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The Good Samaritan In Us

Moderator *speaks*

In addition to prayer and worship, the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) has taken several practical initiatives to demonstrate its care, concern, compassion, and the love of Christ as we struggle through this COVID-19 Pandemic. It is imperative that we join with the rest of the national community to do our part to end this pandemic because as COVID-19 cases rise and livelihoods lost, these numbers become names too familiar to us.

Some of you may have seen the PCTT Cares graphic ads being circulated. They promote the three W's (Wash your hands, Wear your mask, and Watch your distance); protecting our loved ones and

is an age-old question which comes from the story of the Good Samaritan that reminds us of our days at Sunday School. We are taught that the neighbour we are to love is anyone who has needs we can meet. It is that simple. However, we have come to understand now that Jesus' cornerstone statement was, and is, more complex than one might imagine.

Recently, our daily newspapers featured a modern-day Samaritan. A young entrepreneur provided chairs and tents for the elderly who braved inclement weather to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 Virus. This young man must be applauded for such selflessness, kindness, and compassion. He



THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

times, we need to take more seriously our Christian and social responsibility to love our neighbour by making every effort to protect others and ourselves. We do this by practicing all the health protocols;

We are taught that the neighbour we are to love is anyone who has needs we can meet. It is that simple.

our neighbours; vaccination; and a health webinar. These initiatives fulfil the Church's mandate as the Body of Christ, to spread the Good News in the command of Jesus Christ that "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Matthew 22:39 NRSV).

Sadly, many Christians repeat this Scripture verse with their lips and not their hearts.

But who is our neighbour? This

asked for nothing in return. Whether some thought that his act of kindness was superficial or that he was just another attention seeker is beside the point. The fact is this young man saw a need and he responded. He may have put to shame others who fail to offer a helping hand to those in need.

Nevertheless, in these turbulent

by getting vaccinated (with sound medical advice); and by sharing our blessings with others who are less fortunate and who deserve to be given a chance of survival in dignity and respect.

May God continue to bless you and your loved ones! Keep safe, keep healthy!



Coping with Grief in COVID-19

One of the most difficult emotional experiences that we can ever have in life is the death of a loved one. The pain and grief that follows can seem overwhelming.

Grief is often described as one's feeling, but it includes a variety of human emotions and

reactions which can affect how the bereaved think and behave. Grief goes on long after the death of loved ones. Although grief is extremely painful, it is the normal response to any loss and the agent for our healing. Grief enables the bereaved to re-adjust and cope with life without their loved ones.

Bereavement can be a very lonely time. However, one of the most helpful ways to cope with grief is by speaking with friends and family.

Coping with grief during the COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be extremely difficult.

An increasing number of people and households are being told to self-isolate or socially distance from friends and family.

This means the bereaved find themselves alone during the difficult time of grief, which causes increased feelings of loneliness, abandonment and helplessness and being lost.

The flip side can be you are isolated as a family together. This may provide some support at times, but the stress and tension of being locked in together can lead to arguments and finger pointing.

Children and teenagers may become restless because they are unable to meet with their friends. Keeping them occupied can prove to be quite difficult for family members who are themselves dealing with their own emotions and challenges.

Added to emotional challenges, are practical challenges, such as needing help with the provision or preparation of meals and shopping, as family and friends who previously assisted, may also be isolating, or taking care of their own families' situations.

Apart from these, the added COVID-19 restrictions and lock down measures induce greater

pain in grief.

With only ten persons being able to attend the funeral service, many family members, relatives, and friends must attend the service virtually. You may feel you cannot pay your last respects, and this increases your pain and sense of loss as there seems to be no physical support.

Family members living abroad cannot come home because the borders are closed. In some cases, only one member of a family lives in Trinidad and Tobago and, therefore, it is his or her responsibility to attend to all funeral arrangements alone.

There are cases where a person dies and has no family members in the country to make the funeral arrangements. Sometimes, a friend or neighbour undertakes to do what is needed.

Social distancing prevents family members from embracing and comforting one another.

All these new situations only increase your grief. Grief is difficult and painful to bear at any time. While COVID-19 may present added challenges to the process, the bereaved still experience all the normal pain of loss and separation. Each person will cope with grief in his or her own way. It is important to note that there is no correct way to grieve.


Here are some suggestions which may help the bereaved::

- Allow yourself time to grieve. Remember the special times

such as birthdays, anniversaries, the birth of a child and spend time looking at old photos. On these occasions, it would be good to have extra support.

- If you feel like crying, do not prevent yourself from doing so as it is a good way to release your deep feelings and should never be regarded as a sign of weakness.
- Do not rush into decisions about the possessions and personal effects of your loved ones.
- Do not make major decisions that you have not thought out well.
- Avoid dependence on substances such as alcohol, medications or drugs to help you cope with your feelings as addictions can be formed.
- Your loved one will always be an important part of your life and memories. Keepsakes, such as photographs or other possessions, of your loved one may be painful to look at early in your bereavement but can bring great comfort in the future.
- If you realize your emotions and feelings are affecting your daily functioning, please do not hesitate to call your doctor or seek counselling.

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).



“Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me!”

May 30th, 2021 – a significant day in the life of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT), not only because on this day the Church observed Trinity Sunday, or because the Country recognised the 176th Anniversary of Indian Arrival, but it was also the Commissioning of the 19th Deaconess in the PCTT, Amber Seesahai-Payne.

Amid a Pandemic and State of Emergency where gatherings like these are limited to five persons, this virtual service was well planned and well executed by a competent technical team, allowing others to be witnesses and participants. The fact that only three members of the Clergy and Amber were physically present at the Commissioning Service at the St. Andrew's Theological College in no way took away from the service. Mr Christopher Sookhoo was truly a blessing with his beautiful singing and his expertise at the organ.

Leader of Worship, Reverend Brenda Bullock, lead the service seamlessly, while Reverend Ria Thompson-Jimdar prepared our hearts and minds, by inviting the Holy Spirit to be in every part of the service as she led in the Prayer of Approach and Confession.

In his contribution, the General Secretary of the PCTT, Mr Warde, reminded us that the Deaconess Order in the PCTT began in 1960 and that the last Deaconess was ordained in 2010. It is an Order, he said, which began with the Bible Women of old, comprising women who worked tirelessly spreading the Word, and devoted themselves to the women and youth in Christian Education and Pastoral Care. He stated that Amber would add value to the Deaconess Order and would be an encouragement to other young women to join this Order.

Reverend Radica Moonoo read the first Scripture passage from Romans 16: 1 – 20, while Deaconess Calpurnia Chance continued with

Luke 8: 1 – 3. This was followed by the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession lead by the Principal of St Andrew's Theological College (SATC), Reverend Adrian Sieunarine. He thanked God for blessing His people throughout the ages and for the people who inspire those who continue in Christ's service. He prayed for Amber who has been set apart for His Holy service. The dedication of an offering was done by Presiding Elder, Mr Roy Ramlogan.

Amber requested Reverend Annabell Lalla-Ramkhelawan, who began her ministry as a Deaconess, served as the immediate past Moderator and who was one of Amber's lecturers at SATC to bring the message. Reverend Lalla-Ramkhelawan preached about “A Romance with Christ,” of which the main element is “LOVE.” Using this theme, Reverend Lalla-Ramkhelawan illustrated her message through an acronym:

“L” as in Love – we cannot be

committed and passionate servants for Christ if we do not love Him wholeheartedly (Matt. 22: 37) and love all humanity (John 15:12).

“O” as in Obedience – in Christ, we find the perfect model of obedience (John 14: 23). True Christian obedience follows from a heart of gratitude for the grace we have received from the Lord. Obedience is the proof of love for God.

“V” as in Voice – servants of Christ must boldly proclaim the Word of God (Matt. 10: 7 & Acts 4: 31).

“E” as in Excitement – Servants of Christ must be filled with excitement for the ministry for which they have been called (Rom. 12: 11). A ministry that is not energised, filled with excitement and the power of the Holy Spirit soon becomes a burden and a heavy weight that makes us grow dim and our passion soon fades.

In concluding, Reverend Lalla-Ramkelawan reminded Amber to always remember she is a servant – one dedicated to service.

Amber was then presented to The Moderator, The Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, for Commissioning by Reverend Shirvan Siloch, Chairman of The Board of Theological Education. The Moderator commended women who from the inception of the Church gave “Sacrificial Service” and displayed “Servant Leadership.”

A confident Amber responded loud and clear. The Laying of Hands was done by The Moderator, Reverend Brenda Bullock and Reverend Shirvan Siloch while the viewing audience was encouraged to reach towards Amber. After the Commissioning, Deaconess Amber Seesahai-Payne was presented with a copy of The Holy Bible.

Greetings were brought by

the Chairpersons of the three Presbyteries: South Eastern – Mr Ashford Tamby who commended Deaconess Amber's involvement in the Youth Camps, South Central – Reverend Stephen Harripersad who expressed gratitude that she answered the call to serve the PCTT, and Reverend Sanya Beharry from the Northern Presbytery drew a parallel between Deaconess Amber and the young Timothy in 2nd Timothy 1: 7 and advised her to be bold and know that it is God who called her.

In her response Deaconess Amber stated that she has been called to a labour of love, filled with love, and made in love. She expressed her gratitude to her parents – Michelle and Robert, her grandparents, her home church - Isaac Memorial, Arima, and all those who guided her to reach this point in her life.

To God be the glory!



Welcome Intern Minister!

The Riversdale Pastoral Region is delighted to welcome Intern Minister, Ms. Cynara Dubé-Sookoo, who was assigned to the Region effective May 1, 2021. Ms. Dubé-Sookoo has hit the ground running, despite the current challenges which face the Church and society. Under the guidance of the resident minister, Reverend Radica Samuel-Moonoo, she has already formed links with all churches in the Pastoral Region, and in particular the youths. Her technical abilities have been instrumental in bringing the Region up-to-mark with respect to online services. Indeed, Ms. Dubé-Sookoo was sent at the right time! The Region looks forward to the remainder of her internship and soon, her Ordination.



Riversdale Pastoral Region Extends Condolences



The members of the Riversdale Pastoral Region join with its Minister, The Reverend Radica Samuel-Moonoo and her loved ones, in mourning the loss of her mother, Mrs. Cecelia Samuel.

While we mourn the loss of a mother, we are ever cognizant of the fact that God Almighty calls us home at the right time.

To God Be the Glory!



KNOW YOUR

FAITH SERIES

EMANCIPATED IN CHRIST

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

As Emancipation Day approaches, questions arise and discussions emerge asking if we are really free or if we are still in some forms of mental, emotional, spiritual, financial and/or cultural bondage.

Jesus gives and guarantees true freedom (John 8:36). What are some of the effects of this freedom?

