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153

ANNIVERSARY

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THE COURAGE TO LIVE

I hope that everyone had a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas. 2020 was a long and memorable year. It was an extremely challenging time, particularly because of the novel virus Covid-19. It was a year in which we witnessed many different -- and at times horrible -- things. Some we wish not to remember ever again. We can recall the several headlines in our daily newspapers pointing to heinous crimes, domestic violence, road carnage, the migrant crisis and so many other social, economic, and political issues.

It is my hope that this trend will not continue in the New Year 2021, even though we must brace for the new experiences and challenges it may bring. While nCoV-19 dominated our space during the past year, there is hope that the discovery of a vaccine will mitigate the effects of this deadly virus. Some politicians and economists have predicted

“structural adjustments” in the New Year that may lead to a cut in or loss of income, retrenchment, unemployment, loss of homes and other hardships. Any of these will impact negatively on home and family life.

2021 will be a testing time for both the Church and the nation. It will demand a re-ordering of priorities at every level of our society as we keep in mind those on the margins. It will also demand meaningful dialogue and consultation with labour, economic stakeholders, civil society, and government to grasp the changes in a spirit of understanding and compassion.

We, the Church, have an even greater responsibility to minister to God's people in the present context and to encourage each other 'to live'. We all need courage by which to live. The miracle of courageous living always commands our respect and admiration. Just

Moderator *speaks*

to think about people with the courage to live, thrills our imagination, stirs our hearts, and rouses a passion of worth and high resolve. In our best moments, we know that life calls us not to be comfortable but to be courageous.

the poor, the weak or lonely. Emmanuel – God with us – dwells at the very centre of the greatest fear and the deepest need. God is there with all those who struggle with the hard economic and political issues of the day. Let all the powers of the world tremble

Trust God; see all, nor be afraid".

My husband, Darryl, and our family join me in extending to you and your loved ones God's magnanimous blessings and best wishes for a Safe and Healthy, Spirit-Filled 2021!

*... we need this good news that we are not alone.
That the injustices of victimization, discrimination, murder,
or any form of violence will one day come to an end.*

Here is Good News of great joy for all – God offers a hope that is lasting! One glad day the darkness will vanish. Is there a timelier word that can be spoken than this? Our society is overwhelmed by anxiety. It is shadowed by apprehension about the future, which can play havoc with the values and morality of the present. Thus, we need this good news that we are not alone. That the injustices of victimization, discrimination, murder, or any form of violence will one day come to an end. That there will be peace and harmony in family life, in the Church, in the community, in our nation and in the world and that the days of suffering will not be longer than we can withstand.

We have a God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who cannot be overthrown by the ruthless exercise of power. God has not abandoned the sick,

and let the hearts of God's people take courage. For God is faithful, and God joins with us in the struggle to bring about justice and righteousness.

Like the birth of a child, there is cause for great rejoicing in the midst of great pain. Despite, the fact that we, the members of the Presbyterian Church and citizens of Trinidad and Tobago are faced with many difficulties, shattered dreams, and frustrated hopes, we can still rejoice in the fact that we are alive, and we serve a Living God – a God who is still working for the best. As the poet Robert Browning writes:

*"Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which the first was
made; Our times are in His hand
Who saith, "A whole I planned,
Youth shows but half;*



THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

DO NOT BE ANXIOUS

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- Philippians 4: 6 – 7

A HAPPY NEW YEAR
to all our readers!

Our opening quote of St Paul's advice to the church in Philippi two thousand years ago is as appropriate today as it was at that time, as we face the uncertainty of a new year. St Paul sought to soften the impact of his incarceration on those early Christians in Philippi. It is a lesson for us in our current situation. What we need now, more than ever, is an environment of calmness and peace as we struggle to find solutions. This is good advice in a situation where a cacophony of voices has already struck a pessimistic outlook for 2021. Chances are that they may have already succeeded in putting fear and trepidation in the minds of all of us. If we lean too heavily on those voices, we can lose the survival battle even before the war begins. This is why we must pay attention to what St Paul says and "do not be anxious about anything".

