

# The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



DECEMBER 2020 | GIFT

# MERRY Christmas



**MODERATOR  
SPEAKS** P. 2

**SATC GRADUATION  
CEREMONY** P. 10

**MODERATOR'S  
CHRISTMAS SERMON** P. 12

# God's *Light* Came in Time of Darkness



**B**y the time this printed edition of the Trinidad Presbyterian reaches you many important events would have passed – the US Presidential Elections; the 2021 Budget of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) being accepted; many lives lost through nCoVid-19, murder and road carnage; and

of course, the Advent/Christmas season would have begun..

There is no doubt that our life-style has been interrupted this year, not only by Covid-19, but by many unforeseen circumstances such as violent crimes, road carnage, illness, conflicts, disappointments, unemployment... and the list goes on.

# Moderator *speaks*

You may be tired of hearing of these negatives and need to get more positive vibes in this season of Advent and Christmas. I certainly agree, but we cannot deny the reality of the day. That, my dear friends, is the story of Bethlehem! The Hymn writer puts it this way, "In the dark streets shineth the everlasting light." Yes. God's greatest light came in a time of darkness and despair. It seems like a paradox. This Babe in a manger, Jesus, was born to die that we might live eternally.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the reality that children, women, and men were murdered this year. Road indiscipline has also taken many lives, including one of our very own, Jonas Dukhedin-Lalla, the brother of our immediate past-Moderator. The tragic passing of Jonas brings to mind the many friends, relatives and parishioners who died through the recklessness of others. Indeed, the entire church community is enjoined in the suffering faced by families who have lost loved ones at the hands of drunk or reckless drivers.

These senseless deaths should move us to ask, as the Prophet Jeremiah did centuries ago in Lamentations Chapter 1:12: "Is it nothing to you who pass this way? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow." The Book of Lamentations records this cry of anguish and also gave the assurance of God's promises in

the midst of Jeremiah's suffering when he viewed the destruction of Jerusalem. Jeremiah cried over the destruction that Jerusalem had brought upon itself by turning away from God and trusting in the practices of other nations.

While tears flow for murdered women and children we also ask ourselves... *Is it nothing to you?* While the road carnage and fatalities increase and while many try to find solutions to curb reckless and drunken driving we ask ourselves.... *Is it nothing to you?* While frontline medical workers try assiduously to preserve life in this global pandemic, we ask ourselves... *Is it nothing to you?* While governments and nations try to flatten the curve through needed restrictions and some simply ignore them, we ask ourselves... *Is it nothing to you?*

Yes. It should mean something to you and to me! We have a corporate responsibility to create a culture of care, compassion, and concern for human life. We must take every step to ensure that our actions will never result in recklessly causing the death of another human being. The clarion call is made once again to be our sister's and brother's keeper and ensure absolute safety for all.

Life is unpredictable! God does not give assurance against accidents, death, illness, hardships, failure, trouble, or suffering. We too must



THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

confront these quintessential instances of impermanence. Not to have had pain is not to have been human, but God gives strength to produce a faithfulness of character, adequate to meet the difficulties and the demands of this earthly life.

Therefore, as we celebrate the Birth of Christ our Saviour and prepare to enter the New Year 2021, we must heed the Word of Christ to be the light on earth and do what is good and necessary for the fulfilment and preservation of human life.

On behalf of the Synod, my husband Darryl and our family, I extend to all God's Blessings and best wishes for a peaceful Christmas; a Spirit-filled, safe and healthy 2021!



# IT IS NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

**W**e are coming to the close of one of the most challenging years in living memory, but our hope is that the joy of Christmas may shine through this haze bringing with it peace, love and optimism.

The nCoVid-19 pandemic adversely affected the socio-economic position of our country, touching every family we know in significant ways. We empathise with those in sorrow and rejoice with those blessed with success. This pandemic forced us to adjust our lifestyle in ways hitherto we never thought possible, and certainly we will be experiencing a "new normal" as we go forward.

While the pandemic brought out the best in us, it also exposed the worst in us. The good side was witnessing people making a special effort to assist others in need. Corporate Trinidad also joined in assisting the needy during this critical time. The Synod

of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) through its congregations and the Board of Social Responsibility (BOSR) reached out to the needy as well, with hampers, electronic devices which allowed students to access online teaching, and other items.

Conversely, the pandemic has brought out the worst in us. A small section of the population displays a callous disregard for human dignity and human life. Violence against women continues, while heinous murders are committed with impunity. Our elderly are abused, and a one-week old baby was abandoned in bushes by parents. Some citizens continue to defy the law designed to contain the deadly nCoVid-19 virus and engage in parties and entertainment. Indeed, others continue to drink and drive, killing or maiming innocent pedestrians without stopping to render aid to the injured.

