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# MODERATOR RE-ELECTED THE RT. REV. JOY E. ABDUL-MOHAN 1P.4

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# JESUS CHIST

y the time this issue of the Trinidad Presbyterian reaches you, the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) would have been well on its way to completing the agenda

# Moderator

for yet another term. All this in the midst of a spike in COVID-19 cases, which sadly, our churches have been directly affected by.

Each Synodical year, we give an account of our stewardship and put on record the various events and activities that shape the Vision and Mission mandated to each Court, Standing Board and Committee of the PCTT. However, it is intriguing that these reports will be read many years from now by researchers who may want to find out how we lived out the Gospel in the context of our times. Indeed, 2020 had not only been unusual and unprecedented – it had been historic.

After more than a year we are still grappling with COVID-19. I remind you of what I said in the Moderator's 2020 Report - that as a people of faith, the PCTT discovered its ingenuity out of necessity in the face of a Global Pandemic. All Church Workers; Officers of Synod and Synod Staff; Courts, Standing Boards and Committees, Sessions, Local Boards, all congregations; and indeed, every member of the PCTT must be commended for the compassion, care, concern, and resilience demonstrated in treating with the 'new reality' and 'new normal' into which we were unceremoniously thrust.

Let me take this opportunity to humbly express my gratitude to the Synod, colleagues in Ministry, all Church Workers and the general laity of our beloved Presbyterian Church for their unanimous and overwhelming support in electing me to serve another two-year term as Moderator of the Synod. Indeed, it has been a blessing to journey with you for the past two years. There were challenging moments due to the Global Pandemic as well as some exhilarating moments and everything else in between. I am humbled for the opportunity to serve for another two years and to be part of such a rich and noble heritage.

As I reminded the Synod members in the inaugural worship, year after year men and women hear the Lord's call and those who heed that call dedicate themselves to love and serve Jesus Christ with enthusiasm. This calls for re-dedication from those of us who have been long-standing members of the PCTT, as well as those serving in various orders of the Ministry and as members of the Synod. This is a time of recommitment as stewards of God's kingdom.

It is commendable when we do things like visiting the sick and needy, and raising funds for a "noble cause". However, we must be careful not to love what we do in serving Jesus more than Jesus himself or what he requires of us. We should always guard against loving our plans, projects, rituals, ourselves, or anyone else more than Jesus. Jesus should be at



THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

the center of our lives not on the periphery. Serving the Lord needs to be for his purposes; according to his will, his way and for the benefit of all.

How do we reach this level? Through consensus, togetherness, searching God's will together with prayer, and deliberating with one mind and heart. When our agenda includes all, and benefits all, then the cooperation and the commitment of all will be assured and God's blessings on all we do and plan will follow.

It is my prayer that we will continue to work in Partnership Ministry to achieve the goals set before us, and to fulfil the mission of Christ as we aim to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ a living reality. May we continue to grow spiritually in Christ and encourage each other to live faithfully in Him, as we build sustainable relationships in community. May God bless us all!

# NO Victors in Fanning HATE

īthin recent weeks hate blogs bordering on racism in its rawest incarnation have found its way on the social and mainstream media - much to the dismay of all right-thinking citizens of our twin-island Republic. While we understand that this base level of human character in no way defines who we are in Trinidad and Tobago, it is a matter of concern because it has no place in a multiethnic, multi-religious, literate society as ours. Indeed, it is a development that deserves the widest condemnation by all who cherish brotherly peace, love for humanity and goodwill inherent in the Easter message.

What is equally reprehensible is the tendency for those spewing hate to base that hatred on a false premise. When we reach the stage where we cannot empathise with a fallen brother or sister, then something is desperately wrong with us. We may disagree with others, but this does not mean that we must be disagreeable. It is always possible for us to influence others to accept one another's

point of view through dialogue and a civil approach to solving disagreements. It benefits no one to have a shouting match to make a point. It is said that only those who argue issues without substance resort to violent, personal attacks.

Those who are inclined to fan hate and animosity to advance political, social or even economic agendas do not understand the dangerous powder-keg such indulgence can generate.

If the atrocities of slavery 400 years ago or indentureship 176 years ago are too far behind us to remember, then the April 1994 massacre of over 800,000 citizens of Rwanda in Africa should remind us of what reckless hate-filled statements can do in a plural society.

It is regrettable that in Trinidad and Tobago today, there are several TV and radio hosts who do nothing to put a halt to hate comments from callers. Freedom of expression is not a licence for incitement. We are only to remind ourselves of what took place in Rwanda 27 years ago when a radio host allowed hate

comments to be broadcast, resulting in a tribal civil war with murderous consequences. There are six sites in Rwanda today that display the skulls of those killed in this senseless civil war – testimony that there are no victors in stirring up hatred. We need to remind ourselves that ethnic hatred can lead to discrimination, which leads to alienation that eventually fragments a society. We have the power to stop that slide.

Our Constitution protects our rights. Our conscience imposes responsibility. We are free to criticise those who govern us and those whom we elect to conduct our business - whether in government, opposition, in church or civil society. We must do so, however, with dignity and respect. Sadly, we lack the appetite for tolerance. All is not lost. As a Church we follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, and firmly believe in the New Commandment that we must love one another. We commend this Commandment to all..



### PCTT SYNOD MODERATOR RE-ELECTED

**HARRY PARTAP** 

he Right Reverend Joy
Evelyn Abdul-Mohan was
re-elected unopposed
for a second term as
Moderator of the Synod of the
Presbyterian Church of Trinidad
and Tobago (PCTT), during the 61st
Annual General meeting of the
Church.

The Synod AGM was held from
Thursday 22 April 2021 to Saturday
24 April 2021 and the meeting
was held in a blend of virtual
and in-person due to the current
restrictions imposed by Government
to combat the deadly Covid-19
virus. The election of a Moderator
was on the agenda for the opening
day and Members of the Synod
were unanimous in their support of
Reverend Abdul-Mohan.

PCTT General Secretary Terrence
Warde pointed to Reverend AbdulMohan's astute leadership of the
Church during the continuing
pandemic as the main reason for
her re-election as Moderator for a
second term. He said the Church
is still experiencing a period of

uncertainty with the pandemic and that unprecedented times call for leadership that is visionary and can navigate the unpredictable.

According to General Secretary Warde, "Reverend Abdul-Mohan's style of management of the Church has always been one of consensus, humility and servant-leadership, involving the Clergy, the Synod and the members of the Church in participatory and meaningful decision-making".

