The Trinidad est. 1904 PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH OF THIS TOP AGO

FEBRUARY 2022 | \$4.00

"BEING A CHURCH IN AND BEYOND A PANDEMIC"

WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?

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(3)

WITH YOUR GOD - MICAH 6:6-8

MODERATOR SPEAKS P. 2 KNOW YOUR FAITH P. 7

CSTPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS P. 14

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Moderator speaks The Right to Stay Safe and live

ith the prospects for new strains in the COVID-19 virus developing, it is necessary for us to take personal responsibility to ensure that we follow all guidelines recommended by the Ministry of Health to protect our families, church members, colleagues at work and fellow citizens from its ravages.

Personal responsibility is inherent in the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago's (PCTT) theme for 2022, "Being the Church in a Pandemic and Beyond – What does the Lord Require?" The PCTT has joined with other Christian and Religious bodies to vociferously encourage faith communities and the general population to get vaccinated. We have gone beyond coercing. We must take personal responsibility to protect ourselves and others by following all COVID-19 health protocols.

These united efforts became necessary because of the reckless and irresponsible behavior of some individuals regarding the basic health protocols of wearing masks, washing hands and practicing social distancing. Much talk about the rights of the individual has been heard from various sectors of society regarding vaccination. But what about the right to preserve and protect us and our children from being infected by a silent and deadly disease? Does one have the right to put others in danger by not following the required health protocols, especially within our home and churches?

So, what does the Lord require of each of us in this pandemic? We submit that our Lord requires us to protect ourselves and one another in this pandemic era. As I mentioned in this column last month, it is a testing time for both the Church and our beloved nation of Trinidad and Tobago and those who struggle with making the responsible choice of getting vaccinated. Now, it seems that the greater test is to respect one another and to take personal responsibility to keep ourselves and others safe for the common good.

Therefore, God requires that we continue to obey the greatest commandment, to love one another as God loves us, to care for one another by re-ordering our priorities in every area of our lives. We should not only think of our rights, but the rights of all to protect and preserve life in all its forms - to stay safe and live.



THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

Many of our members are very grateful and elated to return to inperson worship but it is evident that some persons are not following the basic health protocols. *If you or* members of your family have any COVID-19 symptoms, please stay at home and get medical attention, otherwise we will be forced to close our churches once again.

I urge you, my dear sisters and brothers, of the PCTT, by the mercy and love of God to practice the three W's - wear your mask, wash your hands and watch your distance.

Blessings always and keep safe!



s the world embarks on the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have witnessed and lived through a period where everything in our lives can change in an instant, and we cannot be certain of what the next day, week, or month will bring. A time of change is occurring throughout the world. People are anxious and unsure of what tomorrow will bring. We live in hope that the God who created us will prepare a way out of this darkness, He will create a path and will guide us. We need to keep our faith strong and grounded in God's promises. Scripture tells us, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

For yet another time, we hear that schools will re-open for additional age groups on a limited basis under special conditions. Parents and guardians are still uncertain whether they should take the

chance to send their vaccinated or unvaccinated children out to school. There is need to give children the experience of being independent. On the other hand, how much independence are we giving when the list of dos and don'ts is as long as can be.

When children ask if they can go to the mall, about the only place that is opened to them, parents and guardians cannot find a reason to refuse except their own parental hesitation. Children are ready to venture out, so parents and guardians have to be too. Parents and quardians need to have confidence in the reality of God's love regardless of the circumstances. Despite the fact that they walk their children through all 'their rules' - to be aware of their surroundings. maintain their distance, wear their face masks properly, do not exchange hugs, sanitize, sanitize, sanitize - they are filled with concerns.

When children return home

from their adventure after having been house bound for such a long period, often they are chatty, unaware of any anxiety on the part of adults. Stoat Brown, the founder of the National Institute of Play, advocates that unmonitored friend time is a vital part of childhood. "At these times children start to know themselves and how they relate to others," he says. But does this make parents and guardians any more comfortable or assured to send their children on another such outing or off to school?

Today, most children are monitored, and independent outings are things of the past. Today, the fear is not only of a predator but that of COVID-19. However, being a supportive parent can't always mean doing what's comfortable. It's also about bearing the anxiety and consequences that occur when your children are allowed the opportunity to strike out on their own.



HEADS OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

oday, we say goodbye to a year like no other in living memory. Our optimism entering 2021 gave way to realism and sometimes despair. Now, as we say goodbye to 2021, we the Christian leaders of Churches in Trinidad and Tobago pray that optimism gives way to hope in 2022.

Optimism believes that things will get better. Hope believes that even if things get worse, we know the one in whom we trust and we believe that He is with us and that He will lead, guide and protect us against whatever comes our way. We ask you, as we enter 2022, to become a person of hope. Hope is believing the promises of God even when all evidence is against it (Rom 4:18ff).

We will be living with COVID-19 for a while to come. We have learnt much over the last twenty-one months. We have so much to learn still if we are going to live with COVID-19 as responsible citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and disciples of Jesus Christ.

God gave us free will—a most precious gift that we need to learn to use more wisely. Every gift has a responsibility. While we thank God that we have free will, we need to learn to use this gift to serve the common good. We need to learn to give our life for Christ's sake and that of others (Mt 16:25).

We appeal to all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago to live with the highest degree of discipline during this COVID-19 time for the sake of protecting others, especially the most vulnerable by keeping the health protocols: wash your hands, wear your masks, and be very disciplined and respectful of others in public spaces by maintaining the stipulated social distance. If you have flu like symptoms, any reason to believe that you were exposed or there is any doubt at all, please choose to quarantine and not come into public places so that we keep everyone as safe as possible.

We want to emphasize the need for each person to take responsibility for all. It is no longer 'I' but 'we' and 'we' have to start emphasizing the common good, if we are going to live through this pandemic together and flourish as a community. As Caribbean people, we are very tactile and love to be with each other. We must safeguard each other.