Have we lost our humanity? What about the Biblical invitation to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers? Are we no longer guided by personal benchmarks of compassion, concern, protecting the weak and sharing? The time has come for our religious, civil society and non-governmental organisations to move into the communities, not only to highlight deficiencies, but assist in resolving the social problems. We have to stop complaining and start transforming peoples' lives.

As we put the Christ-Child at the centre of our Christmas activities, let us take time out to reflect on what we can do as a nation to restore some humanness in our relationship with one another. We cannot go on as if it is business as usual. The nCoVid-19 pandemic; the tight economic reality and the demands on our limited resources send a clear message that we cannot operate as if it is business as usual. May God help us all.



# OUTREACH: ELECTRONIC LEARNING DEVICES FOR SCHOOLS



The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) initiated a project to provide electronic devices to students and teachers, which would assist in the transition to the new normal of online education. The nCoVid-19 pandemic catapulted the education system into a new dimension of delivering the school-curriculum to students in both the Primary and Secondary schools.

The PCTT Synod Moderator, the Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, and General Secretary, Terrence Warde, convened a meeting with the Primary and Secondary Schools'

Boards of Education, along with the Board of Social Responsibility (BOSR) to formulate this plan. The nCoVid-19 pandemic took the education system into a new dimension of delivering the school-curriculum to students in both the Primary and Secondary schools.

The goal was to obtain suitable devices, through the kind donations from well-wishers, businesses, individuals, and the Pastoral Regions. Through this project, tablet computers were distributed to students in need of such, which allowed them to access the online platforms of learning. Through this project, Tablet-type computers

were distributed to students in need of such equipment to access online platforms of learning offered by the Ministry of Education through the primary and secondary schools.

The PCTT encourages the innovative approach of developing and delivering online teaching to our students, and offers its thanks to all contributors, Sessions of Pastoral Regions, and the Presbyterian teaching fraternity at large, for assisting in this community or pastoral-type Mission to less-fortunate families.

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# helping children *RESIST PEER PRESSURE*



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Q

How can parents and guardians help their children to resist “dares”?



**M**any teenagers and even pre-teens at some point in their lives are tempted to “prove their worth”, to be accepted by their peers. Then, even the most wonderful youngster may become extremely vulnerable to the compelling logic of a dare or “negative peer pressure” as we call it. Under certain conditions young people must perform a dare – no matter how silly, dangerous, disgusting, or obnoxious it is. If he or she fails to comply then “respect” is lost in the eyes of the peers.

The pressure to perform is seen most clearly in the dangerous types of dares among older teenagers (drug/alcohol usage or even an act of violence), while younger children on the other hand, are more inclined to pulling playful pranks. (Pre-teens may for example, accept a dare to put glue on the teacher’s chair, demonstrate rude behaviour to an adult, or hide a sibling’s phone or diary).

Dare situations may develop even when the gang is not present. Psychologically, the child may feel that the gang is looking over his shoulder. What do adults do then? We become sensitive to our charges need to “fit in”. Therefore, we try to not scold or demand compliance to shame or demean. Insensitivity on the adult’s part can result in silly, stubborn, or more defiant behaviour. In dealing with a dare, avoid extraneous reasoning or comparisons such as “When I was a boy, I would never have done that”

If your youngster is heavily dependent on what you consider the bad standards of his group, the worst thing you can do is preach against the group. This is considered an additional dare, as the child would want to show loyalty to the group, despite knowing better and being sure that you are right. Strengthening your child’s own judgement and awareness is the only way to help. However, this can be a time-consuming job, so perseverance is key. Remember that success is not achieved overnight

# KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

## It Is Christmas, Let Us Sing!

REVEREND ADRIAN SIEUNARINE

**I**t is Christmas! The houses in many neighbourhoods have Christmas lights; Christmas carols are being sung at church services; Christmas music is playing non-stop on the radio, and if it were any other year but 2020, we would be hearing groups of carollers or even parranderos everywhere we go. People are excited about this heart-warming season. For Christians, Christmas carols are an important aspect of this jubilation.

One of the earliest Christmas carols was the 129 AD 'Angels Hymn'. Around this time, Christianity-themed hymns started taking over the previous pagan songs celebrating Winter Solstice. Slower and more solemn hymns started to emerge in the 4th century, and by the 12th, songs referring to Nativity themes and creatures had emerged. Other traditional carols attributed to the Middle Ages include 'God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen' and 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night'. By the 19th Century, carols were being consistently collected and disseminated across Christendom.

The term "carols" is likely derived from the French word "carole" and the Latin word "carula" meaning a circular dance. Both dances and songs were given Christian significance and words with an overall message of awe, humility, hope and abundant joy. The religious carols we sing at Christmas have certain features about them:

**TOPIC:** Christmas hymns are usually about the nativity- the birth of Jesus Christ. Religious Christmas carols sing of the message and importance of the birth of Christ to us. Some of the Christmas hymns are imaginative and visualize the atmosphere of "silence" in the manger. Some sing about the spiritual reality of the Incarnation (God becoming flesh).