Reverend Abdul-Mohan, a former Independent Senator of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, is well-known for her service to community, and continues to be an activist for change for various social issues, including gender-based violence. She is a former principal of the St Andrew's Theological College (SATC) and was the first local female graduate in the college's ministerial programme.

The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago congratulates Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan on her re-election as Moderator for the next two years. She has served the PCTT as an Ordained Minister for the past 32 years. Reverend Abdul-Mohan obtained the Licentiate in Theology (L.Th) in 1987 from SATC and was ordained in 1989. She also obtained a Master of Arts (MA) degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in the USA in 1993.

During her first term, Reverend Abdul-Mohan was instrumental in launching the *Church Without Walls* online platform to continue the Church's outreach and connectivity to members during the lockdown last year. She was at the forefront of projects, which provided food support to families and online devices to needy students. Reverend Abdul-Mohan also supported outreach to the migrant population.

The Church welcomes her appointment and pray for God's blessings on the re-elected Moderator as she continues the work of the Lord.



he Divine is one and Triune: three-in-one, one-in-three. The unity of God is fulfilled in the diverse ways in which the divine self is revealed to us. The Spirit is divine, as are the Father and the Son and we are blessed in the name of the Trinity (Mt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-6).

In the Old Testament, the Spirit is at work in several ways, for instance:

- 1. Creating (Gen. 1.2; Ps. 33:6)
- 2. Revealing (Isa. 61:1-6; Mic. 3:8)
- Enabling for service (Ex. 31:2-6;
   Judg. 6:34; 15:14-15; Isa. 12)
- 4. Inward renewal (Ps. 51:10-12; Ezek. 36: 25-27).

Christ explains that the disciples would receive another "Paraclete" (Jn. 14:16), sometimes translated "Counsellor" or "Advocate" and meaning one who gives support – a helper, adviser, encourager and ally).

At Pentecost we celebrate that the Spirit comes to continue in us the teaching and testifying ministry of Christ.

Pentecost opens a new dimension of our journey, enhances our ministry and the experience of living for the God who loves us and equips us (1 Cor. 12: 4-11).

What does the Spirit do for us? Whatever the Spirit wills to do in and through us. The Spirit is Sovereign and free and cannot be controlled by us (Jn. 3:8) but chooses to channel in and through us.

#### The Spirit:

- Speaks (Acts 1:16; 8:29; 13:2; 28:25)
- 2. Teaches (Jn. 14:26)
- 3. Witnesses (Jn. 15.26)
- 4. Searches (1 Cor 2:11)
- 5. Determines (1 Cor. 12:11)
- 6. Intercedes (Rom. 8:26-27)
- 7. Enlightens (Eph. 1:17-18)
- 8. Regenerates us (Jn. 3:5-8)
- Leads us into holiness (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:16-18)
- Transforms us (2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5: 22-23).

Even in the midst of the rigours and terrors of the pandemic, the Lord continues to be a rushing wind, breathing new life into the Church by reminding us that we are the Church wherever we are. Fire continues to come down, separate itself and anoint us to show us that we are Spirit-filled with our individual fires readying us for service.

Pentecost transforms a ruin into a rocket: We have ignition. We have lift-off. We have the Spirit.

We can tell if we have the Spirit by our lives – rooted in God and blossoming in Christ, bearing the fruit of the Spirit: the nine features outlined in Gal. 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

All capabilities for life, work and service flow from our covenant relationship with the Lord, characterized by conversion and rebirth, which unites us vitally and eternally to the Risen Christ to the glory of the Father through the power and mystery of the Holy Spirit.

# are boys more troublesome? NOTREALLY!



COUNSELLING COLUMN WITH BERNADETTE GYAN-MANICKCHAND



at the differences in nurturing or socialization of our males. Parents, guardians and even some teachers believe to some extent in gender stereotyping. Some adoption agencies have proof that boys are harder to adopt due to them being more "troublesome". But are they really? Yes, they take more risks, they climb, play boisterous games, and prefer the outdoors because of their investigate nature.



How can we begin changing inappropriate behaviours in our boys? – Part II

This aspect of boys' nature should be considered when planning for their training and development.

Any matured mother who has nurtured boys only would tell of the tender and caring side of the male of the species. Many mothers or mother-figures refuse to believe in male stereotyping and simply, nurture a precious child. The result is a respectable gentleman and a model citizen of society.

Why, then, are boys blamed mostly for knife crimes, bullying and drug addiction? According to surveys conducted at many schools today, males outnumber females in acts of delinquency. Just peruse the daily news – horrible stories of genderbased violence! Where does it start? When will it end?

Present-day data on differences in parenting styles reveal that very young and "immature" mothers of younger males feel less effective in training their sons when the father is absent. Fathers on the other hand are less likely to show warmth and protection to their young sons as

protection to their young sons as compared to their young daughters. Boys begin to develop aggression at an early age once they are slighted. Parents can consider the following where they see inappropriate behaviour especially in their young males::

- Borrow tactics from negotiation, try to have a win-win solution each gets something positive in return.
- Talk above their age or maturity level, invite your son's perspective on morality and ethical issues.
- Focus more on relating than teaching, when we relate to our sons we enter their world.
- Be intentional with vocal tone and language, be focused, steady, and direct.
- Outward behaviours are only the tip of the iceberg, as parents we need to go under the water line. Build open relationships with our sons.



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

he month of May is often considered Mother's month with Mother's Day falling on the second Sunday. The question is how is Mother's Day commemorated?

Is it the way that peace activist Anna Jarvis intended it in 1907 when she held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia? Or as it was previously intended by another peace activist Julia Ward Howe who had been urging for the creation of a Mother's Day dedicated to peace when she made her Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870?

In today's family, Mother's Day is in crisis. Who cares? Once any gift, tribute, display or farce is made tmade to mother... We can be accused of being patronising to our mothers, merely to avoid being described as forgetful or ungrateful.