We all want to maintain in-person worship. This will require a high degree of personal responsibility from ministers, choirs and congregations to keep masks on at all times or to have suitable protection to eliminate the likelihood of any kind of spread. We all need to keep the protocols that we have put in place in our churches and be vigilant around the enforcement of these protocols. We want our churches to welcome all people. This means that we need to make them safer than 'a safe zone'.

We are all suffering from COVID-19

protocol fatigue. This is not the time to waver. As a result of the lockdowns, many families have had loss of jobs, experienced depression, anxiety, physical, sexual and emotional abuse. We commiserate with the many families who have lost loved ones.

Our churches must be places of hope where people can experience the love of Jesus through our worship and fellowship. As ministers of Christ, renewed in mind and heart, we need to work tirelessly for the reconciliation and harmony of all (2 Cor 5:17ff).

we urge you to see what modern science has done in fighting so many diseases that haunted the world fifty years ago—Polio, Measles, Tetanus, Flu, Hepatitis B, Mumps, Chickenpox, Malaria, etc. In the service of all, many were vaccinated.

Many citizens are still struggling with the information surrounding vaccination and this pandemic. We all have an obligation to make an informed moral choice that serves the common good. It has been repeatedly reported that 97% of the deaths from COVID-19 are

on the margins. It will also demand dialogue and consultation with labour, economic stakeholders, civil society, religious leaders and government to find a meaningful way forward.

In Genesis, God gave Adam the mandate to nurture and to guard (Gen 2:15). In 2022, we need to nurture and care for one another. We also need to guard and keep one another safe. Our heart goes out to the children who have not had the opportunity to socialize, play or congregate in school for the last twenty-one months. For

As a source of unity, the church must not let the societal division between the vaccinated and the unvaccinated become a wedge in the Body of Christ. We must respect each other.

Our nation has suffered from the cancer of divisiveness for many decades now. That must not happen amongst us. On the night before He died, Jesus prayed that we may be one (Jn 17:20 ff). Christ has already equipped us to build up the unity of the body of Christ (Eph 4:12).

We have an obligation to keep one another safe and to educate all for the service of the common good. While you have a free choice concerning the vaccine, unvaccinated people. Amidst the hesitation, we urge you to seriously consider taking the vaccine and the booster.

As a source of unity, the church must not let the societal division between the vaccinated and the unvaccinated become a wedge in the Body of Christ. We must respect each other.

This will demand a re-ordering of priorities at every level of our society as we keep in mind those

their sake let us find a way to build a better, safer Trinidad and Tobago in 2022. Remember this is a year of Hope. Let us put our faith and trust in the Lord for He will not disappoint us.

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Anglican Church of Trinidad and Tobago
Methodist Church of Trinidad and Tobago
Moravian Church of Trinidad and Tobago
Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago
Roman Catholic Church of Trinidad and Tobago
Trinidad and Tobago Council of Evangelical Churches



part one: independent LEARNERS AT HOME





How can parents/guardians promote an independent learner at home?



s parents, we all want our children to do well in school, but sometimes that desire can lead to too much parental involvement in homework. In this season of much online learning, and many more roles added to routines, parents are unable to share in the formal educational opportunities of the child. Promoting an independent learner can be one way of resolving this issue.

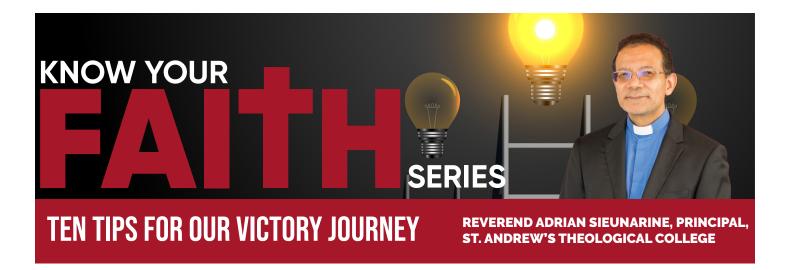
Today's world rewards selfmotivated, independent learners as the aim is to develop critical thinkers. With the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, schools have begun to re-focus learning techniques towards the self-starter mentality. Despite the presenting challenges of virtual learning, students who have the facilities now look at a problem and find solutions almost entirely on their own. Some children may have a more difficult time with this less collaborative way of learning. Some patience and persistence can alleviate this.

While one's instinct as a parent may

be to rush in and help them figure things out, that may not be the best solution in the long-term. The key is to help them develop strategies to tackle these independent learning projects, rather than act as a hovering aid. Child/Teen development specialist, Dr. Robyn Silverman, states that "creative exploration" is a known-path to problem-solving.

Teachers continually encourage parents to establish a home-work routine. Working independently, however, can sometimes lead to more procrastination and lackadaisical work methods, but if parents/guardians impose clearcut guidelines around when, where, and how the work should be done, it usually ignites productivity.

Another tried and proven strategy for getting children to learn independently is to be the 'guide at the side'. While it is more time-consuming, it results in a more confident child. We all know there are many ways to explore solutions and there usually isn't just one right way to solve a homework problem. Allowing children the freedom to find their own way to the answers is better than dictating how a problem should be handled, even if it takes longer.



s we prepare for Lent, we are reminded that God gives us peace, joy, strength, and grace for the journey. While avoiding toxic positivity that shames those who are struggling, we remember that beyond our feelings, the eternal reality is that we are more than conquerors in Christ.

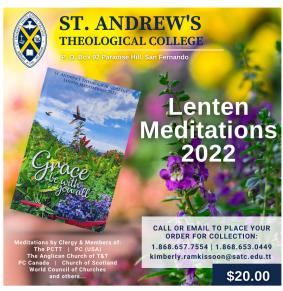
How do we march along the victory journey with a theology that uplifts and encourages us and those around us? Here are ten tips for us:

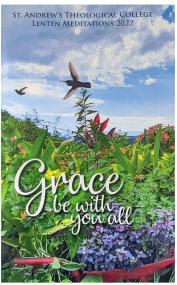
- We wait on the Lord before we soar, run or walk (Isaiah 40:31).
- We allow ourselves to be calm, lie down, and get some sleep

(Psalm 4:8).

