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THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**ANNUAL VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**



**MODERATOR
SPEAKS** P. 02

**KNOW YOUR
FAITH** P. 11

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REFLECTION** P. 22

www.pctt.org.tt



**TRUE
FREEDOM**

Moderator *speaks*

We greet the month of August with open borders and cautious optimism in our ongoing struggle to manage our economic and social responses to this COVID-19 pandemic, which changed our lifestyle since 2020. In this month, as well, we observe two important milestones in our history – Emancipation and Independence. These three events suggest a measure of Freedom. May I therefore suggest that we take some time to reflect on the gift of freedom and how we, as Christians, can use this gift for the good of all.

I say this because the freedom given to humankind from the very inception of creation involves our right to choose. It has been 'to do or not to do, to be or not to be'. But this right has become complex as we continue to live in these pandemic days.

There are questions we must face. Is it incumbent upon me to be vaccinated? Or, with the borders closed for more than a year, do we feel "enslaved" by all the health protocols; the COVID-19 restrictions and not being able to leave the shores of our country to visit family and friends or to get that medical check-up abroad?

What is freedom? Freedom has

been defined as, "the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint." In other words, we have the liberty to make choices and decisions without any hindrances. However, freedom is also recognising our obligation to ensure that, in protecting our rights and freedom we do not infringe the rights and freedom of others.

The Church is no different. When Boards and Committees make decisions or choices, these will always affect the whole Body of Christ. Therefore, we are reminded of what the Apostle Paul said in Galatians 5:13 - "For you were called to freedom brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves [servants] to one another" (NRSV). The freedom that Christ gives is the power to do what we ought. We are only free if we are able to do what our conscience asks; and what the Spirit of Christ directs. It is when we are free in this real sense that we know what true liberty is. For this is the path to every other freedom.

The same is true in a nation where government makes legislation that may affect citizens one way or the other. Further, when we, as individuals, make poor decisions or choices, the consequences are



THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

usually detrimental. Therefore, it is imperative that in exercising our freedom we consider external factors and internal convictions. In this way, we avoid making choices that could cause us embarrassment.

As we gradually get back to normalcy, we are urged to make responsible decisions and choices in every area of our lives, so that life will be preserved in all its beauty and splendour.

*"God bless our nation
Of many varied races
May we possess that common love
That binds and makes us One.
Let it be known around the World
That we can boast of Unity
And take a pride in Our Liberty."*

EDITORIAL



Coping with bereavement

How do we cope with bereavement? Each person copes with bereavement in his/her own way – there is no right or wrong way to travel the journey. Persons in bereavement often ask, “How long will my grief last?” and “How long should I grieve?” The period of bereavement is whatever time an individual may require.

Soon after the death of a loved one, you may find yourself busy with funeral arrangements. Even after the funeral, a great deal of time may be spent sorting out practical and legal matters. In the present pandemic we are facing, many of the responsibilities that usually distract and keep you busy in the first few days of the death are restricted. There are no wake night services, nor can relatives and friends come over to spend time with the grieving family to bring comfort. There is no warm embrace to say, “I share your grief.” The Church community must be very careful how members gather to conduct the funeral service, bearing in mind all restrictions.

After the funeral service and all the responsibilities regarding your loved one’s affairs are completed, you may begin to feel worse rather than better. This is normal. It means that you are now feeling the full impact of bereavement.

One’s response to bereavement may be influenced by faith, culture, and belief. Persons who believe in life after death, ‘the resurrection’, may find religious and spiritual ceremonies comforting. Those

who have no religious beliefs may prefer to celebrate the life of the deceased in a simple way, for example, having a memorial gathering in a place that was special to the person who has died. The pandemic has made it difficult for persons in bereavement to accede to all the wishes of the deceased.

WHAT CAN HELP THE BEREAVED COPE?

Persons sometimes feel that they can cope with grief by themselves. However, they may need the support of others. This can come from family and friends, their faith community, a bereavement group, or social care professionals. While a person is in bereavement, he/she may appreciate some quiet time alone. It is important not to let this quiet time turn into withdrawal from people.

In this time of social distancing and restricted visitation, we need to find different ways of keeping in touch. Learning and using new technology may seem like a further burden when we already feel weary and cut to pieces. However, it is worth learning these new ways of communication, as they will keep us connected with others who love us and are concerned about us. Seeking support in bereavement is not a sign of weakness!

It is very important for the bereaved to make a special effort to stay connected. Set times to link up with family members and friends, even when you do not feel like it. It is important to take time out to care for yourself. As much as possible,

return to normal activities, these can help you to re-establish your routine. It is important to have your meals regularly and get adequate rest. Light exercise and listening to soothing music may be beneficial.

It is important that we support persons who are grieving, as loved ones, church family or neighbours. Sometimes, many are reluctant to support persons when they are in grief because they fear they will say the wrong thing or that they might be intruding. When we seek to support persons in their grief it is important to remember that the individual may be feeling lonely, and our concerns and support may help them feel cared for.

as WhatsApp or Facebook. This is especially meaningful during the pandemic, as the normal way of offering support by visiting the home and attending the funeral cannot take place. Therefore, it is important for to acknowledge the loss in different ways. Failure to acknowledging the death can cause greater hurt

- **GIVE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT:** You can listen to their worries, their memories, or stories of the person who has died.
- **GIVE PHYSICAL SUPPORT:** you can offer to do grocery shopping or cook a meal and bring it to

wedding anniversaries, and the birth of a child, or a trip to a special place may be comforting to the bereaved.

It is important for you, the bereaved, to recognize the effect the loss of your loved one may have had on you and the need for you to take care of yourself.

³ "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God"

- (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

It is good to remember that sometimes listening is more helpful.

When speaking with the bereaved, it is important to think what you are about to say and how what you are saying may be interpreted. For example, the often-used phrase, "He/She has gone to a better place" can upset some individuals rather than bring comfort. It is good to remember that sometimes listening is more helpful.

Some other ways of being supportive to persons in bereavement may be:

- **ACKNOWLEDGE THE DEATH:** You can do this by sending a sympathy card, flowers, a plant, conveying your condolences by a phone call or over media such

them using social distancing.

- **LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS:** if the person is expressing strong feeling of anger, impatience, or mood swings, you may need to pay attention to this and seek help for him/her.

Be respectful of the culture, religious beliefs and traditions of people that are different from yours.

Be thoughtful: your care, thoughtfulness and love may be needed a long time after the funeral. The remembering of special days such as birthdays,



BOARD OF MEN 59TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Conference Theme:
Living Faithfully in Christ
and Building Relationships
in an Evolving Church and
Community.

Tennence Warde

THE GENERAL SECRETARY
OF THE SYNOD OF THE PCTT
GUEST SPEAKER

SATURDAY JULY 31, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

<https://youtu.be/BxBspN3990E>

THE PCTT BOARD OF MEN 59TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE GUEST SPEAKER ADDRESS



MR. TERRENCE WARDE, THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SYNOD OF THE PCTT

The Board of Men (BoM) held its 159th Annual Conference on July 31st, 2021, virtually. This year's choice of Guest Speaker was the General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT), Mr Terrence Warde. Mr. Warde has been deeply involved with the BoM for years. He has also served on this Board as a Representative from the Curepe/St Joseph Pastoral Region.

The theme chosen for this year's conference is the same one used by the World Council of Reformed Churches (WCRC) for its global family of organisations and churches for 2021 – *“Living Faithfully in Christ and Building Relationships in an Evolving Church and Community.”* The role and function of the (BoM) can be drawn from the Constitution of the PCTT, “the purpose of the Board of Men is to lead men to an understanding of the witness of the Church – in the community and in the world.” The men of the Church are asked to bear witness of the Church. Over the years, the Board has successfully embarked on several projects which benefitted

the Church community from Pulpit Training for laypersons, the annual Family Days – an outreach project, and the annual Board of Men Calendar, to identify just a few.

God's will dictates the work of the Church and all the Boards of Synod. As a result of the pandemic, the work of all the Boards will change – how projects are done and how projects are chosen. The post-pandemic period will determine the way the Church and its Boards and Committees operate, to be relevant and more functional.

The members of the PCTT have grown accustomed to worship “just as we are.” We have adapted, to live lives of faith by creating worthwhile online ministries – adopting the concepts of “Church Without Walls” and “School Without Walls”. This form of worship, however, has still not reached all our members because of connectivity problems or lack of devices. Members have learned to survive and meet their commitments on reduced income. Some have used innovative ways of receiving offerings. While we miss greeting one another with a hug or handshake, we now do so with a smile, maintaining a

6-foot distance. Restrictions have curtailed our Pastoral Care and visitation, which has been limited to mostly telephone communication.

A reset of minds will become necessary as the world reopens and as we try adjusting to new situations. Social and spiritual capital will be valuable commodities when churches re-open. Messages from the pulpit and service to the people will have to be re-shaped for more relevance. The BoM has the opportunity to do better, to be more relevant to the lives of our membership as we begin to gather as a Church and a community. This is a positive!

The theme chosen is relevant to the Church today. The Board of Men would now need to examine its own resources – both human and physical – as well as assets, to ascertain how it can respond to the needs of the Church and communities, post-pandemic. The BoM has already begun to do so through the projects to provide devices for our children so their schooling can be continued and the start of a foodbank.

Many years ago, the Board had “As

One That Serves" (the acronym A.O.T.S.) as its motto. Quite a significant motto – one of service and stewardship to Church and community. The BoM should revisit this concept in the post-pandemic period – a period where the need to do things differently, better, and relevant to the needs of the membership and the community exist.

The 2002 Synod-approved Mission and Restructuring document referred to many social programs which the PCTT would venture into. This document also needs to be revisited by the Board to study and focus on the present needs of the Church.

