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REFORMATION MONTH

REFORMATION
ANNIVERSARY

P. 2, 5, 12, 28

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH P. 18

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The Reformation in the New Normal



Moderator *speaks*

We join with Reformed churches worldwide in celebrating and commemorating our shared tradition during this month of October. A tradition, from the 16th Century Reformation initiated by one of the Protestant Church Reformers, Martin Luther. He had posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. Luther encouraged the people of his time not to be satisfied with rituals and regulations but to become agents of change and spiritual renewal. In its historical context, the Reformation challenges the 21st Century Church to make changes but does not approve change for change's sake or promote that newer always means better.

semper reformanda' to back up all change or innovation in the church. Further, the belief that the church is the agent of its own reformation is a misconception. God is the agent of reformation and the church is the object of God's reforming work.

However, as we continue to grapple with this Global Pandemic, we need a heightened sense of the meaning of the Reformation and the challenge it puts before us in these uncertain and unprecedented times. Therefore, we as a Presbyterian Church must ask ourselves, what is our responsibility in the 21st Century as agents of change and spiritual renewal?

For instance, the Reformation, as it relates to the new dynamics

Therefore, we as a Presbyterian Church must ask ourselves, what is our responsibility in the 21st Century as agents of change and spiritual renewal?

The Reformers believed at that time, the Church had become corrupt, so change was needed. But it was a change in the interest of the restoration of a more authentic faith and life - a church reformed and always to be reformed according to the Word of God. Thus, we must be guarded against using the motto - 'Reformed and Always Being Reformed - Ecclesia reformata,

and challenges regarding online education forces the Church and our country to adapt to the new ways of teaching and learning. Thus, the Officers of Synod in collaboration with our School Boards and the Board of Social Responsibility, have embarked on a project to ensure that our teachers and students are provided with the relevant and



THE RIGHT REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

much needed support through spiritual, mental, emotional and technical services. As the Word of God reminds us, "Faith without works is dead".

Ours is a heritage marked by transformation and renewal in God's grace. No doubt, the Reformation motto, "Reformed and Always Being Reformed - Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda" reminds us of who we are and who God intends us to be in the 'New Normal'.



nCoVid-19 IS NO JOKE

The rising number of nCoVid-19 positive cases and the unfortunate increase in deaths from this virus in Trinidad and Tobago tell us that some of our citizens are not taking seriously the advice of the medical professionals. Unfortunately, they have let their guards down prematurely.

In dealing with this pandemic the Government, through the Ministry of Health, had been guided by the science – and the science tells us that the simple act of personal hygiene, like the of washing hands with soap and water, as well as wearing a face mask and social distancing, can slow the spread of this deadly virus.

Yet, there are citizens who ignore this advice on the basis of absurd excuses in order to evade the science and put at risk the most vulnerable in our society. They fail to realise that, invariably, the vulnerable could be their grandmothers,

grandfathers, family, and friends with pre-existing health conditions. What is even worse, is that there are intelligent people who peddle the misinformation that there is no need for the precautions taken by the authorities to combat this deadly virus.

Let us be clear. nCoVid-19 is no hoax. It is no joke. IT IS REAL. It is with us – ready to reap a grim harvest as it is already doing in other parts of the world. The statistics show that in the USA, close to 200,000 persons have died from the virus. The death-toll in Britain has crossed 42,000. In Brazil it is over 131,000 dead. In India it is over 80,000 dead. In nearby Venezuela over 500 are dead and in Guyana over 60 persons have succumbed to the virus. We have already crossed 64 deaths at the time of writing; and worldwide there are over 31 million confirmed cases, with the death-toll creeping to one million deaths.

These are staggering statistics

that should shake the complacency out of the small number of our citizens who are hell-bent on challenging the science. It should also force that equally small group of people in leadership positions to desist from undermining the science by misinformation and populist rhetoric. The Government has been taking the appropriate steps to combat the disease. We, the people, must do our part.

The Trinidad Presbyterian urges all citizens to follow the advice of the Ministry of Health in slowing down the spread of this virus. The aim is to slow down the spread of the virus until a vaccine can be developed. We call on all those in leadership positions, whether in government, opposition, religious or civil society to be consistent in the message that washing hands with soap and water, wearing a face mask and observing social distancing be the new normal.

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

LESSONS FROM THE

REFORMATION



REVEREND ADRIAN SIEUNARINE

Reformation is institutional repentance. We can learn a lot from the sixteenth century Reformation initiated by Luther and advanced by people like Melanchthon, Zwingli, and Calvin.

Here are three lessons we can learn from that Reformation for our Church today as well as some questions we can ask ourselves for ongoing reinvigoration.

AUTHORITY

National and religious movements tend to form, deform, and reform. At the start, people are filled with revolutionary zeal, enthusiasm, and creativity. Eventually, practices and personalities creep in that corrode original visions. Then, people are called back to the ideals that began their movement.

If the bishop of Rome who had adopted the title of "Pope" was removed as the ultimate source of authority, then reformed teachings would be derived from grace-guided contextual interpretations

of Scripture through faith in Christ. How is the grace of God leading us in our contexts to spread our Christlike faith during our challenges today?

ADAPTABILITY

Luther and Calvin were promulgating their ideas on the Reformation around the same time that Gutenberg had introduced the printing press to Europe. This allowed the Reformation of the sixteenth century to make use of the newest technology for more enduring strength and a wider reach than previous attempts to purify the Church. How are we using new learning and opportunities for our ongoing mission?