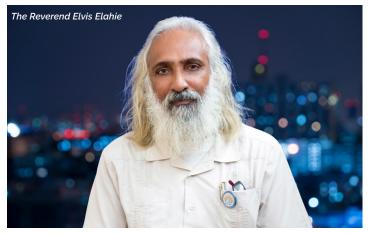
- 3. We find rest in God (Psalm 62:1).
- 4. We realise that our mission is our purpose-driven work for the Lord so we work with vision and passion (2 Thessalonians 3:13).
- We celebrate that God keeps his promises, including the promise that we will have restorative rest (1 Kings 8:56).
- We praise God, not because we may feel like it, but because God is awesome and gives us power and strength (Psalm 68:35).
- We receive and discern the Spirit of God speaking to,

- through, and on behalf of us when we are weak (Romans 8:26-28).
- We learn that our concept of weakness may not be God's perspective. To God, when we are weak on earth, then we are strong for heaven (2 Corinthians 12:10).
- We graciously allow Christ to work in us so that we can do everything through the strength he gives us (Philippians 4:13).
- 10. We live rejoicing (Philippians 4:4) in the light of the new creation we are (2 Corinthians 5:17) and yet shall be (Revelation 21:4-5).











Brothers-in-law, Brothers-in-Christ

SYNOD OFFICE

he Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago was blessed to have Reverend Elvis Elahie and Reverend Winston Ramkissoon serve in various Pastoral Regions for the past 25 years. Many would know that they are actually brothers-inlaw. Their lives have certainly been an inspiration to many. The PCTT cherishes the many memories of their stewardship wherever they would have served. Both Ministers retired recently from the service of the PCTT. Reverend Elahie retired on 31st October, 2021, and Reverend Ramkissoon on 24th December, 2021.

Reverend Elahie would be remembered as the Moderator of the PCTT who served from 2007 to 2011. He was Ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in June, 1988 and served in 5 Pastoral Regions in his time at the PCTT.

He also served as the Principal of the St. Andrew's Theological College from 2012 to 2015. Reverend Elahie's philosophical approach to life and his depth of knowledge of scripture were characteristic hallmarks of his work and service, as was his distinctive long flowing hair. His love for the outdoors will serve him well as he embarks on another chapter of his life.

Reverend Ramkissoon started his career at the PCTT as a Lay Pastor from 1988 to 2003, before being Ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in June 2004. He served in four Pastoral Regions during his tenure as a Minister. Reverend Ramkissoon also served as the Chairman of the Northern Presbytery.

The PCTT wishes both men a peaceful and blessed retirement. May God continue to shower blessings on Rev. Elahie and Rev. Ramkissoon.



REVEREND ELVIS ELAHIE – Ministerial/vocational journey

Ordained - 26th June 1988

1988-1990 - Oropouche

1990-1996 - Aramalaya

1997-2003 - Marabella/Bonne Aventure

2003-2005 - Chaguanas

2005 - Aramalaya

2006 - Chaguanas

2007-2011 - Moderator of PCTT

2012-2015 - Principal SATC

2015-2021 - Tableland

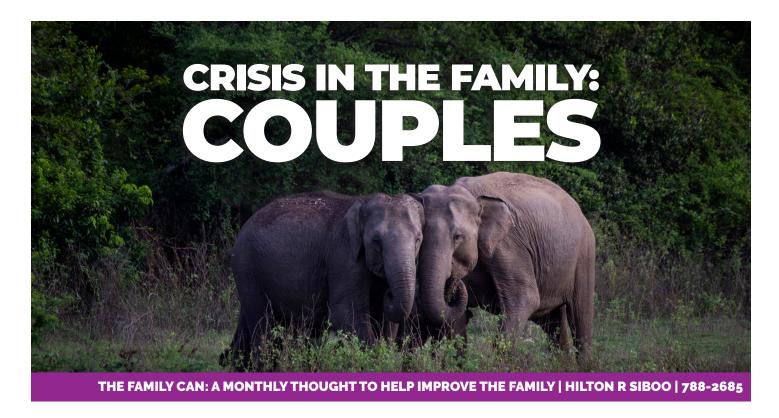


REVEREND WINSTON RAMKISSOON - MINISTERIAL/VOCATIONAL JOURNEY

1988 – 2003 - Lay Pastor Ordained – 27th June 2004 2004-2009 – Penal/Siparia 2009-2013 – Barrackpore

2014-2018 – Riversdale

2018 - 2021 - Chase Village



WHAT ARE THE CRISES OF COUPLES?

he Crises of couples are the consequences and outcomes of an unending list of dynamics that begins with and includes disagreements, conflicts, personal attitudes, manipulations and control, neglect and abuse, suspicions, trust and unfaithfulness, children, relatives and friends, career and employment, material possessions, interests and hobbies, indulgence, opinions, communication, decision making, etc with the intensity of the crisis transforming perfect love to perfect hate.

As noted, crises in the family never go away on their own or when left unattended, but rise again to the surface, at times with extreme even abusive and violent consequences. Why? The crisis festered; this often is the situation in the relationship between couples.

During crises when couples decide to either stay a 'doubles' or become single, is there true and honest willingness to resolve crises for the benefit of the relationship and the family or is it for self-preservation, self-intent and self-interests?

As role models for parents, mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, soul-mates and intimate friends, the crises of a couple impact and influence their children and others into believing this is the 'normal' in life and relationships with the solution being I can walk away, trade-in, trade-out or trade-off because life and living as love and loving hold no promises, vows are made to be broken, even if it leaves individuals broken and shattered with their hope and vision for 'eternal and forever love' a mocking

illusion as life goes on. Really?

Couples are central to family structure and functioning, and the fractures and separation leave scars for a lifetime. Couples can resolve crises, remove hurt and pain and heal lovingly but the onus is with each to let go of the 'singles' freedom and fences and open the gates and barriers to welcome with forgiveness and open arms, hearts and life, often with the need of help and support.

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

Couples Crisis will continue.