The BoM can look into:

Adopting a Partnership approach: like the one taken by the PCTT:

- To provide food hampers to our membership and the communities of our Church adversely affected by pandemic.
- To support the migrant population through organisations.
- To partner with the Board of Social Responsibility to provide computer devices to students in our schools.
- To collaborate with a panel of medical practitioners to provide on an online platform, an educational webinar on various areas of the pandemic – a "Healing Ministry" approach to assisting our members with information on the vaccine.
- To partner with other Boards in its outreach programmes.

The will and determination to do so must be there once a project is identified. Development of partnership is important. Frederick Buechner, a writer, and Presbyterian Minister wrote, "You can survive on your own, you can grow strong on your own, you can prevail on your own, but you cannot become human on your own."

Mental Health and Wellness – it has been seen that Mental Health issues have been caused by the pandemic. As part of the Healing Ministry, counselling services may be required by our members, as they navigate back into some sort of normalcy.

Additionally, in the past the BoM partnered with the non-profit group Alcoholics Anonymous to provide counselling to its members. There would be need for this type of partnership with other such NGOs.

The Scout Movement – Our primary schools have a rich history of the presence of the Scout movement and its role spans over 100 years in some cases. Shaping and forming young minds can be a gift the BoM can give to the society – to mentor young men into a Christian-type of lifestyle and to share the values of the Church.

The PCTT has many properties that are lying dormant. The Board can approach the Synod with proposals to develop these, as the Board had done at Layman's Lodge in Toco many years ago. The men can engage in a tangible type of project where the Board can take the lead in conceptualising, developing, and implementing a viable project for the benefit of the Church.

The BoM can take pattern from

other Boards, for example:

The Board of Social Responsibility has recently proposed an In-Transit Home at one of our properties in Los Iros and has provided initial building plans thus far. The Board of Women already runs the Iere Nursery School at Princes Town.

Thus, the precedent is there for Boards of the Synod to propose tangible, viable, and sustainable projects for consideration, even if it may seem far-fetched at the time. The Board should brainstorm its evolving role, and open up to possibilities that may seem obscure at this time, but that others may recognise and accept as visionary. The Synod welcomes this out-of-the-box thinking.

Today, I call on the Board to act, to move, to transform, to take responsibility and to continue serving as Jesus directed and as the Church needs. In a post-pandemic period of uncertainty and restrictive conditions and an environment which is not common to us all, situations with which we are familiar have changed. What does not change is our need to continue building relationships, to serve our neighbours and our communities and to spread the Word of God through our lives and how we live – all to God's glory!

To review the Board of Men's Conference held on July 31st and listen to Mr. Terrence Warde's presentation, return to page 7 and click on the link to the YouTube video.



ST. ANDREW'S THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
BOARD OF YOUTH AFFAIRS (PCTT)

Register Now

CERTIFICATE IN YOUTH MINISTRY

FOR ALL YOUTH LEADERS & YOUTH COORDINATORS
WITHIN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



@satc1892



Start Date: September 18th 2021
Duration: Six weeks | Day: Saturday
Time: 9am - 11.30am
Credit: One | Cost: \$500
Contact us: kimberly.ramkissoon@satc.edu.tt

CERTIFICATE IN YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Andrew's Theological College, in partnership with the Board of Youth Affairs, is launching a new programme for all those involved in youth work in their church.

Course Description: This course engages students to analyse Youth Ministry issues from theological perspectives, to explore approaches for addressing these issues with

a congregation, and discover methods and techniques for Youth Ministry from the pulpit to the pew and beyond.

Academic Year: 2021/2022 Semester I

Course Code: CYM 100 | Cost: \$500.00

Delivery: Online | Duration: 6 weeks

Coordinated by: Rev. Adrian Sieunarine and The Board of Youth Affairs (PCTT)

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/KgCwxCRqyo7EQoHf9>

For online payment, go to: CYM100-Certificate in Youth Ministry | SATC

<https://satc.edu.tt/course/cym100-certificate-in-youth-ministry/>

KNOW YOUR

FAITH SERIES



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

HOW TO BE A PRESBYTERIAN PATRIOT

Independence Day and Republic Day in Trinidad and Tobago remind us of our gains as a people. We are filled with gratitude to God for the vision, dedication and perseverance of those who maintain the blessings of peace and justice.

Some people wonder if Christians can be patriotic or if the nation/state is just a necessary evil, created because without government our lives would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short." (Thomas Hobbes).

Presbyterians emphasised that earthly governments have divine purpose. John Calvin declared: "The nation state truly has roles directly connected with religion.

Government protects and supports the worship of God, promotes justice and peace, and is a necessary aid in our earthly pilgrimage toward heaven; as necessary as bread and water, light and air; and more excellent in that it makes possible the use of these, and secures higher blessings to all." (Institutes of the Christian Religion IV:20, my translation).

As Presbyterian patriots, we have the following perspectives:

1. We are full citizens both of the Kingdom of Heaven (Philippians 3:20) and the nation in which we have been placed (1 Peter 2:13-17).

2. We are called to participate in national life to promote God's will. We think of Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in Babylon and Esther in Persia.
3. All people have the same origin (Acts 17:26) and therefore there is unity in the diversity of people and nations (Colossians 3:11).
4. We live, pray and work so the will of God would be "done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10).

Let us follow in the footsteps of Presbyterian pioneers who pledged themselves to serve God by enlightening and edifying all people locally, regionally and internationally.

Philippians 3:20 - ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 2:13-17 - ¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those

who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Acts 17:26 - ²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

Colossians 3:11 - ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

vacation fun with our *CHILDREN*



COUNSELLING COLUMN WITH BERNADETTE GYAN-MANICKCHAND

Q

How can parents/guardians keep children safe and productive during the pandemic vacation period?



With students already being home-schooled for almost sixteen months, parents and guardians are at their wits' end trying to find ways to keep their children safe, occupied, and productive during this vacation period.

While children are excited to say 'no more alarms and school

routines,' we need to ensure that time management and learning are not being replaced by screen play.

LET US START BY GETTING THE CHILDREN ORGANIZED.

Have them indulge in fun household tasks. Teach 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness' so sharing in tasks to keep their rooms or space neat and tidy can bring

about a sense of achievement and independence. Allow them the opportunity to create a chore roster to determine will do the dishes, fold the laundry, feed the dog/fish/bird, and take out the garbage. Of course, there are the pleasant and unpleasant tasks, so parents may have to put their negotiation skills to work and have rewards or tokens handy.

Teaching and learning new skills may also help in developing new interests. Start a PROJECT! Planting seeds and journaling the growth of the seedlings into plants can give rise to an interest in gardening. Making simple and nutritious meals or snacks can be very satisfying and also prove to be economical. Sandwiches filled with healthy fillings (cheese paste, tuna salad, and egg salad), basic dried fruit, cookies, cupcakes, or old-time favourites such as sugarcakes, pawpaw or tamarind balls and popcorn, and fresh fruit smoothies

will surely stimulate some healthy appetites.

WHAT ABOUT ENHANCING THE HOBBIES?

Hobbies play an important role in nurturing creativity. They prevent boredom and provide an outlet for stress. Children can explore activities based on their talents and abilities. Drawing and painting, recycling objects in their environment for craft creation, poetry, and story writing from an episode heard or seen or even imagined then dramatized can result in a pleasant feeling of accomplishment. For those who prefer to engage in movement, there is dance and music. Compose, then perform songs at a weekly home concert. New stars can be discovered right in our homes.

EXERCISE AND FITNESS,

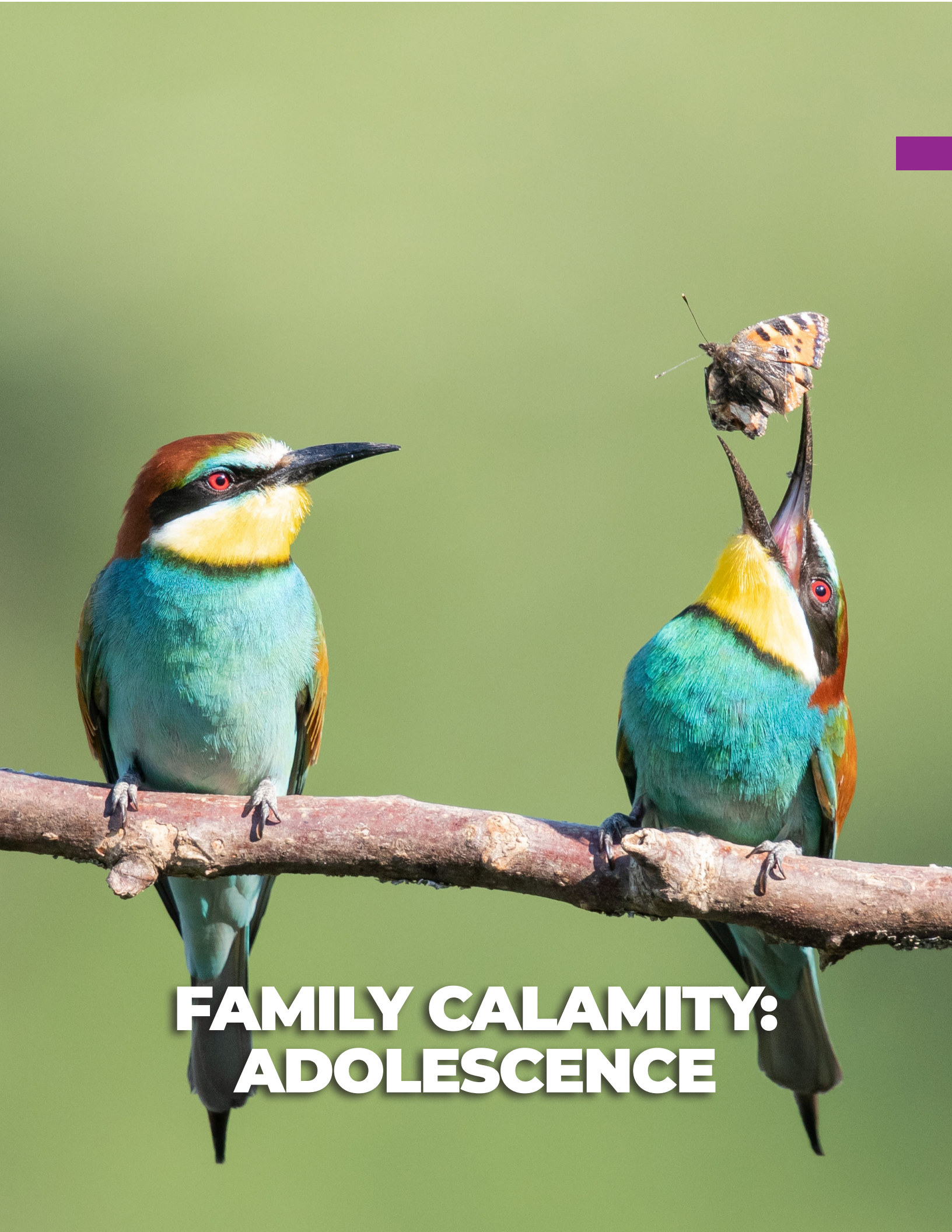
These two can be a bit of a challenge as space at home might