1. We recognise that we were once slaves to sin (Romans 6:15-23): Life is lived forwards but only understood backwards. With hindsight, our gratitude to God for experiences we were privileged to have deepens as our holy happiness heightens.

Grace abounds much more than sin (Romans 5:20).

2. We were meant to be free: We celebrate our freedom. We do not return to slavery (Romans 6:1) but we celebrate the life of grace-found, grace-full freedom we have. Emancipation is wonderful! It is for freedom that Christ set us free! (Galatians 5:1)

3. We realize that in giving ourselves to God, our freedom is made perfect: Now that we are free, we realise that the traps and tricks of evil may still ensnare us. The price of freedom is faithful, eternal vigilance; so we cheerfully consecrate ourselves by

dedicating all that we are to God who makes us more than we could ever begin to imagine.

Let us think about the pathways and processes of liberation in every area of our lives and society.

The blessedness of deliverance means that in every sphere of earthly existence, heaven can and shall prevail over the chains of evil and stain of sin, when we appreciate that the call and destiny of freedom means that we can now relate to one another as fellowshipping individuals in a free community of devoted service (Galatians 5:13). Let us hasten the work of emancipation for all creatures!

Slaves to Righteousness

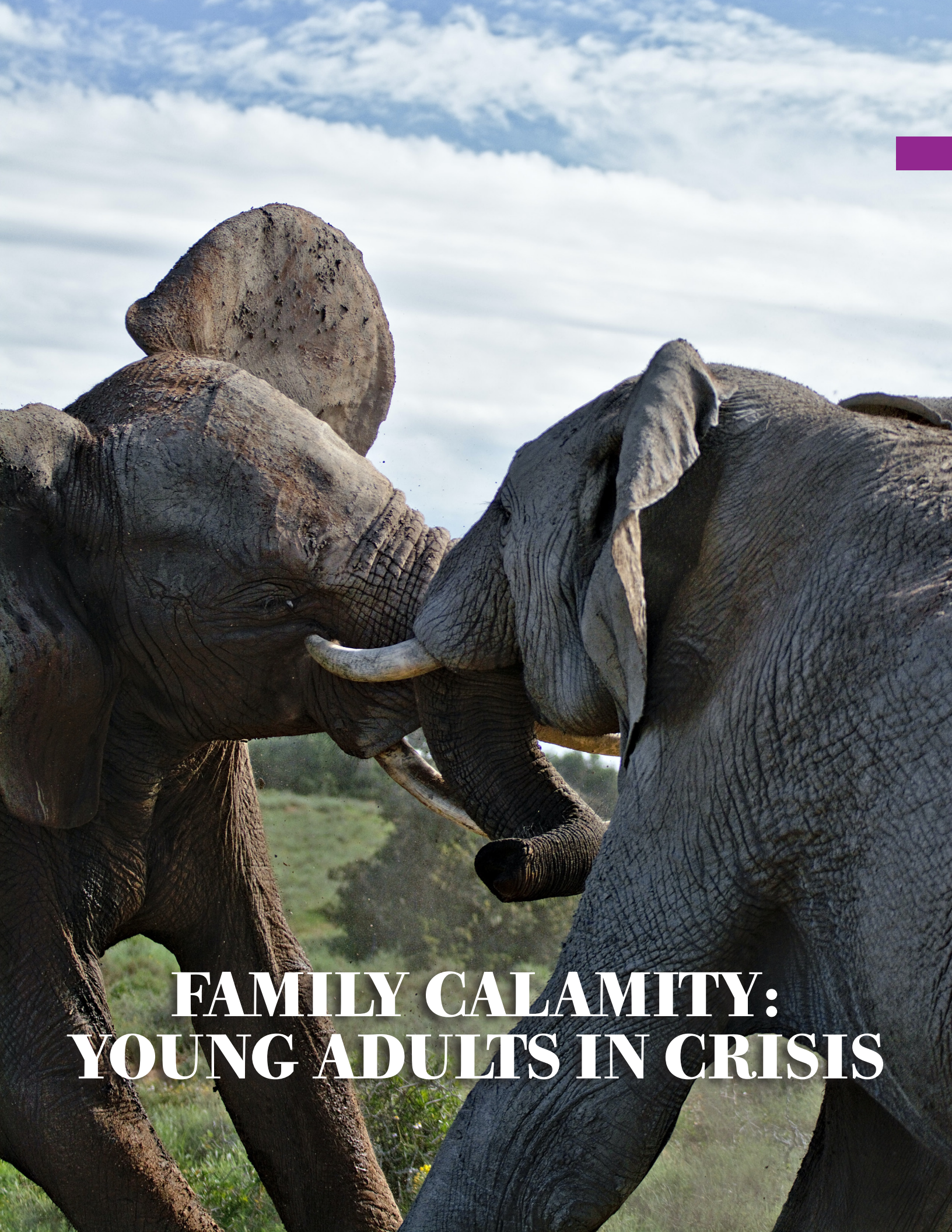
¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has

now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

¹⁹ I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit

did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 6:15-23 (NIV)



**FAMILY CALAMITY:
YOUNG ADULTS IN CRISIS**

On attaining the age of 18 a child legally becomes an adult for the rest of their lives. As such, psychologists have determined stages of adulthood with “young adults” or “early adulthood” referring to those between the ages of 20 to 40. At this age, it is found that their desires, dreams, and goals are geared towards freedom and independence and for self-determination based on their choices. However, social, economic, political, educational, and even religious structures and systems sometimes make this independence and self-actualisation difficult to achieve.

In previous generations life was a much simpler, almost ‘one-track’ sequence of school-to-work-to-marriage, with formal education officially over by 16 or 20. At present, education goes to 20 or beyond 25 by which time work, marriage, family, and family life responsibilities may be reduced central purposes. Does this mean that their stages and phases of human development have been delayed?

Young adults of today toe the similar line of school-to-work-to-marriage, but on their own terms and conditions. Vast changes to traditional religious, cultural,

political, and family norms, values, morality, coupled with what can be called a ‘migrant syndrome’ associated with the mutation and variants of crime, violence, hedonism and sexuality, have all impacted the world of today’s young adults – even further compounded by the COVID-19 Pandemic..

Goals and the ability to own property are stymied mainly because employment is hardly permanent and lifelong anymore, but now tends toward “short-term” contracts, which has removed the job security on which future life-plans and long-term goals for individuals and families were ultimately made.

Education is never ending. Employment opportunities become almost cyclical in the pursuit of financial success. Roles and responsibilities for relationships so often leads to separation, divorce, and death, as persons lack the coping mechanisms, skills, willingness, and resources to resolve or allow for intervention. Academic knowledge, the worldwide web and social media cannot reason and guide the maturing young adult of today to understand how to blame and who to bless.

These crises among young adults result in frustration, depression, aggression, anger, violence, suicide, mental and physical health issues. All these have further contributed to the array of crises within the family. Who can help to understand these predicaments? At some subsequent issues we hope these can be addressed.

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.

FAMILY CALAMITY continues in the next issue.

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

trauma affects our *CHILDREN*



COUNSELLING COLUMN WITH BERNADETTE GYAN-MANICKCHAND



What can a parent or guardian do to help their child who has been traumatised? (Part Two)

PART ONE: RECAP

Trauma, according to mental health specialists can be explained as the response to a deeply disturbing or overwhelming event that brings about feelings of helplessness or an inability to cope. It can diminish one's sense of self and one's ability to experience a full range of emotions. It can even bring about uncontrollable inappropriate emotions.

PART TWO

We are now aware of what TRAUMA is and behaviours that may be demonstrated by a child who has been traumatised. This counselling column will further enlighten us on what happens to the physical, mental, emotional, and social aspects of a child's life and how we attempt to treat him/her. I will refer to information presented by the Child's Welfare Information Gateway.

Physical effects of trauma may, in turn, contribute to an inability to control physical responses to stress, which can lead to chronic illnesses even into adulthood, such as heart disease or obesity.

The mental effects of trauma can lead to difficulty in thinking, learning, and concentrating. It can also result in impaired memory and difficulty in switching from one thought or activity to another.

The emotional effects may just be the most damaging of these, as the child suffers with low self-esteem, has many feelings of insecurity, has serious trust issues, which lead to difficulty in maintaining relationships, and later, anxiety and depression.

Lastly, the social behaviours demonstrated can be aggression, isolation, fighting, substance abuse and suicidal tendencies. All of these impact on creating a very aggrieved child.

While children are quite resilient and in many cases their bodies and

minds may recover quickly from a potentially traumatic experience, it is not the same for all. Parenting a traumatised child may require a shift from seeing a "bad child" to seeing a child who has had bad experiences.

As parents, teachers, and caregivers, we need to equip ourselves so that the individual gets the initial help or support.

The following methods can prove most valuable in saving our children from the slippery slope to self-destruction:

1. Identify the trauma triggers and help them to avoid the traumatic memories until more healing has occurred.
2. Be emotionally and physically available. The traumatised child needs for us to be patient and to follow their lead.
3. Respond and not react, lower our voices even when we feel to shout, and avoid staring or glaring. Reassurance and honesty, on our part, will begin to establish trust.



4. Do not take the behaviour personally. This is easier said than done. Instead, provide opportunities for open communication.
 5. Avoid physical punishment at all costs as this can lead to further trauma and panic behaviours.
 6. Teach relaxation techniques, practice together the art of deep breathing, and repeat positive affirmations such as "I am safe now."
 7. Listen and listen well, take their reactions seriously, correct misinformation on the traumatic event and firmly let them know it was not their fault. Children have the tendency to feel guilt and shame when bad things occur in their environment.
 8. Allow some control. There are reasonable, age-appropriate choices that children can be encouraged to make, thus becoming responsible individuals.
- Should one still feel ill-equipped to assist with traumatic events in the lives of our children, then a qualified service provider should be sought. It is recommended, however, that as adults we become aware of our own behaviours and take note of the events and situations that can trigger our own negative responses and reactions.
- To be continued in the August issue

The Apostle Paul gives this advice in Philippians Ch. 4: 6

'Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.'

Be not anxious or do not worry about anything". This does not mean that we should live life carelessly or live recklessly or throw caution to the wind. In this pandemic, for instance, it does not mean that we should not follow protocols, not wear a mask, not wash hands, not sanitise, not socially distance or do nothing to safeguard ourselves and expect God to do everything! It does not mean that we should not be cautious and concerned about our health, nor be concerned about our future.

We should be careful but not carefree.

At the same time, we should not allow these concerns to pre-occupy our minds so much that they consume us and affect our life and living in a negative way. Simply put life is more than the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the car we drive or the house in which we live.

Do not get me wrong – these things do add to the comfort and convenience of life – they are not bad things. We should not give them all up entirely and go live under a rock!

