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**PRESBYTERIAN**

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

JANUARY 2022 | \$4.00



CELEBRATING THE 154TH  
*Anniversary*  
OF WORK AND WITNESS

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# Moderator *speaks*

## WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF US IN 2022

I hope that everyone had a Blessed, Holy and Healthy Christmas 2021. Undoubtedly, the past two years have been long and memorable. These were extremely challenging times, not only because of COVID-19 and its variants, but also the unfortunate escalation of heinous crimes, gender based-violence, road carnage and so many other social ills.

As we enter the New Year, 2022, I invite our Presbyterian family to prayerfully focus on the theme for our 154th Anniversary Celebrations, *"Being the Church in A Pandemic and Beyond – What does the Lord Require?"* It embraces the focus of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) of which the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) is an active member. The WCRC has been engaged in a process of Discerning, Confessing, and Witnessing in the times of COVID-19 and beyond.

As we all reflect upon our noble history and rich heritage, we are reminded that long before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, churches, including ours, were struggling with the question of how to be more relevant and compelling in this new era. Our

major concerns were what does the future hold for the Church and whether we will be able to survive. We have acknowledged that to be the church today we need to change the paradigm - the model by which the church takes form. For the Church to survive, it needs to be robust in its missional focus and identity by seeking out the ostracized and marginalized with active pastoral care and compassion.

The PCTT cannot be inwardly oriented but must embrace its reformed heritage and missional responsibility. But it's hard when we become too comfortable being Church only within four walls and not going beyond. This global Pandemic crystalized what it means for the Church beyond four walls. The PCTT was not dormant because our church buildings were closed. COVID-19 did not stop us from being Church, rather, it clarified what being the Church meant and compelled us to engage in the missional opportunities in our current changing context.

The year, 2022, will be a testing time for both the Church and our beloved nation of Trinidad and Tobago and those who struggle with making the responsible



THE RT. REVEREND JOY ABDUL-MOHAN

choice of getting vaccinated. It will demand a re-ordering of priorities at every level of our society as we keep in mind those on the margins. It will also demand meaningful dialogue and consultation with labor, economic stakeholders, civil society and government to grasp the changes in a spirit of understanding and compassion.

I pray that throughout this year 2022, and with every passing year, that the mission and work of the PCTT will continue to make a positive impact on our community and nation. Therefore, the work and mission of God's Church must not cease in a time of crisis. We can use this new experience as an opportunity for spiritual growth and to strengthen relationships. In doing so, we will enter new unexplored areas of ministry and servant leadership.

*A Blessed and Visionary 154th Anniversary and 2022!*





**T**he life of each person is a mixture of happiness and sadness. All of us live through tragedies as well as triumphs. Many of us believe if we are a disciple of Christ we should be saved from the pains, hardships, sufferings, and uncertainties that come into the life of every human. As we live life, we will come to understand that sometimes those who believe in Christ face more hardships than anyone else. But we do not face them alone, the God we believe in binds up our brokenness, comforts us when we mourn and restores us when we are devastated by the turmoil of life. We do not have to pretend that we are invincible or perfect or immortal, we know that someone stronger and more powerful than we are holds the future.

As we live in our broken and hurting world, we are always in contact with the source of our strength, hope and joy. Through prayer, we acknowledge to God our fears, sadness, our deep pains, doubts and hopes. When we are overwhelmed by the circumstances that face us, prayer keeps us in touch with the source of our strength, Christ Jesus.

There are many problems we cannot solve. We can sit with a friend who is terminally ill, and as much as we want to do it, we cannot heal their disease. We can comfort grieving families, but we cannot stand between them and their pain. We cannot always make everything right for ourselves or the people we care about, but prayer opens channels for God to do what we are unable to do.

Whether things go well or whether they go badly, we can always rejoice. Sometimes, our joy is the kind that makes us want to dance and sing. Sometimes, it is quieter and gets us through difficult times with the hope that keeps us from giving up altogether. But our joy in Christ is always there. When the year 2021 ended, we were filled with a mixture of happiness and sadness, disappointments and successes, grief, uncertainties, and questions as to what the year, 2022, will bring. Whatever happens, there is reason enough to rejoice. You are not alone; God is always present. *"Life can be full of challenges, sorrows, and tough decisions. But even amidst hardship, the Lord counsels us to be strong and courageous"* (Joshua 1:9).



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

154<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Theme: "Being the Church in and Beyond a Pandemic – What Does The Lord Require?"

EPIPHANY DAY | THURSDAY 6TH JANUARY 2022

5:30 IN THE EVENING | THE SUSAMACHAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8 (N.R.S.V.)"*

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE - HILTON BILL SIBOO, ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST, PCTT

## IN CELEBRATION OF THE 154TH YEAR OF PRESBYTERIANISM IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**F**rom the history of God's chosen people to Christianity from the advent and birth of Jesus, the Christ, humankind has survived personally and collectively from natural disasters such as floods, droughts, storms, earthquakes, pestilence, plagues, epidemics and pandemics as with the present COVID-19 virus and its mutating variants.

The World Council of Reformed Churches' (WCRC) Theme: '*Being reformed in the time of Covid-19 and beyond. What does the Lord require?*' takes us to the question of

the 6th century prophet Micah. First let us consider, "*What did the Lord require of the prophets?*"

Prophets of the Old Testament were regarded as having vision and understanding of man and God, as patriots to the covenant, to warn against religious practices that had lost its meaning and spirit, to drive out foreign worship and who wanted the nation to be in a right relationship with God. Prophets were required to be men of highest moral character and obedient to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Prophets were not always right but believed God would keep them informed.

Was it not believed that the Messiah would come from the long line of prophets? Was Jesus not called a prophet? The decline and disappearance of prophecy gave way to personal responsibility with the influence and impact of teaching and preaching. For the prophet Micah, what the Lord required of humankind was '*to do justice, love mercy [kindness] and to walk humbly with your God*' [Micah 6:6-8].