be tight, and being cooped up for so long might have brought about a bit of a laziness. The key is to get our children active for the sake of good health. Some exercises that can be done "on spot" include: jogging, stretching, yoga poses, and even planks. Where there is a yard, then, skipping, hopscotch, moral, and football or basketball. Investing in a trampoline can encourage the entire family in lively activities. Making a swing using basic items of rope and solid board or an old tire can be much fun for the younger age group. Everyone enjoys a good swing.

As one can see, there are many ways (I am sure parents are ready to explore others as well) to keep children motivated, despite social distancing and stay-at-home restrictions. Have fun as a family. Help your child/children hone-in on their creativity, knowledge, memory, and life skills.

Happy holidays to you all!





FAMILY CALAMITY: ADOLESCENCE

Although used synonymously, the terms 'adolescence' and 'youth' are defined differently.

The term "Youth" was utilised by the United Nations in 1981 as a socially constructed category for statistical purposes – mainly for education and employment data – to refer to persons aged 15 to 24. However, countries based on their own factors spread the range from 13 to 40. Youth can be understood as a transition period from childhood's dependence to adulthood's independence, from the end of formal compulsory education to one's first job. The United Nations has declared August 12 as International Youth Day.

'Adolescence' is a concept used by psychologists to explain and understand human development during the human lifespan. It refers to the second phase of human development and is a fixed period from the onset of puberty during childhood to maturity of adulthood with the age range 11-13 to 23.

As we focus on the crises that are experienced by adolescents (or youths), it is useful and necessary to reflect on the theories of human and personality development as these may indicate where the crises

occur. To understand this, one can assist in the intervention in the lives of this group who are neither child nor adult.

The psychological theories of human and personality development look at various factors, including, psycho-sexual, psycho-social, cognitive, social learning, etc., which impact persons through the human lifespan, each attempting to explain and give understanding to the crises in life. Erikson (1950), in his psycho-social theory of human development, listed eight life stages with the tasks of adolescence as 'identity vs role confusion'. For Erikson, if humans did not successfully achieve the four stages of childhood, then difficulties arise through adolescence and the three stages of adulthood to old age.

Following is a summary of the major crises of adolescents - identity and role confusion.

Crises of adolescence are so often generally overlooked by saying that "Hormones are acting up." Should we give it a thought or try to be helpful as a parent, teacher, pastor, employer, coach, or other adult? We may be reminded of our own adolescence crises – some have been left behind as resolved but many we still 'tote' because they

are unresolved.

These causes of predicament among adolescents are met by either positive or negative responses and result in frustration, depression, aggression, anger, violence, suicide, mental and physical health issues. All these have contributed to the array of calamities within the family.

Remember, the family is not just a group or gathering without a common purpose. Never let it ever be that the family can NOT adjust and adapt as changes occur.

Location of Community Mediation Centres

North Main Mediation Centre

Level 1, JOBCO Building
51-55 Frederick Street, Port of Spain
Phone: 625-6768/625-2819

Tunapuna Mediation Sub-Centre

Tunapuna Regional Social Services Centre,
#107 Eastern Main Road, Tunapuna
Phone: 497-6086

Point Fortin Main Mediation Centre

63 Main Road, Point Fortin
Phone: 648-2888/648-2810

East Main Mediation Centre

3rd Floor, Upstairs Pennywise Building,
10A Devenish Street, Arima
Phone: 667-0266/667-5086/667-2257

San Juan Mediation Sub-Centre

MTS Plaza, Aranguez Main Road, Aranguez
Phone: 638-8133

Couva Mediation Sub-Centre,

Social Services Delivery Building,
Camden Road, Couva
Phone: 679-3660

Central Main Mediation Centre

#282 Old Southern Main Road, Warrenville
Phone: 693-2342/693-2568/693-2831

St. Barbs District Centre

Morris Marshall Foundation Centre, Corner
St. Barbs & Laventille Road, Laventille
Phone: 620-4467

Penal/Debe Mediation Sub Centre

Phone: 758-7816/709-0060

Contact us at:

Community Mediation Services Division

Head Office: 1st Floor, Jobco Building

51-55 Frederick Street, Port of Spain

Tel: 225-4267/625-3911

Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

Level 20, Nicholas Towers,

63-65 Independence Square, Port of Spain.



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Community Development,
Culture and the Arts

Community Mediation Services Division

*"Talk it out...
not fight it out"*



- Small Claims
- Family Disputes
- Juvenile Conflicts
- Conflict Resolution
- Teen/Parent Issues
- Landlord/Tenants
- Community Disputes
- Leadership Development
- Anger Management Programme

What is the Community Mediation Programme



On April 26,
2006 a new
system of

Community Mediation was launched in Trinidad as an alternative to the court process when trying to resolve disputes in civil and family matters.

The Mediation Act of 2004 establishes the Community Mediation Programme and gives authority to the Minister with responsibility of Community Mediation to make Regulations for conduct of mediation services and the use of the Community Mediation centres.

MEDIATION

is a process where parties in conflict are able to come to a voluntary agreement with the assistance of a neutral party known as a mediator

VISION

To be the medium in promoting the culture of *PEACE*, thereby facilitating healing and harmony in our communities

MISSION

To facilitate the empowerment of individuals, groups and communities by resolving dispute through mediation in a non threatening environment



The Role of the Mediator

- a. To guide the mediation process between the disputing parties.
- b. To encourage candid discussions of the issues so that a solution can be developed.
- c. To encourage the parties to resolve the dispute themselves so that the agreement is voluntary and amicable.
- d. To keep proper records of only the outcome of each mediation session.
- e. To ensure the process is impartial, confidential and transparent.
- f. To encourage the parties to seek assistance from other social agencies if needed.



SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES

An effective Community Mediation System functions simultaneously on two levels, seeking a solution to the present conflict while working to resolve existing conditions that give rise to conflict. It includes the following community-based programmes:

- Anger Management Programme
- Conflict Resolution
- Leadership Skills and Training
- Mentoring Programmes
- Peer Mediation Programmes
- Teen/Parent Issues
- Parenting Support Groups



ROLE OF COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTRES

Under the current Act, Community Mediation is available as a mechanism for negotiating the settlement of disputes in a wide variety of areas including, but not limited to the following matters:

- Landlord/Tenants
- Merchants/Consumers
- Small Claims (Quantum to be determined)
- Threat and harassment problems
- Neighbourhood problems
- Family and Relationship disputes, for example, Visitation Rights, Access, Custody and Maintenance
- Small Contractors and Home Owners
- Community Disputes
- Juvenile conflicts including truancy and delinquent children



THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY MEDIATION

The benefits of successfully mediating a dispute vary depending on the needs and interest of parties.

The most common advantages include:

- Parties are directly involved in coming up with the solution to the dispute.
- As the neutral party, the mediator assists the parties in exploring alternatives which are free of bias.
- The mediation process is faster than the court process.
- It is free of charge, there is no cost to the disputing parties.
- The process is simple and lacks complex proceedings.
- There is flexibility and parties can use creative solutions.
- It eliminates any pressure and tension which usually exist during the court process



The IRO Appoints A New Executive

NEAL RYAN RAWLINS, SECRETARY IRO

The Inter Religious Organisation of Trinidad & Tobago (IRO) ushered in a new Executive on Saturday 26th June 2021, for the 2021/2022 term.

Pundit Lloyd Mukram Sirjoo is now the new IRO President, succeeding Reverend Dr. Knolly Clarke who held the reins as President for three (3) terms. Reverend Dr. Clarke now serves as 1st Vice President, with the Right Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan holding the position of 2nd Vice President.

This year, the annual Election of Officers was held virtually via Zoom. Overseeing the election process and acting as the Returning Officer was Senior Bishop Ray M. S. Brathwaite of the Triune Archdiocese, who is an Advisor to the Patriarch of the National Congress of Spiritual Baptists.

Baba Neal Ryan Rawlins retained his role as Secretary supported by

Assistant Secretary Pundit Jairam Ramsubhag. Abbess Germaine Charles Jordan and Imam Imtiaz Ali hold the positions of Treasurer and Public Relations Officer, respectively. Three Trustees were also selected as part of the Executive – Mother Joan Irish, Brother Shafudeen Ali and Dr. Ellis Burris Ph.D.

As an umbrella body comprising a number of diverse Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), the IRO continues to partner and collaborate with both religious and non-religious bodies to engender a healthier spiritual and moral value system, so as to underpin the intellectual and economic advancement of all citizens.