**TRADITION:** Many of our Christmas hymns were written a long time ago but their powerful meaning and eternal relevance mean that we sing them with new understanding every time we encounter them. The hymn we have in the Book of Praise at #163 "Of eternal love begotten" comes from words written around the fourth century but its theology

is vibrant and its meaning is encouraging to those who learn it as a new song today to cherish the everlasting promises of God.

**TIMING:** Some Christmas hymns were not originally written for Christmas! "Joy to the World" was written by Isaac Watts as a paraphrase of Psalms 96 and 98. However, the promise of the Lord who has come, is here and will come again was in tune with Christmas.

Let us pay attention to the words of the songs we sing this Christmas season. They sing of a reality we understand, the birth of a baby in poverty. Yet they announce realities beyond our comprehension: the immortal, invisible God has become enfleshed in time and space and humility. For us. Thanks be to God. Let us sing.

# HAPPY Birthday.



**S**ophie Ramlogan celebrated her 98th birthday on November 22, 2020. She is from Tableland and still attends the St James Presbyterian Church there. Due to nCoViD-19 restrictions there was no celebration to mark this

milestone. Sophie will turn 100 in 2022 when the church she attends will also celebrate 100 years since the original church was built on the present site in Tableland.

Happy Birthday, Sophie!



**N**alini Seepaul lights the purple candle of Hope, as the St. James Presbyterian Church in Tableland begins the 2020 Advent season. During this service, the Crèche was blessed by Lay Pastor Reginald Amman

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# *A Prayer for Families*

*Holy God, You are Love Divine.*

*We celebrate Your divine love expressed in our familial bonds.*

*We praise You for the ancestral love that has formed  
our being and brought us into this life.*

*We thank You for the fellowship of kin that moulds us  
and teaches us the Spirit of Your love.*

*Yet Lord, we often forget, disregard, and devalue Your gifts of  
relationship and companionship to us. Forgive us, we humbly pray, for  
the times we have failed to express Your divine love to our families.  
We seek Your pardon for our harsh words, negative spirit, impatience,  
addictions, and neglect that may have caused hurt to those You have  
placed in our loving care. Help us O Lord, to change. Teach us Your  
divine way of love, revealed in Jesus Christ, so that we may embody  
Your love in our homes and to our kin.*

*Lord, in our hearts, we also lift this prayer for families of our  
world:*

*We weep with families that are grieving,  
We hurt with families that are suffering,  
We yearn with families that are struggling,  
We lament with families that are torn apart,  
We hold in our hearts the families that  
have been impacted by nCoViD-19.*

*Hear us, Ever-present God, as we pray for hope, peace,  
joy and love to reign in every heart and home.*

*In the name of Emmanuel, we pray,*

*Amen.*



**CYNARA DUBÉ -SOOKOO, STUDENT MINISTER**



# 67 Graduate from SATC

**S**ixty-seven students of the St Andrew's Theological College (SATC) graduated from various courses offered by the College in a ceremony at the end of October 2020.

There were thirty-eight graduates from the Elders' Training Course and twenty-one from the Presiding Elders' Training Course. One person received the Certificate in Religious Studies and seven others received the Licentiate in Theology (L.th). The ceremony took place at the Susamachar Presbyterian Church in San Fernando. The event began with a worship session glorifying God and giving thanks.

In delivering the main address at the ceremony, former SATC principal Reverend Dr. Randall Sammah highlighted the origin of the College and urged the graduating class to face the future with hope and love and continue building on its strengths. Greetings were brought by Synod Moderator the Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan; Reverend Keron Khellawan on

behalf of the Board of Theological Education; Reverend Manan Deo on behalf of the Board of Directors and Student Minister Kimberly Rajkumar on behalf of the Students' Association.

The graduation was streamed live on Facebook so others could attend virtually. Online classes at the College meant that persons residing in the USA and Canada could attend. The overseas contingent followed the graduation online, as it was streamed live on the PCTT's Facebook page, and they, too, joined in singing the newly launched College Song (Page 11).

Certificates and tokens presented by SATC Board chairman Reverend Manan Deo; Vice-Chair Murella Sambucharan; Corporate Secretary Lennox Sankersingh, SATC principal Reverend Adrian Sieunarine; Former Principal Reverend Dr. Randall Sammah; Board of Theological Education representative Reverend Keron Khellawan and the Moderator the Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan.