*For Jesus, What did the Lord require?* "...not my will but thy will be done ... on earth as it is in heaven," to "Love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself," and



"love one another as I have loved you."

*For John Morton, What did the Lord require?* December 20, 1839, Morton's family migrated from Scotland to Nova Scotia, Canada, where he was born. He was ordained as a minister on December 5, 1861, at Bridgewater, Lunenburg County. In 1863, he married Sarah E Silver whose family was Anglican and had migrated from England.

In the winter of 1864, Morton sailed to Barbados but ended up in Trinidad, not as a missionary but to restore his health issue of diphtheria, a throat infection, which if not treated could have compromised him being a minister or missionary. He wandered through the sugar estates and was drawn to the neglect and plight of the approximately 20,000 East Indian indentured labourers and their families who came mainly from Madras and Calcutta within the population of about 80,000 in Trinidad. 'To think of these people living in a Christian community for years, making money and returning to India without hearing the Gospel of Christ! What a stain on our Christianity!' He set himself at once to have this stain wiped out.

Fully recovered after four months in Trinidad, he first urged the Presbytery of Trinidad comprising the United Presbyterian Church (UPC) with three ministers and the Free Church of Scotland (COS) with one minister to apply to their churches in Scotland for a missionary. Their congregations consisted mainly of proprietors,

merchants and planters located across Trinidad.

Secondly, on his journey home he visited the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, requesting they reopen the Iere mission [1843 – closed 1853] as an East Indian mission.

Thirdly, on May 10, 1865, he wrote to the secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church, Canada, and his home church, directing attention to the state of the 'coolies' and the advantages of a mission to the East Indians [EI] in Trinidad and noted his approaches to the COS and UPC, USA. He followed this, pleading by letter to Synod. When by October 2, 1866, his letter of June-July to Synod had no resolve, Rev. John Morton on March 27, 1867, offered to go to Trinidad as a missionary and was chosen on 3 July, 1867. *What did the Lord require of him and his family?*

John, Sarah and their three year old daughter, Agnes, left Canada aboard the 'Aurora' on Saturday November 30, 1867, going to do God's work. Four hundred and fifty miles away, the terror of a hurricane began on December 5th at 1:00 a.m. and continued until past 1:00 p.m. the next day. The mast was torn, the main sail gave way, deck loads were thrown overboard and the boat almost keeled over. Agnes lost her kitten and chicken. On arrival at Barbados, they boarded the sloop 'Sapphire' to Trinidad. By the time they arrived in *Trinidad on January 6, 1868*, and unpacked, loss and damage included books, clothing, a piano and most of their personal

belongings. They were housed by Rev George Lambert of the 'Scotch Church', San Fernando, before the Iere mission residence was made habitable by February 21, 1868. The inherited Iere mission comprised people of African descent, ex-slaves.

Had you been John and Sarah, what would you have done? Had he said, "Not my problem, not my business," and returned to Canada, the PCTT we know, love and appreciate may not have been; and the history of Trinidad [and Tobago] would be different.

To reach the EI, the early missionaries visited the adults on the estates, they learnt their languages mainly Hindi and Urdu. It took three years before the first adult converted to Christianity. The missionaries were assisted by converts who spoke the Indian languages, who became catechists and some later becoming fully ordained ministers.

Women's work began through the efforts of Sarah Morton and later women missionaries of the Women's Missionary Society and Bible Women, and came to include Boys' and Girls' work. The first school for children began on March 23, 1868, on Morton's doorstep with the teaching of the English alphabet. Gradually, Morton encouraged and, at times, physically brought the neglected children not attending the 'negro' Government and denominational schools of the Roman Catholic, English Catholic (Anglican) etc. Estate owners and the governors of Trinidad provided assistance

for the Canadian Mission Indian (CMI) Schools. Schools by day for children and night school for juveniles and adults became the places of worship or churches for Sundays, religious observances and activities.

By the Jubilee year, 1918, the mission of the Canadian Presbyterian Church in Trinidad had to adapt, adjust and face epidemics, pandemic and the consequences of the global impact from the Spanish flu (1918-1920), World War 1 (1914-1918) the end of indentureship (1917) and the establishment of the United Church of Canada (UCC, 1925) all requiring the toddling Presbyterian presence in Trinidad to adjust.

By the centenary year 1968, the UCC was withdrawing and the establishment of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Grenada (PCTG) was imminent. With independence from colonial England (1962) and the international

Black Power movement (1970), we had to look beyond.

Now into 2022, when the COVID-19 seems not to be letting up, not going away in a hurry, the PCTT celebrates its 154th Anniversary as the Reformed Protestant Church which keeps reforming. We need to adapt and change not losing our salt. We cannot give up or evade that the PCTT must remain true to the Symbol of the Burning Bush reflecting in our daily lives hope,

being like a global pandemic of kindness, the challenge and the call of being reformed and always reforming. Still, asking what does the Lord require... of you and me as individuals, of congregations and institutions of the PCTT in a time of COVID-19 and beyond?

May the words of the prophets, Micah, Jesus and St. Paul and the works of the Rev. Dr. John Morton and the past 153 years inspire to remind us that we are required

*PCTT must remain true to the Symbol of the Burning Bush reflecting in our daily lives hope, faith, love and charity with the motto – Nec Tamen Consumabatur.*

faith, love and charity with the motto – *Nec Tamen Consumabatur.*

Beyond the global COVID-19 pandemic, however eventually controlled, the Lord God requires justice, love, mercy, kindness, and walking with God humbly in our homes, schools, churches, villages and communities and nation, even

*not to be burnt offerings but living sacrifices who walk the walk and not be satisfied with only the talk!* The prophetic voices of the Old and New Testaments, and the missionary spirit and zeal must be kept alive and alight in the pandemic and beyond.