Further, the IRO carried forward its 3Rs Principle into the new term of *Revisioning, Restructuring & Reorganising*. This principled approach is a strategy to contemporise and reform its operations internally, as the IRO

sees itself as a pivotal change agent within our twin-island state.

IRO's EXECUTIVE CONTACT LISTING 2021/2022 TERM – ELECTED & SELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Pundit Lloyd Mukram Sirjoo

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Reverend Dr. Knolly Clarke

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan

SECRETARY

Baba Neal Ryan Rawlins

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Pundit Jairam Ramsubhag

TREASURER

Abbess Germaine Charles Jordan

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO)

Imam Imtiaz Ali

TRUSTEES

Mother Joan Irish

Brother Shafudeen Ali

Dr. Ellis Burris (Ph.D.)

125th Anniversary of Bien Venue Presbyterian Primary School

ANDREW RANGOO, TEACHER

On 2nd July 2021, Bien Venue Presbyterian School celebrated its 125th Anniversary. Hailed as a celebration like no other, it took place via Zoom and created an opportunity for every staff member, together with Anand and Hema Ramkisson – past students working and residing in Canada – to pool their time, talents and love for the school even amidst national restrictions.

Chairperson, Mr Rajesh Changoor, teacher with over twenty years of dedicated service at the school, competently steered us through the virtual program. Our school's Chaplain, Reverend Stephen Harripersad, led in the invocation. Warm sentiments were expressed by the following stakeholders: - School's PTA President - Mrs. Savita Chance, School's Manager - Mr Ralph Nandlal, T&TUTA's General Secretary - Ms Kady Beckles, Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education, Chairman - Mr. Vickram Ramlal and School Supervisor 1 - Mr. Shazard Khan. A comprehensive history of the school was also presented by Senior Teacher Randy Mangaroo, tracing the birth, growth and accomplishments of the school over the 125 years.

Members of staff worked tirelessly, after completing a day of virtual classes, to ensure that items were properly developed and recorded. This new format allowed for creativity to come alive, and

teachers were ably up to the task. Mrs Vashti Maharaj and her team created a picture slide show that detailed aspects of the school life from past to present, a feature of the program that was thoroughly enjoyed by past students and teachers in particular.

Mr Randy Mangaroo worked with class teachers to create a segment on reflections from current students about Education in a Pandemic, while past students, Anand and Hema Ramkisson, created virtual interviews with students who had long left the corridors of this great school. An absolute delight and a genius stroke of creativity to the program was the drone footage created by Ms. Crystal Ramroop showing an aerial view of the school set against the backdrop of the community of La Romaine.

During the Principal's address, Mr. Dillan Daniel pointed out that our students not only focused on academic pursuits, but also were encouraged to engage in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. This was quite evident in the cultural items presented by students. Students were required to practice at home, perfect their craft, record their performances and send in their items electronically. Emily Mowlah presented an East Indian dance, Alyssa Pooran performed the school hymn and presented an item in song and the trio of Celine Hospedales, Gabriella Pacheco and



Mr. Dillan Daniel
Principal Primary

Alejandra Berkley performed an item on our National Instrument, the steelpan. These three girls, under the expert guidance of the school's Janitor and Pan Tutor, Mr Hudson Henry, practised via Zoom, ensuring all safety protocols were observed, and delivered a spectacular rendition.

The school was privileged to have Reverend Daniel Chance as the Feature Speaker. In his address, he spoke about the rich inheritance at Bien Venue. He also suitably used a quote by Marie Curie which states, 'You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individual.'

Translated into English from French, 'Bien Venue' means 'welcome' and for the past 125 years, the school has done just that. The school has welcomed every creed, every race and every religion, and worked with the community of La Romaine and environs amidst changes and challenges to provide the best opportunities for those who entered its doorway to become disciplined, socially functioning, productive citizens.

As we, the Bien Venue Presbyterian School, continue to serve the community of La Romaine, we do so with pride, honour, grace, elegance and authority, all to the glory of God.



Empancipation Day Reflection

MICHAEL COOPER-OCIENGH, ROCHARD DOUGLAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



This year is an extra-special year... Well, of course! you may retort – but no, I am not talking about COVID-19. I am talking about Emancipation Day. Although Trinidad and Tobago became the first independent country in the world to declare a national holiday to commemorate the abolition of slavery as far back as 1985, outside of the Caribbean, Emancipation Day is not much celebrated.

This year, however, a new country has added Emancipation Day to its list of national holidays. On March 24, 2021, the Canadian House of Commons voted unanimously to officially designate August 1st as Emancipation Day. Just as our declaration of August 1st as Emancipation Day occurred out of the 1970's Black Power Movement, the 2021 Canadian declaration of August 1st as Emancipation Day comes as a direct result of the re-emergence of the 2013 Black Lives Matter Movement, after the death of George Floyd in 2020. It is a bitter reminder of the many struggles and lives that were lost to bring about the abolition of slavery in the first place. It is also a reminder to us that even today, many still must pay a high price for our freedoms and liberties.

The special significance of Canada declaring Emancipation Day as a holiday lies in the fact that all countries that celebrate Emancipation Day are in many ways victims of slavery and the slave trade. In Canada, however, we find a nation that profited from

the slave trade and is still grappling with its treatment of indigenous peoples, taking a bold step towards reconciliation.

It is said that reconciliation is a journey, one fraught with much pain and anguish. From a Christian perspective reconciliation begins with confession. We are called to confess because we have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. In our daily lives though, how often do we honestly admit our wrongs? Often, we are quick to make excuses for our behaviours, rather than confess our shortcomings. The importance of confession however should not be lost in a single act. Christian confession calls us to examine ourselves, and in so doing, to turn away from our sinful ways. When we truly confess, we take a step closer to emancipation from our selfish nature. A step closer to God.

This observance of a national holiday is by no means a magic wand to systemic ills, but it is a glimmer of hope in a hopeless world. In the midst of so much doom and gloom, it is easy to get lost in the darkness, but it is in this very darkness that we most need to look out for the light.

This Emancipation Day, I could lament on unfulfilled promises and the unrealised dreams, but instead, I will celebrate the many small victories and the hope of the Kingdom to come. "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."- Galatians 3:28 (NIV)



ROSANNA BEHARRY, LATCHU MEMORIAL

Latchu Memorial Presbyterian Church 112th Anniversary

A B R I E F H I S T O R Y

The story of the Latchu Memorial Presbyterian Church unofficially began when its chief founder Mr. James Latchu was baptised by Reverend John Morton in 1890 at the Tunapuna Mission. James soon encouraged his brother, John, to accept Christ as his Saviour and to be baptised as well. These baptisms laid the foundation for the Latchu Memorial Presbyterian Church

In 1909, the brothers, James and John, together with their families moved to Bejucal, but it was too far from Tunapuna for Rev. John Morton to come to them or for them to go to worship at Tunapuna.

Trained by Dr. Morton, both James and John initiated "voluntary Christian work" in Bejucal. James was the more gifted orator, so he preached on Sundays and taught

both Hindi and English on evenings at his home, while John assumed the mantle of church manager.

In 1933, under the guidance of the Reverend Lalla, a decision was made to erect a permanent church building. Through hard work and dedication, after three years, the sum of \$502.74 was raised and on December 30, 1936, the cornerstone of the church building was laid.

On July 29, 1937, the building was completed and dedicated to the Glory of God and named "Latchu Memorial Presbyterian Church".

The families were commended as this was the first time a congregation built a church completely on its own, without funds from Canada or the Presbytery.

Ten years later in 1947, the government declared Bejucal an irrigation area and all residents had to be relocated. In 1948, when the British Government initiated land reform and established new agricultural settlements, Reverend C. D. Lalla used his influence to give priority to the Presbyterian families so they may be relocated to one of the new settlements at Bamboo Grove Settlement No. 1.

At Bamboo Grove, Isaac Latchu built a shed on his allotment and church services resumed. Jeffrey Jamurath preached in Hindi while Isaac Latchu conducted devotions in English. As attendance increased, there was a need for larger accommodation. The church at Bejucal was compensated for

relocation and was awarded land at Bamboo Grove for a building to accommodate both a church and a school.

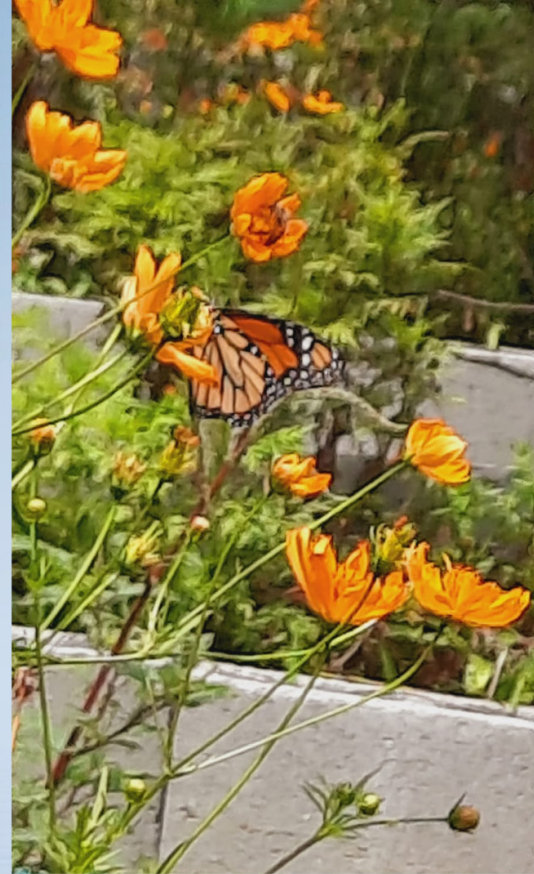
On July 11, 1951, the cornerstone of the new church at Bamboo Grove Settlement No. 1 was laid by Sarah Latchu and Manuella Jamurath, the wives of the two pioneers James and John.