# The St. Andrew's Theological College School Song

*The Lord calls us to follow!  
This message we receive.  
We voice it clear and mellow  
So others may believe.  
"Adduxit eum ad Jesum"  
Our motto loud and clear;  
To bring all souls, our anthem,  
To Jesus, Saviour dear.*

*"Nec Tamen Consumebatur"  
Burning and not consumed!  
God's Spirit-flowing rays are  
Enlightening the world.*

*St Andrew's Theological College  
Since eighteen ninety-two  
Grace, vision and God's knowledge  
All shared so brave and true.*

*Empowering and building;  
Lord, you call us to be  
Prophetic, wise and loving,  
Courageous, strong and free.  
SATC forever  
Builds heaven upon earth,  
Faith, hope and love together  
Show Spirit-filled new birth!*

## Our Deepest Sympathy

**T**he Trinidad Presbyterian joins with the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) in extending heartfelt sympathy to immediate past Moderator, Reverend Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan and family on the tragic death of their brother, Jonas Dukhedin-Lalla, 66.

Mr. Dukhedin-Lalla was the son of Sylvia Dukhedin-Lalla and father of April Natalie Rebecca Dukhedin-Lalla and Anelia Steffi Lynn Dukhedin-Lalla. He was the brother of Terrence Dukhedin-Lalla

(USA), Reverend Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan, Rosabell Chung Hun (Canada), and Daniel Dukhedin-Lalla. He was the grand-father of Lee-Anne and Adam Stephen Lutchman. And the father-in-law of Adam Lutchman and Cornelius Mohammed. Uncle of Zoe and Zarah Dukhedin-Lalla and the former husband of Maya Jenifer Dukhedin-Lalla nee Ramsingh.

Mr. Dukhedin-Lalla was the victim of a hit-and-run accident near his home. He died at hospital. The circumstance of his passing is even more tragic when one considers

that the driver of the vehicle that caused his death did not even stop to render aid. While our prayer at this time is for the comfort of the family, we hold out the hope that compassion, care and safety will still be guiding principles for those who drive on our roads.

Mr. Dukhedin-Lalla was cremated on Wednesday 02 December 2020 at Guide's Funeral Home, San Fernando following a service at the Akashbani Presbyterian Church, Siparia officiated by Reverend Brenda Bullock, Minister of the Siparia Pastoral Region.



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR OF SYNOD THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

# Let *Peace* Begin With Me

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favors." - St Luke 2:13*

One of the loveliest Christmas Passages from Luke chapter 2, contains the angels' song giving praise to God and proclaiming peace on earth. It acknowledges God's power and the peace and joy that will be enjoyed by all generations. However, the angels' song may seem a little difficult to resonate with in these unprecedented times. How can we experience the Glory of God and Peace on Earth amid all the mayhem and challenges in these times?

Imagine sitting around one evening when suddenly a host of angels comes upon you. Understandably,

the shepherds were very afraid. In Old Israel, the appearance of angels terrified the prophets and added to their horror because most times the angels' purpose was to deliver the message of God, good and not so good news. In Luke 2, despite the awesomeness of their appearance and reputation, these angels brought a message of Glory to God and Peace on earth which the shepherds found irresistible. What did the angels mean by Glory to God?

In the Old Testament, the term Glory literally meant 'weighty' – something of substance. It was used to describe the presence of

Another message enshrined in the Angel's song is a message of peace – 'Shalom'. It refers to a presence of harmony, wholeness and the completeness that come when one's life corresponds to the will of God. In such peace and wholeness, the ultimate relationship between God and humans; humans and humans; and humans and nature is restored to its rightful place. This peace gives glory to God and heals the divisions in the world. O! How we yearn for that peace which passes all understanding.

However, we humans cannot manufacture true peace. The only power that can create true Peace

equal standard for all regardless of color, creed, race, age or gender. It means an acknowledgement and recognition of not only our own worth, but also that of others. When such peace dwells within men and women, there can still be hope for peace among all people in the world.

During this Christmas season, despite the burdens we may have to bear, the sorrows we may have to face, the pain we may have to endure, let us seek to be at peace with God and others. Let it begin with ourselves so that we may become "magnets of peace".

*The glory of God, then is essentially the radiance of God's presence, which can be felt and seen. This is how God broke through human flesh.*

God in the pillar of fire and smoke, which preceded the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. They called this the 'Shekinah' – God coming to human beings in their humble tents and camping with them. The glory of God then, is essentially the radiance of God's presence, which can be felt and seen. This is how God broke through human flesh. The angels saw the Glory of God in a child, cradled amid the filth of a cattle stall, and ultimately who will be rejected and crucified. Those who could see God in human form were no longer wandering in the darkness. For they had seen the 'Shekinah' - the Glory of God.

is God's, hence the cry for a deeper and more lasting Peace. This is what the angels proclaimed: a peace which the world cannot give and the world cannot take away – a peace of mind and soul. Peace in the valley of the shadow. This Peace comes, not from the absence of trouble or conflict, but from the presence of God, the glory of God in Christ, the Prince of Peace!