ACTION

The faith, hope, and love of the Church that Christ left on earth degenerated into the tyrannical medieval church wielding temporal power with a corrupt fist. Over the centuries, individuals and groups had tried to call people back to ways of Christian worship and life.

Francis of Assisi, Jan Hus, Geert Groote, Thomas A Kempis, Peter Waldo, and John Wycliffe were some of the people who pursued spirituality independent of church politics. The Reformers saw themselves as returning to the true, eternal Church of ancient sages like Augustine, Athanasius, Irenaeus, and Ignatius. How are we being true to the noblest aspirations of the past while navigating a course to the Lord's glorious future?



children need *TO BE LOVED*

COUNSELLING COLUMN WITH BERNADETTE GYAN-MANICKCHAND



How can we love
our children?

As adults and parents in a Caribbean Culture we tend to become less demonstrative of affection as our children grow, develop, and “detach” from us. We need to be mindful however of the fact that children of all ages need to feel our unconditional love.

We give our love not only for what they do, but also for who they are. Adolescents feel assaulted when we label them as lazy, untidy, always hungry, moody, and distant. Emotionally, it is as if they have been mugged and left to fend for themselves as we disapprove of their ‘abnormal’ behaviour. To add insult to injury, if a child feels mocked, belittled, or ignored what is left for counsellors to deal with is a bitter, angry, rebellious, or disturbed person. When they are labelled early in life, they will carry that belief as long as they live. Then we as parents, teachers, or leaders have a huge problem on our hands.

After reading the book *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman,



I can refer to three gifts we can give our children:

We can give words of affirmation. In training children, we tend to criticize failure. If overdone, this can create devastating consequences in adult life. Be determined to praise your child and note the changes after a while. A minimum of two compliments a day is an essential goal.

We can give them quality time. Be totally present giving your child your undivided attention. Make it a priority each day to give your child a part of your time to do what interests him/her. It matters not whether it is fun for you.

We can give them physical touch. Hugging, kissing, and appropriate touching are very important to maintain your child’s emotional resources. As they grow older you will need to be sensitive but maintain a regular habit of touching for affirmation. The nCoVID-19 guidelines may restrict this interaction somewhat but keep it in mind.



Be determined to praise your child and note the changes after a while.

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COMPLETE PRESIDING ELDERS' COURSE

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

A class of 21 persons will graduate as Presiding Elders from the St Andrew's Theological College following a course of studies which began in September 2019. These persons had committed themselves to completing the course during nCoVID-19 restrictions. This commitment proves that one of the strengths of a Church is the enthusiasm of its members.

Presiding Elders have a long and distinguished history in the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT). They inherit the ministry of the Catechists who worked alongside the missionaries to enlighten, educate, and evangelize all people. When the missionary era ended and the last missionaries returned to Canada in the 1970s, the need for trained lay workers was evident because of the shortage of clergy. The concept of the "Catechist" was re-envisioned as the Presiding Elder who would "preside" at the Sacraments under the authority of Presbytery and in the absence of clergy.

The current graduating class of Presiding Elders began their course

of studies in September 2019 and completed them in September 2020. They learned about the beliefs and practices of the PCTT, to appreciate what is required of them as Presiding Elders.

Lessons from our history can inform our present and revitalize the future of the Presiding Elders as we all learn the following:

CALL AND COMMITMENT:

Presiding Elders like all Christians are called to fulfil the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 19-20). Presiding Elders are set apart to be committed to their ministry. They would usually no longer hold local church offices or represent their pastoral region, but they are willing to go anywhere they are needed.

SHARING AND CARING:

Presiding Elders embody stewardship by showing that people who are not Ministers of Word and Sacrament can preach and administer the Sacraments when needed. They share their life experiences and their talents as they care for congregations and individuals. Officiating at the Sacraments involves caring for the people of God.