It was completed one year later under the supervision of Jeffrey Jamurath (chief carpenter), Isaac and Saith Latchu (father and son – Treasurers). The Bamboo Grove Presbyterian School was also established and was housed in the church building for four years under its Principal, Mr Charles B Kalloo.

In 1956, the Bamboo Grove Presbyterian School was formally opened at its present site and the church was re-dedicated to the honour and glory of God. The funds left over from the Church Fund was donated to the Curepe Presbyterian Church Building Fund.

As the Latchu Memorial Presbyterian congregation meets the challenges of the pandemic we give praise and honour to Almighty God for sending Reverend Morton and the founding fathers, who gave us this great opportunity to know and experience Christianity.

We, the congregation, also acknowledge the contributions of all the past serving ministers, and other church workers who have truly inspired us as we continue our walk on the righteous path in our daily lives.



Zayn Cadan
Xavier Rampersad
Kristian Mahabalsingh
Shivanie Rampersad
H.E. Dulcie Powdhar

Mobile Photography Contest

CONGRATS TO OUR WINNERS

#SJPC #CAREFORCREATION #SJPCCLICKITTOWINIT

SJPC PRESENTS
CLICK IT TO WIN IT

@St. Joseph Presbyterian Church



MURELLA SAMBUCHARAN | SECRETARY, ST JOSEPH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

If a picture paints a thousand words

June 2021 marked the official launch of The St. Joseph Presbyterian Church's 'Care for Creation' initiative. Driven by God's call to be stewards of creation, a year-long project *Towards a Sustainable SJPC* took root. Theologically underpinned by Genesis 2:15, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it," this project initiates strategies to make our church building, our operations, our services and our outreach respectful of the glory of God's creation, our natural environment.

A brainchild of members of our Local Board, the *SJPC Click It to Win It Mobile Photography Competition* was launched via our SJPC social media platforms. Vibrant animated flyers ignited interest among members as they

used their mobile devices to capture images of nature. These were submitted with a verse from Holy Scripture. Over 50 participants, ranging from 6 to 92 years of age, uploaded entries with our trending hashtags #SJPCClickItToWinIT and #CareforCreation.

Through a virtual judging event, a team of experts in the field of Environmental Management, Photography and Theology: Dr. Marissa Gowrie, Mr. Owen Bruce and SATC Principal, Reverend Adrian Sieunarine, had the tough job of selecting the 5 top entries. With event coordinator, Samantha Somara, at the helm, the following winners were announced via a social media splash on July 18th, 2021: Zayn Cadan, Xavier Rampersad, Kristian Mahabalsingh, Shivanie Rampersad and Honorary Elder, Dulcie Powdhar.

As part of the project Towards a Sustainable SJPC, a month-long Sunday School programme was planned and presented by volunteers, with the support of Superintendent, Samantha Somara. Sunday School children engaged in a series of virtual lessons, including themed interactive sessions entitled: 'SJPC goes on Safari', 'God's Garden' and 'SJPC Superheroes Unite'. Virtual tours, singsongs, mini movies, crafting, and reflective activities helped guide learning about protecting our immediate and extended environment as servants of God. These initiatives, with others underway, highlight the commitment of the SJPC community to foster environmental awareness and engender a spirit of Christian fellowship (albeit virtually for now) among members of our congregation.





Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mr. Brian Joshua Balliram who attained a Diploma in Business Administration from Humber College, Canada in 2020, and the degree Bachelor of Business Administration, Honours Programme from Guelph University Canada, in 2021.

Brian is the son of Diane and Terrence Balliram of Canada and the grandson of Rev. & Mrs. Paul D. Balliram of Trinidad.



**Towards a world
without rape and violence**

THURSDAYS IN BLACK



**World Council
of Churches**

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OVER 41 YEARS EXPERIENCE!

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.

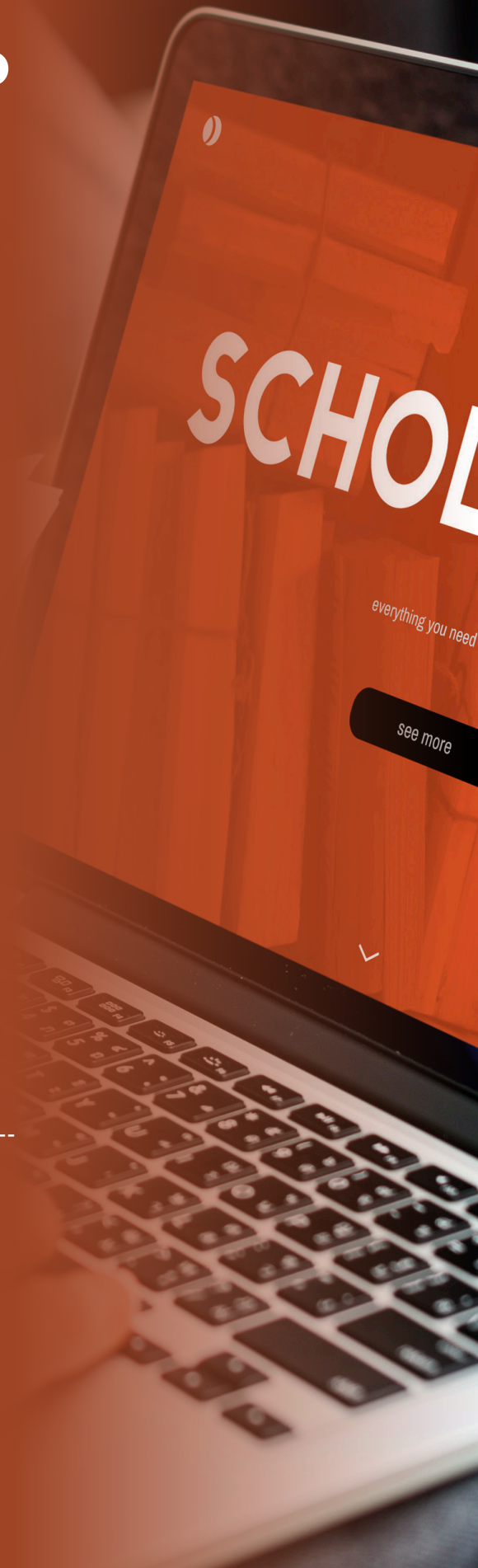
2. All Continuing students (Year 2 and Further) Must provide the following with your application.

- 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.





The Board of Social Responsibility **BOSR**



**HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
BY DONATING TO OUR RELIEF BANK**

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Bleach • Disinfectant • Brooms • Mops
Gloves • Boots • Garbage Bags

CLEAN CLOTHING & BEDDING ITEMS

Label & sort by item, gender and age

SECONDARY SCHOOL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

USED TEXTBOOKS

To help us with this Education Initiative please provide the names of Children/Parent, address, pastoral region, and a brief outline of the assistance required to your BOSR Representative who will advise as to arrangements for collection and provide any further information.



FLOOD RELIEF DRIVE
CALL FOR DONATIONS

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

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Bank Name: RBC Royal Bank
Branch: High Street
Account Name:
The Presbyterian Church of T&T
Account Number: 98110023868
Account type: Chequing

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accounts@pctt.org.tt
AND
junebaboolal@gmail.com
Ms. June Baboolal
Treasurer of BOSR

BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION



**PCTT BOARD OF WOMEN
Virtual Rally 2021**

**Saturday August 14th
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**



YOUTUBE LINK TO FOLLOW SOON

BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION: MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY AND SOCIALLY



The PCTT Cares

ASK A DOCTOR

Health Webinar: COVID-19



On the panel will be three respected medical practitioners who are on the frontline in treating with COVID-19 and Vaccination. They will be sharing their expertise for the benefit of our members and all interested persons. Topics of focus include:

**General Health Care During COVID-19
Viruses, Variants and Vaccination
Eye Care During COVID-19.**

The Webinar seeks to enlighten our members on various aspects of COVID-19 and its effects on humanity and will be an interactive Question and Answer session.



Dr. Joel Teelucksingh

Consultant in Internal
Medicine, Endocrinology and Diabetes



Dr. Nicole Ramlachan

Geneticist and Associate Professor
in Biotechnology, UTT



Dr. Vineeth Kumar

Consultant Ophthalmologist

SYNOD OFFICE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The PCTT held a Virtual Health Webinar on Friday 25th June 2021. The "PCTT Cares - Ask A Doctor" initiative took another angle in its approach to responding to the pandemic. The Healing Ministry is one which was inspired by Jesus in His time on earth. The vision of the PCTT to enlighten and educate the membership is in keeping with our Lord's ministry of healing.

The webinar was ably Chaired by the Principal of the SATC Rev. Adrian Sieunarine and included a panel of medical practitioners who presented different but relevant topics on the vaccines and their effects. Reverend Adrian described the medical personnel as a "rock-star panel" and remarked that because COVID scares, the PCTT Cares.

This resounding theme kept with the various initiatives of the Church in responding to the virus – food supply, care packages, migrant support and now the Healing Ministry (and partnership with the medical team) with this educational webinar.

The opening prayer and remarks were made by the Moderator of the Synod of the PCTT, Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, the initiator of this project, in response to the needs of our membership and the wider community to act responsibly, to be our brother's and sister's keeper, and to make informed decisions and informed choices regarding the vaccine. A moment of silence was observed for the casualties of the virus and the families adversely affected. The Moderator stressed that in these

turbulent and challenging times, our knowledge of the pandemic in which we now live can not only enlighten us with discernment but can also give us a greater appreciation of our God and of God's love for us and our love for our neighbour.