We are all aware that people's livelihoods are affected by the

"lockdown" owing to COVID-19. You would have heard the Government make the point about "lives and livelihood." The question was and is: Can the lives as well as the livelihood of the citizens of our country be secure? It is a reality that some people are living with less but are thankful to be alive. People, in general, are quickly learning to differentiate between their wants as compared to their needs.

This Bible passage reminds us that we can trust God for the necessities of life. Many are concerned about their future. Daily concerns might be job security, mortgage payments, bills, laptops or smart phones for the children to do online studies, grocery bills, the state of the economy – the list can go on and on.

We need to stop somewhere. We need to stop worrying. Some people are so worried, that they are not themselves, not normal, not at peace, not happy, and not living. They are just existing. My advice to all is to handle what is within your control or capability. Make the best of every situation!

Do not worry yourself sick about some of the other issues over which you have no control. This may only lead you to a state of frustration and depression. Bear in mind that we are not the only ones going through this pandemic, the whole world is affected by it and some people live in circumstances even worse than we. So, take it one day at a time and try not to worry too much as this incident illustrates.

A Ship was caught in a turbulent storm. As the crew members made their checks to ensure that everyone on board was all right, they found a little girl in one of the cabins playing alone on the bed. They told her about the storm and asked her, "Are you not worried?"

The girl calmly replied, "No, my father is the Captain and I know everything will be all right."

We, too, have a Heavenly Father and we can trust Him that things will be all right. If He takes care of the birds of the air and other creatures, we can trust Him to take care of our needs.

I love this piece of poetry entitled, "The Robin and the Sparrow."

Said the robin to the sparrow,
Said the robin to the sparrow,
"I should really like to know,
why these anxious human beings
rush about and worry so."
Said the sparrow to the robin,
"Friend, I think that it must be,
that they have no Heavenly Father,
such as cares for you and me."

Scripture states,
"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
³⁴ *Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble"* (Matt 6: 33 - 34).

To seek as a child of God is to strive after God's will for our lives, being so aware of that strong relationship

that we can trust God to provide all that we need. Peace of mind and heart can be ours when we are conscious and committed to One beyond ourselves who cares for us, who promises to supply all our needs.

The Word of God states,

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For

everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened" (Matt. 7: 7-8).

And "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" Phil. (4: 19). "I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears" (Ps. 34: 4).



God shall supply
ALL YOUR NEEDS

Facing Anxiety on the Frontlines

DR. CHERISSE RATIRAM | SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROUSILLAC



TESTIMONY FROM THE PEW

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

As a person who struggles with anxiety, the irony that the Holy Spirit used in Philippians 4:6 to reveal the Living Word to me eleven years ago, does not escape me. Now, amidst the uncertainty and fear that the COVID-19 pandemic brings, the command, "Do not be anxious", can seem very out of touch.

Through the years, this scripture verse has sown itself into my soul and sprouted deep roots. With that, the Spirit has brought deeper understanding. I now feel that Paul, writing from a jail cell, does not attempt to simplify the complexity of anxiety with a command to "just don't be". It does not work that way. Instead, he offers his solution to overcoming.

To me, he is saying, "God Sees. God hears. God knows. So, pray about it. Be honest about it. Lament about it. Be broken about it before God. And then, trust in who God is." The scripture continues into verse 7,

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I can only speak from my experience when I say that a brief moment of connecting with God does not maintain this peace. It involves constant conversations,

constant surrendering, constant trusting. It involves relationship; and the storms do not go away. Instead, there is a knowing that I am being held while the winds are blasting, and the rains are so heavy that I cannot see what is ahead.

In the battles, I feel guarded. Amidst the chaos and uncertainty, the peace comes. It comes while I am 'vibing' with God on the way to work. It is in the voice of a loved one encouraging me on the other end of a phone call. It comes through the message I receive in the middle of a shift from a member of my faith community, just to let me know they are praying for me. I find it in the counsel of mental health professionals who have been blessed with the gift to heal our minds.

The peace comes in knowing that I am trying to do what I can where God has planted me.

It is my prayer that those searching for peace amid anxiety will find it. Remember, God sees, God hears, God knows. So, reach out. You are not alone. You are loved.

Celebrating Our Heritage With Rejoicing

JOY RAMLOGAN | CUREPE/ST JOSEPH PASTORAL REGION

The Hark the Heralders singing group zoomed into our Region's devices on the evening of Sunday, June 6, 2021. This group continued its ministry of song and outreach by using digital means to reach church members, their families and friends and persons with special needs from the Curepe/St. Joseph Pastoral Region.

Led by Reverend Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan, this mission was entitled "Let us Rejoice", and was focused on thanksgiving, hope, declaring God's control over COVID-19 and especially on remembrance and celebration of the heritage of the early Presbyterian Church in Trinidad. Bhajans or songs of praise to God which were translated from English to Hindi/Bhojpuri so that early Indian immigrants could understand the Word of God in music.

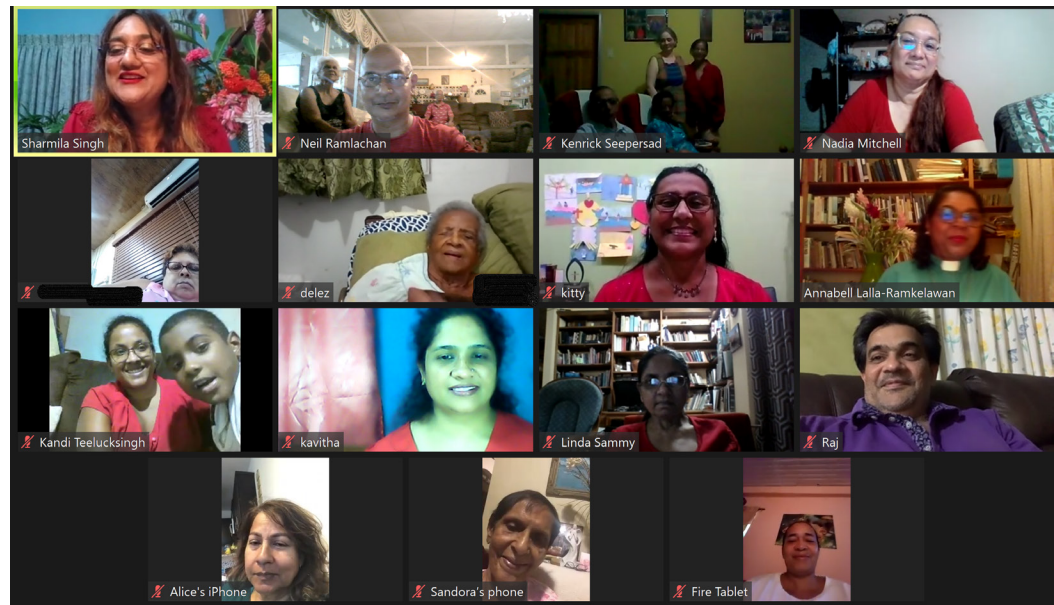
Our Bhajan singers sang fluently in Hindi. Elder Nadia Mitchell began with "Yishu Ke Piche Mein Chalnay Laaga" (I have decided to follow Jesus) which was stirring and emotional. The singing was elevated by the mother-daughter

duo, Kavita and Cheryl Buthapati, who are originally from India. They serenaded the group with a medley, "Yisu ne kaha, Jewan ki Roti" (Jesus is the Bread of Life), "Yishu Karta, Mujhe Pyar" (Jesus loves me this I know) and "Yishu Masih". The attendees were also blessed with "The Lord's Prayer" in Hindi, as Linda Sammy shared her learning with the group.

As part of the focus on the rich heritage of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT), Presiding Elder Mr. Kenrick

Seepersad shared some of the early history of how the Canadian Mission ministered to the East Indian immigrants using education as a powerful tool.

Reverend Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan lifted the group with a message and prayers for well-being and health. Following the session, the organiser and hostess, Ms. Sharmila Singh, received on behalf of the Group, several messages of gratitude especially from the ill, the bed-ridden participants and those who have lost loved ones..





CORRECTION: Aramalaya

Many of our readers pointed out that the June issue of The Trinidad Presbyterian carried an incorrect photo of the Aramalaya Presbyterian Church Building on page 22. For this we sincerely apologise and make restitution by publishing the correct photo in this month's edition.

The photo that was used last month was a photo of the Morton House Spiritual Life Enrichment Centre which is one of three manses on the Aramalaya Compound in Tunapuna. In 1996, this Missionary Manse, which is more popularly known as Morton House, was converted to a Convention and Retreat Centre with accommodation for up to four dozen persons.

This building was the home of The Reverend Dr. John Morton and his family from when it was built

in 1881 until well into the 1940s. Indeed, Morton House is the oldest structure owned by the PCTT. The nearby Catechist House which faces the Aramalaya Church is the second oldest. The Aramalaya congregation was founded just 13 years after the congregation at Iere Village and is the oldest in North Trinidad. The present church building was constructed in 1980/81. The Bell Tower, at the front, houses the Morton Ministerial Jubilee Bell which was cast from melted US Civil War cannon in 1911 in the State of New York, USA. It was a gift to the Mortons in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Rev. Morton's ordination in 1912.

On the morning of Sunday 4th August 1912, just a few months after it was installed, Reverend Dr. Morton passed away in his bedroom just as this bell was

ringing to call the faithful to Sunday morning worship. It tolled the following day for his funeral. Rev. Morton's bedroom can still be visited today and can be seen on the first floor to the right of the bell tower in the photo.

The Aramalaya compound is also known as the birthplace of Hillview College and, in 1904, the first copy of The Trinidad Presbyterian was produced there. It is rumoured that the original press which was the first printing press in the Western Hemisphere to print Hindi text is buried somewhere on the compound.

The congregation is also the home congregation of the first local female minister The Reverend Mary Naimool and in the 1960s the young people of Aramalaya became the first in our Church to play steelpan.

FOR RENT

\$6000.00

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For further details and viewing arrangements, call:

LISTING AGENT

Robert

Mobile Phone numbers

868-482-3812

868-791-6422

Larry

868-684-4108

A must-see move in ready property that boasts four bedrooms and one toilet and bath on the first floor. An additional two bedrooms and two toilets and one bathroom on the main floor. Can be used as an office or prayer room. A lovely view of the tranquil beauty of the Northern Range may be enjoyed from the top floor.

This open concept living space includes built-in cupboards, a stove and two fridges. The ground floor also features a laundry area and covered one car garage, with additional space for creative minds to

configure to suit your individual needs.

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Located in a corner lot with easy access to schools, churches, supermarkets, and shopping. Within 5 minutes of the

Churchill Roosevelt Highway and the Eastern Main Road.