Commercialisation has misinterpreted and exploited the intent of genuine caring. Is this how we honour our mothers? Are gifts and gift ideas, tokens, events, and activities based on consumerism more important than her human needs and realities of life? We must re-assess how we seek to honour our mothers. Perhaps we should consider giving more of ourselves and our time to ensure that our mothers are enjoying some

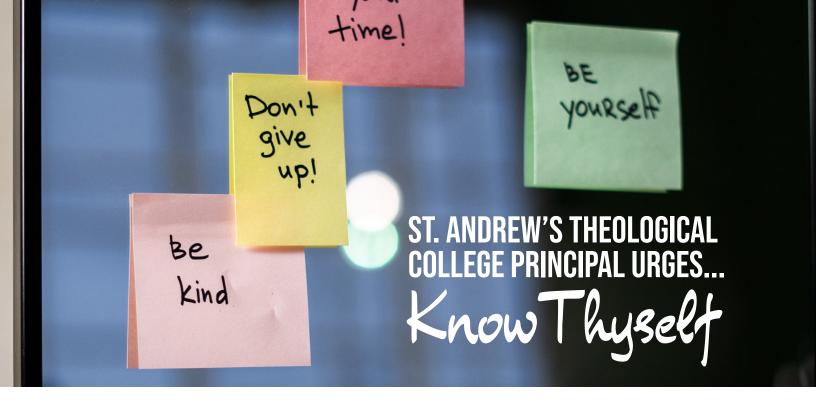
measure of happiness, peace and prosperity.

All these add to the crisis facing our mothers today, and by extension the crisis within the family. We need to address these with urgency.

Remember, the family is not just a group or gathering without a common purpose. Never let it be said that the family cannot adjust as changes occur.

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





t. Andrew's Theological College Principal Reverend Adrian Sieunarine said the commandment to love your neighbour as yourself implies that we must first know ourselves. Reverend Sieunarine spoke at the Theological Education Sunday service at the St James Presbyterian Church in Tableland on Sunday 21 March 2021.

Local Board secretary Nazra Partap welcomed Reverend Sieunarine, reminding him that his father, the late Reverend Everson T. Sieunarine, had dedicated the church building on 22 April 1988, as the then

Moderator of Synod. She stated that church community would be celebrating 100 years on this present site next year.

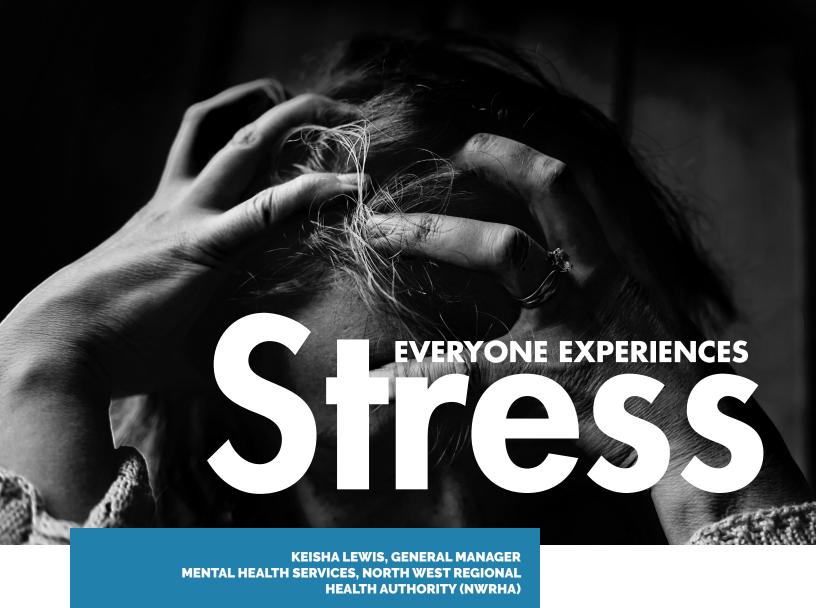
In his homily, Reverend Sieunarine asked, "How can we love others as ourselves if we do not know ourselves?" He said that knowing oneself is critical in fostering community relationships. He urged the congregation to take time out to create a faithful life by studying God's Word, saying, "The day will come when people will know the Lord." He noted that "God calls us directly to fulfil a faithful life".

In knowing ourselves we discover that we make mistakes. He said we must learn from our mistakes and use that experience to "build others up". Referring to the global Covid-19 pandemic, Reverend Sieunarine said, "We are privileged in Trinidad and Tobago to be able to gather in our churches. It is not so in other countries. We can meet here and communicate with one another while observing the health regulations." He urged the congregation to remember that even though others may meet virtually, "they are still members of one community in the body of Christ".



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Roy Umraw



tress means being troubled or threatened by life. When you notice your mental health is declining do one small thing that brings you peace. Take a shower, text a friend, step outside. One little step is all you need to remind yourself that this is not permanent.

Stress can be caused by:

- Someone doing something bad to you
- No school
- Violence
- Illness
- Losing your home
- Financial worries

- Losing job
- Arguments
- · Uncertainty about the future

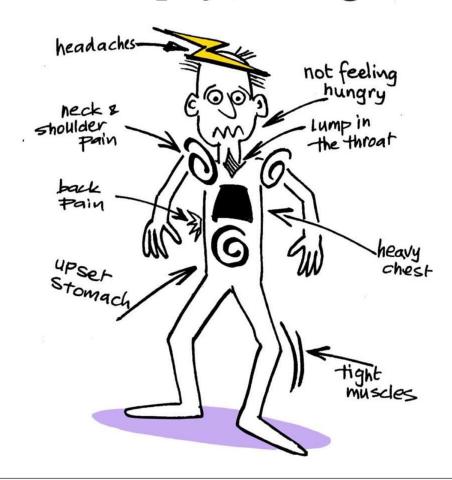
Everyone experiences stress at times. A little bit of stress is not a problem. However, high stress affects the body in different ways.

Some signs of stress can be recognised by:

- Cannot focus
- Gets angry easily
- Cannot sit still
- Have difficulty sleeping
- Feeling sad or guilty
- Worry
- Cry
- Feeling tired



### These are the physical signs of stress



#### https://bit.ly/WHOStressManagement

- Changes in appetite
- Thinking about bad things from the past or bad things that may happen in the future

#### WHAT CAN WE DO?

Tips for a good mental health:

- · Being active
- A healthy diet
- Seeking professional help
- Talking about your feelings with someone you trust
- Getting proper rest 8 hours of sleep everyday
- · Enjoying relaxing activities,

like walks with your family and friends

### IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAY NEED HELP, CONTACT US

Lifeline Trinidad and Tobago: Tel.: 645-2800; E-mail: life@lifelinett. com This number also serves as the National Student Hotline for the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Gender Affairs.

Suicidal persons can call the hotlines at either 231-2824 on Monday to Friday between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm or 220-3636 from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am.

Children's Authority: 800-2014 or 996 a 24 hr hotline for reports of child abuse.

Families in Action: 628-6333, which also manages the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-7283 (SAVE).

Rape Crisis Society of T&T: North Office: 627-7273 and South Office 657-5355.