Dr. Joel Teelucksingh, Consultant in Internal Medicine, Endocrinology and Diabetes, presented on the General Health Care During COVID-19. Dr. Teelucksingh remarked that there was much information and misinformation

into focus the characteristics of the various vaccines and their efficacy. She hoped that persons would consider getting vaccinated so the country will get to that "herd immunity" status which is required for societies to be considered safe once more. The phrase "COVID-19 has kept us apart, Vaccines can bring us back together" seemed to be relevant as this presentation unfolded.

Dr. Vineeth Kumar, Consultant Ophthalmologist, presented on Eye Care during COVID-19 and how the

blindness, "We are together" - certainly a call to partnership as we navigate this pandemic.

The panel subsequently fielded a wide range of questions by the viewership including issues of the virus being man-made; conspiracy theories; comorbidities and various other medical conditions affecting the decision to take the vaccine, mental health, the availability of vaccines, going back to church and community worship and conditions of community spread.

viewership of the webinar was over 900 during the period of transmission and over 2,600 views

on the virus. He focussed on the management of caring and noted an infodemic on the internet - feeding information to the public; that reduced immunity required dietary changes; that the public would need to avoid the three (3) C's-closed, crowded and close-contact settings. The three "w's" which we know about already are still effective as means of caution - wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance.

Dr. Nicole Ramlachan, Geneticist and Associate Professor in Biotechnology at the UTT, presented on Viruses, Variants and Vaccination. Dr. Ramlachan brought

virus affected the eyes, including observing symptoms of the virus - conjunctivitis, light-sensitive eyes, discharge and floaters. Dr. Kumar sees public and private eye-care partnerships as a way forward, with online education and telemedicine being strategies to enlighten the communities.

The proposed partnership between the PCTT and the Trinidad Eye Hospital can only be a win-win situation for the membership of the Church. This would include on a phased basis diabetic screening throughout our churches. Dr. Kumar's closing thought for this session was "Where we can prevent

The viewership of the webinar was over 900 during the period of transmission and over 2,600 views to date.

The General Secretary of the Synod of the PCTT, Mr. Terrence Warde expressed gratitude to the participants, the organisers and others who made it possible.

Deaconess Marlene Seenathsingh, representing the Board of Social Responsibility (BOSR), led in the closing prayer.



GARY SAMAI, GENERAL SECRETARY, PSSBE

Guiding your Application Process

The Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education has acknowledged the request for information and guidance from our valued stakeholders. This article serves as a guide to our Presbyterian community and potential candidates when applying for Vacancies.

GUIDELINES

Please note that all submissions for: New Applicant Teaching Vacancies, Promotions, Transfers and Deployment must be

completed online via our official website and email address.

The official website also contains the prescribed Church Update Forms that must be used when applying for associated positions. Each form is user friendly and available for download.

For example: New Applicant Form (2 years) Update, Six Months Church Update Form, Promotion Principal/Vice Principal (15 years) Updates, Promotion Deans/ Head of Department (8 years) Update Form and Transfers (2 years) Update Form.



All Church Update Forms and Advertised Vacancies contain attached guidelines for their completion. Once completed, the website allows for the upload and submission of the required information.

Example: The following information must be uploaded through the website:

- Copy of Assessment Letter
- Copy of Academic Qualifications
- Copy of Priority Placement Letter
- Copy of relevant Church Update Form
- Copy of the Baptism & Confirmation Certificates

Persons wishing to receive information are free to contact the General Secretary between the hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Monday

–Saturday). Emails can also be forwarded with the assurance of an official response within 24 hours.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, appointments are limited. Please communicate with the General Secretary prior, using the Board's telephone contact information or official email address.

All Teaching and Promotional vacancies will be advertised on both the website and Trinidad Presbyterian publication.

Please note that in order for new applicants or persons desirous of promotion to be interviewed, they must meet the criteria set out in the guidelines attached to each application.

Example: A new teacher applicant applying for a vacant position within our five (5) Secondary Schools must be assessed as

a TIII or TVT IV and must have successfully completed the interview at the Teaching Service Commission.

Please Note: All Church Update Forms must be signed, and stamps affixed by both the Local Board and respective Session prior to submission.

We hope that this information is sufficient and will be communicated extensively.

Please feel free to visit our website at your convenience.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Website: <https://www.pssboe.com/>
- Phone Contact: 749-5851
- Email Address: pssboepctt@gmail.com



Naparima College Teaching Vacancies

BUSINESS TEACHER TIII

Ability to teach Management of Business (MOB),
Accounting, Economics and Entrepreneurship will be an asset.

CHEMISTRY TEACHER TIII

Ability to teach Mathematics.

*All applicants MUST be ASSESSED as a Teacher III and successfully
interviewed by the Teaching Service Commission.*

Deadline for Submission: Friday 20th August, 2021.



NAPARIMA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHER III VISUAL ART

**PLEASE VISIT
<https://www.pssboe.com>
for application forms**

All applications must be interviewed by the Teaching Service Commission. Applications are to be accompanied by resumé and supporting documents and sent to pssboepctt@gmail.com and copied to naparimagirls.sec@fac.edu.tt

DEADLINE: 20TH AUGUST 2021

**PLEASE CONTACT NAPARIMA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL'S
OFFICE AT 652 2049 FOR FURTHER ENQUIRES.**



NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON EDUCATION 2020 TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION

Q: What strategies can address the challenges faced, regarding the qualifications of teachers for appointment and teacher progress for promotion?

A: The legislative, regulatory and policy framework under which the Teaching Service Commission functions is burdensome and archaic. With respect to the qualifications of teachers for appointment, this must be clearly defined in a framework that includes the Ministry of Education, the Chief Personnel Officer, and the recognised union. Clear policies must be available to the public, based on fairness and transparency.

Teachers' progress for promotion must be monitored and assessed on a sound Performance Appraisal System, with all the inherent objectives of Performance Appraisal leading to promotion based on merit. With digital transformation the Teaching Service Commission and Ministry of Education should have access to these appraisals on time.

Q: What can be done to improve the timeline for confirmation of appointment of teachers?

A: The timeline for the confirmation of appointment of teachers can be greatly improved if this function is delegated to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education. The Teaching Service Commission can be an oversight body for appeals and to ensure policies are adhered to.

Further, there must be tightening

of the relationship between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health to ensure that medicals for teachers are done in a timely fashion.

Q: What is the ideal timeframe for the approval of transfers? What can be done to improve the timeline for the transfer of teachers?

A: The ideal timeframe for the approval of transfers is dependent on the availability of vacancies. It should be noted that when transfers are approved by the Human Resource Department of the Ministry of Education, letters of transfer are issued immediately. However, while teachers take up their appointments on transfer, it takes years for the Teaching Service Commission to give final approval.

The timeline can be improved if this function is delegated to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, with the Teaching Service Commission functioning as an oversight body.

Q: How can the timeline for processing the acting appointment of teachers be improved?

A: The question is ambiguous. As far as we are aware, acting appointments are mainly for administrative positions and are dealt with by the Teaching Service Commission, based on recommendations from the Ministry of Education. This process is not working, as it takes years for acting appointments to be approved. The Teaching Service Commission must delegate the necessary staff to deal with these matters on a timely

basis, and the Ministry of Education must make recommendations as soon as the vacancy for an acting appointment arises.

Q: Should the acting appointment of teachers be based on seniority or qualifications? What are your reasons?

A: The appointment of teachers to act should be based on qualifications to fill the post. While in theory the Teaching Service Commission is supposed to base the appointment and promotion of teachers according to qualifications, in practice this is not so for acting appointments. These are made solely on seniority which is contrary to the relevant regulations.

Acting appointments should be based on qualifications for the post so as to afford eligible officers the opportunity to gain the necessary exposure, opportunity and experience by acting in the post prior to it being filled.

Q: What criteria should be used to assess and grant administrative acting appointment?

A: The criteria to be used to assess and grant administrative acting appointments should be done in a framework of performance appraisals and qualifications. Therefore, the system of Performance Appraisals must be relevant, objective and continuous.

Q: What can be done to improve the timeline for the payment of acting allowance?

The approval of these acting

appointments can be delegated to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, for implementation. The present system where Teaching Service Commission approves the acting appointments is a total disaster and an administrative nightmare.

Q: How can the timeline for the approval of continued temporary appointment be improved?

This is another function that can be delegated to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education.

Q: What should be the authorized maximum period for teachers to be on secondment?

A: The authorised maximum period for teachers to be on secondment should be six (6) years. Secondment beyond this period can lead to frustration and negative outcomes by those holding the position from which the officer was seconded.

Q: How can the timeline for the approval of secondment be improved?

A: This can be improved by dismantling the bureaucracy that exists between the Ministry of Education and the Teaching Service Commission. Both organizations must be adequately staffed to ensure the bottleneck that arises in dealing with these applications is eliminated.

Q: Should teachers with outstanding requests for abandonment, who resume duty, continue to face penalties for abandonment?

A: Firstly, officers who are facing

queries regarding abandonment of duty should not be allowed to resume duty. However, if they resume duty, the disciplinary process should continue, and they should face the requisite penalties. Failure to do so can lead to a systematic breakdown of discipline in the organisation.

Q: What should be the procedures for processing abandonment/withdrawal of abandonment?

A: The procedures for processing abandonment/withdrawal of abandonment should start with a report from the reporting officer immediately following the twenty-eight (28) days of failure to report expires. The report should then be sent to the Permanent Secretary forthwith who should submit same to the Teaching Service Commission within three (3) days. The Teaching Service Commission, should upon receiving the report, act within fourteen (14) days.

Q: What about other disciplinary matters?

A: All other disciplinary matters of concern should be treated seriously. The process for appointing and evaluating the report of the Investigating Officer (Regulation 90) must be expedited and a clear time frame given.