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

THE MODERATOR VISITS ALL BARRACKPORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

MICHAEL COOPER-OCHIENGH - ROCHARD DOUGLAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ecember 25th was a special day at Borde Narve Presbyterian Church, as the Christmas

Day service was conducted by our Moderator, The Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan. A recording was made for those who could not attend due to the

Chair of Brrackpore Union Local Board Russe Ramlagan presents Moderator with token

The first church visited by the Moderator was Lengua Presbyterian where she visited on November 17th, 2019, for its

Thanksgiving Service.

The Moderator visited Barrackpore Union Presbyterian Church on February 28th, 2021, for the



Moderator at Lengua Pres with Tia Maraj, Reinaldo Gobin and Reuben Maraj

It was also

pandemic.

a special occasion for Barrackpore Pastoral Region because it marked the completion by the Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan in visiting all five Churches in the Region in her capacity as Moderator. The Moderator would have served in the Region as a Student Minister, then braving the dirt tracks, conducting services under wooden structures of old and doing house to house calls to encourage persons to come to service.

celebration of its 110 years of witness and service.

On Good Friday, April 2nd, 2021, the Moderator conducted services at Clarke Road and Rochard Douglas Presbyterian Churches. She dedicated the new ceiling at the latter.

To God be the Glory as our Moderator visits all the remaining churches in the PCTT.



Iris Tancoo presents a fruit basket to Moderator at Rochard Douglas Presbyterian Church

Opening of Crèche at the Marabella Presbyterian Church

FLORABELLE LUTCHMAN, MARABELLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ne of the most beautiful Christmas traditions is setting up a Crèche during the Advent season. We were indeed lucky at Marabella Presbyterian Church to have our Christmas Crèche opened and blessed by our Minister, the Reverend Dr. Randall Sammah on Wednesday 24th November 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

The congregation was not its usual size because of COVID-19. It was a joy to sing the first Christmas carol, "Joy to the World."

Scripture Readings taken from Micah 5:1-5 and Luke 1:46-55 were read by Miss June Baboolal.

The Minister's sermon was based on the topic "Great Expectations".

He told the congregants that the Advent season is a season of high hopes, although because of the pandemic not much will be happening this year, but the household can do much to celebrate. When Micah, a prophet of the Old Testament spoke, Israel was divided. The Assyrian army was building up to invade and there was so much intrigue among the people. Human hopes and dreams were suppressed, but there was

still a sense of expectancy, based on God's record of what He has done in the past and His promise for the future. The congregation was advised to never give up that sense of expectancy as the day will come when righteousness and justice will be restored.

Similarly, Mary's words in the Magnificat speak of great expectancy that God will restore his people and will ensure a world of justice, love and mercy.

What is our expectancy? What is our hope, our dream? Every time

we see a sign of justice, mercy and love we know that Jesus will return. We do not have to go looking for the sign. We have to be the sign. We all need to notice the goodness around us. We need to help the needy, the powerless and the vulnerable.

During the singing of the carol, 'Away in a Manger' candles were lit and the congregation filed out, socially distanced, to the Crèche for the opening and blessing.





CRÈCHE OPENINGS IN BARRACKPORE SCHOOLS

MICHAEL COOPER-OCHIENGH - ROCHARD DOUGLAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

he beginning of the Advent season is always marked by Crèche openings in our schools and churches. 2021, however, marked the second year in which such activities were impacted by Covid 19 regulations. While Crèche openings at school would usually be a time for students, parents and other well-wishers in the community to fellowship and enjoy the proceedings, this year, the Covid 19 restrictions meant that, in many instances, this was not possible.

Regardless of the obstacles, the four Presbyterian Schools in Barrackpore did find a way to bring some Advent cheer to their communities.

Inverness Presbyterian School had its Dedication of its Crèche on Friday 26th November, 2021, at 4 p.m. This was presided over by Presiding Elder Mr. William Gokool. Clerk of Session Mr. Karamchand Mitchell, School Manager Mr.
Wayne Maicoo, and Principal Ms.
Cynthia Gobin, together with other
teachers and students, took part in
the lighting of the Advent candles.
Even though only a few participants
could attend in person, many were
able to view the event via both
Zoom and YouTube. A number of
students were able to participate
in the acrostic from the comfort of
their homes via Zoom.

Principal, Ms Dianna Jacob of Kanhai Presbyterian School, organised the Dedication of the Crèche which was officiated over by Presiding Elder Mr. William Gokool on November 26th, 2021, at 1.00 p.m. Here, too, parents, students and well-wishers were able to enjoy the proceedings via Zoom. The School also held a Christmas concert on December 9th, 2021, at 10.00 a.m., also via Zoom. The event was well received with over 120 devices logging in.

Lengua Presbyterian School's

Principal, Mrs. Bunny Maicoo, invited students, parents and well-wishers to the Crèche opening that occurred on November 20th, 2021 at 3.00 p.m. via Zoom with the dedication being done by Presiding Elder Mr. William Gokool.

Rochard Douglas Presbyterian School held its Crèche opening function on November 26th at 9.00 a.m. Present were Principal, Mr. Hendrickson H Hublal, and selected members of staff. The event was shared via YouTube. Greetings and performances were shared via Zoom.

Even though schools were closed and many could not enjoy their regular events, many parents, students and well-wishers were glad for the use of technology to be able to experience some semblance of normalcy and enjoy the hybrid Crèche opening events. Glory to God!