# The PCTT Guide to Church Membership

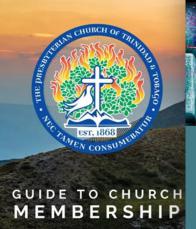
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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO





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**Reverend Sanya Beharry (PCTT)** 

Members of the World Council of Churches (WCC): Just Community of Women and Men





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Cost: 1,500 Delivery: Online

#### Constitution of the PCTT

Lecturer: Rev. Keron Khellawan

Date: Jun 1st - Aug 17th (12 weeks)

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm

Cost: \$1,500 Delivery: Online

#### Battles of the Bible: Blessings for our Battles Today

Lecturer: Rev. Damien Sieunarine Date: May 6th - Jun 24th (6 weeks)

Day: Thursdays

Time: 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Cost: \$500 Delivery: Online

#### Women in the Bible

Lecturer: Rev. Sanya Beharry Date: Jun 4th - Jun 25th (4 weeks)

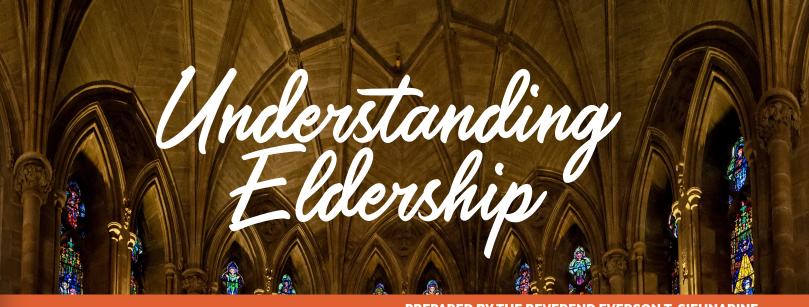
Day: Fridays

Time: 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm

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PREPARED BY THE REVEREND EVERSON T. SIEUNARINE

Te publish below an article written by the late Reverend Everson Sieunarine several years before he passed away in 2017. Reverend Sieunarine was a past Moderator of Synod and in his quiet, unassuming manner, helped many to understand the governance structure of our church. This article on the Eldership is relevant as we begin another Synodical term.

The reproduced article:

#### AS AN ELDER

- I have been nominated and approved not only to serve on the Local Board, but on the Session – the main administrative court of the Region. This also means I am eligible for election to the two higher courts of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, which are the Presbytery and Synod.
- I must regard my vows as a serious obligation to be a good example to others, in faithful church attendance, in offering my service to the Church, in my conduct and attitude, and in my relationships with others.
- I must consider the unity, growth, and well-being of the Church above self-interest and self-promotion.

- 4. I must guide, encourage, and inspire members of the congregation – especially the children and young people – in their Christian journey. I should suggest and advise where I believe can improve situations.
  - I must maintain a regular personal habit of prayer, Bible reading and keeping myself equipped for my responsibilities.
- 6. I must remember to regard the spiritual gifts of others as essential for the advancement of Christian witness in the world, and that Jesus Christ alone is the King, Head, Foundation of the Church.
- 7. I am called to assist in the administration of the Sacraments of the Church, which are Baptism and Holy Communion. I may also be

- asked to share in special occasions, like Confirmation and Admission of New Members, Marriages, and Funerals.
- 8. I must be willing to attend and take part in any Seminar, Study, Retreat, or Conference planned for the benefit of the Church, elders, and members.
- g. I must remember that if at any time I am unable, unwilling or feel unprepared to continue my duties as an elder, I should notify the Minister and Local Board so that the necessary action can be taken.

Elder: Greek word in New Testament
- Presbyteros transliterated in the
English as "presbyter"



# PAYING TRIBUTE TO MISS JUDY

#### **CYNTHIA GOBIN**

he congregation
of the Borde Narve
Presbyterian Church in
the Barrackpore Pastoral
Region paid tribute to Elder Judith
Doon, who stepped down from
eldership after serving the Church
for the past eleven years.

At a service held on 28 March 2021, guest preacher Reverend Brenda Bullock commended Elder Doon for her service to Jesus Christ and the Church. Doon, fondly called "Miss Judy", retired due to ill health. Although she has served for eleven years, she does not meet

the required number of years to be elevated as an honorary elder. However, the special service recognized her servant leadership both in the church and community.

The worship was led by Presiding Elder William Gokool assisted by Reverend Manan Deo who thanked Miss Judy for her leadership and prayed for her protection and good health.

In her homily based on Luke 19:28-40, Reverend Bullock reminded the congregation of the qualities of whom she described as "this remarkable woman". Reverend Bullock recalled her first meeting with Miss Judy when she was assigned to the Barrackpore Pastoral Region several years ago.

Local Board Chairperson
Cynthia Gobin, Clerk of Session
Karamchand Mitchell and
Reverend Deo brought greetings
on the occasion. Members of
the congregation, community
and relatives presented tributes
and tokens to Miss Judy. The
Barrackpore Union Presbyterian
Church choir under the leadership
of Pandora Mitchell led in the
singing.





Newly installed Honorary Elder Violet Kalloo (in white dress) and Honorary Elder Patricia Manickchand (in green dress)

# TWO WOMEN ELEVATED TO HONORARY ELDERSHIP

#### **EMMANUEL RAMKARAN, PRESIDING ELDER**

wo women were elevated to Honorary Eldership during a special service at the Waterloo Presbyterian Church on Palm Sunday 28 March 2021. Patricia Manickchand and Violet Kalloo were both elevated, in tribute to the significant contributions they have made in the field of Christian service in this part of our Lord's Kingdom here on earth.

Taking part in the service were
Reverend Winston Ramkissoon,
Minister of the Chase Village
Pastoral Region, Presiding Elder
Emmanuel Ramkaran, Reverend
Arthur Yorke, Reverend Ria
Thompson-Jimdar and Reverend Dr
Daniel Teelucksingh, who delivered
the evening's message.

In his homily, Reverend Teelucksingh referred to Mary – sister of Lazarus and Martha – who anointed the feet of Jesus with an expensive and fragrant ointment. He pointed out that Jesus was pleased with this act of devotion and that while some were pouring scorn and ridicule on her for her action, Jesus made it clear that she was preparing His body for burial.

"Jesus", he said, "approved what was done by her and he approves the contributions made by Ms Manickchand and Ms Kalloo over the years." He asked the question, "How many of us really do the things that are pleasing to our Lord?"

Presiding Elder Ramkaran was the leader of worship while Reverend Yorke offered the pastoral prayer and both Reverend Ramkissoon and Reverend Ria Thompson-Jimdar performed the Act of Elevation. The newly installed honorary elders made brief responses after which they were presented with tokens to mark the special occasion.