Upon receipt of the initial report, the Permanent Secretary must act forthwith to appoint an Investigating Officer under Regulation 90 of the Public Service Commission Regulations, as adopted by the Teaching Service Commission. When the Teaching

Service Commission receives the report, it must act expeditiously to evaluate the report. If changes are to be made, this must be done without delay, and a Disciplinary Tribunal appointed as per the Regulations.

The process can be accelerated if the Teaching Service Commission met on a more regular basis, unlike the present twice per month. Also, the Disciplinary Tribunal should work on a fulltime basis and should be decentralised. Hearings can be held in Port-of-Spain, Sangre Grande, San Fernando, and Rio Claro. It is not practical for persons, including children, who are witnesses, to travel from places like Cedros, Moruga or Mayaro to participate in Disciplinary Hearings.

It must be noted that where appointment of teachers, acting appointments and promotions are concerned, the rights and role of Denominational Bodies must be considered and incorporated in the process, in accordance with the provisions of the Concordat and relevant regulations.

Vacancies For Cafeteria Operators

The Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education invites applications for Cafeteria Operators for the following Presbyterian Primary Schools:

- Arima
- Ecclesville
- Esperanza
- Inverness
- Reform
- Rousillac
- Siparia Road
- Vistabella

All applications must be addressed to:

*General Secretary
Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board
of Education
Rushworth Street Extension
San Fernando*

Deadline for applications is August 20, 2021. All applications should be dropped off at the above address.

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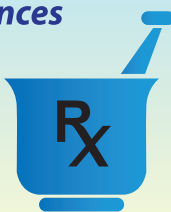
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Board of Youth Affairs & National Youth Coordinator

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PSALM 40: 1 - 3

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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.”

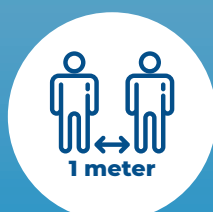
- 3 John 1:2



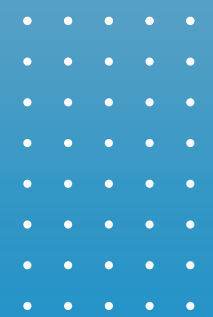
Wear a face mask properly



Wash your hands often



Watch your distance



THE PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION (PPSBE)

Tribute to Mr. Daniel Sahadeo

SUBMITTED BY GEETA MAHARAJ, GENERAL SECRETARY, PPSBE



Mr. Daniel Sahadeo, Former Recording Secretary of the PPSBE peacefully passed on to the great beyond on Monday 14th June, 2021, at 4:00 a.m. His passing has left a deep void felt by those of us who served on the Board with him from 2019 – 2021, as well as for those who looked forward to serving with him for another term in 2021 – 2023.

Daniel was the son of Nathaniel Sahadeo and Seleina Lochan – Sahadeo, now deceased. He was the father of two children, Michael and Nerissa. He was a widower whose wife, Jasodrah Lalla Sahadeo, departed this life in 2009.

Daniel Sahadeo began his career in 1982 as an Assistant Teacher 11 at Inverness Presbyterian Primary School and continued at Picton, Vistabella, Ecclesville, Elswick, Union and Bonne Aventure. In 1985, Daniel entered Corinth Teachers' College and graduated as a Teacher 1 in 1987. He then taught at Maracas Presbyterian and Rochard Douglas Presbyterian. In 2000, the administrative aspect of Daniel's profession began at Rio Claro Presbyterian as Vice Principal, Acting Principal and then Principal in 2003. In 2007, Daniel Sahadeo became Principal at Canaan Presbyterian School until he retired in 2016. As Principal, Daniel raised the bar on Educational achievement of the school and inspired his staff and students to gain top accolades at the national level.

Daniel Sahadeo enjoyed an illustrious career as an educator. During the period, 2000 – 2016, he assumed executive roles in the Presbyterian Teachers' Association, Victoria Educational District and the National Primary Schools' Principals' Association; Zonal Sports and National Presbyterian Primary Schools' Sports Committees. He also served as coordinator of Presbyfest. In 2016, Daniel represented the Victoria Education District in a JSC of Parliament on Social Services and Public Administration on violence among primary school students with a focus on bullying.

Daniel was an active church member of the Diamond Pastoral Region, worshipping at the Clarke Rochard and Krist Mandli Presbyterian Churches. He served on both Local Boards as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. In 1990, he became an Elder at Clarke Rochard, but served at Krist Mandli before and after that date. He was a member of the Diamond Regional Choir and the Krist Mandli Choir. As a member of Clarke Rochard, Daniel was on the Region's Official Board from in 1992 – 2002, which subsequently became the Session. He eventually returned to Krist Mandli, where he functioned as the Clerk of Session of the Diamond Pastoral Region until his passing.

This true servant also served on several Boards, Committees and Courts of the Presbyterian

Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT). He was a member of South Eastern Presbytery, Board of Social Responsibility (BOSR), Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education (PPSBE), Synod and Synodical Council. Daniel spent most of his life serving the Church and when he passed on, Daniel was a vibrant Presbyterian stalwart still dynamic on the PPSBE, Session, Synod and Synodical Council.

The PPSBE can attest that Daniel Sahadeo gave of his best in everything and that he did so without expectation or hope of any type of reward. Daniel's life was one that commanded notice – a life that inspired; a life that exemplified high standards; a life that lit the pathway for others. The PPSBE expresses heart-felt gratitude to Mr. Daniel Sahadeo for the invaluable yeoman service he gave to the Board.

In John 14: 1-2, Jesus promises the believer a house of many mansions – His Father's House. Daniel was a true believer and has a place there, we take comfort in that. I end with the words of the poet, Joyce Kilmer:

“They say that life is a highway
And its milestones are the years;
And now and then there is a
tollgate
Where you buy your way with tears.
It's a rough road and a straight road
And it stretches broad and far,
But it leads to a golden town
Where golden houses are.”

1ST VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

LIVING FOR JESUS - THE QUEST

RAQUEL SOOKLALSINGH-PAUL, CHAIRPERSON - BOCE

The global pandemic caused the BOCE to consult with Ms Andrea A. Ramsaran-Nandlal, leader of The Little Missionaries Puppet Group, to conduct and launch the first Virtual VBS, 2021. The BOCE VBS' subtheme: "Living for Jesus" perfectly complemented the theme chosen by the Presbyterian Church for 2021, "Living Peacefully in Christ and Building Relationships in Communities."

The goal for this Virtual VBS was that every child must have multiple opportunities to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ at VBS. The focus was on Gospel redundancy and unshakeable faith. At every aspect of 'The Quest' to the different lands, the Gospel was reinforced with songs, craft, Bible Lessons, Object Lessons, Animated stories, Dance, and Memory Verses.

Efforts were made to ensure that the homes of parents, loved ones and even children across the globe were reached, and that Spiritual seeds of the Gospel were being planted.

Ms. Ramsaran-Nandlal and her team embraced the challenges of formulating a VBS using a virtual platform. Effective Biblical

exploration of God's Word was achieved by sending the protagonist Rebecca the Trekker, and Pepper the Pup, on an epic adventure to unknown lands filled with caves, animals and wonder. Rebecca's colourful travel adventures to the different lands and her encounter with Ranger Sou and others effectuated Biblical components of life skills which kids would need to face and meet today's challenges. They gained a greater understanding of purpose and importance, by learning the virtues to OBEY, BE KIND, TRUST, BE BRAVE and BE PEACEFUL.

On each step of the way, there were picturesque landscapes depicting the various lands, each educational piece was attractive, clear, relevant, personal, colourful, accurate and unusual. The creativity made us take a second look.

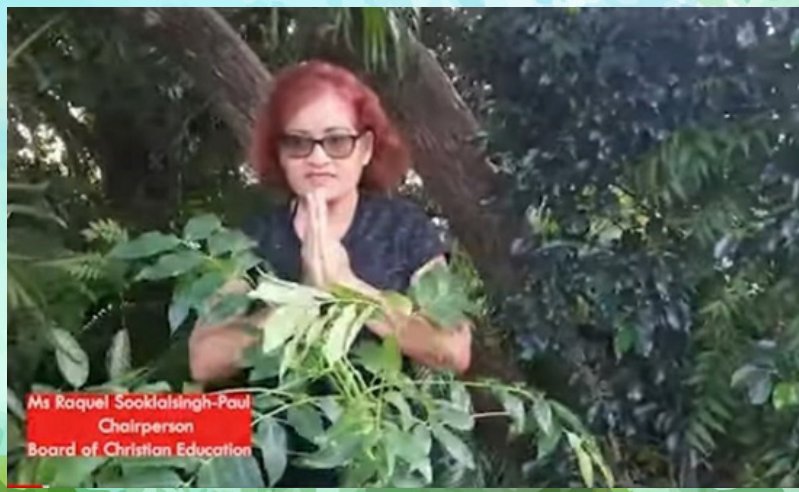
Based on feedback and reports, this first unique Virtual VBS 2021 was a phenomenal success. The incorporation of an adventurous flair in the outdoors, 'The Quest' by Ms. Ramsaran-Nandlal and her team, coupled with the implementation of innovative, holistic, teaching methods, such as visualisation, cooperative learning,

enhanced communication and critical thinking skills took all of us on an extraordinary journey of five fun-filled days of "Learning to Live for Jesus, Listen to Jesus" as was highlighted by our Moderator, The Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, on Day 5.

On behalf of the BOCE, we express our heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Andrea Ramsaran-Nandlal and members of The Little Missionaries Puppet Group on job well done for the first Virtual VBS 2021, Living for Jesus – The Quest.

We can't wait to see what our VBS 2022 has in store!!