**St. Andrew's Theological College**  
P. O. Box 92, Paradise Hill, San Fernando, Trinidad & Tobago

**Academic Year 2021/2022 - Semester I (online)**

<p><b>SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY I</b> Lecturer: Rev. Damien Sieunarine Date: Sept 13th - Dec 6th Day: Monday   Duration: 12 weeks Time: 5.30pm - 8.30pm Cost: \$1,500</p>	<p><b>THE DAWN &amp; DARK AGES: CHURCH HISTORY I</b> Lecturer: Rev. Adrian Sieunarine Date: Sept 15th - Dec 8th Day: Wednesday   Duration: 12 weeks Time: 5.30pm - 8.30pm Cost: \$1,500</p>
<p><b>PASTORAL COUNSELLING I</b> Lecturer: Rev. Keron Khellawan Date: Sept 14th - Dec 7th Day: Tuesday   Duration: 12 weeks Time: 5.30pm - 8.30pm Cost: \$1,500</p>	<p><b>APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE</b> Lecturer: Rev. Errol Inshanally Date: Sept 16th - Dec 9th Day: Thursday   Duration: 12 weeks Time: 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm Cost: \$1,500</p>
<p><b>INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY</b> Lecturer: Mr. Joseph Bridgewater Date: Sept 15th - Dec 8th Day: Wednesday   Duration: 12 weeks Time: 9am - 12pm Cost: \$1,500</p>	<p><b>GENDER JUSTICE: A THEOLOGICAL APPROACH TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE</b> Date: Sept 17th - Dec 10th Day: Friday   Duration: 12 weeks Time: 5.30 pm - 8.30 pm Cost: \$1,500</p>

Contact: 1.868.657.7554 | kimberly.ramkissoon@satc.edu.tt



**St. Andrew's Theological College**

**PRESIDING ELDER TRAINING COURSE 2022**

<b>Start date</b>	Friday 14th January 2022
<b>End date</b>	Friday 20th May 2022
<b>Delivery</b>	Online
<b>Time</b>	5.30 pm - 8.30 pm
<b>Modules</b>	Seven (7)
<b>Cost</b>	\$3,500 (\$500 per module)



Contact: 1.868.657.7554 | 1.868.653.0449 | kimberly.ramkissoon@satc.edu.tt



# KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES



## HOW TO SURVIVE & THRIVE IN 2022

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

### HOW DO WE FACE THIS YEAR? WHAT SHALL WE DO?

**W**e are reminded that what we do emanates from who we are and who we are meant to be and to become by the grace of God. This year, let us plan to be:

**1. AMBASSADORS.** We are told that we are Ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). We are representatives of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. We believe and behave differently from the world because our origin, rebirth, nature, identity and destiny are different. We explain that our Leader and Lord

has a Kingdom that is not of this world (John 18:36) but yearns for all to know him and to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4).

**2. ADAPTABLE.** In 1 Corinthians 9:20-22, we are shown the range and reach of the apostle Paul's adaptability in his mission. In our missions today for Christ, we are called and challenged to be adaptable to the changing situations and diversity in this world so that we can communicate and connect flexibly and fluently with the wide variety we find in creation.

**3. ALERT.** One of the reasons that Watchnight services were introduced in the Christian church

was to highlight the importance of the repeated Bible admonitions about alertness. In the Bible, we are told to be alert (for example in Ephesians 6:18 and 1 Peter 5:8). This means to be watchful and to have a cool head and warm heart, to remember that Jesus warns and comforts us with the caution that "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" (Mark 14:38).

Let us, therefore, hear and heed the Word of the Lord to be alert, adaptable ambassadors of Christ. Faithful determination, loving integrity and flexible perseverance are crucial for our Christian journey, in 2022 and always.

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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COURSE** For School Teachers

Register online at: [satc.edu.tt](http://satc.edu.tt)  
Deadline: Jan 12th 2022

**Start Date:** January 15th 2022  
**Duration:** 12 Weeks  
**Day:** Saturday  
**Time:** 9am - noon  
**Delivery:** Online (Zoom)  
**Cost:** \$1,500

# building hope for *OUR CHILDREN*



COUNSELLING COLUMN WITH BERNADETTE GYAN-MANICKCHAND

Q

How do we build hope in our children when we feel hopeless ourselves?



The past year or so has not been very hope inspiring for children. As adults, we, too, have been trying to keep our own heads above water. Daily, we realise that our spiritual beliefs are the key factors in keeping us from falling apart.

From a psychological counselling perspective, the hope we need to pass on can be derived from strong attachment.

To be deeply hopeful, an individual must possess trust and openness. These provide alternative solutions for problem solving. Adults would like their children to learn how to regulate their thoughts, feelings and behaviours. We would like that they develop a sense of purpose and empowerment. Our roles as parents and guardians are also to nurture our offspring in faith, religious beliefs and spiritual development.

The first step in reassurance that there is something better ahead deals with attachment. It is the first developmental building block of hope and, perhaps, the most

critical. The goal in providing a good attachment experience is to engender appropriate trust, openness, and a continuing sense of connectedness. Our children observe and model our behaviour, if we demonstrate positive actions most likely they would follow.

Have we ever carefully observed our children's behaviour during this pandemic season? Are they reacting like us in this phase of adversity? We are our children's first hope providers. Some researchers would add that parental bonds also lay the foundation for later spiritual development. In short, solid parenting can result in more hopeful offspring. After all, "the child is the father of mankind."

The work of child researchers such as René Spitz, Anna Freud, and John Bowlby has told us much about the effect of disrupted attachment.

"Hope building" is a reciprocal process. As our hope levels rise, so will our children's. In imparting hope, we will experience a renewed sense of empowerment, connection, and peace.

As a brand New Year is welcomed, let us restore and impart HOPE for survival and contentment and the belief of "the sunshine after the rain".