Clerk of Session Gary Samai brought greetings, while Presiding Elder Ramkaran extended congratulations on behalf of the Northern Presbytery. At the end of the service the church's newly installed multimedia system was consecrated by Reverend Ramkissoon. The equipment was donated for use in the Lord's service by Mr and Ms Lennox Rattansingh who have always been generous benefactors to the Waterloo congregation. Ms Rattansingh was presented with a floral arrangement by Glenda Panchoo, chairperson of the Local Board.

### Who Is A Woman?

In Celebration of International Women's Day

#### **FLORABELLE LUTCHMAN**

Who really is a woman,

Made from the rib of man,

Created by Almighty God in His image-male and female,

To magnify His glory?

A woman is the companion of man.

Look around and you will see.

She never from her duties ran.

She is strong, responsible, caring and loving.

She is woman, and treated right she will go miles,
Doing everything -so talented and adding a nice, wide smile.
She is a multi-tasker,
Cleaning, cooking, washing, ironing, even working at a job.

She is a daughter, a wife, companion and Mom.

She raises a family and cares deeply for her children.

She takes them to school, to lessons, to extra-curricular activities,

Without uttering a single word of complaint.

A woman in the house makes it a home.

The home is lonely and bleak without her courage, love and determination.

Darkness surely fills that home

That has no woman-mother, or wife.

So, let us empower all women and celebrate them.

Stay away from abusive, fearful relationships.

Be kind, loving and generous, providing economic stability and security.

Help them to achieve their potential and their happiness will ensure yours.





## New Elder Inducted at Curepe

#### LYNETTE KOKARAM AND JOY SEEPERSAD

ttorney Richard Anish
Bahadoorsingh was
inducted as an Elder of
the Curepe Presbyterian
Church by Reverend Annabell LallaRamkelawan during the worship
service on Sunday 07 March 2021.

Anish vowed to serve God through the Church and community in this very important role of leadership in the Presbyterian Church. The congregation prayed together with his family that he would discharge his duties of Eldership in keeping with the mission of the Church. He was welcomed to the Eldership by all the Elders and is the youngest Elder to serve the Curepe

Presbyterian Church congregation to date.

Anish has always been actively involved in church activities - from Sunday School to Youth Group to the Local Board. He served as the Youth Group Co-ordinator for many years and was instrumental in initiating and leading in many projects, including the landscaping of the north eastern side of the church, by having the area enhanced with tile pavers. Anish was also instrumental in introducing the Crèche service and the blessing of the Crèche. He also instituted the Multi-Media system which has become an integral part of the

worship services. Most of these projects were completed with funds which he sourced, as well as through volunteers.

Anish has demonstrated his ability to lead and mobilise our youths to implement tangible and beneficial improvements to the life of our church. He also serves as co-ordinator of the Benevolent Committee, assisting the less fortunate. With youth on his side and a passion for Jesus Christ, he hopes to continue to work with the congregation and the Local Board in the interest of the church.



### HILLVIEW DEDICATES NEW BUILDINGS



wo new buildings at
Hillview College in
Tunapuna were dedicated
by the Northern
Presbytery of the Presbyterian
Church of Trinidad and Tobago
(PCTT), during a service at the
College on 10 March 2021.

The buildings were named the Leslie C. Mahase Buildings, in honour of retiring principal Leslie Cyril Mahase.

College chaplain Reverend Anthony Rampersad delivered the homily during the worship service, while Presbytery chairman Reverend Winston Ramkissoon blessed the keys for the buildings, received from Acting Vice Principal Sharon Ramdeen. The keys were then handed to retiring principal Mahase, who then passed it on to the acting principal Derek Bissessar.

In delivering the feature address, Mahase praised God for what he described as "an unforgettable moment in my life". Mahase echoed the College's motto, Humani Nihil Alienum as he chronicled the "ups and downs" in completing the project. He said the new buildings were necessary to meet the demands of an "increase in the overall student population since September 2003. He said makeshift classrooms were established in the Main Hall, on the pavilion, on the promenade at the front of the school, as well as in the open-air.

Mahase recalled, "To worsen the situation, the small single story building to the north of the main hall, constructed in the '60s, was deemed unsafe for occupation by the Ministry of Education. It had to be demolished. Its removal created a very large open space which was a prime spot for a new building." He noted that in 2012 the PSSBOE was informed and written documentation sent to the EFCL. He said that "within a short space of time, the final plans for the two

buildings received all the necessary protocols."

Mahase said when Hillview College celebrated its Diamond Anniversary in 2015, former Education Minister Dr Tim Gopeesingh turned the sod to start construction scheduled to begin in that year. The project was completed and the keys were handed over by the Ministry of Education to the then acting vice principal Derek Bissessar on 12 August 2020.

Mahase also paid tribute to former Education Minister Anthony Garcia and current Minister Dr Nyan Gadsby-Dolly. for supporting the completion of this project. A plaque was unveiled honouring the former Principal Leslie C. Mahase. At the ceremony were members of the Northern Presbytery, the PSSBOE, the Administrative Committee, the PTA, the Hillview Old Boys Association, some teachers, and students.







## Navet Presbyterian Church Celebrates 91 Years

#### **ALISA S BOOCHOON**

he Navet Presbyterian
Church of the Nariva /
Mayaro Pastoral Region
celebrated its 91st
Anniversary on Wednesday March
24 2021, during an annual Lenten
service.

The service was conducted by Elder Viola Seepersad. Her message about spiritual renewal was based on Galatians 5:22-23. She said the Holy Spirit produces the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Seepersad reminded church members to incorporate their time, talents, and treasures in all their plans to do the work of the Lord. She also urged them to renew and restore their

faith in God, as "we rally through this Pandemic."

During the service a brief history of the church was read, noting that both the church and the Navet Presbyterian School were established on March 24 1930 by Reverend George Murray. According to the historical record, the last Canadian Missionary Reverend Charles Kitney and his family spent their final days of Ministry in Trinidad in the Nariva / Mayaro Pastoral Region.

Over the last ninety-one years, many Ministers, Lay Pastors and Presiding Elders have served in the Region. The present Minister is Reverend Gloria Hay, and the Intern Minister is Robert Dinnoo.