In move-in ready condition and priced for immediate occupancy.





Connecting Children With Special Needs To Christ

JESSE PULWARTY | CLAXTON BAY PASTORAL REGION

"And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased and said unto them, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein'" (Mark 10:13-16).

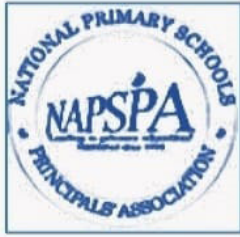
As no two snowflakes are alike, so too are no two children alike. In today's society, the term "differently abled" is often heard when it comes to the education environment. This term briefly

describes students who do not learn in the conventional manner as most students do. As such, they need new and unique ways to understand concepts and theories. How does this affect the connection with children and Christ?

At times, we may view children as being frustrated, tired, inattentive, and even disruptive in our homes, communities and also in church. We must task ourselves to find out the reason, rather than make generalised assumptions. As Christians, we have the obligation to show the way to Christ to our fellow men and more so to our children.

Research shows that one in every ten persons around the world has some level of diagnosable learning incapacity. If one in every ten persons may have some type of learning challenge, what happens when that "one" is you? What if we could not understand the words in the Bible, remember biblical concepts, or sit in a pew and not understand what is being preached?

As we walk on our Christian journey, we will encounter children with different learning abilities, physical limitations, and special needs; it is our duty to ensure that we play our role in establishing the connection of Christ with all children.



National Primary Schools Principals' Association

NAPSPA

President: Ms. Carlene Hayes
Caratal Sacred Heart R.C. School
352 -358 Caratal Rd, Gasparillo.
Tel: 1-868-683-1413

Secretary: Mr. Intikhab A. Hassan.
North Trace Government School
Naparima Mayaro Rd, New Grant.
Tel: 1-868-499-7116

Email: napspa1994@gmail.com

16 June, 2021.

IN MEMORIAM Former Assoc. Secretary MR DANIEL SAHADEO (PP Retired)

The National Primary Schools Principals' Association (NAPSPA) expresses heartfelt commiseration to the family and friends of the late Mr. Daniel 'Jack' Sahadeo. Mr. Sahadeo is recognized for his dedicated service to NAPSPA as its Secretary, for the better part of a decade. He served at the district level having retired in the post of President of the Victoria Education District Schools Principals' Association (VEDPSPA).



In his professional career, Mr. Sahadeo began as a teacher at Inverness Presbyterian Primary School on in1982, after assiduously pursuing his subjects to enter teaching in very unique circumstances. Daniel was a seaman who travelled the high seas in his youth. Upon each visit to port, he would sit exams for the courses he pursued in the seclusion of his cabin in between his salty tasks above deck. Soon, he stepped off the boat and the crowds were before him on the land, waiting for his message in the schools of this land.

He transferred to Rochard Douglas Presbyterian School in Barrackpore for the majority of his service in teaching. There he served the community and became well-loved and appreciated for his contributions to his students' lives. He was promoted to Principal Primary at the Rio Claro Presbyterian Primary School (28.05.2003). After 4 years he moved closer home by transferring to Canaan Presbyterian Primary School (w.e.f. 27.09.2007), just off the scenic Palmiste Park in San Fernando, where he finally dropped anchor and brought his formal career in Education to the port of Retirement.

Daniel would have served his faith and the Presbyterian Church functioning in many roles throughout his life. He was Chairman of the Kris Mandali Presbyterian Church in Lower Barrackpore and Clerk of Session. Most recently, he continued to serve the Education sector, working with the Presbyterian Primary Schools Board of Education as its Recording Secretary.

He leaves his two children to celebrate his life and treasured memories, as Daniel joins his dear wife, who had passed several years prior after her battle with cancer. His travels around the world, his collection of currencies from every port, his devotion to his family, his work in the service of man with the Church and as an Educator, his passion for National Service to the benefit of this nation, are indeed the hallmarks of the greatness bottled within this very humble, gentleman who was our colleague.

NAPSPA extends its support to the family and its appreciation for his service in Education and to this Association. May God speed his journey into the Eternal calm of the Hereafter, whereby his family may cast their nets to the right and find in abundance resolve, patience and the rewards of a life well lived.

Carlene Hayes
NAPSPA President





Recipe for Educational Success

by: Gary Samai (General Secretary)

<https://www.pssboe.com/>

749-5851 pssboepctt@gmail.com

Our passion for success has once again brought forward fruits, as our five Secondary Schools were able to produce excellence at both the CSEC and CAPE examinations, 2021. The successes at both levels span a wide array of subject areas on the Caribbean Examination Council's Merit List.

The key ingredients attributed to our Presbyterian Secondary Schools' success are that of the professional level of management offered through the Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education; the committed and highly-trained specialist support from administrative, teaching and civil staff; the unwavering assistance presented by adjunct stakeholders; and most important to the integration of all aspects is that of the spiritual and moral guidance enshrined through our Presbyterian Church. God, being the assimilating factor, transforms the ingredients into a successful entity.

The Board of Education for our Presbyterian Secondary schools earnestly acknowledge God at the center of all successes. Our schools are Christ-centered meaning through God all possibilities exist. This proverbial theme is etched in the minds and hearts of all stakeholders, encouraging persons not only to focus on the academic and co-curricular activities, but to place emphasis on our Lord and Savior Jesus as the cornerstone in all activities.

The transformational power of God was witnessed as our schools were able to achieve such a measure success even as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to ravage our education system and country. Although many challenges arose in the delivery of the curriculum and completion of assessments, our schools relied on God's omnipotence through earnest prayers. This resulted in our resounding successes at national and regional examinations.

The Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education, the various Administrative Committees and by extension the community of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, extend heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all those who continue to ensure our schools maintain a high degree of service and success. To the Administrative and Teaching staff, God's choicest blessings to each of you for your pivotal role in nurturing the talents and ensuring the academic progress of our students.

To all our readers, a complete listing of Awardees and Placements can be viewed on the Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education website.



Statement from the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT)

The PCTT, through the Primary and Secondary Schools' Boards of Education, is responsible for the management and administration of seventy-two (72) Primary and five (5) Secondary Schools. In carrying out these responsibilities, our Church and Boards of Education are at all times guided by the provisions of The Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, The Education Act, The Teaching Service Regulations, The Public Service Regulations as adopted by The Teaching Service and all other relevant legal provisions that govern our Education System. The Church and Boards of Education also adhere to the provisions of The Concordat and the policies developed and designed by the Ministry of Education (MOE) for the effective functioning of schools.

The positive tone, ethos, discipline, culture, and climate of our schools have evolved over decades due to the hard work, commitment, diligence, professionalism and aim for excellence from our educators, students, parents, and other stakeholders in partnership. When the last Academic Performance Index was issued in 2016, less than five percent (5%) of our schools were listed under Academic Watch. Many of our Primary Schools, on an annual basis, receive as many as four (4) and five (5) times the number of applications for admission when compared to the number of First Year spaces available. The high demand for places in almost all our Primary Schools is due to the performance of these schools in the academic, sporting, and cultural fields, which are steeped in excellence.

Admissions to our seventy-two (72) Primary Schools are based solely on the criteria and policies set out by the MOE which include age, immunization status, and residence in the catchment area, among others. It must be emphasized that all admissions to Presbyterian Primary Schools are based on the MOE's criteria. The Church has made no intervention in this regard and has never indicated that race and ethnicity must be used by Principals in their selection of students. No child has ever been denied admission based on religion or ethnicity nor is there evidence to suggest any pattern of bias over the decades of the existence of our Schools.

In our Secondary Schools, by virtue of the Concordat which governs all denominational schools' eighty percent (80%) of Form 1 placement is based on the MOE's system out of the results of the Secondary Entrance Assessment (formerly the Common Entrance Examination). The remaining twenty percent (20%) intake is then allocated for selection by the Principals of each of our five (5) Secondary Schools (which is on average twenty-one (21) students annually). As part of the Concordat, these places were allocated to the denominational bodies to make provision for students belonging to the respective faiths in Trinidad and Tobago.

With respect to the PCTT, these selections by our Principals are guided by a rigid criterion based on recommendations from our

twenty-four (24) Pastoral Regions. The fact that our schools are often listed as 1st choice for thousands of students is testament to our legacy of excellence in Education at the Secondary Level and the focus on spirituality, morality, values education, and the holistic development of our students. Our Secondary Schools have produced not only scholars par excellence, but also national leaders, sportsmen, cultural and musical icons who have made indelible marks both nationally and on the world stage.

The origins of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago are from a Canadian Mission to the Indian diaspora post-Indentureship, and, as such, many of our schools and churches are located in rural south and central Trinidad, the demographics of which are predominantly Indo-Trinidadians. Despite this, our Secondary Schools have the proud history of being non-discriminatory to any race, ethnicity, or religion and are privileged and blessed to be the 1st choice school for many high

achievers at the SEA examinations. We have never interfered with the MOE's selection process.

All students in our Secondary Schools are offered the same educational opportunities and many have reached their full potential as a result of the stewardship of generations of members and other stakeholders. It was, therefore, deeply disappointing and disturbing to see baseless and misleading insinuations made in a recent opinion editorial which must be vehemently denied. The PCTT and its Boards of Education, along with our Principals and Teachers, wish to reassure all stakeholders that despite the extraordinary times of the COVID-19 pandemic we shall continue to work in the Nation's interest by continuing to promote excellence in and ensuring **"Every Creed and Race find an Equal place."**

May God Bless Our Nation.

The Moderator and General Secretary of the Synod of PCTT

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Roy Umraw



Congratulations to Adelina Rampersad (ICT Scholarship Recipient)

ANIL RAMPERSAD | ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for outstanding performance in CAPE 2020 as well as placing 3rd on the Merit List for the Region in Information Technology (IT) in CAPE Unit 2.

The former Naparima Girls' High School pupil is presently pursuing Computer Science at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

Her proud parents, Anil and Pamela Rampersad, are elated with her achievements and wish her success and God's continued guidance in her pursuits.

The PCTT also wishes her all success in her undertakings.

Congratulations to Adelina Rampersad, a member of the St. James Presbyterian Church in the Tableland Pastoral Region. Adelina attained an Additional Scholarship in

Among her list of accomplishments, Adelina placed 1st in the merit list in the Region in I.T. in CAPE Unit 1. She also placed 1st in the Region in CSEC Accounts and was presented with the prestigious ACCA award for excellence in the Caribbean.

The Pursuit of Excellence

MELANIE PADARATH | CLAXTON BAY PASTORAL REGION

"Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established" (Proverbs 16:3 (KJV)).