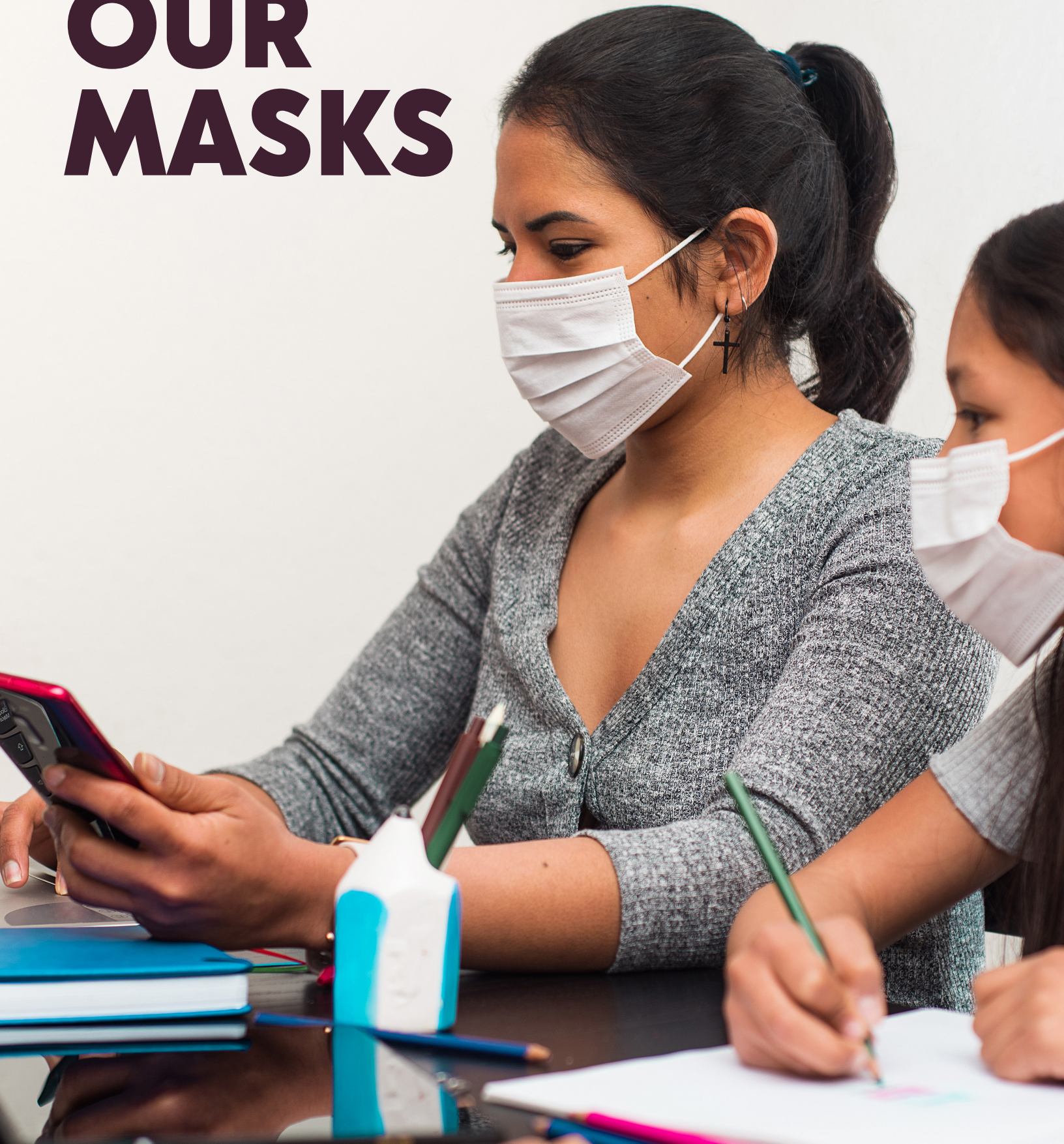
THE PRESIDER IS ALSO THE PASTOR AND THE PREACHER:

We cannot compartmentalize our love, our learning, or our life. What we do in one sphere influences and blesses others. We are all called to integrity of character, attitude, and opportunity so that what we do in the Sacraments and when we care for people and in the pulpit, all glorify God in heavenly harmony on earth.

May God continue to work in the lives of all those who have taken up this challenge to bless and serve The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.



OUR MASKS





For far too long many of us have been wearing masks in our homes, our places of work and places of worship to the point where few may recognise our real or true face. Our masks are no “Dr. Jekyll” or “Mr. Hyde” but merely a variety of our expressions to survive. Or, as a self-defence mechanism to protect our insecurities and failures, as well as our behaviour, attitude, thought and feelings.

We mask our fears and disappointments, anger, indolence, joys and sadness, kindness and love, bitterness, and resentment. When hurt, unhappy or sad we smile and laugh. When we cannot have ‘our own way’ our mask is a long face and at times we wear an expressionless straight face. Sadly, children from an early age mimic and learn from parents and adults and older siblings and their masks become more ‘bold and brass’ face.

Since January 2020, the nCoVid-19 continuing global pandemic has significantly impacted our lifestyles and has brought us face to face

with this mask phenomenon. Today we are required, by law, to wear masks in public spaces even when we are with our family in a private vehicle. Despite the inconvenience and our preference not to wear a mask, we do so for the sake of health and wellness.

The challenge for us is to remove the ‘face’ mask we wear at home and allow our families to see our true face. nCoVid-19 has given us a good opportunity to show our real and true face to our families. Hopefully, when next the public sees your face, it would be the true face that you have been rediscovering in your household or personal mirror. Meanwhile, be sensible, be safe and wear all your fashionable nCoVid-19 masks but remember, your real and true face lies beneath. Surprise your family and others.

Remember, the family is not just a group or gathering without a common purpose. Remove your mask and let your family see your true face of light and love. Whatever may be your family’s circumstances, experience the joys of being together as you work, play, and pray and be thankful. Never let it be said that the family can NOT continue to do this, even as changes occur and the family is called to adapt and adjust.

***Don’t lose faith. Hold strong.
Believe, The Family Can.***

Christmas IN JULY



SHARMILA SINGH | COORDINATOR OF 'HARK THE HERALDERS' CAROLLING GROUP

“Joy to the World, the Lord is Come” rang out loud and clear throughout many homes within the Curepe/ St. Joseph Pastoral Region during May to July. These were the voices of the Hark the Heralders Carollers, who have been singing within the Region, each Christmas, for the past 4 years.

But why now? With a vision to “Bring Jesus into peoples’ homes”, the group felt that now is the perfect time to share Jesus’ love and joy with people, while they are confined to their homes. For now, more than ever, people are hurting, because during nCoViD-19 their lives have been turned upside down. One person to whom the Carollers sang, confessed, “I feel lonely... not being able to meet with anybody”.