# CRISIS IN THE FAMILY: COUPLES

THE FAMILY CAN: A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE THE FAMILY | HILTON R SIBOO | 788-2685

**I**t is a new year 2022 but crises in the family never go away on its own or when left unattended. Seasonal celebrations, festivities and vacations submerge crises which soon again rise to the surface, at times with extreme abusive and violent consequences. Why? The crisis unattended had festered. This is often the situation in the relationship between two persons – a couple.

From a 'Trini' perspective, should we look at a couple as a 'doubles', we may gain some insights of the dynamics involved. Found within the wrapping are two individual 'baras' with or without channa and varied condiments to an individual's taste. However, here ends the

difference between a 'doubles' and a human couple and herein lies the problems and challenges should each individual desire to be only satisfied with their personal and or selfish tastes or wants. If questioned, asked, challenged or in any way either feels threatened, conflicts and crises result where the individual as a 'bara' chooses or decides to claim his/her share of the channa and condiments and separate. As such, a 'doubles' become a single. Isn't this what many couples do to their relationship?

Sadly though, when many such singles desire to get into 'doubles' or couples' relationship again some are successful but the majority go through recurring cycles and life

goes on. Really?

As a couple it is up to both persons to become either a 'doubles' or a single. Is there true and honest willingness to resolve crisis for the benefit of the relationship and the family or would it be for self-preservation and self-intents?

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.***

# REMEMBERING Ralph Pulwarty

PRESIDING ELDER MIKEY BEDASIE

**I**t is difficult to write about a man who fought the good fight. It is good to remember the friend who spoke of his own life as if the good fight were a victory. The struggles he overcame and the triumphs he celebrated, fashioned a strong character

Ralph Pulwarty succeeded where many would have failed. The early years were good, he built a successful family business, and much more. Things turned and a new story began. Married to Marjorie, they had three children, Josiah (eldest child now deceased fondly known as Joey), Jesse (second son) and Sharissa (last child-daughter) whom he taught the importance of family values and of Christ as their Lord and Saviour

He was a printer by profession and a self-taught graphic artist. He served as Vice Chair, and Chairman of the Communications Committee over the years. He would, according to his son, wake up early, as early as 5 a.m. to work tirelessly on The Trinidad Presbyterian just to ensure there was a well-produced and successful issue every month.

An Elder at Green Memorial Presbyterian Church, he was a member in good standing. He ensured that every function and program held there would be well executed with the help of his wife Majorie and children. That was his home church for more than 50 years!

His love for the Board of Men was his passion. Together with the late Rodney Harnarine, they pushed for the Family Day. Very ambitious ventures like Tobago outings and Christmas Luncheons were a must. Everyone one would be sure to enjoy the food, but most of all members enjoyed the singing, jokes, and stories of the good old days

He was indeed a

man worthy of all accolades, but most of all his Love for God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit never wavered. Well done thou good and faithful servant!

Rest easy my friend.





# Displays In The St Andrew's Theological College Library (2021)

The Archives Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT) and the St. Andrew's Theological College co-hosted a Divali display at the St. Andrew's Theological College Library, Paradise Pasture, San Fernando. The display comprised books, magazines, articles on Divali and an exhibition of artifacts and pictures of musical instruments, tools and kitchen utensils.

The Archives collects, organizes, preserves and disseminates information pertaining to the history and work of the Presbyterian Church. Resources include printed material, non-printed material and artifacts.

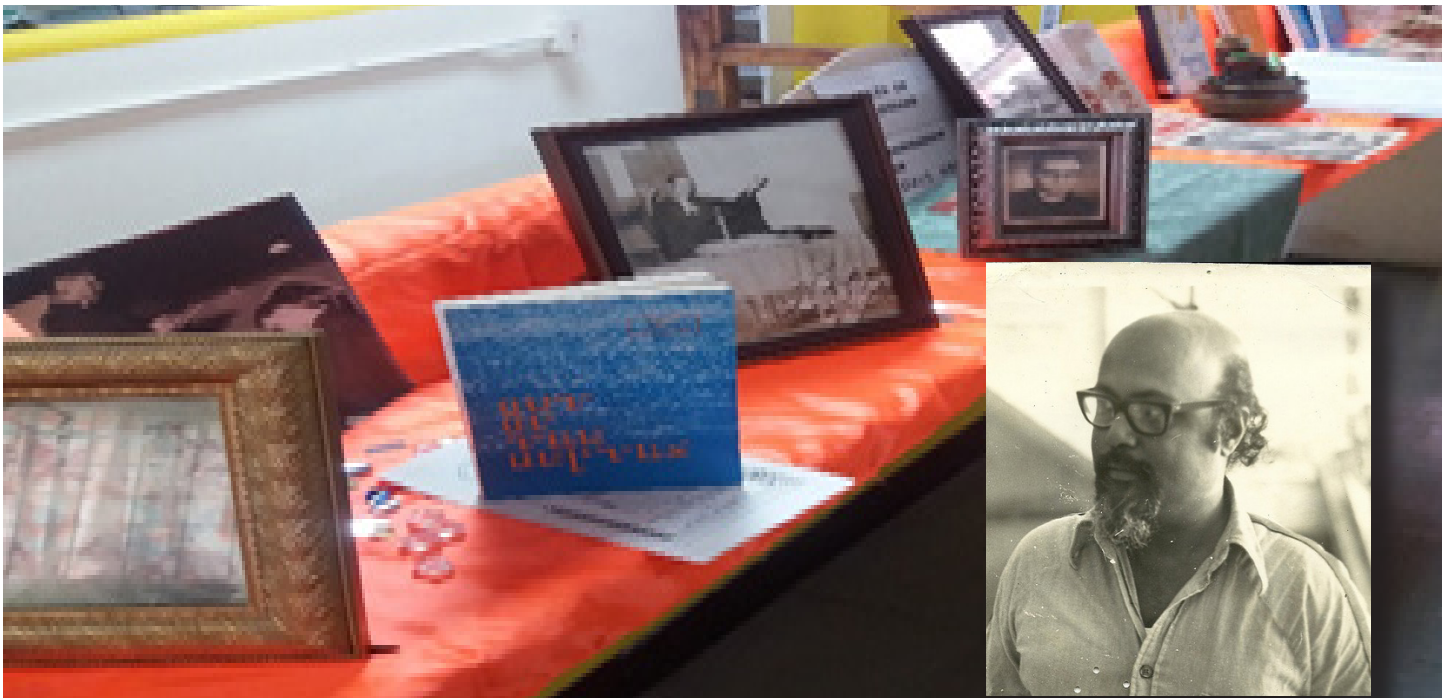
This display paid tribute to the descendants of the East Indian Immigrants for their contribution to the religious and cultural life in Trinidad and Tobago.