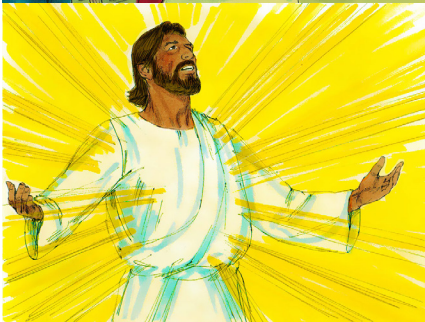


Mi Raquel Sooklolsingh-Paul
Chairperson
Board of Christian Education



Transfiguration

DEACONESS AMBER SEESAHAJ-PAYNE, CLAXTON BAY PASTORAL REGION



BIBLE STORY

Paul Learned about Jesus
(Mark 9:2-7)

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. While these followers watched, Jesus was changed. His clothes became shining white, whiter than any person could make them. Then two men appeared, talking with Jesus. The men were Moses and Elijah. Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good that we are here. We will put three tents here—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what to say, because he and the others were so frightened.

Then a cloud came and covered them. A voice came from the cloud. The voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Obey him!"

MESSAGE

Transfiguration! This big word means to change or to transform. This was a special event in Jesus' life, as it showed a peek into who Jesus really was: God!

Before Jesus died on the cross, he took Peter, James and John up a mountain. When they got up there a

cloud formed over them. But instead of being dark like clouds usually are, the cloud got very bright because the light of God was in it.

Moses and Elijah came out from the cloud. Moses and Elijah were two of the greatest prophets that had ever lived before Jesus. Moses led the people out of Egypt and received the Ten Commandments from God. Elijah warned the people about God's judgement. For Jesus to be there standing with them it showed how important Jesus was.

Jesus' clothes transformed into a bright light. Jesus' transformation was only temporary because he was still human. This showed them that Jesus was truly sent from God to this Earth!

Then everyone heard a voice from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, I love him; Listen to Him!" This voice was the voice of God! The disciples were so afraid of hearing the voice that they fell on the ground. Jesus told them to not be afraid.

When the disciples got up from the ground, everything was back to normal and Jesus was standing there alone. The disciples knew that Jesus was even more special because He was the Son of God and they did what God said and listened to Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

"Do what God's teaching says; do not just listen and do nothing. When you only sit and listen, you are fooling yourselves."

- James 1:22

We should listen to people who are older than we are, like our parents and teachers. They have already experienced some of the things we go through and they know how to help us. The Bible is filled with the words Jesus spoke when He was living here on earth. We can listen to Jesus just like the disciples did, by reading our Bible and praying every day, and asking the Holy Spirit to help us understand!

RTHIBG
7 1

HEINS
4 6 8

CEAF
5 3

IVECO
2

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



Jesus, Moses, and Elijah on the mountain.

On the Mountain Top

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. Mark 9:2

Based on Mark 9:2-9



I P E T E R Z Z K E M T F F K
 B P S Q Q R A B B I L A Y P Z
 Q Q A H E L J E P J T I V H R
 G M G N W F G G K V K G J O L
 S I O G O Z N J O O J O M A X
 H L B S R I L O Z I P O O G H
 A B Y T L V K H C C C D O K Z
 M A L Z D A W N W E Q Z E L T
 D O Z E J M P B W H I T E X K
 S A U M A Q O P C L O T H E S
 D I Q N L C A S E M L V P O C
 S B X H T O H W E A Z R G Z V
 Q Z Y R G A V C Z S R O X R Z
 P Q V O Y W I E T H N E G S K
 K J A M E S Y N N O N C D C Z

DAYS	JOHN	APPEARED	CLOTHES	BLEACH
HIGH	RABBI	MOSES	GOOD	VOICE
PETER	WHITE	LOVE	SIX	ALONE
ELIJAH	WORLD	DAZZLING	MOUNTAIN	JAMES



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

*Daniel "Jack"
Sahadeo*

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Husband of: Jasodrah Lalla Sahadeo (dec.)

Father of: Michael and Nerissa

*Brother of: Rosanna, Agnes Sultanti, Abraham (deceased),
Esau, Rosabell and Samuel.*

"Your untimely demise has left a void no one can fill."



**SUNRISE: 19 05 1956
SUNSET: 14 06 2021**

Ravdeo Heeralal

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Cunupia Presbyterian Church

*Lovingly remembered by his wife, Mrs. Nardaroon Heeralal,
and beloved daughters, Rheisa Heeralal and, Rheia Heeralal
(deceased). May his soul rest in peace.*



**SUNRISE: 29 06 1955
SUNSET: 22 06 2021**

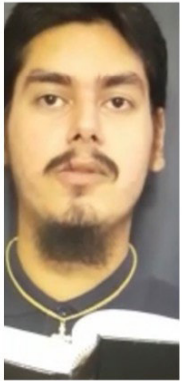

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‘Adopt an Elder’ initiative

Warmest greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ from the youths of the Knox Presbyterian Church! A core theme of our Youth Group is becoming an effective disciple of and for Christ. To achieve this, we continue to build our knowledge with Scripture, as well as promote youth involvement in the Church.

In May of this year, the youths of the Couva/Balmain Pastoral Region embarked on their first virtual Regional Mental Health Awareness Seminar. The aim of this seminar was to shed light on coping mechanisms to combat against the associated pressures of COVID-19. The closure of the physical church has formed a void within our congregations. Consequently, conversations began about what the youths can do to promote positive, healthy wellbeing and good mental health within our churches.

The Secretary of the Youth Group, in collaboration with PCTT National Youth Coordinator, Mrs Simone Singh- Sagar, developed the initiative "Adopt an Elder" which centred on the youths reaching out to members of the congregation, to touch base and share a word of comfort during this unprecedented time. While the virtual era allows us

to continue worship and build our relationship in Christ, it has its drawbacks, as it fails persons who do not have the knowledge, technical prowess, and access to the virtual church.

At minimum, once a week youths from the Youth Group would choose an "Elder" to contact and have a conversation. The initiative began beautifully, and the response was overwhelming. As the youths began conversing with the members of the congregation, a marvellous relationship began forming with these persons who have dearly missed physical Sunday church service interactions.

Some of the elderly recounted their younger days, shared chores they needed to catch up on and even gave advice about car maintenance. Others spoke of COVID-19, and measures that they practice to keep safe. These simple conversations brought so much cheer and comfort! The youths even assisted in setting up WhatsApp or Zoom for the elderly to create avenues for them to view the online services and keep in touch. All in all, regardless of the content of the conversation, both youths and the elderly alike thoroughly enjoyed the interaction and were excited to hear from one another.

The success of the initiative is credited to the youths who willingly accepted the challenge to connect and made the effort to reach out and extend themselves. It is a great opportunity for knowledge sharing and bridging that gap among various age groups. This initiative has positively impacted the lives of the youths and members of our Knox congregation.

We encourage our fellow Youth Groups across all Pastoral Regions to implement similar programs as they encourage positive communication among the congregation. Romans 12:13 reminds us to embrace the blessings we have received and share them with others we encounter. Similarly, in Deuteronomy 15:11, we are challenged as persons of faith to have an obligation to help the people in our communities. Let us continue to strengthen our bonds within our church community all to God's Glory!

The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

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

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

TrinidadPresbyterian@pctt.org.tt

Please keep all article contributions between 300 - 350 words.

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

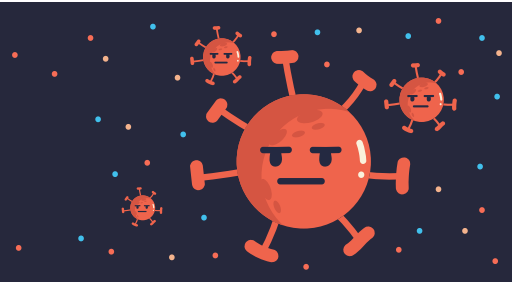
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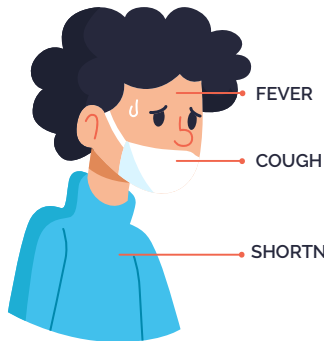
nCoVid-19

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

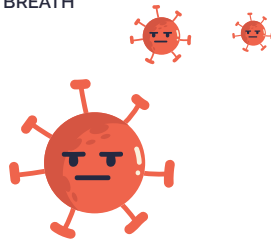


OTHER

- 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)

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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

2021
August

“Happy is Everyone who trusts in You”

SUNDAY	<i>Psalm</i> 51:1-12	<i>Psalm</i> 130	<i>Psalm</i> 111	<i>Psalm</i> 84	<i>Psalm</i> 15
MONDAY	<i>Acts</i> 18:1-11	<i>2 Samuel</i> 13:1-39	<i>Mark</i> 11:1-26	<i>Acts</i> 26:1-23	<i>James</i> 2:1-13
TUESDAY	<i>Acts</i> 18:12-28	<i>2 Samuel</i> 14:1-20	<i>Mark</i> 11:27-12:12	<i>Acts</i> 26:24-27:8	<i>James</i> 2:14-26
WEDNESDAY	<i>Acts</i> 19:1-10	<i>2 Samuel</i> 14:21-33	<i>Mark</i> 12:13-27	<i>Acts</i> 27:9-26	
THURSDAY	<i>Acts</i> 19:11-20	<i>2 Samuel</i> 15:1-18	<i>Mark</i> 12:28-34	<i>Acts</i> 27:27-44	
FRIDAY	<i>Acts</i> 19:21-41	<i>2 Samuel</i> 15:19-37	<i>Mark</i> 12:35-44	<i>Acts</i> 28:1-16	
SATURDAY	<i>Acts</i> 20:1-16	<i>2 Samuel</i> 16:1-23	<i>Mark</i> 13:1-13	<i>Acts</i> 28:17-31	