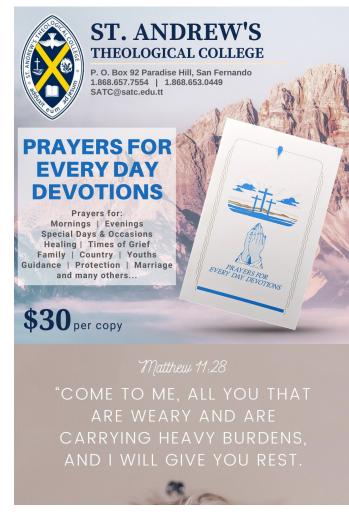


Excellence during the Pandemic

TRACY-ANN VALLABH-PATEL, PENAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

orging forward through her educational journey, the young, brilliant and beautiful Patrina Garibdass pressed on and completed her Bachelors of Education, with Distinction in 2021. Her parents, Mrs. Patricia and Mr. Simboonath Beepat, played an integral part of her journey being two retired educators themselves. The proud mother of three and

dedicated wife continued her work both as a teacher and in her church the Penal Presbyterian Church, throughout this journey. Mrs. Garibdass continue to be a charitable and humble person as her journey was meshed with children of all classes of society







Curepe/St. Joseph Presbyterian Credit Union

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

he Board of Directors of the Curepe/St. Joseph Presbyterian Credit Union was elected at a General Meeting on Saturday 15 th January 2022. The Board comprises many professional Presbyterians mainly from the Curepe/St. Joseph Pastoral Region and also from other Pastoral Regions in our beloved PCTT. The meeting and elections were adjudicated by the CoOperative Officer of the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service, Ms. Susan Adams. The following are the duly elected Board of Directors –



Mr. Terrence Warde (MBA)
PRESIDENT

Elder - Curepe/St. Joseph
General Secretary PCTT



VICE-PRESIDENT

MSc. Risk Management

Elder - Curepe/St. Joseph

Chairman - Board of

Stewardship and Finance

(PCTT)

Mr. Robert Sagar (MIIRSM)



SECRETARY

Elder - Curepe/St. Joseph
Career Banker – 15 years
Central Bank; 25 years RBC
Corporate Banking; Manager
Business Banking Centres

Mrs. Judy Kalloo (CIB; MBA)



Mr. Vinodatt Lutchman (BSc.)

TREASURER

Ind. Mgmt, ACCA-Affiliate)
Member – Curepe/St. Joseph
Assistant Treasurer - Local Board
St Joseph - (2022)
Fin. & Tax Consultant - 21 years
Finance Director (Subsidiary) Massy Group - 9 years
Ansa-McAl Group- Finance
Director(Subsidiary) - 3 years
PriceWaterhouse - Audit Senior
- 5 years



Mr. Naresh Ragoonath (BEd.)
ASSISANT TREASURER
BSc (ISM); BSc(OSH)
Elder – Curepe/St. Joseph

Snr Teacher – Maracas

Presbyterian Primary



MEMBER

BSc. Management Studies

Licentiate in Theology

Intern Minister PCTT

Mr. Bjorn Warde (BSc.)



MEMBER (MSc. Biomedical Physics) Chairperson - Latchu Memorial Presbyterian Church

Ms. Rosanna Beharry (MSc.)



Mr. Nello Ramkissoon (BSc.)

MEMBER

(BSc. Ind. Mgmt) MBA; FCCA; CA

Member – Susamachar

Pastoral Region

CFO – Methanol Holdings 21 yrs

Senior Manager – Ernst and

Young – for 10 years

Investment Manager –

Development Finance Ltd 3 yrs



Mr. Justin Rampersad (BSc.)

MEMBER

(BSc. Insurance and Risk

Mgmt.)

Member – Curepe/St. Joseph

Agent-Sagicor Ltd.



MEMBER (MSc. Food Technology and Environmental Management) Member – Curepe/St. Joseph

Mrs. Linda Sammy (MSc.)



MEMBER

LEC

Member – Curepe/ St. Joseph

Attorney-at-Law (specialty

Intellectual Property)

Ms. Terita Kalloo LLB (Hons)



Member – Aramalaya Over 35 years of experience in the areas of Investment Management, Internal Audit, Treasury and Liquidity Management, Foreign Exchange, Trading, Securities Trading and Wealth Management

Mr. Mitoonlal Persad

(Advanced Dip. CIMA; EMBA)
MEMBER

Members are welcome from ALL pastoral regions. Just log on to the website at csjprescu.com; or email at csjprescu@gmail.com or call 771-7085 and register for membership CUREPE/ST. JOSEPH PRESBYTERIAN CREDIT UNION

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY !! GROW WITH US SAVE WITH US, JOIN TODAY !!







PCTT CELEBRATES 154 YEARS WITH THANKSGIVING AND JOY!

MICHAEL COOPER-OCHIENGH, PCTT COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

n Epiphany Day,
Thursday 6th January,
2022, at 5.30 p.m. the
Presbyterian Church of
Trinidad and Tobago celebrated
with thanksgiving and joy 154
years of work and witness with a
service held at the Susamachar
Presbyterian Church, Carib Street,
San Fernando.

After a musical interlude by the Susamachar Steel Orchestra, the introit, "Create in me a clean heart," was sung by Mrs. Ruby Pooransingh with Mrs. Ruth Sitahal on the organ.

The leader of worship was Rev Letra Jacob, Minister, Susamachar Pastoral Region. The General Secretary of Synod, Mr Terrence Warde, welcomed both thos present and the on line viewers. He commended the Pastoral Regions for adapting to the Covid pandemic through the use of technology to reach their members as well as the church workers for their exemplary pastoral care under difficult circumstances. He noted that six PCTT churches have recently celebrate 150 plus years, fifty-two churches have celebrated 125 years plus and seventy-nine churches have celebrated over 112 years.

Rev Harripersad led in the Prayer of Confession. The responsive reading was led by Presiding Elder, Diana Sookdeo. Reverend Dr. Randall Sammah led in the Prayer of Thanksgiving after which Mrs Ruby Pooransingh blessed all with an Anthem. Scripture readings were read by the General Treasurer, Mr. Leslie Naipaul, Micah: 6:6-8 and the Property Manager, Mr. Rodney Boodram, 1st Peter 2:1-10/ 4:7-11.

After a medley of Bhajans played by the Susamachar Steel Orchestra, Reverend Manan Deo led in the Pastoral Prayer. Deaconess Jennifa Sinanan dedicated the offering before another Mrs Ruby Pooransingh sang a solo. The Proclamation of God's Word was done by the Moderator the Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, who focused on the theme: "Being a Church in and Beyond a Pandemic-What does the Lord require?"