Other library displays for the year included:

- Twenty-five (25) new books received as donations from the Council for World Mission
- Reformation display to commemorate Reformation during the month of October

- Reverend Idris Hamid display (Indo-Trinidadian author / theologian)
- Women in the Bible
- Lent
- Advent





## Display Featuring The Reverend Idris Hamid

**T**he display on Reverend Idris Hamid comprised the author's books, photographs, as well as articles in magazines and newspapers.

The display was accompanied by a biographical article written by Rev. Harold Sitahal published in, "The Encyclopedia of Caribbean Religions, vol 1: A-L pp: 250-252". An excerpt of this article is as follows:

"Born on December 9, 1934, the son of Muslim parents, Abdul and Haliman Hamid, Idris Hamid grew up in the sugar village of Waterloo, central Trinidad, in the West Indies. His parents were the descendants of Indian indentured immigrants who were shipped to Trinidad to supply cheap labor for the British-owned sugar industry in Trinidad,

and his father was employed as the chauffeur of one of the managers of the sugar company, Caroni Limited. After a brilliant primary and secondary school career, Idris Hamid turned down a scholarship from an oil company where he was employed to train for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad. He was converted to Christianity at a Pentecostal Open Air Crusade. Hamid's training for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad took him to Toronto, Canada, where he obtained a first degree in Science and then graduated from Emmanuel College in Theology. He was ordained in 1964 and worked as a pastor in the San Juan Pastoral Region of the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad before doing graduate studies at Union Theological Seminary, New York, in 1969. There he studied under such men as

James Cone of Black Theology fame. Hamid was now prepared for the role of radical Caribbean Theologian. After a brilliant and outstanding career as Theologian, activist, ecumenical pioneer, husband and father, Hamid passed away at the early age of forty-seven on August 20, 1981, in Toronto."

We invite you to visit our Library for vibrant, engaging information and displays that help to fulfil the call to enlightenment, empowerment and edification through theological education.

For visits kindly contact the following office numbers:

St Andrew's Theological College  
 satc@satc.edu.tt Office: 657-7554  
 Library: 653-4166

PCTT Synod synod@pctt.org.tt  
 Office 652-4829





KENNY ARJOON

## New Confirmation & Baptism at Canaan Presbyterian Church.

**S**unday 14th November 2021, was a memorable day in the stewardship of Canaan Presbyterian Church. Baptism included one infant, two children and four adults and marked the Confirmation of 24 persons comprising 12 children and 12 adults, which included four families joining the church.

In reverence of the solemnity of their faith, spirituality, service, sacrifice, relationships and patterning of their Christian life, the topic for meditation was based on Value Judgement and was delivered by our Intern Minister Bjorn Warde who posed the question "What would our value judgments as followers of Christ be if we were to rate ourselves?"

A Value Judgement is simply a judgment of the rightness or wrongness of something or someone, or of the usefulness of something or someone. Looking at Hannah's story in 1 Samuel 1:4-20, the congregants were asked to give a value judgement of the three persons whom Hannah encounters.

They were guided to the understanding that our usefulness as Christians are shown through our work as patterned after the selfless love of Christ.

So, even as so many were baptized and confirmed, the question of what we put value on remains. Is it the number of people at our services, our membership, our confirmations and baptisms? Or is it the quality of servant leaders that we foster?

In moments like these where we celebrate the grace and love of God, we also take heart that the lessons learned in our confirmation classes as well as through our services will lead these members on to a path that seeks justice, love, kindness and to walk humbly with their God.

Reverend Stephen Harripersad officiated at the baptisms and confirmations of these individuals who took the oath and received blessings. The Good News Bible inclusive of certificates were presented. The four successful

S.E.A students who were confirmed were presented with Hymn Books.

Hymn 588 "A Prophet-Woman broke a jar" was the inspirational Hymn which was sung to close the service. The 4th verse culminates the member's faith:

*The Spirit it knows, the Spirit calls,  
by Love's divine ordaining,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead,  
their powers and gifts unchaining.  
The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,  
from women, men and children,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead.  
Rejoice and make them welcome!*

*FRONT ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT  
Kaitlyn Sarwan, Alexis Roche, Tara Pattron,  
Isabel Lee Sing, Cynthia Ramlal, Caden Nurse,  
Kyle Sarwan, Jared Garraway.*

*MIDDLE ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT  
Sasha Balramsingh, Sophia Singh, Ariana  
Narine, Indra Sarwan, Catherine Ramlal,  
Nicole Heeralal, Inter Minister Bjorn Warde,  
Elder Jenny Singh.*

*BACK ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT  
Ravesh Balramsingh, Simeon Singh, Rev.  
Stephen Harripersad, Gary Soomarah, Veeshal  
Heeralal, Rajiv Soogrim, Veeraj Soogrim.*

# The Elevation of Charles Mahabir as Presiding Elder

**TERRENCE KALLOO, CHAIRMAN,  
JUBILEE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

October 10th, 2021 marked a historic day for the Jubilee Memorial Presbyterian Church, a little church in Caroni, as it celebrated the third elevation of a Presiding Elder. Presiding Elder Charles Mahabir has been a member of the Jubilee Memorial Presbyterian Church for 32 years and has served as Chairman, Elder and now Presiding Elder.