This is not to deny that the socio-economic problems of 2020 have not rolled over into

2021. They have, but we cannot solve them by continuous negative analysis. We need to go beyond that narrative. Yes, the Covid-19 virus is still here – but we can keep it under control. Yes, most international borders are closed, hampering trade – so, we may have to explore local alternatives. Yes, our oil-based economy is at the mercy of the decline in the international energy market – this should hasten diversification of the economy. Crime still plagues us – but we must vigilant and alert to signs of danger.

All these and more will affect us if not prudently managed. Clearly, tough decisions will have to be made by those in authority.

The current socio-economic situation is not unique to Trinidad and Tobago. It is a world-wide phenomenon. Our Moderator the Right Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan acknowledges this in her column, Moderator Speaks, when she calls for "a re-ordering of priorities at every level of our society as we keep in mind those on the margins". She further calls for "meaningful

dialogue and consultation with labour, economic stakeholders, civil society and government to grasp the changes in a spirit of understanding and compassion". Reverend Abdul-Mohan is right. Unless we can mobilise the human resources of our country, there is less likelihood we can mobilise the scarce financial and other resources available to arrive at solutions.

A re-ordering of priorities will also involve a lowering of expectations. It means that we cannot pull in different directions. Therefore, it may not be the right time now for new monetary demands to be made on employers in both the public and private sectors, or demand ideal conditions at our workplaces, when hundreds of our brothers and sisters do not have food or proper shelter. The critical mission is to save jobs; keep businesses afloat; keep revenue streams open; and, help families survive. We all have to buy into doing our part to ride out this turbulence. The blind activist Helen Keller tells us, "although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it".

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES



REVEREND ADRIAN SIEUNARINE

FACING 2021 AND BEYOND

Whether this year is fraught with famine or filled with the fruition of our dreams, we know that our faith sustains us now and forever! As we see corporations closing and economies collapsing, we pray that the grace of God will continue to sustain our Church and College, as we fulfil our calling as instruments for the Lord's work. As we think about how Presbyterians past have faced the future, we can think of Habakkuk 3:19, which tells us that the Lord is our strength who makes our feet like those of a deer so we can walk in the high hills. There are four things that we can learn for 2021 and for all the years to come:

STRENGTH: The Lord is our strength. Not our possessions or positions,

fight or feelings. Sometimes God fills us with divine discontent to give us heavenly strength that transcends and reshapes this world.

AGILITY: The Lord gives us new abilities. We become intellectually and emotionally agile with new flexibility, as we recognize that every situation is different, but the transferrable skills we continue to develop are filled with the potential to be applied to unique and unforeseen circumstances.

TRUST: The Lord alone gives us the power to overcome. God makes us more than conquerors, and we rise out of the valley of the shadow of death and prance on the high hills of the heavenly realm.

COURAGE: The Lord calls us to curiosity and courage. The Lord has

never called anyone to remain as they are or to maintain the status quo. The Lord calls us to higher hills than we have ever known and ever dared to explore.

The acronym for the Lord's calling for Strength, Agility, Trust and Courage spells "SATC" – the initials of St Andrew's Theological College. For 2021 and for the rest of our lives, let us recommit ourselves to the vision and mission of the Lord's work on earth, through our loving dedication to our Church and College.

John Calvin reminds us that the Lord prepares and positions us for the unexpected: "When I took the leap, I had faith I would find a net; Instead, I learned I could fly."

EST. 1970



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have you lost a *SCHOOL FRIEND?*



COUNSELLING COLUMN WITH BERNADETTE GYAN-MANICKCHAND

Q

How do we help our school-aged children cope with the loss of school friendships?



As adults, many of us are trying to cope with loss of something or someone because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Children and adolescents are also experiencing much loss with the closure of schools and are trying to cope. They miss their affectionate teachers, face-to-face lessons, and most of all recreation with their friends. Online learning can never compensate – after all, people need people.

Social interaction with peers allows them to share good and bad experiences. Venting to their friends allows them to cope with challenging assignments, difficult parents, and even tedious moments of boredom. There is no opportunity for sharing of snacks or lunches with desk-mates, or physical games on the playfield.