But how do we achieve that inner peace? There is an implicit basis for peace in the Golden rule – "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This means that true peace should be based on justice and equality; it means

May the message of the angels' song inspire us to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, so that there will be hope and peace in our hearts, love and joy in our deeds, and solidarity with all humanity, as we sing sincerely and meaningfully "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

In the name of the God who is with us, Jesus Christ – The Prince of Peace. Amen.



# Harvest Thanksgiving at Kelly Presbyterian

**JUDY SOOKNARINE**



Aramalaya Pastoral Region on October 18, 2020. The service was streamed live on YouTube courtesy Vincent Ramkhelawan and Kristopher Khan.

Reverend Rampersad said the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. He said God expects that His people “bear fruit abundantly”. Reverend Rampersad added, “We must do so in our attitudes and actions daily, so that we can bring in the best harvest – winning souls for Jesus Christ.”

church exhibited a fine display of the harvest

A harvest of love for the Lord was expressed in the talents shared by several members, through prayers, reading of scriptures, and singing of worship songs. There was musical accompaniment by Zara Lackhan on keyboard; Jared Looknanan on drums and Judy Sooknarine on guitar. The choir and the performance of an interpretive dance enhanced the worship experience. Participating in the service were Treasurer Avind Dattoo, Elder Susan Ragbir, Vice-Chairman Michael Ragoonanan, Presiding Elder Linda Rattansingh, Student Minister Cynara Dube-Sookhoo, and Reverend Rampersad.

Gifts were presented to Reverend Anthony, Presiding Elder Linda Rattansingh, and Student Minister Cynara Dube-Sookhoo. Thanks to all those who prepared, participated,

**T**he greatest harvest we can offer to the Lord is that our lives reflect the fruit of the Spirit as revealed in chapter five of the Book of Galatians in the New Testament.

This was the view of Reverend Anthony Rampersad in his homily at the annual harvest thanksgiving service held at the Kelly Presbyterian Church of the

As is customary, Harvest Thanksgiving is one of the highlights on Kelly's calendar of events, as it provides an opportunity for church and community members to meet and to share in the fruits of their labour. Had it not been for the Covid-19 restrictions, the church hall would usually be overflowing with crops grown and donated by all. This year however, only the chancel of the



# 21ST CENTURY CRÈCHE AT SUSAMACHAR

**DINDIAL RAMLOGAN, SECRETARY, SUSAMACHAR MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

A permanent 21st century Crèche was erected on the compound of the Susamachar Presbyterian Church in San Fernando by the Susamachar Men's Fellowship. It was blessed and unveiled on November 29, 2020 by Reverend Letra Jacob.

Earlier this year, the Fellowship requested permission from the church's Local Board to relocate the existing crèche to the Coffee Street Entrance and attached a design and cost proposal. Approval was granted and construction commenced in mid-October 2020 under the supervision of Project Manager, Raymond Ramsingh.

Simon Alexander of Allied Home Centre provided an updated design for the crèche and agreed to supply the materials, labour, and the expertise to complete the project.

Architect Glenroy Davis and designer/ draughtsman John Keane were also among the professional team for the project. The architect blended the design of the Church building with gothic art, to seamlessly harmonise the structure and make it aesthetically pleasing. New figurines were supplied by Mr. Alexander in a labour of love.

At the Advent Service, Men's Fellowship president Enderson

Jaggesar presented tokens of appreciation to Mr. Alexander and his wife, Sherry Ann, for their sponsorship, support, and expertise in the project; A token of appreciation was also presented to Raymond Ramsingh for project co-ordination. In reply, Alexander gave an account of his stewardship noting that it was an honour and pleasure to have served the Church through this project. Reverend Jacob unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion, stating that the crèche was a symbol of joy, peace, and hope to all the world, even in times as challenging as at present. To God be the Glory!



# KIDS CORNER

## MEMORY VERSE

**“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favours” - Luke 2:14**

**I**t was an ordinary night, like every other. The sheep were grazing, the shepherds were watching, the moon was shining. It was quiet and all was still. As the evening went by, the shepherds continued their watch only to be interrupted by this startling light from above. Oh wait! That was not all! They could hear the sweet sound of someone singing in the distance.

But still, not quite! Before their eyes, it was finally revealed - a host of angels singing a song so sweet that the Saviour had been born.

The shepherds were afraid, but one of the angels came down and told them that there was nothing to be afraid of. Their Saviour had been born. It was good news. News to rejoice!

Then, they rejoiced, and they spread the good news of this Saviour King. They told everyone and they rejoiced as well.

Just like the shepherds received this good news and shared it with others - when God does good things in our life, we must share with our friends and family too.