Coming from a humble background in Transfer Village, Debe, is a dedicated young lady who has achieved success in her academic studies thus far. Miss Gabriella Boodoo has earned the third highest place in Environmental Science, CAPE Examinations, June 2020. Apart from this, she also attained eight (8) distinctions in the field of Natural Science at the CAPE Level. She attends Transfer Presbyterian Church of the Diamond Pastoral Region where she is a member of the Youth Group. Gabriella has shown commitment and dedication to her

studies which has led to her overall success. From waking late at nights and into the 'wee' hours of the morning, to completing past papers and reviewing her schoolwork, to attending extra classes daily, God has richly blessed her.

Her parents have always instilled good values in her. It is noteworthy to mention that they have consistently given her their full support despite their limitations thus ensuring that Gabriella has a sound education. This outstanding young lady serves as an exemplar in our country as her hard work and commitment resulted in success. Gabriella attended the Penal Government Primary School before pursuing secondary education at the Holy



Faith Convent, Penal (Forms 1- 5) and at Shiva Boys' Hindu College (A Level). Gabriella wants to give back to her community as she desires to become a doctor. She is enrolled at the University of the West Indies where she will commence the Bachelor of Medical Sciences in the coming academic year.

As you pursue your dreams, Gabriella, may God continue to richly bless you and fulfil all the desires of your heart! The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago wishes Gabriella all success in her pursuits.

THE TERENCE ALGERNON BISSESSAR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR
AWARDS FROM THE ABOVE NAMED FUND

The Board requests the following:-

1. All New applicants must provide:

- Letter of Admission from the Tertiary Institution.
- Letter from Parent/Guardian stating the need for financial assistance.
- Letter from Minister, or Local Board, Chairman or Secretary RE: The Quality of Your Membership.
- Personal Data - Copy of National Identification and two (2) passport-size photographs. Telephone contacts and e-mail addresses will be useful.
- Applicants must include their employment status.

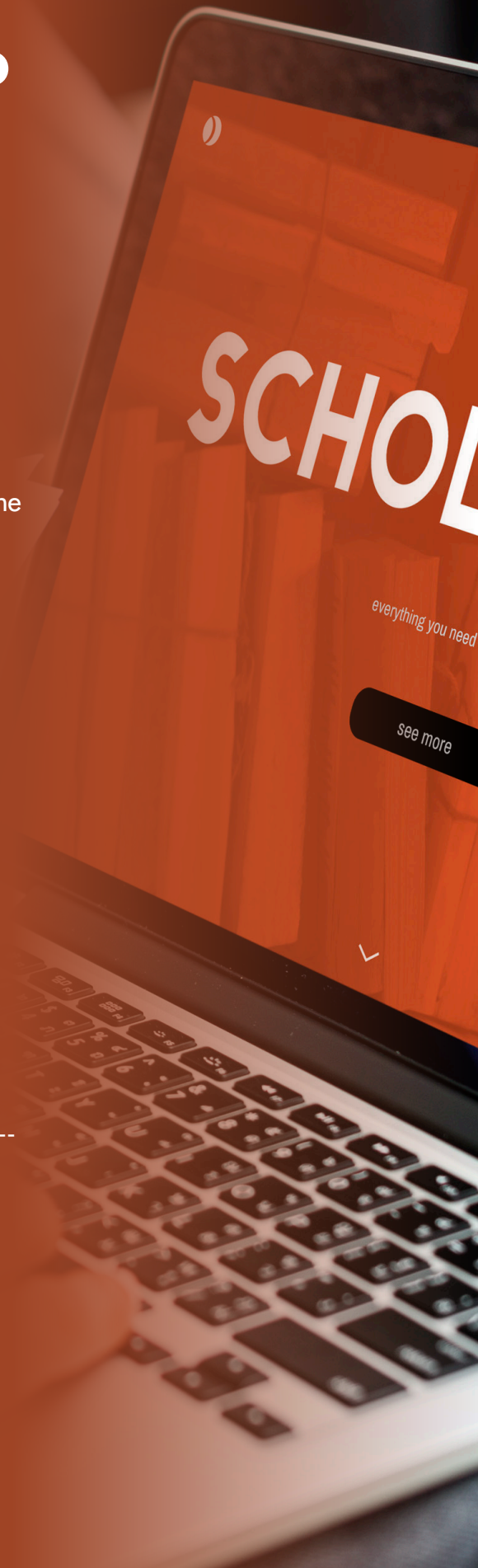
2. All Continuing students (Year 2 and Further) Must provide the following with your application.

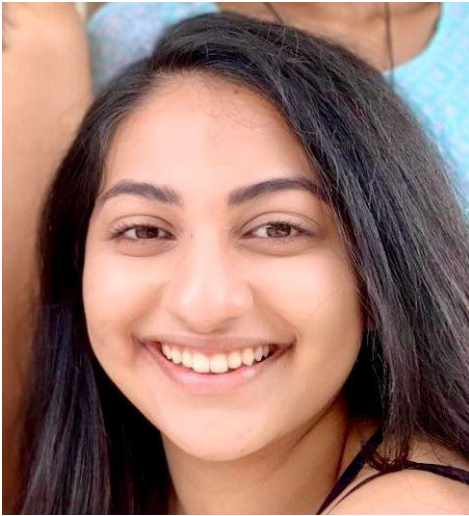
- Transcript of your academic performance year 2020/2021
Applicant must have a G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher.
- Preference will be given to students doing their B.Ed.
- A letter from your church RE: Membership.
- A letter from your parent/guardian RE: The Need For The Award For The Academic Year 2021/2022
- Applicant must include their employment.

The closing date of application is 31st August, 2021

All applications should be forwarded to :
Terence A. Bissessar Scholarship Fund
c/o Nistar Presbyterian Church,
Southern Main Road, Chase Village.
Email: tabscholarshipfunds@gmail.com
#Phone 662-4086 / 673-0375

Applications must reach Nistar Presbyterian Church
on or before the closing date.





Congratulations to Ms. Cian Mohammed

MS. MARLENE SHAH | POINT FORTIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Point Fortin/Cedros Pastoral Region extends hearty congratulations to Ms. Cian Mohammed on her well-deserved success.

Ms. Cian Mohammed has topped the CXC Regional Merit List in her pursuit of Economics at the Unit 2 CAPE level. As a result of her hard work and dedication, Ms. Cian Mohammed was one of seven students who placed first

in Economics in the Caribbean. Adding to this success, pride and feeling of joy, she placed first in the twin island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Ms. Cian Mohammed comes from a family who has been grounded in the Presbyterian faith community. She is a member of the Point Fortin Presbyterian Church where continues to share in the life of the church. This young lady attended St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando. She is a product of the Sieunarine and Mohammed families. Hats off to her family for

supporting her through it all.

Ms. Mohammed is now in the process of obtaining an undergraduate degree in the field of Actuarial Sciences at UWI St. Augustine.

We pray God's continued guidance upon her life as she continues to excel in all she does.

Cian, we are proud of you on your outstanding accomplishments!

CONGRATULATIONS

To all examination students on your successes. May your hard work, strong will power, and faithfulness in God Almighty continue to blossom in all your academic and professional pursuits and dreams. May God continue to richly bless you and yours always. From the Communications Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Board of Christian Education ANNUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday 12th to Friday 16th July 2021

9:00 a.m. everyday

VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Check The PCTT Webpage and YouTube page for the links to the day's activities.

Teachers, students, and parents are encouraged to log on to view and participate in the stories and activities.

(Links will be available at 9:00 a.m. each day)
Sunday School teachers please set up virtual classrooms with your students to participate in the day's activities.



LIVING FOR JESUS – THE QUEST

CRAFT MATERIALS REQUIRED

Day 1 - PAPER PLATE CRAFT

What you will need

- Two paper plate
- Glue
- Crayons, color pencil, markers
- Scissors
- A piece of string 12 inches /30 cms long
- Two (2) sheets of drawing pages to draw animals



Day 2 - TREE OF KINDNESS

What you will need:

- Paper glue
- Scissors
- Black/dark fine tip marker
- 1 sheet Green Craft paper/Bristol board
- 1 sheet of any other colour craft paper/Bristol Board for background
- 1 sheet of kite paper (any pretty colour)
- 3 x 6 inch brown paper or small brown paper bag

Day 3 - LION MASK CRAFT

What you will need:

- Strips of yellow and orange paper OR colour strips of paper with orange and yellow crayons
- Scissors
- One round circle cut out in Bristol board (about the size of an eating plate)
- Glue
- Colouring pencil
- Crayons
- one craft stick

Day 4 - BADGE OF COURAGE**What you will need:**

- Paper glue
- Scissors
- Black/dark fine tip marker
- 1 sheet of white paper/Bristol board
- 2 Different colours sheets of craft paper
- Ruler to measure

Day 5 - WIND AND WAVE WIND SOCK CRAFT**What you will need:**

- One toilet paper roll
- Markers or crayons or colour pencil
- One sheet of white drawing page
- Glue
- Scissors
- Two sheets of different colour kite paper
- 12 inches/30 cm length string / yarn



ST. AUGUSTINE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

CAPE 2020 Merit List Winners

The administration and teaching staff of St. Augustine Girls High School extend warm congratulations to all the students who made the CAPE 2020 Merit List and our National Scholarship winners. Once again, our students continue to embody the essence of our school's Motto: Per Ardua Ad Astra

UNIT 1 APPLIED MATHEMATICS

Anushka Baboolal 1st
Christine Clement 1st

BIOLOGY

Farah Ali 1st
Sarojini Beharry 1st
Frayar Dass 1st
Abigail Francis 1st
Ashley Gokhool 1st
Serena Gonzales 1st
Farishtah Hoosaney 1st
Kaleigh Maharaj 1st
Torri Seetaram 1st

CHEMISTRY

Sarojini Beharry 1st
Shreya Deonarine 1st
Farishtah Hoosaney 1st
Hannah Hosein 1st
Shazara Hosein 1st
Jada John 1st
Celine Ramnarine 1st

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Emily Sampath 5th

FRENCH

Danae Ali 4th
Jada Cummings 9th
Ra'eesah Hosein 9th
Literatures in English
Yeama Indarsingh 2nd
Ra'eesah Hosein 3rd

PURE MATHEMATICS

Kaleigh Maharaj 8th
Dana Pyaray 8th
Carissa Subar 8th

SPANISH

Ra'eesah Hosein 3rd
Sydney Ramdial 3rd
Jada Cummings 9th

UNIT 2 Applied Mathematics

Michelle Liu 2nd
Shaneil Peters 10th

CHEMISTRY

Oma Maharaj 1st
Dana Phagoo 1st
Chelsea Rampaul 1st
Gabriella Ugas 1

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Renissa Ramdial 1st
Amanda Ramkalawan 2nd
Celine Buckradee 4th
Emily Sampath 4th
Afifah Abdul-Hamid 7th
Tahirah-Ali Rajkumarsingh 7th

FRENCH

Bilqees Mohammed 2nd
Talia Khan 4th
Yeama Indarsingh 9th

LITERATURES IN ENGLISH

Danielle Pierre 9th

MANAGEMENT OF BUSINESS

Jesse Bridglalsingh 1st

PHYSICS

Sneha Malepati 1st

SPANISH

Bilqees Mohammed 1st

2020 Scholarship Winners

Huda Ali - General Studies - Open Scholarship

Nadia Bhola - Information Communication Technology Studies - Open Scholarship

Angelia Choo Chai - Information Technology Communication Studies - Additional Scholarship

Yeama Indarsingh - Language studies - Open Scholarship

Talia Khan - Language Studies - Additional Scholarship

Bilqees Mohammed - Language Studies - Open Scholarship

Michelle Liu - Mathematics - Open Scholarship

Per Ardua: Through the difficult and uncharted territory of the ongoing Covid 19 Pandemic, online schooling, losses and fears.