PE Mahabir is also the Chairman of the Alcoholics Anonymous group in the region and provides much needed support and counselling. The Jubilee Local Board Chairman, in wishing Charles "Bon Voyage", highlighted the significant contribution that he has made to the Jubilee Memorial congregation, the Curepe /St. Joseph Pastoral Region and the wider Presbyterian Church.

Charles was one of the founding members of the "Feed the Need" outreach, spearheaded by members of Jubilee, where his primary function was delivering meals to the needy and homeless.

Eighty meals are cooked every Sunday morning by members of Jubilee. From April 2019, and continuing every Sunday since, Covid 19 or not, Charles and his trusted soldiers have delivered meals to the homeless in the Caroni area and on the East-West corridor from Constantine Park to the Croisee in San Juan. He was also instrumental in identifying 15 needy families in the community and takes personal responsibility to deliver hampers on a monthly basis.

During his tenure, he was the most punctual member of our church, actually being the "key" man for the Church. He was likened to an all-rounder in test cricket in that he was good in all aspects of the game. He is noted as a great Preacher, very knowledgeable about the Bible, always willing to assist the Minister with dispensing Holy Communion to "shut-ins" and officiating at religious gatherings. He was also a member of the Church Choir - the Jubelievers, and an active member of the Regional Carolling group - Hark the



Heralders. Charles was active in every aspect of our Church.

His elevation was conducted by the Northern Presbytery, led by Reverend Errol Ragnauth with the Moderator of Synod, the Right Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan bringing the message. Our loss is a boon to the Sangre Chiquito Pastoral Region where PE Charles Mahabir has been assigned. We, at Jubilee, are confident he will do yeoman service in that part of God's vineyard.

May God continue to bless him.





## Baptism and Confirmations at Latchu Memorial

**S**unday, November 14, 2021, was a memorable day in the annals of the Latchu Memorial Presbyterian Church (Curepe/St Joseph Pastoral Region) when Infant and Adult Baptism and Confirmation occurred at the same service. The Leader of Service was Elder Terry Mohammed and Student Minister Stefan Wilson delivered the message, exhorting the congregation, parents, Sponsors, the Elders and the candidates (except for infants) to take the responsibility to make sure that all candidates grow in the service of God. Reverend Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan conducted the ceremony, enunciating the vows each had undertaken to serve the Lord which the congregation had witnessed. Luke Ali and

Serena Seemunta (Infant Baptism), Shria Maharaj and Amrit Nathaniel Singh (Confirmation) and D'Andra Nanda and Kimberly Suenarine both (Adult Baptism and Confirmation). It was truly a wonderful and holy experience for all present at the service.

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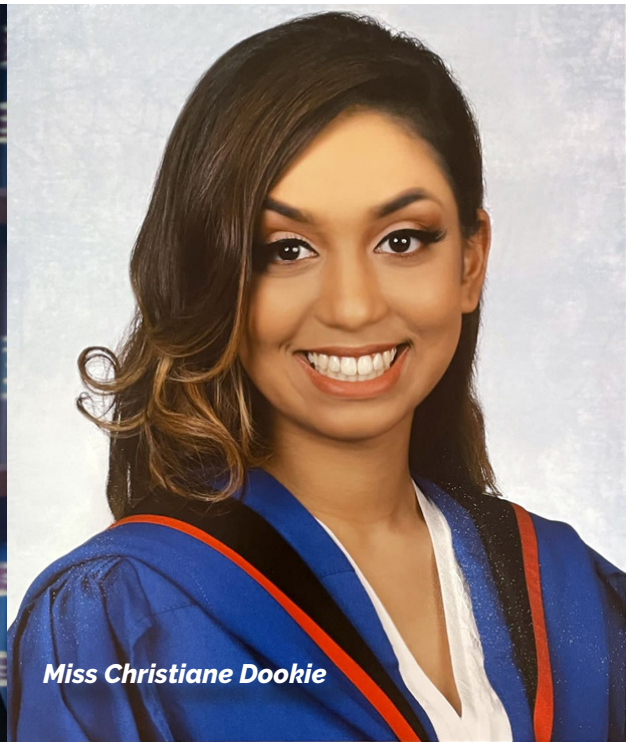
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*Miss Kaitlin Latchu-Rampersad*



*Miss Christiane Dookie*

# St. Charles Scholars Shine

## STUDENT MINISTER JESSICA MAHADEO

**T**he St. Charles Presbyterian Church of the Chaguanas Pastoral Region is extremely delighted at the sterling academic achievements of its young members.

Miss Kaitlin Latchu-Rampersad, who attended St. Augustine Girls' High School and was awarded an Open National Scholarship in Mathematics in 2017, has now graduated from the University of Waterloo, Canada, with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics, majoring in Financial Analysis and Risk Management. Kaitlin has returned to Trinidad and is actively involved in the work of the Church at St. Charles. She is a member of the

Youth Group and represents that group on the Local Board. She is also a member of the safety committee at St. Charles. She joins her mother, Ms. Jen Latchu, who is the Treasurer of the Board, and her grandfather, Honorary Elder Mr. Rawlins Latchu, to make it three generations of the same family to serve on the Local Board at the same time.

Miss Christiane Dookie, daughter of Elder Mr. Alvin Dookie and granddaughter of Mr. Michael Dookie (deceased) attended Naparima Girls' High School where she was awarded an Open National Scholarship in 2017. She opted to pursue further studies at the University of the West Indies, St.

Augustine, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Law degree with Upper Second-Class Honours in 2020. She is now a student at the Hugh Wooding Law School and is in line to be called to the Bar in 2022.

May God continue to bless, guide, and reward the efforts of our young people as they continue to work as His faithful servants.

To God be the Glory.