But this was no traditional Carolling. To keep everyone safe, it was Virtual and the familiar group singing became solos to work with the technology. The sessions included Prayers, Scripture Readings, Mini Messages and of course non-Christmas hymns and songs. Families even joined from Canada and the US, making each session a happy reunion. What especially touched many hearts, was that each person was serenaded with a song they love and, with a focus on singing to persons with special needs. The singing session catered for persons from ages 4 to 96. They included the sick, the elderly and persons who lost loved ones. It also included new nCoViD-19 shut-ins in quarantine as well as persons who are stuck in other countries due to the closure of the borders.

The granddaughter of a 96-year old church member said, “He was beaming. His spirits lifted higher than I had seen all of the lockdown. Participating helped him feel like he wasn’t missing out on church.”

Christmas will soon be here once again. Do not let nCoViD-19 stop you from enjoying this special season. Join us as we spread Jesus’ love and joy throughout our Regions, throughout our beloved country and throughout the World, by bringing Jesus right into peoples’ homes.



Christmas
IN JULY





Unchanging, Reforming



THE LATE REVEREND EVERSON T. SIEUNARINE

The most distinguishing feature of the time is the swiftness of change. We have been dazzled by the progress and innovations in communication, in technology, scientific experiments.

Life and work have been transformed and revolutionised by all these fascinating changes. But while we welcome state-of-the-art in our home and office, we know all change in all ways is not necessarily good.

The English literary critic and lay religious writer, CS Lewis calls 'chronological snobbery' the tendency for people to think their era is superior to all others.

We may tend to believe because we are technologically superior, we are also morally advanced or because we know more, we will care more.

Frequently, we hear an appeal, 'Back to Basics'. Whether people are speaking of diet or values, this is a reminder that there are unchanging principles and beliefs

that govern life and cannot be ignored with impunity. For example, in Scripture we are taught God's love is unfailing, His judgment is sure, His word is true, His purpose is unchangeable.

He is the Rock of our Salvation, a dwelling place throughout all generations, the only One in whom we can place absolute trust. But if we choose to live without reference to God's will and without reverence for His Name, we cannot say we have changed for the better. Likewise, we cannot justify an immoral lifestyle by saying morals must change without machines.

In Churches of the Reformed tradition there is a popular saying, 'A Reformed church must always be reforming.' This is a call to keep on examining policies, doctrines, and structures in the light of the timeless truths of the Bible.


We recognise there are differences today in the way we process information, relate to institutions and to people of other faiths and cultures. The cultural academic landscape is never stagnant, and

we need to think courageously as we proclaim God's people today.

The Biblical requirements of justice and compassion, and the promise of forgiveness and mercy remain unchanged. There are people who are troubled about new translations of the Bible. They have grown accustomed to the words and cadences of their favourite editions.

But words do change meaning through the years and we rely on linguistic experts to tell us what words or phrases correspond most closely to the original Biblical language. However, what is essential to remember is the Word of God abides: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my Words will never pass away" says Jesus (Mark 13:31). He who says this is "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

*Trinidad Presbyterian 1987
(The late Reverend Everson
Sieunarine passed away
on 01 March 2017)*



Four Local Authors Honoured.

Four Trinidad and Tobago writers have been honoured for their literary skills by the Gujarat Sahitya Academy of India.

The writers are Presbyterian sisters Brenda Mohammed and Florabelle Lutchman, Narendra Rajkumar and Arjune Teeluck. The announcement was made as India celebrated its Independence on 15 August 2020 by the Academy's founder Dr Vishnu Pandya and Shiju H. Pallithazheth, president of the Literary Forum Motivational Strips.

The Academy is India's Governmental Premier Institute in Literature, and Motivational Strips. It is the world's most active writers' forum attracting some 7,300,000 visitors monthly. One hundred and five Indian writers and 245 international writers from 80 countries were honoured.

We publish below brief notes on the writers from Trinidad and Tobago who were honoured:

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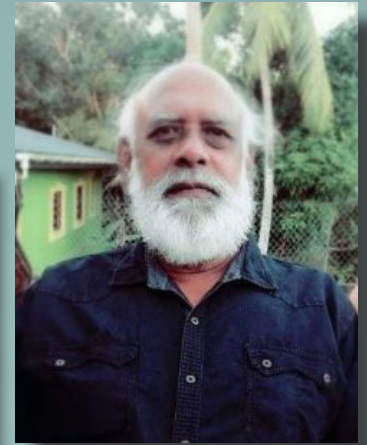
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BRENDA MOHAMMED attends the Susamachar Presbyterian Church. She is an award-winning and bestselling author of 27 books. She is the founder of the 'How to Write for Success' blog with over 6200 members, as well as the Regional Director of Operations, and patron of the website, Motivational Strips.

Brenda is also a poet and published and co-authored three Poetry Anthologies with international authors for the prevention of suicide and against domestic

violence. The Anthologies were, "A Spark of Hope" books 1 and II, and "Break the Silence". Her books have made the Amazon Best Sellers list.

FLORABELLE LUTCHMAN is a member and Elder of the Marabella Presbyterian Church. She is a poet and a former school principal, copping the "Principal of the Year 1999" award.

NARENDRA RAJKUMAR is a Poet, and former Administrator in the Literary Forum How to Write for Success.

ARJUNE TEELUCK is a Poet, and the Founder of the Literary group 'Write', with 5,900 members, and Administrator for the Trinidad and Caribbean Literature in Motivational Strips Literary Forum.

It is a moment of pride for Trinidad and Tobago, especially in these dark times, for these nationals to receive such prestigious honours. They are thankful to both Dr. Vishnu Pandya and Shiju H. Pallithazheth for this recognition.