When the day is ending, and we are getting ready for bed, let us look at what happened that day, look for the good things in it and rejoice just like the shepherds when they received the good news.

*Now, let us pray. So, let us clasp our hands together, and bow our heads.*

Dear God, thank you for the good news of Jesus and thank you for all that you do in our lives. Help us to tell others about this good news. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



# Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.  
Each word is only used once.



- JOY
- LORD
- MARY
- JESUS
- KINGS
- GLORY
- PEACE
- JOSEPH
- ANGELS
- CHRIST
- MANGER
- SAVIOUR
- SHEPHERDS
- BETHLEHEM

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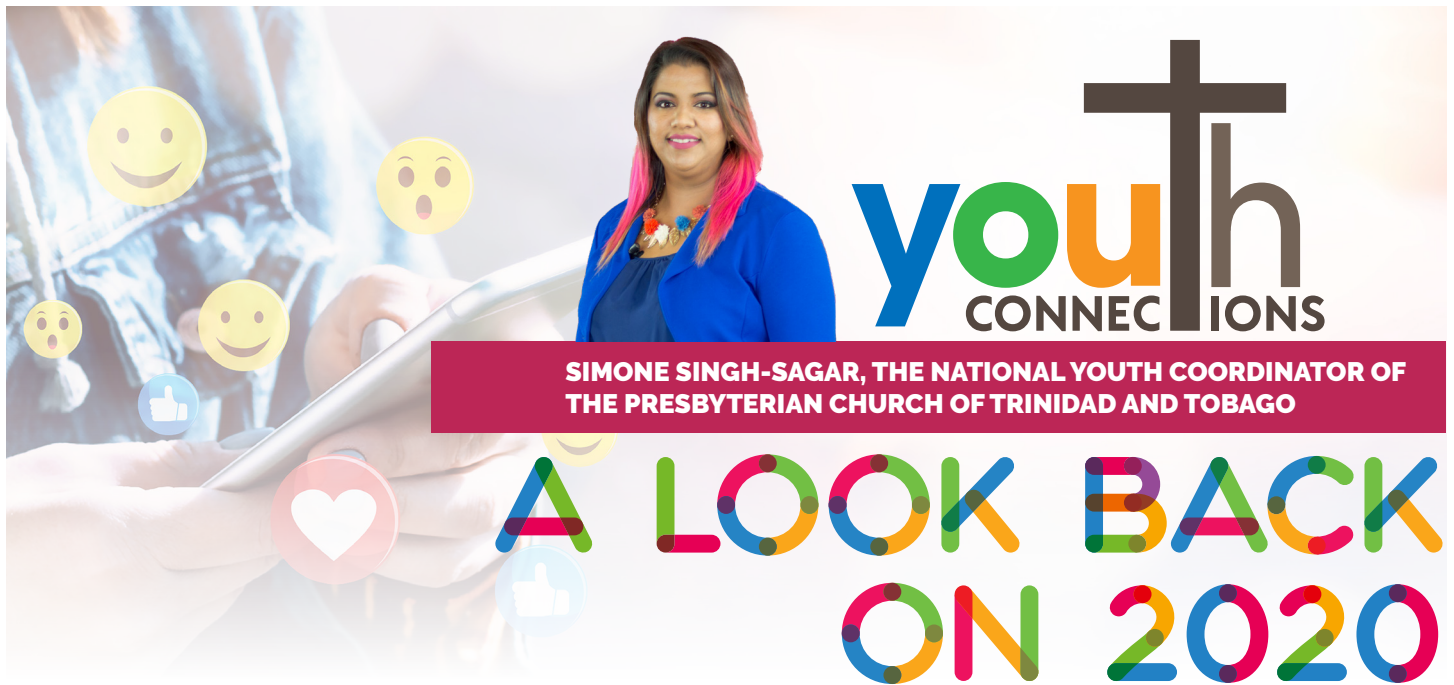
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**SIMONE SINGH-SAGAR, THE NATIONAL YOUTH COORDINATOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

# A LOOK BACK ON 2020

**SOS MISSIONS**

HELP US HELP A FAMILY | SHAMROCK COURTS | SFO CENTRE FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

CAN YOU DONATE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

<p><b>Foot wear</b> slippers Clothing ladies casual, teenage girls casual, children casual</p>	<p><b>Food supplies</b> Chicken feed Clothing male casual Toiletries</p>	<p><b>Toiletries</b> tooth paste &amp; brushes, soap, hand sanitizer, etc. Reusable masks Towels</p>
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Drop Off Locations:  
National Youth Coordinator's Office  
Synod's Office  
Paradise Hill  
San Fernando

Contact any of our members to arrange a location more convenient for you.