The frustration felt by many has continued into 2021, and is now forcing us adults to think of ways to help our children who are missing

close physical and emotional interaction of school friends.

Parents or guardians need to ask open-ended questions about their children's friends, such as, "Who are your friends?" and "What do you miss about them?" Then we need to acknowledge their feelings by saying, "I hear what you are saying," and "I am sorry you feel that way." Holding on to intense emotions can lead to further issues such as behavioural outbursts, moodiness and withdrawal.

We can also encourage our children to express what their loss feels like. In this way, they will be able to develop pro-social skills such as empathy and kindness. They will become more considerate to their siblings or relatives who are experiencing the same sense of loss.

Lastly, we can ask our children to suggest what can be done so that they can experience friendship. Discuss: Online games, Zoom chats, the art of writing friendly letters, and even arrange playdates with adult supervision. Together we can plan creative events so loss of school friends can become bearable.



WATCH YOUR HABITS

THE FAMILY CAN: A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE THE FAMILY | HILTON R SIBOO

Habits, whether good or bad, are hard to break. Habits are a mechanical and automatic routine and pattern of doing things that have become convenient for individuals and the family.

Don't we often become unsettled or even angry when someone attempts to change our habits, or becomes a stumbling block as we rush through the routines of our day? Whether habits are time-based or not, for the individual and the persons around them, it gives a sense of calmness, control, and normalcy.

Since the beginning of 2020, the nCoVid-19 pandemic has impacted on and forced changes to many of our habits. We have been obliged to observe all the protocols – from washing hands and sanitization to inter-personal interaction with the use of face protection and social distancing. There have been changes to how we interact with others in sport and exercise; work and school; entertainment and pastimes such as going to the mall

and 'liming'.

We even experienced changes in worship and social functions like weddings, funerals, and partying. Indeed, many of us are still adjusting to what has been termed "the new normal."

Although in most households Covid-19 protocols may not be strictly adhered to, habits have still been adjusted even in this environment. We have upturned the saying, 'you cannot teach old dog new tricks.' We have come to realize that many of the activities we once thought and accepted as essential and necessary for human life and happiness, are, in fact, not. Covid-19 may be considered a curse, but it may eventually turn out to be a blessing in disguise to the individual, the family and human civilization.

In the year 2120 when history is researched, how will the year 2020 be reflected? Would it be noted as a time that marked significant changes in human history? When the habits,

nCoVid-19 may be considered a curse, but it may eventually turn out to be a blessing in disguise

routines and patterns of individual, family, and social life had to be adjusted and accepted globally? It is possible that not even the best Covid-19 vaccines would be able to return and restore life to pre-2020 order.

As a family, embrace these changes to habits and change the world and your environment making it a better place for all. Remember, the family is not just a group or gathering without a common purpose. As a family, we grow. We adjust. We adapt. We must embrace these changes to old habits and use them as the catalyst to change the world and our environment, making a better place for all

Don't lose faith. Hold strong. Believe. The Family Can.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) Synod Moderator the Right Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan called for a corporate responsibility by all civil society organisations to eliminate violence in the society.

Reverend Abdul-Mohan made the call during a Webinar, which she initiated on 10 December 2020 via the internet portal Zoom. The feature speaker was Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh, General Manager of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence. A presentation was also made by former PCTT Moderator Reverend Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan. Three panellists participated – Vicar Father Martin Sirju, Dr. Pandita Indrani Rampersad and Reverend Adrian Sieunarine. The programme was chaired by recently ordained Minister Reverend Sanya Beharry.

In introducing the discussion, the Moderator reflected on the Book of Lamentations, where the prophet Jeremiah surveyed the destruction of Jerusalem. The prophet had asked the people at the time "Is it nothing to you?" She said the same question is being asked today. The PCTT she said, had in 2018, started a campaign of solidarity and awareness of violence against women and girls with the "Thursdays In Black" initiative. She

lamented that the cycle of violence continues in Trinidad and Tobago with domestic abuse and gender-based violence occurring consistently.