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Let's Talk About
XENOPHOBIA

ALICIA MATHURA | ESPERANCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Not long ago someone circulated this message: "Be careful when around the Venezuelans, they are spreading Covid". What that person may have thought was a helpful message to his/her loved ones, instead, added to the xenophobia the migrant community already faces.

What is "Xenophobia"? Merriam Webster dictionary defines it as, "*fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners or of anything that is strange or foreign*".

In August 2020, our Presbyterian Youth Community embarked on a month filled with virtual discussions of issues facing our society. As we began the conversation on racism, colourism, and xenophobia, we were introduced to someone from the migrant community who has now become our friend.

Jhaymie Zoque, a 38-year-old Venezuelan woman, is employed at Living Waters Community Centre and aids with the integration of migrants within our Trinidadian society. She has been living in Trinidad for the past 8 years and was able to give vivid descriptions about situations other migrants face on a daily basis.

This includes unfair working conditions, racial stereotyping, exploitation by landlords, inability to enrol their children in the education system, inadequate salaries, and denial of medical attention as a result of their nationality. What shook everyone on the call was hearing the reality of the situation in Venezuela which is getting worse due to nCoViD-19. According to Zoque, the minimum monthly wage in Venezuela is TT\$20. With this meagre income wage earners must buy groceries, pay rent as well as other expenses.

In Venezuela, a carton of eggs cost TT\$40. This amounts to two months' salary for some people. Those who are starving would often rummage through the garbage to get food for their families. This often includes kids. Pharmacies often lack critical medication people need to survive.

The local media has failed to highlight the fact that Venezuelan migrants flocked to Trinidad to escape the impoverished conditions of their home country and in many cases, to provide for their family back in Venezuela. Jhaymie Zoque recounted an incident last year when she drove a

fellow Venezuelan to Chaguaramas to wait for his wife and infant son's arrival via a boat from Venezuela. Unfortunately, they never arrived. It has been a year since and no one knows whether the boat sank or if his family were victims of human trafficking. Clearly, the unfortunate situation in Venezuela has led to the desperation of people to escape for survival.

What has been our response thus far? Have we empathized with them or added to the xenophobia? Therefore, what are we supposed to do as the body of Christ? We turn to Hebrews 13:1-3 to help us answer: "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured."

To help us along this journey, here are a few phrases everyone can learn to communicate better with the Latin American community:

Hello, how are you?

Hola, ¿cómo estás?

How can I help you?

¿Cómo puedo ayudarle?

How are you feeling?

¿Cómo se siente?

Is everything okay?

¿Está todo bien?

God is always with you.

Dios está siempre contigo.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand held up in a 'stop' gesture, palm facing forward. The hand is positioned in the center-right of the frame. The background is dark and out of focus, showing the person's face and another hand in a similar gesture. The overall mood is serious and urgent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ON THE RISE

Last April, Police Commissioner Gary Griffith confirmed the increase in domestic violence incidents noting that the number of reported cases already doubled that of last year. There were 232 reported cases in 2019 but up to April 2020 there had already been 558 reported cases. He noted then that during the first two months of 2020, six women were murdered due to domestic abuse. And at the end of August 2020, eleven of the thirteen women and girls murdered were victims of domestic abuse.

Statistics revealed that during the period 2008 – 2015, a total of 300 women were killed in Trinidad and Tobago due to domestic abuse while over 7,000 incidents of domestic abuse were reported during the period 2009 – 2015. Retired Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Margaret Sampson-Browne, head of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Victim and Witness Support Unit, described these statistics on domestic violence as beyond terrifying.

As far back as October 2018, Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) chairperson Lynette Seebaran had referred to 2017 statistics which

revealed that 46 of the 52 women murdered in that year suffered domestic abuse. The facts have not escaped the attention of the authorities. Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley, recognising this social problem, established a Gender and Child Affairs Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister to deal with this issue. Police Commissioner Griffith also established the Victim and Witness Support Unit within the Police Service to assist in the matter.

At the level of civil society, the Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CADV) and sister organisations have been doing their part in sensitizing the national community on the serious problem of domestic violence. These civil society groups have been doing yeoman service in the provision of safe accommodation for victims. The general view is that more effort be put into an education programme aimed at reaching men and young boys.

Stop domestic violence!

Trinidad and Tobago focuses attention on Domestic Violence Awareness during the month of October. Sadly, the spotlight comes against the background of a sharp increase in the incidents of domestic violence so far this year.



nCoViD-19 FOOD HAMPER DISTRIBUTION

In May, this year, the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) received State-funding for the provision of food hampers to citizens who had been adversely affected by the nCoViD-19 Pandemic. Persons who lost income and were negatively impacted by this global phenomenon were recipients of this support. The State

responded positively to the needs of citizens and worked with faith-based organisations to network and outreach to the most vulnerable citizens in our country.

In July and September 2020 there were two subsequent phases of funding through which food hampers were also supplied. In all three phases of this project the funds were managed by the Synod's Office and distribution was done through the pastoral regions with the co-ordination of members of the Board of Social Responsibility (BOSR).

Overall, for the entire project, over 3,500 food hampers were distributed throughout our 108 churches, outreaching to families, the communities and those socially displaced due to nCoViD-19.

During the first phase, the PCTT accessed its own funds through the Mission and Outreach facility to ensure that those members of the community who requested hampers through the Synod Office were also supplied with same.

The Office of the Prime Minister, which initiated this project complemented the Churches which responded to the call to use their network to reach the persons in need in the country. The PCTT received special commendation in this regard for its promptness and accuracy in reporting.