Contact info:  
South/Central - Simone (320-2543) or Alicia (791-0231)  
North - Anriana (701-1523)



**W**hat a year! We are grateful - or should be grateful - for the chances we got to push past boundaries and explore the newness in the discomfort and abnormal.

For the youths of PCTT - it was a time to venture into their modes of socialisation, their world of communication - to embrace the possibilities of technology.

Youth activities therefore moved to the virtual world and we want to remember all that was accomplished despite a timeframe that did not allow for thorough preparation, and in a time that was rife with uncertainty.

Certainly, at the forefront of the efforts to reach out to youths, was the concern about mental health, coping strategies and support. From March, the Student Ministers and Student Deaconess, alongside some strong youth leaders from across the country led the youth population into the virtual meetups.

Youths participated in Bible Challenges, Check-In Challenges with the elderly and bonded this year in a most real manner – no emotional masks were present.

The highlight was the JAVA Experience, from July into August, ending off with our JAVA Youth Camp, where youth-relevant topics were covered. The JAVA Experience also included Souled Out 4 Christ Sundays, Walk With the Word Tuesdays, Talk It Out Thursdays and stepping UP Saturdays. The Moderator even hosted a virtual Parents Session, emphasising their role in their youths' understanding of faith. Being able to keep an avenue open for youths to meet has been a most fulfilling opportunity! Glory to God in the highest!

To close off the year, the Youth Mission Arm, Souled Out Servants has been working on an Advent/ Christmas Activity book for children and preparation of items for distribution. Contact us to help :)

# Deed of Covenant Explained

**A** Deed of Covenant is a legal document that is made between an individual (or a company) and the Church. It allows persons (or companies) who annually pledge a financial contribution to the Church (being an ecclesiastical institution), the opportunity to make such a contribution in a legally binding covenant.

In doing so the individual is allowed a tax deduction that can be equal to up to 15% of their total income.

This is an excellent way for persons to pledge their

support to the PCTT and also receive a rebate when they file their taxes. Companies can also use this as a tax write-off on their tax returns.

Kindly contact the Synod office or your local church for Deed of Covenant forms if you are interested. Please note that the Synod office is required to place stamp and seal on the document as part of the process.

Pass the word on in your churches. This is an excellent way to give to the Church and positively affect your taxes. It's a win-win for everyone.



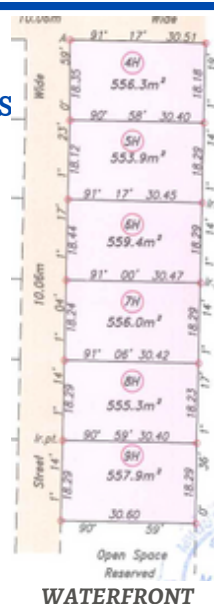
## INVITATION TO PURCHASE

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HEREBY ADVERTISES THE FOLLOWING LANDS FOR SALE

6 LOTS OF LAND SITUATE AT LOS IROS.  
THE SIZES OF THESE LOTS ARE AS FOLLOWS

1. (4H)-556.3 M2
2. (5H)-553.9M2
3. (6H)-559.4M2
4. (7H)-556M2
5. (8H)-555.3M2
6. (9H)-557.9M2

Price of lots range from  
**\$250,000-\$350,000 (Negotiable)**



LANDS COMPRISING  
**4,596.3M2**

Layman's Lodge Property  
Situate at Toco,

**Serious Inquiries ONLY**



Interested Persons, please contact the  
Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago Office  
@ 652-4829  
or Property Manager @ 772-2462

# IN LOVING MEMORY

## Charmaine Alleyne - Budhoo

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*Lovingly remembered by*

*Charmaine was the wife of Ernest Budhoo,  
Daughter of Clyde Alleyne & Pamela Alleyne (dec),  
daughter in law of Emerson Budhoo (dec) & Patricia Budhoo (dec)  
Mother of Edwin Budhoo & Chrystal - Ann Budhoo,  
Mother-in-law of Ashmead Mohammed & Sema Budhoo*



**SUNRISE: 29 07 1961  
SUNSET: 24 11 2018**

## Thomas Lutchman

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*You will never be forgotten  
By those who loved you.  
You meant the world to us.  
We miss you every day.  
Somewhere we will meet again.*

*Lovingly Remembered by:  
Wife: Florabelle, Daughters: Frances, Stacey (Deceased),  
Siblings, In Laws and Jennifer.*



**SUNRISE: 09 03 1931  
SUNSET: 06 12 2016**

  
Funeral Home (1995 Ltd.)  
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143B, Maraj Avenue, Marabella,  
Trinidad W.I.  
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# The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

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## COMMUNICATIONS' COMMITTEE

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<b>MEMBER</b>	Simone Singh-Sagar (NYCoPCTT)
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<b>MEMBER</b>	Ralph Pulwarty
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<b>MEMBER</b>	Reverend Kelvin Sookhansingh
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Layout for the December 2020 Print & Digital Edition of  
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*"The Trinidad Presbyterian" was established in 1904  
It is the official publication of the Presbyterian  
Church of Trinidad and Tobago.*

*DISCLAIMER: The Editorial Committee may not agree  
with the views expressed by the writers.*

Dear Readers please email ALL article submissions to this address ONLY.

