops
Gloves • Boots • Garbage Bags

CLEAN CLOTHING & BEDDING ITEMS

Label & sort by item, gender and age

SECONDARY SCHOOL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

USED TEXTBOOKS

FLOOD RELIEF DRIVE
CALL FOR DONATIONS

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

BOSR RELIEF BANK **EMAIL DEPOSIT SLIP TO:**
Bank Name: RBC Royal Bank accounts@pctt.org.tt
Branch: High Street **AND**
Account Name: Mrs. Carol Bedasie
The Presbyterian Church of carolbedasie@yahoo.com
T&T
Account Number: 98110023868
Account Type: Chequing



With the onset of the 2023 rainy season and the hardship which many of our citizens who live in flood prone areas will no doubt experience, the Board of Social Responsibility ("BOSR") decided to continue its efforts in replenishing and restocking its "Relief Bank", which will assist with the immediate response to calls for relief.

Consequently, the BOSR is requesting donations of the following items:

- i) Cleaning supplies (e.g., bleach, disinfectant, brooms, mops, gloves, boots, garbage bags, etc.).
- ii) Clothing and bedding items. (The BOSR requests that donations of these are clean and labelled/sorted, for example "men's clothing", "women's clothing", "girls aged 5-7 years", "sheet sets", "towels", etc.).

Pastoral Regions are requested to contact their respective BOSR Representative who will advise as to arrangements for collection of donated items and to provide any further information that may be required.

If Pastoral Regions wish to make a financial donation, the BOSR requests that deposits be made into Synod's Account with a notation "BOSR Relief Bank" at:

Bank Name: RBC Royal Bank
Branch: High Street
Account Name: The Presbyterian Church of T&T
Account Number: 98110023868
Account type: Chequing

For accounting purposes, please email/forward a copy of the deposit slip to:

- The Synod Office at synod@pctt.org.tt or accounts@pctt.org.tt
- The Treasurer of BOSR, Ms. Carol Bedasie at: carolbedasie@yahoo.com

Kindly ensure that this information is disseminated to all Churches and the relevant pulpit announcements made to assist the BOSR with its relief efforts to all those affected by the inundated weather.



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SUBMITTED BY GARRY SOOMARAH

The Board of Christian Education held its V.B.S. Workshop on Saturday 24th June at the Arunodai Presbyterian Church Balmain. The Theme selected by the Board was “Fantastic Adventures in Trusting Him” and was based on the scripture 2 Corinthians 5:7 “For we walk by FAITH, not by sight”.

The workshop began with praise and worship led by Deaconess Amber Seesahai Payne and Allison. This was followed by an opening prayer done by Deaconess Anupa Nanan. The Chairman of the Board of Christian Education Mr. Garry Soomarah warmly welcomed everyone to the workshop and indicated that the presenters for the workshop was ready to take them through the day’s activities. He then introduced the leader of The Little Missionaries Ms. Andrea Nandlal.

Ms. Nandlal and her group had all participants dancing to the theme song, eagerly volunteering to play some of the games from the workbook, assisted her with story telling and was in wow of the art activities by a member of her group. The dynamic group ensured that all who were present were always engaged. They even presented tokens to people who participated in their activities. Persons were also encouraged to join a special dance group that will be formed to assist both young and old with liturgical dancing. Many people expressed their gratitude to the board for conducting another successful workshop.

We therefore thank God for always being our guide in all that we do as a board, we thank all the Sunday School Teachers who made the effort to attend and participate, The Little Missionaries for taking us through the program and to all our BOCE members who came out and worked for the Glory of our God I say a special thank you.



B.O.C.E V.B.S WORKSHOP 2023



Group Health Coverage



Comprehensive coverage for the members of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago



Read your Bible July

"In God, There Is Peace, Security & Love"

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Genesis 29:15-28	Genesis 30:25-36					Psalms 13
Genesis 22:1-14	Genesis 22:15-18	1 Kings 18:36-39	Isaiah 51:1-3	Romans 7:1-6	Romans 7:7-20	Psalms 45:10-17
Romans 7:15-25a	Romans 1:18-25	Romans 3:1-8	John 13:1-17	Romans 2:12-16	Romans 15:14-21	Psalms 119:105-112
Genesis 25:19-34	Micah 1:1-5	Jeremiah 49:7-11	Matthew 13:10-17	Hebrews 2:1-9	Hebrews 6:13-20	Psalms 139:1-12
Genesis 28:10-19a	Genesis 32:3-21	Genesis 33:1-17	Genesis 35:16-29	Genesis 29:1-8	Genesis 29:9-14	Psalms 105:1-11

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trinidadpresbyterian@pctt.org.tt

PLEASE KEEP ALL ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAX 300 WORDS.
PLEASE SEND IMAGES SEPARATELY (NOT IMBEDDED IN DOCUMENT)
PLEASE SEND ALL ARTICLES BY THE 10TH OF EACH MONTH.

KINDLY NOTE THAT ARTICLES SENT AFTER THE 10TH WILL NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THE
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