The PCTT will continue through its own efforts to seek out and serve the citizens who are in need in these unprecedented times. May God bless our Church and Nation!

VIRTUAL SERVICE FOR LAITY SUNDAY

KRISHNA PERSAD | TREASURER, BOM

The Board of Men (BOM) of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) held a Virtual Worship Service to mark Laity Sunday on 11 October 2020.

The Board took this decision, following the extension of restrictions due to the nCovid-19 pandemic. As is customary, plans had been made to place a lay person in each of the PCTT's 108 churches for Laity Sunday. All members of congregations are invited to view to this virtual service. (Click on the picture to go to the YouTube video of the service)

The theme for Laity Sunday this year is, "God is in all our circumstances: don't lose heart." The Board is confident that Laity Sunday will strengthen the people's faith in God and will invoke God's intervention in this present crisis. God's love and man's resilience will combine to bring hope to a troubled world. God is in this too. He is not standing at a distance. He is just a prayer away. He is omnipotent. He assures us, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:20b).

The BOM is a Standing Board under the jurisdiction of the Synod of PCTT. Its purpose is to lead



men to an understanding of the witness of the church. That through commitment to Christ, they may fulfil the Ministry to which they are called in the Church, the home, in daily work, in the community and in the world. The Board consists of a Chaplain, representatives from the Synod, a representative from each Presbytery, one representative from every Pastoral Region, one elected by the Board of Women and five members elected from the floor at the Annual Whitsuntide Conference.

The activities of the Board, though male centred, receive assistance from and participation by the general membership of the Church. All activities place emphasis on the spiritual growth and development of the people. Some of our annual activities, held on a national scale are; The Men's Conference,

('Whitsuntide' weekend), The Family Day, (September 24th) and Laity Sunday. (The second Sunday in October).

The Board also promotes programmes that build and strengthen skills of the people in the congregation. The Pulpit Training, music training and the preparation of a booklet with material for 'Wake Services', are some of the major activities of the Board. On the lighter side, the members and their guests partake in a fellowship meal at our Annual Christmas Luncheon. Unfortunately, the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions have adversely affected the Board's activities in 2020. Our meetings are currently held via Zoom and our Conference was held virtually. Our Family Day regrettably, had to be suspended as well.

ORDINAND SANYA BEHARRY LICENSED

MARLENE SHAH



The Licensing Service for Ordinand Sanya Beharry was held at the Reform Presbyterian Church on Wednesday 23 September 2020.

The service was organised by the South-Central Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT). The act of Licensing was performed by the Presbytery's vice-chair Reverend Ria Thompson-Jimdar. In keeping with the nCoVid-19 regulations a limited number of persons witnessed the ceremony. Among them were Ordinand Beharry's parents, Reuben and Glenda Beharry and a cousin, Stasha Sammy. Sammy is an Elder at the Reform Presbyterian Church. Assisting in the service were Synod Moderator Reverend

Joy Abdul-Mohan and Reverend Gloria Hay.

Ordinand Beharry began studies at the St Andrew's Theological College, San Fernando in 2009. Seven years later in 2016, she was accepted by the Synod as a candidate for the Ordained Ministry. She will be ordained later this month.

As a student minister, Ordinand Beharry served in the Princes Town Pastoral Region with Reverend Anna Sharma and the San Juan/Santa Cruz/Woodbrook Pastoral Region with Reverend Adrian Sieunarine. She did her internship at the Claxton Bay Pastoral Region with Reverend Letra Jacob; the Chase Village Pastoral Region with

Reverend Winston Ramkissoon and at the Oropouche Pastoral Region with the then Interim Minister Reverend Thompson-Jimdar.

The experiences at the various Pastoral Regions will assist Ordinand Beharry in meeting her obligations in preaching and pastoral care when she becomes an Ordained Minister. Ordinand Beharry is currently secretary of the Communications Committee of the Synod and producer of the church's television programme, *Moments of Inspiration*.

The South-Central Presbytery extends congratulations to Ordinand Sanya Beharry as she prepares for her Ordination later this month.

AASHA MAHABIR, NEW PRESIDING ELDER

MARLENE SHAH

The Elevation Service for Presiding Elder Aasha Mahabir was held at the Morning Star Presbyterian Church in the Oropouche Pastoral Region on Sunday 27 September 2020.

The act of Elevation was performed by the Vice-Chair of the South-Central Presbytery, The Reverend Ria Thompson-Jimdar. The Moderator of Synod, the Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan brought greetings. Reverend Shirvan Siloch assisted in the service.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions only a limited number of persons attended. However, arrangements were made to live stream as well as record the service. To facilitate the new normal, the Morning Star Presbyterian Church choir journeyed to the Reform Presbyterian Church to pre-record the music for this service. The South-Central Presbytery thanks the Local Board and Session for their support.

Presiding Elder Aasha Mahabir began her Spiritual foundation in Sunday School. She praised the Presbyterian Church for its humanity, doctrine, order, and discipline. She served her home



church as Secretary of the Local Board. She also served as Clerk of Session for the region, and as a member of several Boards and Committees of the Synod. She still works with the Board of Women editing the annual Study Booklet.

Presiding Elder Mahabir began studies at the St. Andrew's Theological College (SATC) in September 2015. Her aim was to broaden her knowledge in order to become a better person, Elder and Presbyterian. However, she eventually graduated with a Licentiate in Theology (L.Th) in July 2019.