During the event, the National Youth Coordinator and the youths of the PCTT conducted a worship session, which focused on the fate of the concubine of the Levite as recorded in Judges Chapter 9. The presentation drew a parallel with the present circumstances and that of women thousands of years ago, where the abuse and mutilation of women were tolerated.

The Webinar examined areas of the issue of Gender-based violence – Awareness, Advocacy and Action.

AWARENESS

Former Moderator Reverend Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan dealt with the first point of Awareness. She spoke about the efforts of the "Thursdays In Black" initiative started in 2018 by the PCTT and the World Council of Churches. The main objective was to bring awareness of the issue of violence against women and girls in this country. One of the problems which continues to plague the issue of domestic violence is the silence of the victims. There is an alarming phenomenon of hidden violence, due to the stigma associated with domestic abuse.

ADVOCACY

Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh, in response to various comments on the chat, informed all that the Coalition for Domestic Abuse (CADV) was founded in 1988 to lead the movement against domestic violence by focusing on a few strategies:

1. Creating survivor-centred services;
2. Driving policy to effect the changes needed in law;
3. Developing partnerships for advancing positions; and
4. Promoting social change through events and awareness..

ACTION

Mowlah-Baksh provided statistics of the domestic violence problem in this country and quoted from a 2018 study, which stated that there were on average 25 killings due to domestic violence per year since 2010, and that one out of every three women had experienced some form of abuse in her life.

Mowlah-Baksh used the word "femicide" to describe the nature of the killings, stating that in 2018 there were 48 femicides in Trinidad and Tobago, twenty-one 21 of which were family-related. She indicated that there was a patriarchal indoctrination and a sense of male privilege which pervaded the society.

She, however, applauded women's organisations and 25 Civil organisations, which have lobbied over the years, not only to have laws revised and changed, including those relating to domestic violence, child marriage and sexual harassment, but also for the creation of a sex-offenders' registry.

The Actions necessary included:

Unmasking the issue – This means that gender-based violence has to be looked at through a different lens, which would create new perspectives and attract a different response.

Othering – This is a concept where we are required to come out of our comfort zone and get involved – not draw the curtains when we see a situation evolving.

Investing in ourselves as a process of change.

Creating and supporting a women's agency for empowerment, as the needs of women vary according to individual circumstances.

In specific situations, making the victim aware of the options available – this would create the agency of empowerment of the victim in making their own decisions – thereby transforming them from a victim to a survivor.

The panellists expressed their various perspectives on the issue.

Father Sirju focussed on Spiritual Violence, stating that this is something that may be not talked about readily. Observing that a colleague of his pointed to religious

writings being anti-sex and anti-woman, Father Sirju lamented that the sex education debate in schools was not an assurance of awareness that is needed to address the issue. He also alluded that "The Power of One" may be an approach that individuals can adopt to effect change when necessary. Father Sirju stated that the "Toxic Masculinity" that exists in our society is a factor in the way that men think.

Pandita Indrani Rampersad commented that the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO) had embarked on a project to extract the relevant verses of various scriptural texts and compile into a document to show solidarity on various issues. She stated that this project did not happen.

Pandita Rampersad wanted to see the word "femicide" used more often in our language. Stating that the society had become insensitive to murder and killings as it has become a norm, she blamed the broken dysfunctional family and a "crisis in the male".

Offering some strategies for change she pointed that we can become "change-makers" by empowering women; and by encouraging training programs in Child Abuse through our institutions.

Reverend Adrian Sieunarine reminded all that on 10 December 1948 Human Rights Day was declared by the United Nations, and that in Trinidad and Tobago, only in 2017 was the law proclaimed that the age of consent was 18 and that a person must be now 18 to be

married. The law effectively stopped child marriage in this country – a mere 3 years before.

Stating that gender-based violence was universal, Reverend Sieunarine recalled an incident in Fort Hood, an army base in the USA, where investigators into a woman's murder stated in their findings that there was a "toxic command culture" among the male officers that "normalised violence".

Reverend Sieunarine as Principal of the St Andrew's Theological College (SATC) stated that the College offers courses that address social issues, with a view to developing a different mind-set and perspective in students.