# LIFE & DEATH STRUGGLE IN THE GARDEN

**AARON JAMURATH, CUREPE** 

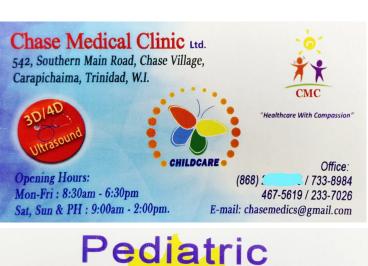
he garden has always been the background against which there have been significant life and death struggles. The Bible opens with a garden where Eve made a decision that bore the fruit of death. It closes with a garden – the New Jerusalem – in which there is no curse or darkness, but only faceto-face fellowship with the Creator. The One we talk about, sing about, and preach about.

The first is the Paradise that was lost. The last is Paradise regained. Between the two, there is a third

- the Garden of Gethsemane. It is through the unspeakable bitterness and desolation of Gethsemane that we find again the glorious Garden, through which flows the river of the water of life. In this Garden the Saviour agonised over a decision that would mean Eternal Life for all who believe – His Grace; His Goodwill; His Love; His Gethsemane – have made it possible for us to dwell in the Garden of God Forever.

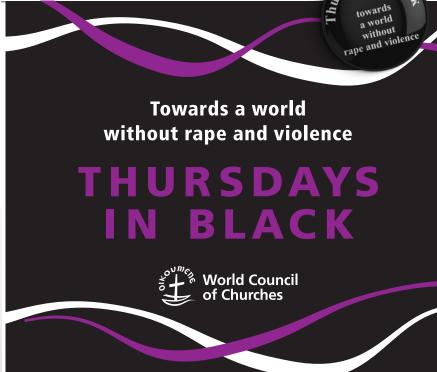
Do we forget Gethsemane? Yes we do, and in the forgetfulness we lose the sacred awe of our redemption. We miss the real glory of Paradise Regained. A real battle was fought and won in the agony of Gethsemane. If anyone had the right to sidestep the undeserved suffering, Jesus had that right. Yet, He prayed for God's will to be done. He died an undeserved death for undeserving men and women. No one can fully comprehend such love, but any grateful heart can respond in praise and adoration.

Let us pray that God will help us keep Jesus' sacrificial Spirit always before us so that we may strive to manifest that kind of love to others.



467 5619

HOTLINE (24)









## Building on the Strong Foundation of the Penal PCW





espite borders being closed, the Penal Presbyterian church had the esteemed pleasure of visiting Vanuatu, as the Penal Presbyterian Church Women (PCW) held its annual World Day of Prayer service.

Gathered in their large numbers were the congregational members, who were treated with music, dance, the Word and a display of the food and livelihood of the Vanuatu people. Ground provisions, shells, flowers, sandal wood oil, and plants similar to those used in Vanuatu adorned the chancel. The PCW President, Mrs. Patricia Beepat, ensured that the women were exquisitely fashioned with lei and flowers matching the appearance of the Vanuatu women.

The congregation was also exposed to situations of hardship and malaise

that some of these women face, as prayers for women worldwide were offered.

Guest speaker Mr. Don La Foucade, former Manager of the Social Investment of Corporate Communications T & T, and the coordinator of the RBTT Young Leaders programme - one of the Caribbean's most highly successful youth initiatives - lead the congregation through a most welcoming feature address. Through his words of wisdom, the congregation was encouraged to respect and love women. He also urged the men and the youths gathered to support women and their various callings in life, as they are the "carpenters of the moral home."

The spirit of Women's Day will continue this month, as May is the month of Mothers.







# VACANCY

# Communications Manager (Full-Time) Contract Position

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Be a Confirmed member of the PCTT
- A Degree in Communication, Social Sciences or related
- At least 5 years Experience in the field
- Understanding of the function and polices of the PCTT



Please send applications with resumes to
The General Secretary of the Synod
The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad & Tobago
PO Box, 187 Paradise Hill, San Fernando



# TEACHER VOLLEGE

#### **TEACHER III (SECONDARY) ENGLISH**

All applicants must have been successfully interviewed by the Teaching Service Commission.

Applications are to be accompanied by resumé and supporting documents.

Kindly address applications to:
The Principal
Hillview College
1-5 College Road
El Dorado, Tunapuna 330236

and
The General Secretary
Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education
Rushworth Street Extension
Paradise Hill, San Fernando

Please include a current church update (Forms available at pssboe.com)

Deadline: May 21st, 2021



# We Served with Gladness

**OUTGOING PSSBOE CHAIRMAN, CHRISTIAN DOOKHOO** 







- 1. PSSBOE chairman Christian Dookhoo
- PSSBOE chairman Christian Dookhoo (right) presents a token of appreciation to retired Naparima College principal Dr Michael Dowlath.
- 3. PSSBOE chairman Christian Dookhoo (right) presents a token of appreciation to retired Naparima Girls' High School principal Carolyn Bally-Gosine.
- 4. St Augustine Girls' High School honours its 2020 National Scholarship winners at a ceremony held recently at the school.



uring the past two years, the Executive, and members of the Presbyterian Secondary Schools Board of Education (PSSBOE) heeded the advice in Psalm 100 verse 2, to "serve the Lord with gladness". We have served with gladness and, as we end of our term of office, we do so with gratitude and pride.

Outgoing Executive Members are: Chairman – Christian Dookhoo; Vice Chair – Hazel Kramer; Secretary -Joel Bajnath; Recording Secretary - Nadia Mitchell; and Treasurer – Mikhail Naipaul.

We publicly extend our heartfelt congratulations to the 2020 Graduates of our Secondary Schools, especially our National Scholarship winners. Despite the pandemic, the statistics were very positive. The academic performance of our students has even improved. This year has been an especially significant one, as thirty-nine (39) percent of the National Scholarships awarded this year, were taken by graduates of our Secondary schools.s of our Secondary schools.

Also significant has been the award of President's Gold Medals to two of our students for most outstanding performances at the 2020 CAPE Examinations. President's Medals were awarded to Amrit Galbaran of Hillview College and Anjali Maharaj of Naparima Girls' High School. The PSSBOE wishes to specially congratulate these two students, as well as our other successful students.

We also congratulate the caring

Administrative and Teaching Staff, together with other Stakeholders at our respective Secondary institutions, whose dedication to the delivery of holistic education has been reflected in the various academic and non-academic achievements earned by our schools.

It is no secret that the Coronavirus Pandemic brought with it numerous challenges. In spite of this, we adapted to this "new normal" of online learning. In recognising the challenges faced by our teaching staff and Administrations, the Board coordinated the "Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Conference". It was hosted by Naparima College on Friday January 29, 2021 and the focus was on the "Best Educational Practices in the New Normal Environment". We sought to provide staff support within this challenging situation.