# Canaan Candlelight Service

**CHAIRMAN/ELDER KENNY ARJOON**

**S**intillating, awesome, awestruck, were appropriate adjectives used to describe an evening of musical items, carols, prayer, and poetry which incorporated the words: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, reminiscing the journey to Bethlehem.

The theme: "Hope: A Light in the Darkness" was formulated by Intern Minister Bjorn Warde and Ms. Lydia Meahjohn and hosted by the

Canaan Knights Youth Group and Sunday School.

The Nine Lessons began in Genesis with the creation and humanity falling into hopeless sin and darkness, and included the earliest promises of redemption through Jesus, the Messiah. It continued highlighting the hopes of the Old Testament prophets of God's unfailing light until the birth of Christ, as told by the Gospels. Finally, it concluded with St. John

unfolding the great mystery of Jesus' Incarnation.

The congregation entered with lighted candles to an ambiance aglow with candle lights singing "Once in Royal David's City."

With the moonlight and cool atmosphere, the Crèche was dedicated by Intern Minister Warde, who was joined by his wife, Dr. Cherise Warde, for the unveiling.

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*The Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan,  
Eternal Light Praise & Worship Team: Esther Babwah, Lyndon Boodoo, Arielle Ghourlal, Johnny Philip.  
PCW Group: L- R. Cathryn Nyack, Kristy Siloch, Alana Siloch, Tara Siloch, Nadira Sitahal, Helen Ghourlal, Rehana Ramlogan Rajnath and Cyntia Bacchus.  
Congregation: Tara Siloch, Reno Siloch, Maria Sookhansingh, Gerard DeGannes, Alana Siloch*

# Eternal Light "Amar Jyoti" Presbyterian Church Celebrates 125 years

## MS. NAMELIA LUTCHMAN

The Eternal Light Presbyterian Church, also referred to by its Hindi name "Amar Jyoti", one of the three churches in the Oropouche Pastoral Region, celebrated its 125th Anniversary with a service of thanksgiving on Sunday 24th October, 2021. The theme for this service was "Walking in the Light, Dwelling in Unity". Our Resident Minister, Reverend Kelvin Sookhansingh, along with the congregation, worked hard to ensure that this special service was a blessing to all despite the challenges of the global pandemic. The service was broadcasted live on Zoom and recorded and posted on the Region's YouTube channel. This enabled all our members to worship and celebrate this milestone.

Guest preacher, The Rt. Reverend

Joy Abdul Mohan, Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, brought God's message based on a reading from Psalm 133: 1-5 and the Scripture 1st John 1:5-10. She reminded all of the importance of bearing God's light in a society divided by economic and social hierarchies, colour, social injustices and politics. She further encouraged us to continue to live by the words of the Psalmist, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!"

Reverend Kelvin Sookhansingh was leader of Worship, Presiding Elder, Ms. Aasha Mahabir, also participated in the service. The church's history, prepared by Reverend Kalloo, was presented by Elder, Mr. Reno Siloch.

The worship atmosphere was enhanced by the musical talents of

Mr. Neil Forgenie, Mr. Christopher Boodram and Mr. Aiden Boodram from the Penal Rock Presbyterian Church Youth Choir. Our very own in house musicians, Mr. Johnny Philip and Ms. Arielle Ghourlal, also added to the atmosphere of praise.

Greetings were brought by Mr. Terrance Warde, General Secretary of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Marlene Shah, Secretary of the South-Central Presbytery, and Mrs. Charmaine Ramkissoon, Assistant Clerk of Session of the Oropouche Pastoral Region.

Indeed, this Anniversary Service brought hope to this congregation, inspiring us to walk in God's light and dwell with one another in unity as we lead others to Jesus Christ.





*FRONT: Mr. Kirkpatrick Raghunath, Ms. Stephanie Goberdhan (Sister of Mr. Selwyn Goberdhan – posthumous award), Mr. Sahadeo Nehru, Mr. Lennox Du Barry, Mr. Selwyn Addhin, Mrs. Charmaine Ramkissoon, Mrs. Jennifer Daniel, Mr. Kevin Ramkissoon,*

*BACK: Mr. Allan Ramdeen, Reverend Kelvin Sookhansingh, The Rt. Reverend. Joy Abdul-Mohan, Presiding Elder Aasha Anna Mahabir*

## The Morning Star Presbyterian Church Celebrates 150 Years of Work And Witness 1871 – 2021

### **PRESIDING ELDER AASHA ANNA MAHABIR**

**T**his historic occasion was celebrated on December 12th at the regular 6:30 a.m. service. The Local Board chose as its theme: "In everything, give thanks, for this is the will of the God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5: 18). The Moderator of Synod, The Right Reverend Joy Abdul – Mohan brought the message with Reverend Kelvin Sookhansingh and Presiding Elder Aasha Anna Mahabir participating. We had a live and virtual congregation.

Reverend Joy commended Mr Vickram Ramlal, Vice Chairman of the Local Board, for looking forward to another 150 years in hope. He appealed to the congregation to continue to help the poor and those in need by not only providing hampers and money to meet financial obligations but for members to join one of the several groups: the Youth Group, the Prayer Group, the Choir and the Men's Fellowship, and urged those in the Sunday School and PCW to hold steady. He encouraged members to serve on the Local Board

and to answer the call to serve as Elders. Mr Ramlal reminded members that it is part of our stewardship to keep the Church going, that service to God and our fellowman should be the hallmark of our existence.

As is customary, plaques were given in recognition of members who attained the age of 70 years and who were not recognized before, as well as for dedicated and committed service to Morning Star over the years.

Reverend Joy expressed gratitude to Morning Star for the work it has done and continues to do and the resilience it has shown for 150 years. She stated she was blessed to be part of its ministry as an Interim Minister, Minister in the Oropouche Pastoral Region (OPR) for five years and now as Moderator. She commended the OPR for having strong voices of wisdom, challenge and change at Presbytery, Synod and on Boards and Committees of the PCTT. She prayed that God will continue to guide the congregation.