A contribution was also made by Jennifer Martins of CANACOM, who spoke about the Jamaican culture as it relates to gender-based incidents.





Our Deepest Sympathy

The *Trinidad Presbyterian* joins with the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) in extending sympathy to Reverend Dr Randall Sammah and family on the sad passing of his mother, Gladys Barbara Sammah nee Hubah on 02 December 2020. She was 89 years of age.

Ms Sammah was the wife of the late Errol P. Sammah. Mother of

Gerard, Randall, Peter, Clarence and Joy. Grandmother of Rhea and Hannah. Mother-in-law of Shelly, Judy and Radica. Sister of Stella, Dr Clarence E. Hubah, Peter, Gilbert (RAF W/W11), Lynette, Sheila and Angela (all deceased).

Ms Sammah was a past Elder of the Susamachar Presbyterian Church and member of the HWS. She was a former teacher at the St Peter's School (Texaco-Pointe-a-Pierre)

and Happy Venture School. Her funeral took place on Saturday 05 December 2020 at the Susamachar Presbyterian Church with cremation at Guide's Crematorium in San Fernando. An offering was collected at the funeral service for the work at the PCTT Archive. May God grant her eternal life.



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Scholarship Fund Aids Students

Over 314 students have benefitted from monetary grants amounting to \$1.6M from the Terrence A. Bissessar Scholarship Fund since it was launched in 2010.

Drawing from 11 Corinthians 8: 1-7, Seepersad underscored the importance of generosity. He applauded the "attitude of gratitude" by the Bissessar family and urged others to give generously to augment the Fund. He noted that past recipients had shown their gratitude by "their overflowing generosity to the Fund".



This was revealed by Presiding Elder Kendrick Seepersad at a service of appreciation hosted by the Fund's Board of Trustees held at the Nistar Presbyterian Church, Chase Village on Sunday 29 November 2020. At the service 30 recipients for 2020 were honoured.

The worship service was led by Tara Persaud. Medical student and a former recipient of the fund, Melanie Baboolal of the Gasparillo Presbyterian Church rendered the solo, To God be the Glory. She was accompanied in music by Glen Rajaram. Former Board Trustee member Emma Bhola was honoured for her service to the Fund. Jesse Pulwarthy spoke on behalf of recipients.



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CELEBRATING 153 YEARS

*'Living Faithfully in Christ and building
relationships in Community'*

HILTON BILL SIBOO (ARCHIVIST ASSISTANT)

The Presbyterian Church came first to Trinidad with the Presbyterian Scottish settlers and planters in 1836. There were no places of formal worship and following advice and request the Rev. Alexander Kennedy arrived. The Greyfriars's Church was established, and the Scottish Presbyterian presence spread throughout the island to various communities.

The second phase of the Presbyterian presence was in 1843, when an American mission (USA) was established at Iere Village, Princes Town, reaching out to the ex-slaves and people of African descent and ancestry. This was left unattended following illness and death to the personnel.

The third phase of the Presbyterian presence was in 1845, when a group of protestant refugees from Madeira fled persecution by non-protestant authorities. They established the St. Ann's Church of Scotland.

The fourth phase of Presbyterian

presence is what many of us are familiar with. This began with the Canadian Mission, through the missionary Reverend John Morton. He, along with his family, came, saw, settled, and conquered with their Christian presence and spirit and mission to the East Indians serving indentureship, or who in their post-indenture period, settled in villages and communities near towns and in rural locations throughout Trinidad, some called 'coolie settlements'.

Rev. Morton and his wife Sarah laid the foundation, but it was the efforts of the subsequent missionaries – significantly the second missionary Rev. Kenneth J. Grant – who propelled the Presbyterian Church's presence with the twin endeavour and purpose of Education and Evangelism. With the assistance of Catechists, and later Bible Women and schoolteachers, evangelism spread across Trinidad with the establishment of schoolhouses.

In many instances, these became the meeting places or community centres for school and social

activities during the week, but on Sundays and Christian religious holidays and observations, the church building.

The role of the Presbyterian Church in building communities was not one of hard-line Christianity but instead, through many activities, practices and celebrations – culture, music and song and community life – integrated aspects of the East Indian traditions, even including those of Hinduism and Islam.