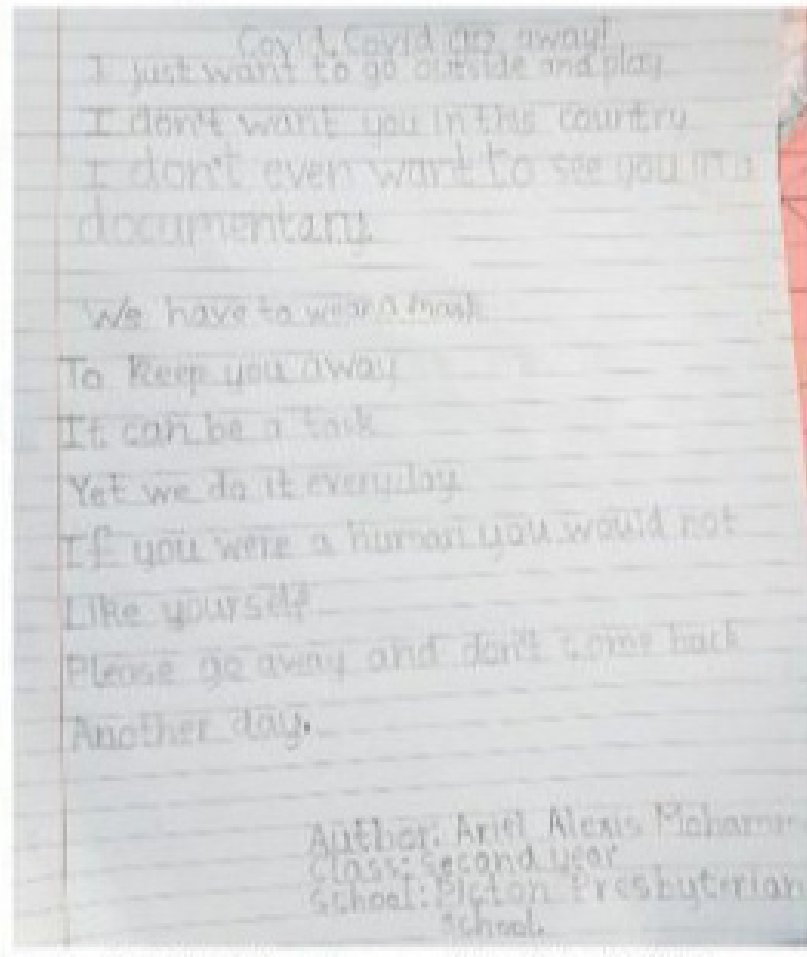
Ad Astra: Our resilient students continue to reach the stars bringing some much-needed light and hope into all of our lives.

"Within these hallowed halls our hearts will linger long with memories dear and praise with virtuous lives and useful days our Alma Mater - St. Augustine Girls' High School."

COVID POEM



Ariel Alexis Mohammed, seven-year-old, Second Year student of Picton Presbyterian Primary School. Submitted by Parent Michel Ramlal.



POEM DONE BY ARIEL ALEXIS MOHAMMED, SEVEN YEAR OLD, SECOND YEAR STUDENT OF PICTON PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL SUBMITTED BY PARENT MICHEL RAMLAL



THE BOARD OF MEN OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

look out for the YouTube link to join us for our

59TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday 31st July, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Theme: Living faithfully in Christ and Building Relationships in an evolving church and community

Guest Speaker: Terrence Warde, General Secretary of the Synod of the PCTT



Towards a world
without rape and violence

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LEADERSHIP ALIVE NOT DEAD

WINDY PARTAP, ESPERANZA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The current pandemic has compelled us to move from adversity to advantage. To do so would require reinforced and innovative leadership strategies, the absence of which has plagued many countries. Ultimately, this has led to a lower standard of living and a poorer quality of life at one end of the spectrum. At the other end, the opposite is reflected.

Why is this a common occurrence? Countries on the whole are governed by the interaction between government and opposition. To this end, decision making is usually geared towards the survival of the party in power and a quest by the opposition to return to the seat of government. Herein lies the problem. In this constant battle for political supremacy many of the burning issues of the day fall by the wayside. This is demonstrated by the manner in which State-run institutions are given birth.

It is the general rule of practice that party loyalists are rewarded with key positions in State enterprises. It has clearly been shown that the failure of successive governments to appoint competent persons has led to serious financial losses at the expense of the taxpayers and the delivery of poor-quality service. Such a situation redounds mostly to the detriment of the poor and the marginalised.

In our present circumstance after six decades of independence, blessed with abundant oil and gas, our performance as a country leaves a lot to be desired.

It is acceptable that governments should appoint their own people but what is clearly an affront to the population is the quality of leadership provided by these appointees. Over the years, we have seen a deterioration of our institutions and a clear lack of transparency amidst deep concerns of corruption. No one will disagree, regardless of party


affiliation, that our petrol dollars were badly managed.

The present pandemic has brought this into the full glare of the public.

Therefore, in an effort to take advantage of our present crisis, the question of leadership in all walks of life must and should be seriously addressed. The effects of this pandemic have clearly changed the way that things should be done. The real question now is when all of this is said and done would the new normal relating to leadership revert to the old normal of patronage?

This is the billion-dollar question.

The Church is the moral voice of the people and must speak truth to power. It must also prevail on the government of the day to always speak truth to the people.

An aerial satellite-style photograph of a large hurricane or tropical storm over the ocean. The storm's eye is visible in the center, surrounded by dense, swirling cloud bands. The text "Are You Ready?" is overlaid in large, bold, white letters with a slight drop shadow.

Are You Ready?

ANCIL A. LYNCH | DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL

Disasters can strike at any time – hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic activity, landslides, infectious disease – the question is, Are You Ready? Too often in Trinidad we take for granted the severity of disasters and impact they can have on our daily lives. Since 2020 we have been trying to adapt to the “new normal” of the COVID-19 disease. With June 1st marking the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, there is no better time to be prepared than now.

Trinidad & Tobago has not been spared any impact of hazards. Since 2017 we have seen the growth in torrential rainfall and flooding, but these are not the only major events that can affect us. We are also vulnerable to industrial accidents, wildfires, tsunamis, landslides, earthquakes, and volcanic activity, just to name a few.

As a household, being prepared is the first step in responding to any emergencies. Having a family plan on what to do when an incident takes place can help. This plan can

entail where to go (if not at home and an incident takes place), who to contact in an emergency or how to safely evacuate your home in an emergency.

A simple Grab and Go kit for each household is advised, stocking basic items as suggested: *First Aid Supplies *Non-Prescription and Prescription Medication *Sanitation and Hygiene Supplies *Equipment and Tools *Water and Food for at least 3 days *Clothing and Bedding *Documents and Keys

*First Aid Supplies *Non Prescription and Prescription Medication *Sanitation and Hygiene Supplies *Equipment and Tools *Water and Food for at least 3 days *Clothing and Bedding *Documents and Keys

These items should be kept in a waterproof container or large bag and kept in a cool dry place. Also, its location should be known by each member of the household.

This is just a basic suggestion for preparedness and will be different depending on each household's needs and size.

For more information, contact the:

- Disaster Management Unit of your Municipal Corporation (DMU)
- Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)
- Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM)
- Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service (TTFS)
- Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS)

And for a full listing of contact information, and Emergency Hotline Numbers, follow the link: <http://www.odpm.gov.tt/emergency-contacts> for free advice and information on building a kit or basic preparedness guides.



DISASTER MANAGEMENT UNITS HOTLINE NUMBERS

Arima Borough Corporation	800-2ABC (2222)
Chaguanas Borough Corporation	800-DCBC (3222)
Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Regional Corporation	800-CTTC (2882)
Diego Martin Regional Corporation	800-DMRC (3672)
Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation	800-4MRC (4672)
Penal/Debe Regional Corporation	800- PDRC (7372)
Point Fortin Regional Corporation	800-PFBC (7322)

Princes Town Regional Corporation	800- PTRC (7872)
Port of Spain City Corporation	800-PSCC (7722)
San Fernando City Corporation	800-SCDU (7238)
Sangre Grande Regional Corporation	800-SGRC (7472)
San Juan/Laventille Regional Corporation	800-SLRC (7572)
Siparia Regional Corporation	800-4SRC (4772)
Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation	800-TPRC (8772)

TOLL FREE NUMBERS





SOCIAL MEDIA DEFINED



SOCIAL MEDIA REFERS TO THE USE OF WEB-BASED AND MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES TO ADVANCE INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATION . THIS INCLUDES INSTANT MESSAGING, TEXTING, EMAILING, AND VIDEO CHATTING. SOCIAL MEDIA IS ALWAYS EVOLVING AND CHANGING, SO WE MUST KEEP UPDATED ON THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY, PRACTICES AND TRENDS. SOME POPULAR PLATFORMS ARE: FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, YOUTUBE, WHATSAPP, TWITTER, PINTEREST, TIKTOK, SNAPCHAT, REDDIT, WECHAT, LINKEDIN, TELEGRAM, SOUNDCLOUD, SPOTIFY, MESSENGER, TWITCH, QQ, KWAI, TUMBLR, ZOOM, YELP, MYSPACE, TRIPADVISOR.

SOCIAL MEDIA & CHURCH

SOCIAL MEDIA IS A USEFUL AND NECESSARY MEANS OF DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS AND MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD. THESE GUIDELINES ARE TO ENCOURAGE THE FREQUENT, INTENTIONAL, AND APPROPRIATE USE OF THE VARIOUS FORMS OF SOCIAL MEDIA.