In remarks during the Service of Elevation she urged all Presbyterians to "explore the courses offered at SATC". She said, "Do not focus on the obstacles which you perceive as being hindrances. Once you begin, God

clears a path for you. The same approach applies when you offer yourself in service in the Church. I want to encourage you, brothers and sisters, to answer the call to serve whether in one of the Orders of the Church or Sunday School." According to Presiding Elder Mahabir, everyone has a contribution to make to carry the Good News and to be a reflection of Christ. She said, "I believe as the Psalmist did that God makes a way and takes care of His own. Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth." She urged Presbyterians "to put excuses behind you and move forward in service".

The South-Central Presbytery extends congratulations and best wishes to Presiding Elder Aasha Mahabir on this journey to serve God's people.

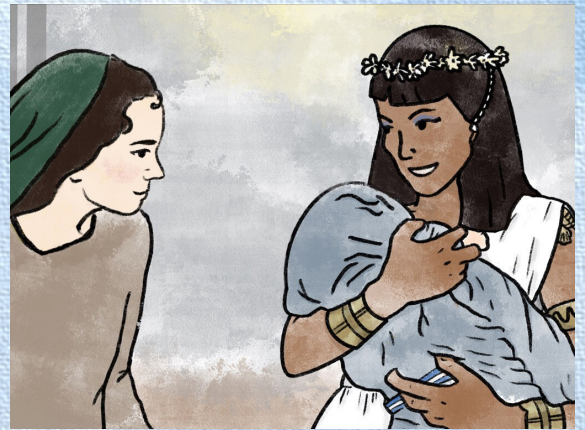
Nice, Baby Moses

ISABELLA DE FREITAS | 4 YEARS OLD

Beautiful, baby Moses
Was found in a pond,
The Queen took him to the nurse
Because she was very fond.

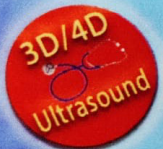
The nurse took him to his mummy
And he grew and grew and grew,
Until he was a big boy
Then she did not know what to do.

He lived in a big palace
And helped people who were feeling low,
He tried and tried and tried and tried
And said, "Let my people go!"



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The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

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*DISCLAIMER: The Editorial Committee may not agree
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Dear Readers please email ALL article submissions to this address ONLY.

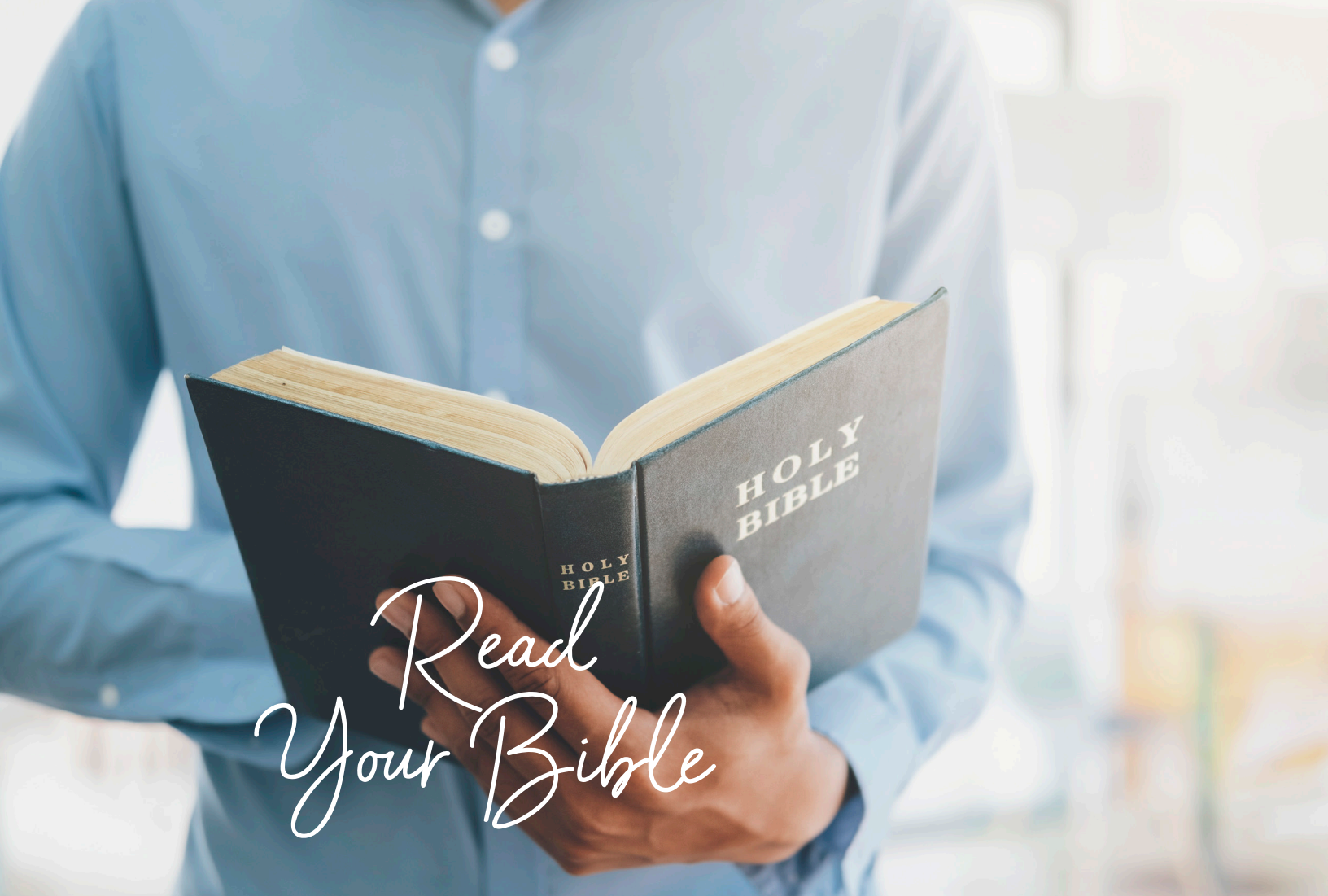
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Please keep all article contributions between 300 - 350 words.