Since 1868, this continues into the present, despite the Canadian Missionaries leaving in the 1970s. After their departure, the Presbyterian presence was administered by nationals of Trinidad and Tobago along with the support of several generations of Presbyterian Christians, holding strong to the Presbyterian order in tradition, history, and worship.

Of further note is the involvement of the PC of Trinidad to other Caribbean countries, namely, Jamaica, St Lucia, Grenada, Guyana, Suriname, Venezuela, and Tobago –

yes, Tobago – where the first Presbyterian presence and mission began in 1813 at Scarborough.

The above narrative reflects 'living faithfully in Christ' as Christians – Presbyterian Christians – for the past 153 years and more. The Presbyterian Church, including its mission and its presence, was not solely established for evangelism and conversion to Christianity.

The Presbyterian presence opened itself and was an instrument in 'building relationships in communities.' This, the PCTT has done as a requirement to keep the faith and continues to do.

The last year of living under the heavy and dark cloud of the Covid-19 pandemic appears, despite possible vaccines, to weigh heavily on the lives all people in every country globally and locally in its surge. It has not only reminded us but has told all persons of whatever creed and race and nationality, that 'all people matter'. In this time of social distancing, social isolation, the loss of touch and feel and hugs, of smiles and laughter, the lights of care on faces, what is the Presbyterian Church of TT called to do?

One initial quote is, 'be your brother's keeper'. A brother, a sister, a mother, a father, a parent, a child, a neighbour, a friend, a stranger...are we not all called to come closer to God, despite religion – which has continued to cause more conflicts and wars than anything else?

"Living faithfully in Christ and building relationships in communities' remains a human mission for all people, all religions and here in our instance, the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago. Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.

Come aboard on the mission!



THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN, THE MODERATOR OF SYNOD OF THE PCTT



REVEREND ANNABELL LALLA-RAMKELAWAN



REVEREND ANTHONY RAMPERSAD



REVEREND SANYA BEHARRY



REVEREND ERROL RAGNAUTH



REVEREND BRENDA BULLOCK



TERRENCE WARDE, GENERAL SECRETARY OF SYNOD



DEACONESS LISA DHARAMGIT



STUDENT MINISTER, CYNARA DUBE SOOKOO



PRESIDING ELDER, ORLANDO NAGESAR

A RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING

‘Living Faithfully in Christ and building relationships in Community’

RT. REVEREND JOY E. ABDUL-MOHAN, MODERATOR OF SYNOD, PCTT

-- TO BE SAID IN ALL CHURCHES --

“**O**ne generation shall laud thy works to another and shall declare thy mighty acts.” (Psalm 145:4)

Leader: Almighty God, in these uncertain, challenging and changing times, we acknowledge You to be the source and giver of every blessing and thank You for Your faithfulness to us throughout our lives.

People: We praise you, we thank you, we honour you, O God.

Leader: For all Your mercies: for Your goodness that has created us, Your grace that has sustained us during the Global Pandemic, Covid-19, Your wisdom that has challenged us, Your patience that has borne with us, and Your love that has redeemed us.

People: We praise you, we thank you, we honour you, O God.

Leader: For Jesus Christ, the founder and Head of the Church, through whose perfect obedience to Your Holy will, we have been reconciled to You and have received the gift of a new life.

People: We praise you, we thank you, we honour you, O God.

Leader: For the ministry of the Church Universal which has brought many generations of people to experience Your saving grace and especially for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) which has brought many blessings to our own lives, to the lives of our children, our people and our nation for the past 152 years.

People: We praise you, we thank you, we honour you, O God.

Leader: For the pioneers of the Presbyterian Church and for the rich and noble heritage which we all enjoy.

People: We praise you, we thank you, we honour you, O God.

Leader: For those who have gone before us; for all Your servants who throughout the history of the church have sought to be faithful in worship, in stewardship, in service and witness.

People: We praise you, we thank you, we honour you, O God.

Leader: For our Ministers, Deaconesses, Church workers and Elders, and all those who give leadership to Your flock, through a spirit of love and selfless devotion.