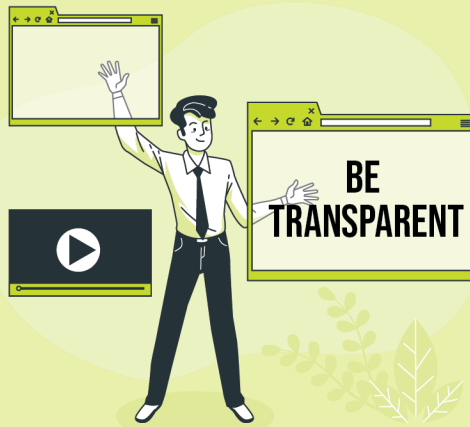
PCTT SOCIAL MEDIA WRITING

WHAT TO DO

SHARE USEFUL & RELEVANT INFORMATION



BE SINCERE AND TRUTHFUL



**BE GRAMMATICALLY PERFECT
(USE A PROOF READER)**



BE RESPECTFUL AT ALL TIMES



BE CONCISE AND ACCURATE



SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE OF THE ORGANISATION - WE ARE PCTT: AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST!



HAVE CLEAR COMMUNITY GUIDELINES



BE TACTFUL



PCTT SOCIAL MEDIA WRITING

PLEASE DON'T



**DO NOT REACT! - DO NOT RESPOND
WHEN YOU ARE HALT:
HUNGRY, ANGRY, LONELY, OR TIRED
PRACTICE THE PAUSE**



DON'T FEED THE TROLLS



**AVOID CONTROVERSIAL
LANGUAGE AND POSITIONS**



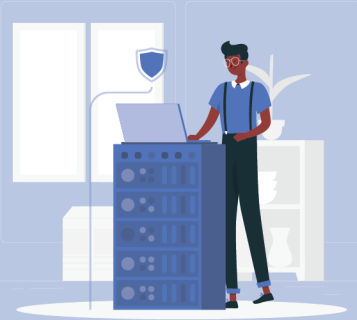
WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT



**FOLLOW THE NEW YORK TIMES RULE:
DON'T PUT IT IF YOU DON'T WANT
TO SEE IT ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEWS**



PRIVATE SOCIAL MEDIA CONSIDERATIONS



**USE APPROPRIATE
NAMES/HANDLES**



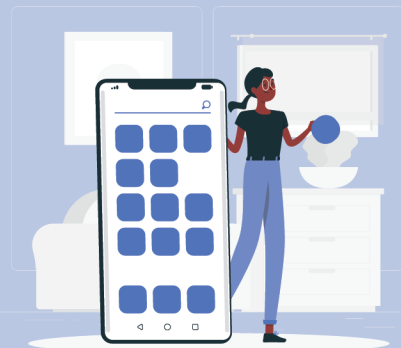
**YOU ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR
ALL POSTED CONTENT. CONTENT
CAN BE HELD AGAINST YOU.**



**YOU CANNOT UNRING THE BELL
(SOCIAL MEDIA WRITING
CAN LAST FOREVER)**



**PICTURES MUST BE TRUTHFUL,
TASTEFUL, CLEAR, LEGAL AND APPROVED**



**ASSUME THAT POTENTIAL CHURCH
GOERS, LEADERS, SPONSORS, ETC.
CAN ACCESS YOUR PERSONAL SOCIAL MEDIA**

BE AWARE OF THE EASY SPREAD OF FAKE NEWS: PLEASE DO NOT POST OR SHARE ANYTHING THAT CANNOT BE FACT CHECKED TO A RELIABLE SOURCE. THIS CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS DOING A GOOGLE SEARCH ON THE ARTICLE OR CROSS CHECKING WITH MAINSTREAM OR APPROVED SOURCES FOR INFORMATION FOR EXAMPLE THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OR MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR COVID-19 UPDATES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago
Board of Youth Affairs & National Youth Coordinator

invite all youths to

V I R T U A L
**GENERAL YOUTH
CAMP 2021**



Salvation | Engaging | Christ | Ultimate | Redeeming | Equipment

PSALM 40: 1 - 3

8TH TO 13TH AUGUST 2021

Register Online to SECURE your spot!



THE THREE



THE PCTT CARES,
PLEASE REMEMBER THESE

CORONA VIRUS

PREVENTIONS

“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.”

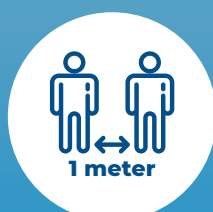
- 3 John 1:2



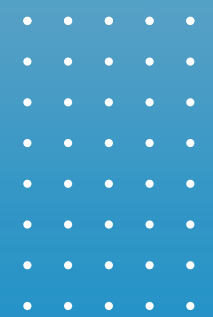
Wear a face mask properly



Wash your hands often

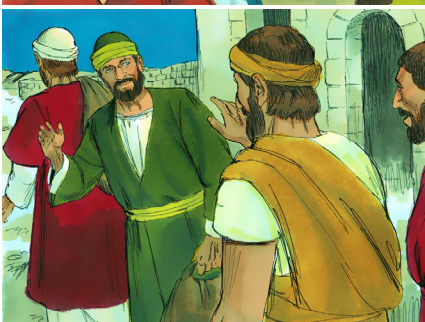
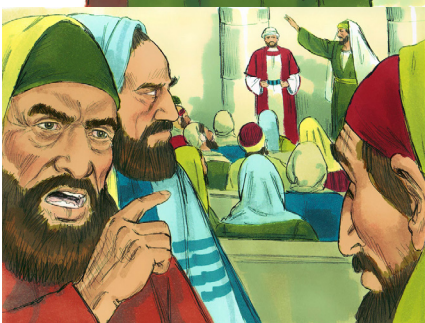
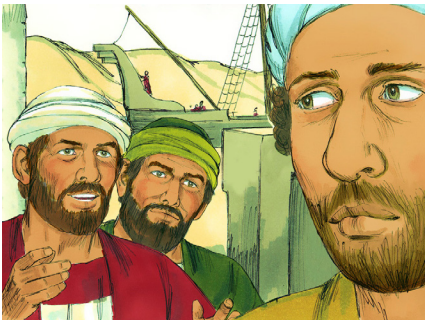


Watch your distance



Living for Christ! - Faith, Hope and Love!

DEACONESS AMBER SEESAHAJ-PAYNE, CLAXTON BAY PASTORAL REGION



BIBLE STORY

*Paul Learned about Jesus
(Acts 9:1-20)*

Even if I am able to trust in myself, still I do not. If anyone thinks that he has a reason to trust in himself, he should know that I have greater reason for trusting in myself. I was circumcised eight days after my birth. I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a Hebrew, and my parents were Hebrews. The law of Moses was very important to me. That is why I became a Pharisee. I was so enthusiastic that I tried to hurt the church. No one could find fault with the way I obeyed the law of Moses. At one time, all these things were important to me. But now I think those things are worth nothing because of Christ. Not only those things, but I think that all things are worth nothing compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord. Because of Christ, I have lost all those things. And now I know that all those things are worthless trash. This allows me to have Christ and to belong to him. Now that I belong to Christ, I am right with God and this being right does not come from my following the law. It comes from God through faith. God uses my faith in Christ to make me right with him.

MESSAGE

Paul was someone who was extremely smart. As a Pharisee, Paul would have memorised, known, and followed the 613 laws on how to follow God. He was someone who was 100% about following God. When he believed that Jesus was not God's son, he used his energy and time to go after the early Christians, dragging them to court to face death. He was determined that God should be honoured.

Last month we learnt about how Jesus changed Paul's life and how Paul spent his whole life working to make Jesus known.

Paul reached many people who had never heard of Jesus. With FAITH, Paul travelled to non-Jewish countries, believing that God would be with him and used his travel to make many more Christians. With HOPE, Paul knew that the work he was doing was bigger than himself. With LOVE, Paul paid for his travel by sewing tents instead of asking other people for money. Thanks to his work with God, many of us are Christians today.

God seeks to have a relationship with us and for us to work with Him! There are three special ingredients

MEMORY VERSE

"So these three things continue forever: faith, hope and love. And the greatest of these is love."

- 1st Corinthians 13:13

that will help us learn how to work with God. The three ingredients are: Faith, Hope, and Love.

Faith. When you work with faith, you believe that God wants to be a part of what you're doing, and you believe that his presence in your work makes a difference. Believing these things is working with faith.

Hope. When you work with hope, you know that God can do surprisingly big things through your work. Your work is like a small seed - God can use your work to touch more people than you might expect, or make other things happen that you might not expect. Working with hope means that you don't limit how you see people and situations you are working with - you leave room for God.

Love. When you work with love, you do the task with all your heart. Even if it's a simple task like washing dishes. By working with love, you work to serve others as God would, bringing his attitude, work ethic, and care into whatever you do.

When you work with faith, hope, and love, you're not just working for God, you are working with God. You and God are partners in work.

These gifts of God work together, each helps and supports the other. Faith in God helps hope to grow, and faith and hope help overcome fears. Then we become free to let God's love flow through us to others.

ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY ONE

Make faith, hope, and love banners. Here are some symbols that can be used to express each gift:

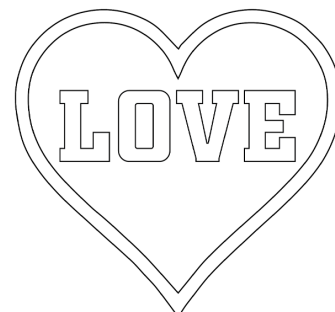
Faith: cross; also, sun or three-leaf clover

Hope: anchor, Noah's rainbow, a sunflower, cocoon and butterfly

Love: heart, outstretched hand with heart, dove with heart

ACTIVITY TWO

Make blessing cards! Make a card to give to someone that reminds them that God sees and loves them.





THE PCTT CARES

As a community of believers, we need to demonstrate love for our neighbour. (Matthew 22:39)

The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) affirms the Greatest Commandment of Christ, our Lord - to love one another as God loves each one and to love neighbour as self.

Although a personal choice, the PCTT cares that you protect yourself, your loved ones and your neighbour from COVID-19 by getting vaccinated guided by sound medical advice. **COVID-19 kept us apart but vaccines can bring us back together.** Make the responsible choice! Be safe and God bless!

IN LOVING MEMORY

*Afrose Elizabeth
Sampath*

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Honorary Elder of Marabella/Bonne Aventure Pastoral Region.