Student Ministers: Ms. Jessica
Mahadeo, Mr. Peter Arjoon, Mr.
Stefan Wilson, and Mr. Dave Jitta
led the act of Re-covenanting.
The service was concluded with a
Responsive Benediction led by the
Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul- Mohan.
Glory to God!





Mrs. Esther Amman & Presiding Elder Mr. Krishna Persad

MS. DELSA SOOKOO, SECRETARY, LOCAL BOARD, MAC DONALD MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

rs. Esther Amman ioined the St. John's Church Christian Endeavour at the age of fifteen (15) and became a Sunday School teacher in 1966. The members of the St. John's Presbyterian Church joined with the members of the Mac Donald Memorial Presbyterian Church in 1973. Mrs. Amman was elected to serve as an Elder for two years in 1981 and served in that capacity from then to the present. She also served as the President of the PCW for a period of seventeen (17) years from 1981. She was nominated to be an Honorary Elder by the Jordan Hill Presbyterian Church. A service was held on 21st November 2021, to honour her with this accolade at the church.

Mr. Krishna Persad, upon marriage in 1973, accompanied his wife

to the Mac Donald Memorial Presbyterian Church where she served as a member. In 1974, he was asked to join the Local Board (L Bd.) by Mrs. Manickchand, the Chairperson at that time. In 1974, he was elected to serve as Treasurer, a post he held for five (5) years, he also served as Secretary for five (5) years and as Chairman of the L Bd. for five (5) years and as Sunday School Superintendent for five (5) years.

During his tenure, he also served as a Representative of the Session in Synod, on the Synodical Council and as a member of the Executive of Synodical Council. Mr. Persad served in the South Eastern Presbytery as Vice Chairman and Treasurer of the Board of Men and on other Committees and Boards. He served as an elder from 1982 to present. He pursued

studies for the Presiding Eldership in 2019 and graduated in 2020 from the St. Andrew's Theological College. He served an internship period and was elevated on 26th September 2021. Mr. Persad is having a wonderful experience and enjoys serving in the Princes Town and Tableland Churches currently. He has also preached in 50 churches within the PCTT during his eldership.

We take the time to celebrate two of our dearly beloved church members at the Mac Donald Memorial Presbyterian Church who have served God faithfully for many years and continue to walk in faith each day. They are both mentors to our congregation and an inspiration for others to attain a stronger spiritual life.

SCHOOL CAFE

NOTICE

THE PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION

is inviting applications for Cafeteria Operators for the following schools:

Canaan Presbyterian School
Reform Presbyterian School
Rousillac Presbyterian School
Siparia Road Presbyterian School
Vistabella Presbyterian School

REQUIREMENTS

Application Form

Two recommendations (from a member of your community such as Principal, Teacher, Doctor, Minister of Religion, Dentist, Policeman, Lawyer, Regional Corporation. These persons can be in active service or retired.)

1 passport size picture
I.D. Card

Food Badge

Proof of Full Vaccination for COVID-19

Please address applications to:
General Secretary,
Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education,
Rushworth Street Extension,
San Fernando.

Deadline for Applications: March 18, 2022.





THE MARABELLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 116 YEARS

FLORABELLE LUTCHMAN, MARABELLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

n Sunday 17th October, 2021, Marabella Presbyterian Church celebrated its 116th Anniversary. The congregation was not large as it normally would have been before COVID-19, but each member was pleased to be present in church to celebrate.

The Reverend Dr. Randall Sammah opened with the Call to Worship followed by the singing of the first Hymn, "O God in Whom We Live and Move."

Telling the story of a local church—how it came to be and how it has grown and changed over the years—is always important. If no one ever stops to remember "what happened" way back when, the congregation will lose a valuable piece of its identity. And once the memory is gone, it is all but impossible to recover and that

is why every year a brief history of the church is read as sometimes, we forget the rich heritage imparted to us. The Secretary of the Local Board, Mrs. Florabelle Lutchman, read this history which was a very condensed version.

The Scripture referenced was Mark 10:35-45. In his Sermon, the Reverend Dr. Sammah spoke about what took place between the Transfiguration and the Triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In the middle of these significant events, James and John approach Jesus asking that they be given high positionspositions of power and authority. They wanted high office not because they deserved it or had the necessary qualifications. To them, the Kingdom of God spoke about power and status. It is known that people are seduced by power. Power corrupts. Jesus, however, defined what power

is. To be great one has to become a servant. He referred to Himself saying, "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to give His life to redeem people."

Jesus is the supreme leader of servant leadership. Jesus says to us to stop worrying about being great – just serve others and turn the other cheek in the face of criticism, befriend the friendless/the annoying, pray for someone, give words of encouragement, and be willing to become vulnerable for the sake of good. Real service takes one out of one's comfort zone. He appealed to the congregation to live and serve as Jesus did.

The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi was then read by all followed by the Pastoral Prayer and the closing Hymn "Servants of the Saviour."



Marabella Honours Members at Memorial Service

FLORABELLE LUTCHMAN, MARABELLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

n Sunday 21st October 2021, Marabella Presbyterian Church held its annual Memorial Service to honour those who passed away during the year.

The service began with the Call to Worship by the Minister, Reverend Dr. Randall Sammah. followed by the first Hymn, "Lead on O King Eternal." The Memorial Hymn was sung and then Mrs. Lutchman called the names of the deceased loved ones whose pictures appeared on the screen as their names were called, and we remembered with thankfulness, those we have known and loved. Mrs Lutchman offered words of comfort to the loved ones of the following members of the church who had gone to the great beyond:

Mrs. Elsie Mohamed, Mr. Robert Dwarika, Mr. Peter Oudit, Mr.