Please send all articles by the 15th of each month.

Kindly note that articles sent after the 15th will NOT be acknowledged for the upcoming publication, but may be considered for future issues.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 187, Paradise Hill, San Fernando | Email: trinidadpresbyterian@gmail.com



“I the LORD do all these things”

SUNDAY		Psalm 19	Isaiah 25:1-9	Isaiah 45:1-7	Leviticus 19:1-18
MONDAY		Luke 6:39-49	Psalm 145	Micah 2:1-13	Psalm 62
TUESDAY		Luke 7:1-17	Hosea 12:1-14	Micah 3:1-8	Luke 11:27-36
WEDNESDAY		Luke 7:18-35	Hosea 13:1-3	Micah 3:9 - 4:5	Luke 11:37-52
THURSDAY	Luke 6:1-11	Luke 7:36-50	Hosea 13:4-8	Micah 5:1-4, 10-15	Luke 11:53 - 12:12
FRIDAY	Luke 6:12-26	Psalm 51	Hosea 13:9-16	Micah 6:1-8	Luke 12:13-31
SATURDAY	Luke 6:27-38	Psalm 98	Psalm 118	Micah 7:1-7	Luke 12:32-48

October
2020



COVER PAGE



Martin Luther (1483-1546) was urged not to become a priest by his father. However, after having a near death experience, where one of his friends died instead of him, this resulted in the man who devoted his life to God thereafter, and revering scripture for its salvific message.

He is most notable for the nailing of his 95 theses to the doors of Saint's Church, Wittenberg, on October 31st, 1517. The "Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences", which came to be known as the Ninety-Five Theses. He spoke out against unsound practices within the church and taught about the redemptive power of God's grace. He believed that faith alone -- sola fide -- a cornerstone to his theological ideas, was the hope of salvation. In contrast to the works of theology, the sale of indulgences, and the very notion of purgatory, which he viewed as the teaching of a human church, he advocated for sola gratia (grace alone), sola scriptura (scripture alone), solus Christus (Christ alone) and soli Deo gloria (the glory of God alone). He had not intended to cause a split in the Church but believed that Church needed to be reformed and always reforming.

STUDENT MINISTER, BJORN WARDE

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Romans 12:2 (NRSV)

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IN LOVING MEMORY

Earl Mohan

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Member of the Penal Presbyterian Church

Passed away in Florida

From his loving wife Radica

and two Sons: Kevin and James

Siblings: Patsy, Annmarie and Raymond

May his soul rest in peace.

*God called you and our hearts still ache in
sadness; Your life was a blessing, your memory
a treasure. You are loved beyond words and
missed beyond measure.*

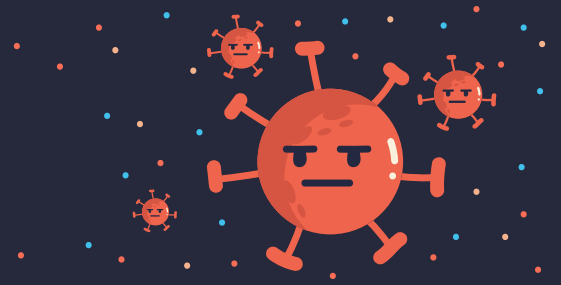


SUNRISE : 02 02 1958
SUNSET: 27 10 2018

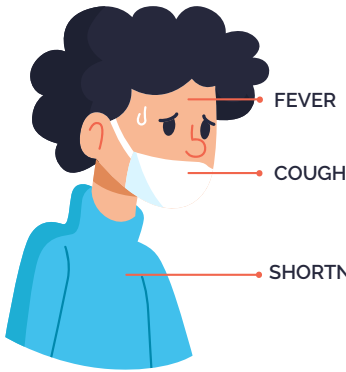
nCoVid-19

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS 2019

Help us beat the virus' spread. Keep practicing these for the prevention of the virus's impact for everyone



MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS



38°

FEVER

COUGH

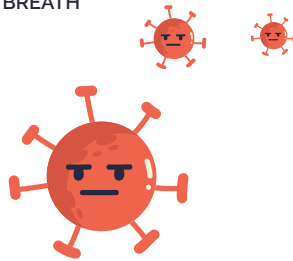
SHORTNESS OF BREATH

OTHER

- DIARRHEA
- VOMITTING

ADVANCED CASES

- PNEUMONIA
- RENAL FAILURE



PREVENTION



WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU GO OUT IN PUBLIC



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR OR ANYONE'S FACE



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM OTHERS (6 FEET)



WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN WITH SOAP AND WATER OR USE AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER



COUGH INTO A TISSUE OR INTO THE CROOK OF YOUR ELBOW



STAY AT HOME AND REST IF YOU ARE ILL



CLEAN THEN SANITIZE SURFACES (E.G. TABLE TOPS, DOOR KNOBS AND CELL PHONES)

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