At this conference, PSSBOE Chairman Christian Dookhoo welcomed all and shared the significance and objectives of the Conference. Education Minister Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly delivered the Feature Address. Teaching Service Commission Chairperson, Elizabeth Crouch and TTUTA President, Antonia De Freitas also addressed the Conference. Facilitators included the Director of Curriculum Division Anna Singh, Curriculum Officers, Retired School Supervisor 111 Clare Telelmague and Principals Ronald Mootoo and Vashti Tikah. The PSSBOE is grateful to all our Presenters who assisted in making the Conference a resounding success.

During the event, the PSSBOE

also honoured several Retirees, including outgoing Principals
Carolyn Bally-Gosine (NGHS) and
Dr Michael R. Dowlath (Naparima
College). Hillview College principal
Leslie Mahase, is on pre-retirement
leave and St Augustine Girls' High
School principal Linda Dharrie
will proceed on similar leave in
June 2021. The PSSBOE records its
gratitude for their sterling service
to our institutions and wishes them
God's blessings and a long and
happy retirement.

The exodus of four out of the 5 top administrators within a 12-month period, will certainly present a challenge to the new leadership at our Schools. However, it also presents opportunities for dynamism and post-modernism.

The PSSBOE also presented Awards via pre-recorded videoclips to Teachers and Ancillary Members who had retired over the past four years.

Finally, as our Board demits office, I extend sincere gratitude to Synod Moderator the Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, Synod General Secretary Terrence Warde, Principals, Staff, the PTAs, the Alumnis, the ADCOMS and the Executive and Members of the Secondary Schools' Board of Education for their support of the Board's activities over the last two years.

As we leave, we issue Martin Luther King's challenge to the incoming Board: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: what are you doing for others?" Good luck and God's blessings to all.



#### CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH

STUDENT DEACONESS AMBER SEESAHAI-PAYNE, SUSAMACHAR PASTORAL REGION

#### **BIBLE STORY**

Acts 2: 1- 4

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a noise came from heaven. It sounded like a strong wind blowing. This noise filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. The Holy Spirit was giving them the power to speak these languages."

#### **MESSAGE**

Do you love birthdays? We get to celebrate with our friends and family and we get lots of gifts as well.

Birthdays are really special because we celebrate the day God brought us into this world.

Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus and after the Jewish Passover. In our scripture reading, Jewish people from many different countries had come together to celebrate and feast together and bring their gifts to God. This time, though, there was an even bigger gift promised by God for the people - the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

On the Day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were together, and God's Spirit came on them as little pieces of fire and they all started speaking different languages and understanding each other, because they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

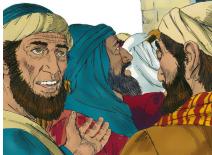
This miracle allowed the Good News of Jesus to spread quickly to all the surrounding nations of the people who had gathered there! Peter spoke to the crowd and told them this miracle was to accomplish what had been planned from long ago. He also told them to "Repent and be baptised!" and that "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved!" Over 3,000 people heard and believed this message – and that is when the Church was born!

We can celebrate Pentecost now as the birthday of the church with the ultimate gift being the Holy Spirit, which is given to all of God's children. This Spirit teaches us how to live, reminds us of Jesus' teachings, and gives us different gifts to go and share Jesus' message of love to the world.

To help us understand what the Holy Spirit does for all believers, let's look at our Memory Verse for today.









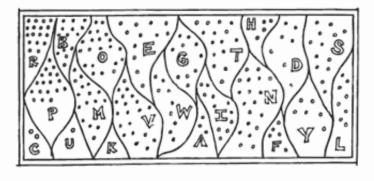


#### **MEMORY VERSE**

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." - John 14:26

#### What Happened at Pentecost?

Count the number of dots in each space. Then use the letters to decode the message below about what happened at Pentecost. Check your work with Acts 2:4.



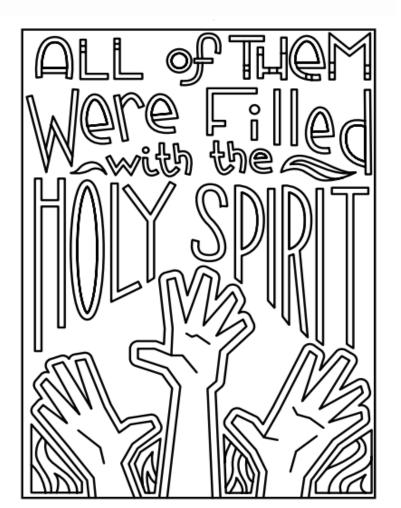
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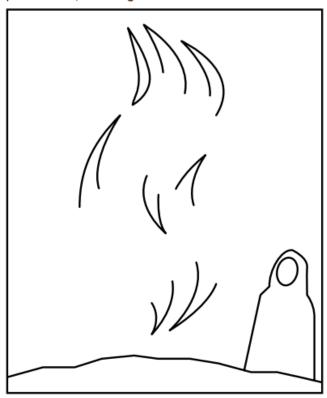
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#### FINISH THE DRAWING

Acts 2 describes the incredible coming of the Holy Spirit. There was a strong wind, little flames like tongues of fire, and the miracle of every person receiving God's Spirit. Finish the drawing of the flames and gathered people. Draw yourself in the picture too, and imagine what it felt like to be there!







ake a break from the social media and play a game via Zoom! Give your brain a break!

These will be even more fun to do as a Youth Group! Have fun!

#### **SILENT KARAOKE**

As the leader, you will start singing a song while on mute... Everyone then has to guess what you are singing in the chat window. The first person to answer will receive a point and has to now sing on mute. Play as many as you like. Whoever is singing, must be on mute. Make sure to pull up lyrics so you know them! Another round may include actions to the songs <3

This one gets us moving!

#### HOME SCAVENGER HUNT

As the leader, you will have a list of items students need to collect throughout their home. Name each item one at a time and give everyone 20 seconds. Each item is worth a different number of points. Have students tally their own points in the chat.

- Coffee mug- 5
- Blanket- 5
- A phone charger- 10
- Plant-10
- Physical Bible- 15
- · Hand sanitizer- 20
- Toilet Paper- 25
- A garden tool- 20
- A pet- 30
- A baby/younger sibling- 40
- A television- 50

#### WHERE AM I?

 Save 10 different landscape photos of well-known places around the world. Then, go into your Zoom Settings and add them into your virtual backgrounds. You can do this by clicking on your video dropdown menu on the bottom left of your screen. Click on "choose virtual background." When you get here, make sure to go to the bottom of the menu and check 'I have a green screen'. Once you do this, click the small "+" sign above the photos and you can add whatever you want.