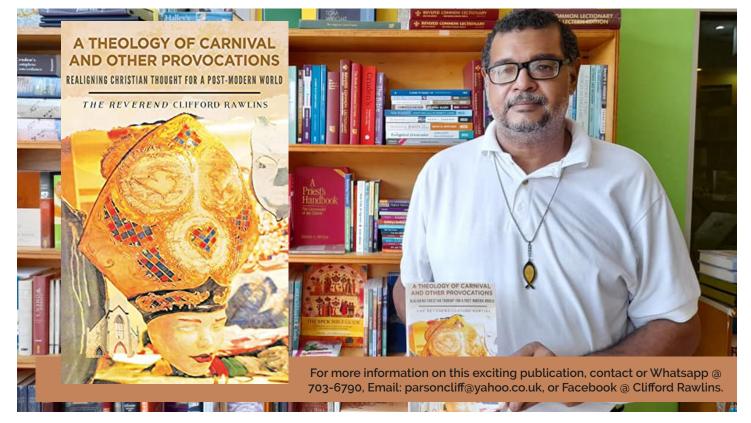
Randolph Oudit, Mrs. Pearly Bahadoorsingh, Mr. Patrick Ramsingh, Mr. Jerome Sastoo and Mr. John Poliah.

Following the Scripture Passage, John 18: 31-37, in his message, Reverend Dr. Sammah reminded all that it was a day when we remembered that Jesus was Christ the King and the King of our lives. In their deceased loved ones on the John 18-33-37, Pilate spoke to Jesus Memorial Wall. and this caused John to proclaim that Jesus had divine authority. As Pilate was speaking, Jesus got the opportunity to say that His Kingdom was based on truth and not on earthly power.

Jesus explained, "I am the way the truth and the life." Truth is not a concept but a person standing in front of Pilate.

On the cross, Jesus gave up his spirit to witness to the truth. We must all walk in the way of truth and the choice we make will determine which Kingdom we will serve - God's or humans'.

During the singing of the Hymn, "What a Friend we have in Jesus" there was a procession to the Fitzroy Bachan Memorial Hall where the families placed plaques of



ithin the realm of published works in Caribbean theology there is not much on which we can draw. Students of theology and Christians in general have had to rely almost totally on writings and scholarly works from the developed world. A Theology of Carnival and Other Provocations is a work in Caribbean contextual theology that calls the reader to think beyond the confines of a theology shaped by the colonial past and the North American tele-evangelist, mega-church brand to call forth one that is relevant to the present age and landscape. It invites the reader to embark on a journey where we re-imagine God's work and will for a new people in a new era and to make Caribbean theology part of the working life of the Caribbean Church. It is part of the process of breaking the mould of Caribbean theological dependence on Europe and North America.

Scripture is progressive revelation, not static faith. Within its pages many insights gained and revelations given in earlier times are no longer held as binding in later times. The Church, as an eschatological community, who look to the second appearing of Jesus Christ at the end of the age, must acknowledge that the story will only end at that time. It hasn't ended with the Book of the Revelation and the closing of the Biblical canon. Until that second appearing God's people must grapple with an ever evolving world landscape and human civilisation.

These essays encourage reflection on how we do theology, and the interrogating, deconstructing, and reinterpreting of received texts to transform the local landscape which must be undertaken in order to discover and deliver the justice and peace of God's Reign; thus raising up a new people of prophetic grace and pilgrim quality, and exploring new and more authentic ways of seeing and

being for Christianity on the Caribbean landscape! Described as: Fresh, new, and a much needed input and boost to theology in the Caribbean. It is provocative, controversial, stimulating, and openly honest with what biblical scripture is and says.

The author, The Reverend Clifford Rawlins, is a Minister of Word and Sacraments, ordained by the Church of Scotland in 1997, and is now the Minister of the Diego Martin United Church, the only fully ecumenical congregation in Trinidad and Tobago, founded by Lutheran, Methodist, Moravian, and Presbyterian churches. His theological formation began at St. Andrew's Theological College, San Fernando, where he graduated at the top of his class, and which he regards as having been a world class theological grounding. He has also been a lecturer in Biblical and Systematic Theology with the Codrington College Extra Mural Diploma in Theology since 2003,



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
THE BOARD OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

INVITES YOU TO OUR

FRIDAY 25TH FEBRUARY, 2022 TO SUNDAY 27TH FEBRUARY, 2022.

THEME: "BEING A CHURCH IN AND BEYOND A PANDEMIC"

WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?

Justly

LOVE

Wally

WITH YOUR GOD - MICAH 6:6-8



"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life."

verse etched in our hearts from John 3, but do we really understand the gravity of this statement?

Scripture describes this "world" throughout the Bible as Satan's world (2 Cor. 4:4), that if we love the world - then we don't love the Father (1 John 2:15), to refuse conforming to this world (Rom. 12:2) and the list goes on.

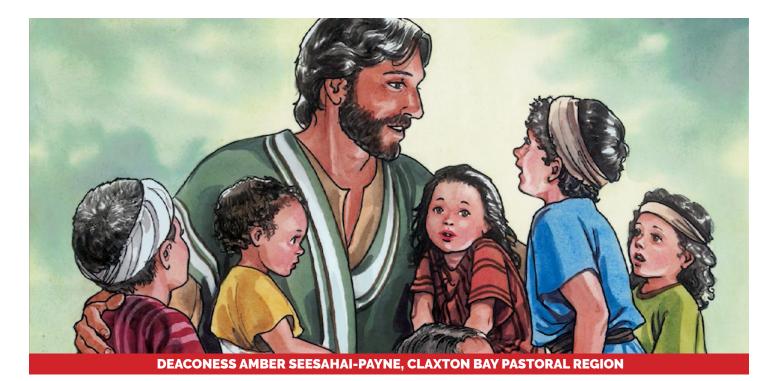
We see that this sin-filled world is against God, yet, He sent His Son, a part of Himself, to take human form and die on the Cross - all in the name of love. Romans 5:8 powerfully declares "But God has

shown us how much he loves us, it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" The death of Jesus eternally establish our relationship with God who made us His friends through the death of His Son (Rom 5:10). We can now ask for forgiveness for our sins and turn from them.

Jesus, as a man, experienced every emotion we go through today like betrayal, hurt, anger, disappointment and heartbreak, yet He died of His own accord taking our payment on Himself. He looked straight into the eyes of the Pharisees who ordered His brutal and excruciating death and still said, "Father, forgive them." It is undoubtedly difficult to forgive someone for a painful offence, but we remember that our help comes from the Lord (Psalm 121:2).