**TrinidadPresbyterian@pctt.org.tt**

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.

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Postal Address: P.O. Box 187, Paradise Hill, San Fernando | Email: [trinidadpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:trinidadpresbyterian@gmail.com)

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***T***his year, 2020, presented challenges and opportunities for our Communications Committee to maintain the rich heritage of this historic publication, as we adapted to the “New Normal”. We were thrilled to offer an “e-TP” via the PCTT website, shared via social media, as we explored different forms of media. However, we were always aware of our audience in the pews and at home who longed for a physical copy that could be held and treasured.

*This December 2020 issue is therefore our GIFT to you as we hope to fulfil this longing and spread some Christmas cheer. In that same spirit, we humbly inform our Pastoral Regions that for the period April – November 2020, during which we distributed electronically only, our pricing will be halved. Any funds already collected will roll over to the following year. We hope and pray to continue serving you with dedication, humility and creativity, as we meet the New Year 2021 with our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Merry Christmas from the Communications' Committee!**



*2020*  
**December**

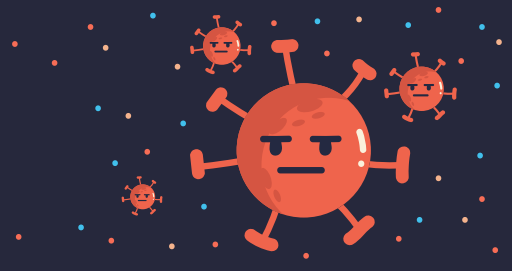
**“Emmanuel”**

<b>SUNDAY</b>		<i>Psalm 24</i>	<i>Psalm 85</i>	<i>Psalm 89</i>	<i>Galatians 4:4-7</i>
<b>MONDAY</b>		<i>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11</i>	<i>2 Peter 1:1-11</i>	<i>Luke 1:5-38</i>	<i>Matthew 18:1-14</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<i>Psalm 33</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 5:12-28</i>	<i>2 Peter 1:12-21</i>	<i>Luke 1:39-48</i>	<i>John 7:37-52</i>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<i>Isaiah 2:1-4</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians 1:1-12</i>	<i>2 Peter 2:1-10a</i>	<i>Luke 1:57-66</i>	<i>John 7:53-8:11</i>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<i>Isaiah 2:4-22</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians 2:1-12</i>	<i>2 Peter 2:10b-16</i>	<i>Luke 1:67-80</i>	<i>John 8:12-19</i>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<i>Isaiah 3:1-4</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5</i>	<i>Psalm 14</i>	<i>John 3:31-36</i>	
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<i>Isaiah 4:2-6</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians 3:6-18</i>	<i>Psalm 8</i>	<i>Psalm 149</i>	

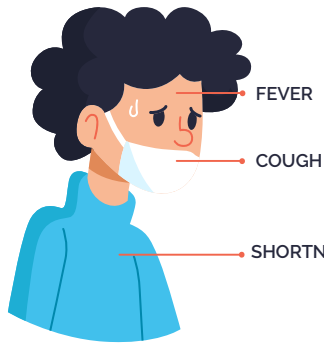
# nCoVid-19

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

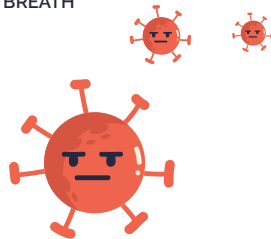


## OTHER

- DIARRHEA
- VOMITTING

## ADVANCED CASES

- PNEUMONIA
- RENAL FAILURE



## PREVENTION



WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU GO OUT IN PUBLIC



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM OTHERS (6 FEET)



COUGH INTO A TISSUE OR INTO THE CROOK OF YOUR ELBOW



STAY AT HOME AND REST IF YOU ARE ILL



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR OR ANYONE'S FACE



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



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

## TRANSMISSION

- AIR-BORNE DROPLETS
- CONTAMINATED OBJECTS
- ANIMALS
- HUMAN DROPLETS

(SOURCE: MINISTRY OF HEALTH, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE HELPLINES



Domestic Violence & Abuse Hotline: 800-7283

Rape Crisis Society North Office: 627-7273

Rape Crisis Society South Office: 657-5355

Families in Action: 628-2333 / 622-6952

National Help Line: 800-4357

Rainbow Chat: 321-3393

Lifeline: 645-2800/622-6952