People: We praise you, we thank you, we honour you, O God.

Leader: For all that is lovely and gracious, all that is inspiring and uplifting, all that we find helpful in our quest for a closer and deeper fellowship with You and our fellow believers, and for a more meaningful and purposeful life.

People: We praise you, we thank you, we honour you, O God.

Leader: God, we are prone to forget how blessed we are as a people. Remind us each day of our indebtedness to You and our responsibility to You. Imbue us with the spirit of gratitude, loyalty, and generosity; that the work inspired by Your Holy Spirit and begun by our fathers and mothers of the faith, would be sent forth as a flaming torch to illumine the pathway of discipleship for generations yet to come.

All: Lord hear us and in your love answer. For the sake of Christ our Lord we give you thanks and in His name we pray. Amen.

(Chanting of the Lord's Prayer)

IN LOVING MEMORY

*Horatius Ishwar
Ramjattan*

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

He will be lovingly remembered as the

*Son of Bridglal Ramjattan (late) and Marjorie Ramjattan
Husband of Dianne Phillip-Ramjattan Brother of Indra,
Keshwar, Emerson, Vernon, Druecilla, Lynly Father of Sean,
Alana, Arianna, Adrienne Grandfather of Aurelia, Alliana,
Aiden Father in Law, Brother in Law, Uncle,
and Friend to many*



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Listen! Jesus is calling – Fishers of Men



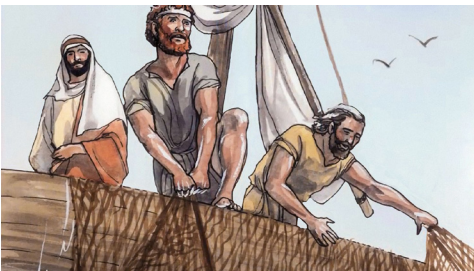
MEMORY VERSE

"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." – Matthew 4:19



"Mirror, mirror on the wall, do you see Christ in me at all? Will you answer when He calls?"

Sometimes following Jesus is not always easy, but it is definitely worth it! Following Jesus means we are becoming more and more like Him every single day of our lives! Sometimes, we must let go of the things that we enjoy or love, the things that try to hold us back from truly following Christ. Being a "disciple" means putting Jesus first before anything else in our lives. The Good News that we are promised life with Christ is worth it. Following Jesus is the best decision ever! He loves us unconditionally; He gives us a new life in Him and He takes care of us and the whole planet that we live in. We might have to leave certain practices if they get in the way of our relationship with God. But the love and strength of Jesus give us something way better! Jesus is the greatest gift ever – He is the way, the truth, the life!



Jesus came to live among us and die for us to take away the guilty stain of our sins. He called His first disciples, who were willing to leave everything and follow Him. We should also be willing to do whatever it takes to follow Christ, and we should be eager to share the Good News with others and "fish for people"!

Scripture Reference: Mark 1:14-20

How can we follow Jesus? – By reading our Bibles and praying every day, sharing the word of God with those around us. Also, by being kind to someone, respecting our mummies and daddies, helping others, sharing our snacks with our friends, taking care of God's creation and even our furry little friends. We are called to be God's servants, to be His disciples...to love just like Him and to make the Gospel known to all generations. We are to be the hands and feet of Christ and to share His love and light to all those around us.

WILL YOU FOLLOW JESUS TODAY AND ANSWER WHEN HE CALLS?

WILL YOU SHARE HIS MESSAGE TO THOSE AROUND YOU AND TELL OTHERS HOW GREAT JESUS IS?

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for Your amazing love that surrounds us every day. Thank You for keeping us safe and taking care of our loved ones – family, friends and our fur-friends who fill our lives with so much love and warmth. Loving Lord, help us to always fix our eyes on You. Help us to follow Jesus and know what that means. Help us to share His love with one another. Thank You that we can be disciples, too. Thank You for Your unconditional and marvellous love. We love You, God, and we thank You for everything! In Jesus' most Holy and precious name we pray, AMEN!



youth CONNECTIONS

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



This is going to be a year of great things! Yes, my youths – say it, shout it, claim it – BELIEVE IT!!!! – because the God who created, moulded, shaped, and purposefully placed you here is still working, designing, and speaking!