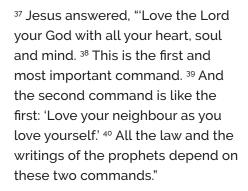
For this New Year, may we appreciate the gravity of Christ's forgiving love as we truly mean "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" and love to one another sincerely because love brings about the forgiveness of many sins (1 Peter 4:8).

BIBLE TRIVIA The Gospel of Mark begins with: ANSWER IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE. A John the Baptist's birth B Jesus' birth C The angel Gabriel appearing to Mary D Jesus' baptism by John



BIBLE STORY

Matthew 22:37-40



MESSAGE

When we draw a heart we think of Love!

Love is an interesting thing because it's really hard to define. We say "love" about all kinds of things, we can say that we love our pets, we love our friends and family, we love aloo pies and doubles!

The Bible says that love is from God. The Bible is God's love letter

to us. It teaches us what love looks like, sounds like, and acts like. It also says that God is Love.

When we are angry, grumpy or do bad things, God still loves us. Real love does not have anything to do with whether someone is happy or sad with us. Real love is given to us as a gift. That is how God loves us! That is how you can KNOW that God loves you!

The two greatest Commandments are to love God and because of our love for God, we are to love other people.

When we love just like God, it shows through our smiles and actions so that everyone can see and know.

My challenge for you is that you would show God's love to other people, so that when people look at you, they see God's love.







he United Nations
International Day of
Commemoration in
memory of the victims
of the Holocaust was marked
on January 27th. It is the day
in 1945 when the largest Nazi
concentration camp, Auschwitz,
was liberated.

The Holocaust was the attempt by Nazi Germany and its collaborators to murder the Jews of Europe.
There were over 40 thousand concentration camps and ghettos in Europe and approximately 6 million Jews and 5 million others who were murdered during the Holocaust.

While much of the killing of Jews during the Holocaust occurred in death camps in occupied Poland, the persecution of Jews and their removal from their homes took place in full view of their non-Jewish neighbours in cities and towns across Europe.

Anti-Jewish sentiment in Europe dates back hundreds of years as

they are viewed as "Christ killers". This led to much persecution during the Middle Ages.

In the 1920s, the Nazis implemented a campaign of what we would now call 'fake news' which blamed the Jews for Germany's loss in the 1st World War and its subsequent economic woes. The goal of their racist ideology was the elimination of all Jews and other undesirables from Germany. The economic hardship in Germany and the tough talk of Adolf Hitler led the Nazi party to gain so much popularity that by the 1930s, it was the only party in Germany.

As Christians, the holocaust is a difficult part of our history not just because it occurred in a predominantly Christian nation with Christian values but also because many Christians and churches were complicit.

Let us pray for the many who are still persecuted today because of creed and race and let us also pray for our leaders. I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity (1 Timothy 2:1-2 NLT).

The hope is that marking such days of remembrance brings some dignity and justice to the victims. We also need to be reminded lest we also repeat the same mistakes.

According to National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago many Jews fled Eastern Europe to Trinidad with six hundred registered by 1940. Many were housed in internment camps in Caledonia Island, Nelson Island and a group of buildings near the St. James Barracks. After the war, the first synagogue was erected on St. Vincent Street in Port of Spain.

If you would like to learn more about the Holocaust you can visit, www.aboutholocaust.org



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Layout for the January 2022 Print & Digital Edition of *The Trinidad Presbyterian* done by: *Vincent Ramkhelawan*, Reform Presbyterian Church.

"The Trinidad Presbyterian" was established in 1904

It is the official publication of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.

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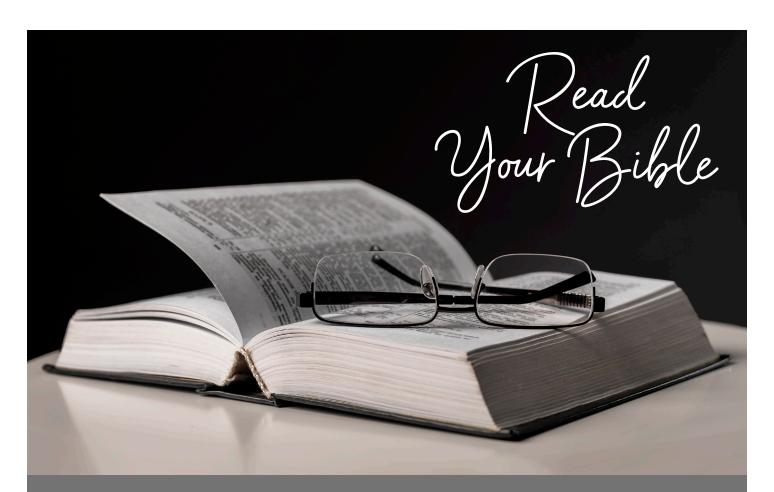
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Please keep all article contributions between 250 - 300 words.

Please send all articles by the **10th** of each month. Kindly note that articles sent after the **10th** will **NOT** be acknowledged for the upcoming publication, but may be considered for future issues.

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"Growing in Hope..."

SUNDAY		Luke 5:1-11	Luke 6:17-26	Luke 6:27-38	Luke 9:28-36
MONDAY		Hebrews 13:1-16	1 John 1:1-10	Proverbs 3:11-20	Philippians 2:1-13
TUESDAY	Genesis 21:1-21	Hebrews 13:17-25	1 John 2:1-11	Proverbs 4:1-27	
WEDNESDAY	Genesis 22:1-18	Romans 12:1-8	1 John 2:12-17	Proverbs 6:1-19	
THURSDAY	Genesis 23:1-20	Romans 12:9-21	1 John 2:18-29	Proverbs 7:1-27	
FRIDAY	Genesis 24:1-27	Romans 13:1-14	1 John 3:1-10	Proverbs 8:1-21	
SATURDAY	Genesis 24:28-38, 49-51	Romans 14:1-23	1 John 3:11-18	Proverbs 8:22-36	