Lovingly remembered by

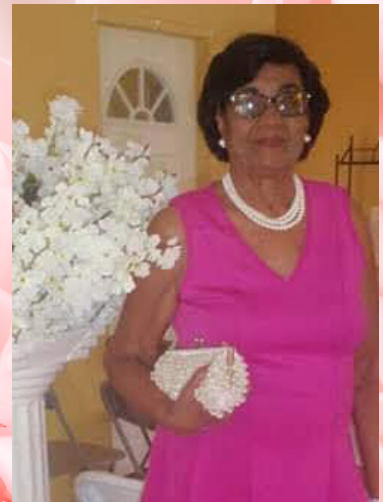
Sons: Steve, Harold, Errol and Charles Sampath

Daughters Zandra, Zoraida, Zamora and Zalina

Grandmother of thirteen

Great grandmother of seven

Family and friends



SUNRISE: 12 01 1936
SUNSET: 07 03 2020



Esmund Bassarath

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Son: Dr. Lindley Bassarath (deceased)

Daughter: Lynelle Roy.

Grandfather: Austin Bassarath.

Siblings: Sandra, Selwyn, Lynette, and Indra Doman.

Missed by many friends, nieces, and nephews.

Sorrow is a fleeting emotion, but love is infinite.

He passed in Canada.

SUNRISE: 04 05 1932
SUNSET: 03 05 2020


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143B, Maraj Avenue, Marabella,
Trinidad W.I.
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JAVA

J u l y A u g u s t V a c a t i o n

Eeepppp! Vacation time has rolled around for us ALREADYYYYYY in 2021. Can you imagine?

Half of the year is behind us....

This vacation time is quite different though than what July/August

Vacation usually resembles. Our CAPE and CSEC students are still hard at work, writing their exams – take a moment to whisper a prayer for them.

I wanted to let you know though that there a lot of things you can be involved in during JAVA – as



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

there are plans for your enjoyment, edification and enlightenment. To be in the know about these events:

CONNECT WITH ME

Follow me on IG @simz_nyc_pctt or on Facebook – Simone Pctt Youth-Coordinator

You can even feel free to say Heyyyyy on WhatsApp

All the events are on Zoom and trust me, they are loaded with awesometastic stuff!

Over the past couple months, I have been meeting with the Youth Leaders of the various Pastoral Regions across PCTT – these are your Ministers, Deaconesses, Regional Youth Coordinators, Local Youth Coordinators, Intern Ministers and Student Ministers!

Wow – they are doing a super great job at preparing many activities for your faith to be founded, anchored and grown. Have you been a part of these? If so – send them a little thank you note

You can even give them an idea of what more you would like to do in your Youth Ministries – or express an interest to help out.

HOBBIES

This time in your life as a youth –

that many would like to experience again – is a time for finding out who you are and what your interests are – what you like, what you enjoy, what are your passions.

Have you ever tried to develop a hobby? A hobby is considered to be a regular activity that is done for enjoyment, typically during one’s leisure time. Hobbies include collecting themed items and objects, engaging in creative and artistic pursuits, playing sports, or pursuing other amusements. They help time to go by and engage us in new adventures. You can have one or ten hobbies! There are soooooo many to choose from nowadays: DIYs (Home Projects) / Jewellery-making / Baking / Painting / Pottery / Drawing / Candle-making / Reading / Fixing up a car / Blogging / Vlogging / Upcycling / Photography / Volunteering / Building electronics.

And the list goes on.....

In fact, many persons have honed in their hobbies to become sources of income eg makeup artistry and car care – try one today. There are many websites that can get you started or have a chat with your parents about what their hobbies were.

That brings me to parents – HI! You

are a valuable person in the life of your youth and most especially in their faith development – trust me when I say that a child with a steadfast faith succeeds better at life than a child with no avenue to experience, question and develop their faith! Especially in these times – we do need to cling on to every shred of hope we can find!

I want to encourage you to nudge your young person to be a part of the Youth Ministry in your Church or Pastoral Region. With things as they are now, we are virtual. Reach out to your Youth Coordinator, Deaconess or Minister and find out about what is happening with the Youth Ministry. Also, follow the PCTT Facebook page to be updated with what’s coming up! Your youth is sure to be inspired with our youth content!



The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

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*"The Trinidad Presbyterian" was established in 1904
It is the official publication of the Presbyterian
Church of Trinidad and Tobago.*

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

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

TrinidadPresbyterian@pctt.org.tt

Please keep all article contributions between 300 - 350 words.

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

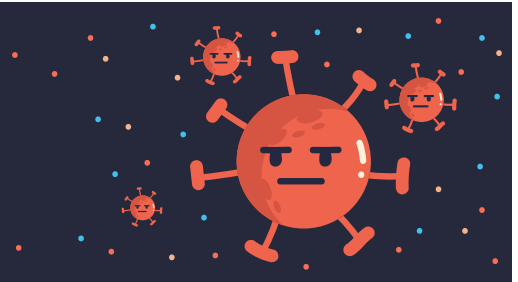
Kindly note that articles sent after the 15th will NOT be acknowledged for the upcoming publication, but may be considered for future issues.

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

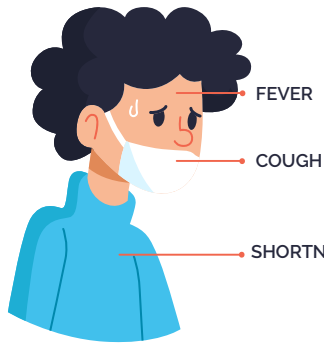
nCoVid-19

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

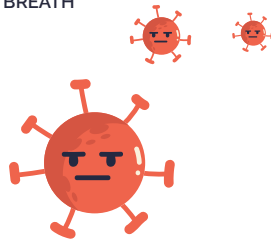


OTHER

- DIARRHEA
- VOMITTING

ADVANCED CASES

- PNEUMONIA
- RENAL FAILURE



TRANSMISSION

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

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)

(SOURCE: MINISTRY OF HEALTH, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE HELPLINES



Domestic Violence & Abuse Hotline: 800-7283

Rape Crisis Society North Office: 627-7273

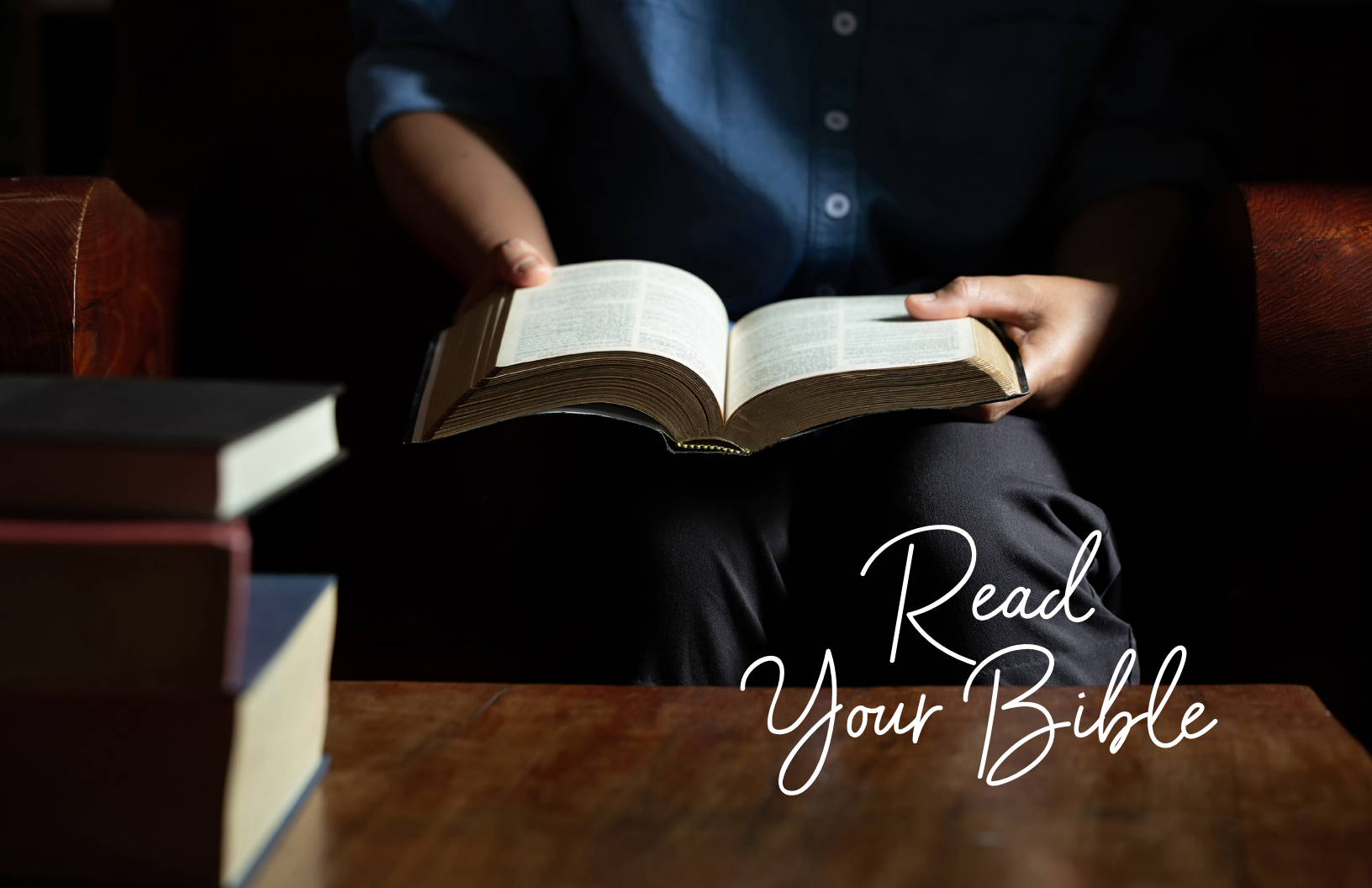
Rape Crisis Society South Office: 657-5355

Families in Action: 628-2333 / 622-6952

National Help Line: 800-4357

Rainbow Chat: 321-3393

Lifeline: 645-2800/622-6952



Read Your Bible

July
2021

“My grace is sufficient”

SUNDAY		2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Ephesians 1:3-14	Ephesians 2:11-22	Romans 12:1-21
MONDAY		1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-23	1 Samuel 18:5-30	Mark 4:1-20	Acts 15:36-16:5
TUESDAY		1 Samuel 15:24-35	1 Samuel 19:1-24	Mark 4:21-34	Acts 16:6-15
WEDNESDAY		1 Samuel 16:1-13	1 Samuel 20:1-23	Mark 4:35-41	Acts 16:16-24
THURSDAY	Luke 23:13-25	1 Samuel 16:14-17:11	1 Samuel 20:24-42	Mark 5:1-20	Acts 16:25-40
FRIDAY	Luke 23:26-31	1 Samuel 17:17-30	1 Samuel 21:1-15	Mark 5:21-43	Acts 17:1-15
SATURDAY	Luke 23:32-43	1 Samuel 17:31-49	1 Samuel 22:1-23	Mark 6:1-13	Acts 17:16-34