 Once these are all loaded, all you have to do is switch the landscapes back and forth and let people guess where you are. First one to respond via the chat gets a point.

#### **BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CHALLENGE**

As a group, tell everyone to turn their mics on and call the names of the Books of the Bible in order together – but only one at a time! If two people speak at the same time, you must start over! Good luck!

Local Youth Leaders – make sure to send a little reward to the youths who won a game – snacks are always welcome I am sure!



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

_							
PASTORAL REGION	DATE	TIME					
SOUTH EASTERN PRESBYTERY							
Diamond	April 14th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
Barrackpore	April 17th 2021	04:00 p.m.					
Tableland	May 08th 2021	04:00 p.m.					
Nariva / Mayaro	May 12th 2021	06:00p.m.					
Princes Town	April 12th 2021	06:00p.m.					
Tabaquite	May 06th 2021	06:00p.m.					
Riversdale	April 26th 2021	06:00p.m.					
NORTHERN PRESBYTERY							
San Juan / Santa Cruz / Woodrook	April 27th 2021	06:00p.m.					
Arima	May 08th 2021	10:00 a.m.					
Sangre Chiquito	May 17th 2021	06:00p.m.					
Chaguanas	May 08th 2021	01:00 p.m.					
Aramalaya, Tobago	April 28th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
Chase Village	April 13th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
Guaico	May 11th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
Curepe / St. Joseph	May 10th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
SOUTH CENTRAL PRESBYTERY							
Point Fortin / Cedros	May 04th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
Siparia	April 15th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
Oropouche	April 29th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
La Romaine / Debe	May 13th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
Marabella / Bonne Aventure	May 18th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
Couva / Balmain	April 17th 2021	01:00 p.m.					
Claxton Bay	May 19th 2021	06:00 p.m.					
Susamachar	May 03rd 2021	06:00 p.m.					
Penal	April 17th 2021	10:00 a.m.					

#### REGIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP MEET-UPS WITH THE NATIONAL YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

Note that each meeting is open to Church Workers and Students of that PR, along with the RYC and LYCs. If the day and time listed is not appropriate, please contact the NYC at 320-2543 or nyc@pctt.org.tt with a preferred date and time. Also, you can say whether you prefer a Zoom or physical meeting. Take care!

### IN LOVING MEMORY

## Clyde Ainsworth Mohawed

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN** 

Always loved. Never forgotten.

SUNRISE: 30 04 1948 SUNSET: 29 03 2021

## Elsie Kauchan

#### **GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

Lovingly remembered by her
Children Horace Kanchan,
Elaine Pancham and 13 others,
In-Laws, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

She would be celebrating her 100th birthday in Heaven on May 16, 2021.

To hear your voice, to see you smile,
To sit and talk to you awhile,
To be together in the same old way,
Would be our dearest wish today.



SUNRISE: 16 05 1921 SUNSET: 26 04 2008

### IN LOVING MEMORY

## Jairam Sitahal Jagessar

#### **GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

Loving remembered by his Wife: Grace, Daughters: Ramona & Karen, Grandchildren: Jada & Conner, Sons-in-law: Michael & Joel; and In-Laws, family and friends.

Past Chairman & Elder of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in the Marabella/Bonne Aventure Pastoral Region. He also served on Synod, Synodical Council and various Boards and Committees of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago



SUNRISE: 15 01 1942 SUNSET: 29 12 2020



SUNRISE: 15 07 1937 SUNSET: 01 05 2019

# Franklin Partap

#### **GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 1:3

Lovingly remembered by Wife: Yolande, Children: Wendy, Jacqueline, John and Carolyn, grandchild, siblings, nieces and nephews, in-laws, other relatives, and employees.



Lot #19 Endevour Industrial Estate, Chaguanas, Trinidad W.I. TELEPHONE: 1 868 665 6955

143B, Maraj Avenue, Marabella, Trinidad W.I. TELEPHONE: 1 868 352 0625 Serving All Religious Denominations Caring in a Real and Practical Way Just being there for you in your time of NEED

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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 Editoral Committee may not agree with the views expressed by the writers.



#### Trinidad Presbyterian @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.

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

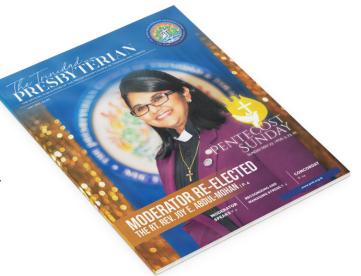
Te thank you! As we come to the end of our term, the Chairman and members of the Communications Committee would like to thanks all those who supported us in publishing the Trinidad Presbyterian both in print and on-line.

The Trinidad Presbyterian is the

oldest surviving non-secular publication in Trinidad and Tobago, celebrating 107 years. It is older than the Trinidad Guardian, which is 104 years. We thank our pioneers for their foresight and vision.

We thank especially our readers, the Synod Office Secretariat, the Pastoral Regions, Ministers, other Church Workers, our faithful advertisers, columnists, contributors, graphic artists, and printer.

We were blessed in this service to Jesus Christ and the Church. We wish the new Communications Committee appointed by the Synod the very best. To God be the Glory!



#### 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

# 58° FEVER COUGH

#### **OTHER**

- DIARRHEA
- VOMITTING

#### **ADVANCED CASES**

- PNEUMONIA
- RENAL FAILURE



#### **TRANSMISSION**

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

#### **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





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)

(SOURCE: MINISTRY OF HEALTH, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)



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



### 2021 S MCUJ

### "Your decrees are very sure..."

SUNDAY	30 05 2021 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	John 15:1-8	John 15:9-17	Luke 24:44-53	John 17:6-19
MONDAY	31 05 2021 Luke 17:1-10	Jeremiah 32:1-15	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	Hebrews 6:1-12	2 Corinthians 1:1-11
TUESDAY		Jeremiah 32:16-25	Deuteronomy 8:11-20	Hebrews 6:13-20	2 Corinthians 1:12-22
WEDNESDAY		Jeremiah 32:36-44	Deuteronomy 19:1-7	Hebrews 7:1-17	2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11
THURSDAY		Jeremiah 33:1-3	Ezekiel 1:1-14, 24-28(B)	Hebrews 7:18-28	2 Corinthians 3:1-18
FRIDAY		Deuteronomy 31:30-32:14	Ezekiel 1:28-3:3	Hebrews 8:1-13	2 Corinthians 4:1-12
SATURDAY	Psalm 149	Psalm 92	Psalm 23	Psalm 114	Psalm 56