Check this Scripture selection out, write it down on a larger sheet of paper (make sure and decorate it up too) then place it where you can see it every day:

Romans 8: 28 *“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”*

Now, we have to focus on WHO is the source of our strength and hope and keep at the forefront of our minds the PROMISES of God!

I want you to find your own ways of caring for your mind, emotions, and peace. A great way to do this is by doing these things everyday:

Speak Do Write

Words of affirmation every morning to yourself.
Daily affirmations are to the mind what exercise is to the body, helping to reprogram the unconscious mind for success.
“I am a beloved child of God”.
“I am created, positioned and purposed for great things by the Mighty Creator of this world”.
“I am beautifully, fearfully and wonderfully made!”

Choose a word for the day based on your daily devotion. What word stood out for you – kindness, love, gentleness, self-control, smile?
Write this word down every day – on your phone or on paper and find five ways to practice it throughout your day.
MY DO-WORD OF THE DAY

Galatians 5: 22-23
“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...”

Journaling is actually a pretty cool way to track your progress!
Use these simple pointers, on your phone Notes or in a special book, and SEE WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU!
What made me smile today?
What made me stop and stare?
How did I see God’s blessings today?
Where could I have done better?
What am I proud of accomplishing today?

The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

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*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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Read Your Bible



2021
January

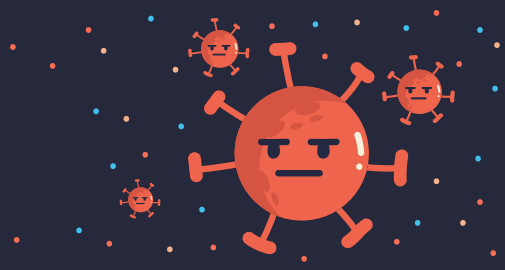
“O Sing To The Lord A New Song”

SUNDAY		<i>John</i> 1:1-18	<i>Mark</i> 1:4-11	<i>John</i> 1:43-51	<i>Mark</i> 1:14-20
MONDAY		<i>Hebrews</i> 11:23-31	<i>Isaiah</i> 40:1-24	<i>Ephesians</i> 4:1-16	<i>Galatians</i> 1:1-17
TUESDAY		<i>Hebrews</i> 11:32-12:2	<i>Isaiah</i> 40:25-31	<i>Ephesians</i> 4:17-32	<i>Galatians</i> 1:18-2:10
WEDNESDAY		<i>Revelation</i> 21:22-27	<i>Isaiah</i> 41:1-16	<i>Ephesians</i> 5:1-14	<i>Galatians</i> 2:11-21
THURSDAY		<i>Revelation</i> 2:1-7	<i>Isaiah</i> 41:17-29	<i>Ephesians</i> 5:15-33	<i>Galatians</i> 3:1-14
FRIDAY	<i>Psalms</i> 98	<i>Revelation</i> 2:8-17	<i>Isaiah</i> 42:1-17	<i>Ephesians</i> 6:1-9	<i>Galatians</i> 3:15-22
SATURDAY	<i>Hebrews</i> 11:1-12	<i>Revelation</i> 2:18-29	<i>Isaiah</i> (42:18-25) 43:1-13	<i>Ephesians</i> 6:10-24	<i>Galatians</i> 3:23-29

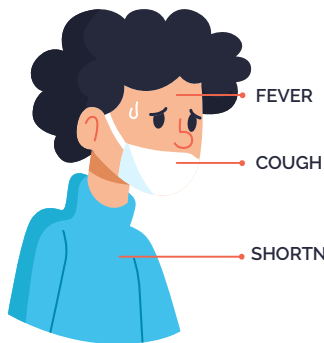
nCoVid-19

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

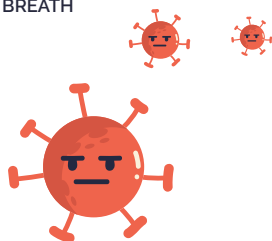


OTHER

- 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