In her message, Rev Joy mentioned that giving thanks and rejoicing are common themes throughout the Bible. In the Epistle reading, St Paul includes rejoicing, praying, giving thanks, for this is the will of God for us. Rev Joy, too, encouraged us to rejoice in all circumstances, even in the face of this pandemic, the death of loved ones, and job loss, we can love and serve God through our obedience to Him. She gave the examples of Paul and Silas who sang behind prison walls. The joy of the Lord is the believer's strength. The Biblical understanding of joy is to have the right relationship with God. Rev. Joy ended her message with a quotation from Rabindranath Tagore, "I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy." All to the Glory of God!





## Chase Village Pastoral Region: *There is No Retirement with Jesus our Christ.*

**GARY SAMAI, CLERK OF SESSION**

**S**ervice to God means serving all people with love and humility. Reverend Winston Ramkissoon epitomises servitude having been in Ministry for over forty (40) years, humbly ministering to people wherever he was assigned. The Session of the Chase Village Pastoral Region and by extension its membership extends gratitude to him as he prepares for retirement on December 24th 2021.

Reverend Ramkissoon has served the Pastoral Region previously as a Lay Pastor and more recently as the Minister. He is described among members as a guiding force who always placed God in front and challenges behind. This characteristic trait was effectively mentored to church leaders of the four churches that make

up our vibrant Pastoral Region. He was also able to tactfully disseminate information regarding PCTT policies and protocols in Church Administration to church leaders, both at the Local Board and Session levels. These two developmental areas are worthy of mention specifically because it created leaders, disciples, souls who are capable of leading people to Christ, to which Reverend Ramkissoon must be credited.

As a senior Minister of the Presbyterian Church, he was instrumental in ensuring the stability of the Pastoral Region during the Covid-19 pandemic and has never faltered in his service and dedication to his congregants even when his health challenged him. Elders representing each church commended Reverend Ramkissoon

and his beloved wife at the recently held Session dinner for their team effort displayed in managing a dynamic group of willing Christian brothers and sisters.

Reverend Ramkissoon reminded all present that although he was retiring as a Minister, his lifelong passion for serving people and teaching of Christ's glory will not end but, rather will continue God's work wherever he is lead.

God bless our Minister and his family on his retirement. We extend our prayers and deepest appreciation for the work he has done and continues to do, in leading and moulding people in becoming servants for Christ.





## Presiding Elder, Gita Dattoo: Called to Serve

JOSEPHINE SAM, GUAICO PASTORAL REGION

**M**s. Gita Dattoo was elevated to the Presiding Eldership on Reformation Sunday 2021. She was appointed to serve within her home region, the Guaico Pastoral Region as of 1st November 2021. It was a difficult but faith-filled journey – especially during her internship which began on the day of her beloved father’s funeral and navigating ministry during this Covid-19 pandemic. However, her discipleship and commitment to God grew and strengthened in ways that will prepare her for a continued life of service.

Ms. Dattoo is a member and elder of Morton Memorial Presbyterian Church. She has been actively involved in the Sunday School, Youth Group, Women’s Group and Compassionate Committee. At present, she is the Chairperson of

the Anti-Gender-Based Violence Committee within the Region. Ms. Dattoo is well respected by parents, teachers, students and members of the church and community, and displays exemplary conduct in her daily life.

Gita has been a teacher for twenty-eight years and is currently a Standard 2 teacher at the Guaico Presbyterian School. She has always been involved in extra-curricular activities, one of which is the 4-H Club. As the leader in this group, she has organized field trips both locally and across the Caribbean. She also participated in many community-outreach projects.

It is during her further studies for teaching that she experienced a call to also learn theology and became an occasional student

at the St Andrew’s Theological College, with the encouragement of then Principal, Rev Joy Abdul-Mohan. She then accepted the call within the Northern Presbytery to study and work towards becoming a Presiding Elder who would use her strong faith, generous heart, and willingness to serve wherever she was needed.

The Guaico Pastoral Region congratulates her, and we are certain that she will be an excellent Presiding Elder!

*Pictured: Josephine Sam Elder Cunaripo Presbyterian Church, Presiding Elder Dr George Sammy, Elder Daniel Haradan, Elder Roann Mahabalsingh, Reverend Anthony Rampersad, Presiding Elder Gita Dattoo, Reverend Sanya Beharry, Elder Rita Lakhan and General Secretary of Synod of PCTT, Terrence Warde*



# *Seeking Jesus*

*Have you ever seen a camel?  
Would you ride one very far?  
That's just what the Wise Men did,  
following a star.*

*Would you go up to a palace  
and would you ask the king  
to tell you where the baby is?  
Would you do such a thing?*

*Would you go on to Bethlehem  
to find the Holy Child,  
with Joseph and with Mary,  
His mother meek and mild?*

*Let's give Him gifts, not  
frankincense,  
nor myrrh nor finest gold.  
Let's give our hearts to Jesus Christ,  
the Saviour of the world.*







# UWI Presbyterian: “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” - 2 Corinthians 5:7

STEPHANIE SAM



**W**alking by faith and not by sight requires you to go to a place you do not know, one that God will reveal as you walk in obedience. Walking by faith means that you continue to cling to the dreams God has planted in your heart, even when you become hopeless and discouraged. Walking by faith requires a strong determination to follow God's plan regardless what life throws your way. Remember, Jeremiah 29:11 – God has a plan for your life. Walking by faith means

you have the courage to stand up for the hurting, lost, broken, and down-trodden.

As students, remember to put your trust in Christ alone, for He cares for you. Whatever you may be experiencing, are you anxious, stressed or overwhelmed? Remember to pause and breathe. You are not alone. God is always there and He will continue to uphold you and strengthen you. As we begin a New Year, remember to fix your eyes on Christ alone. For in Him, we are made whole and can find perfect rest. He made a way in the manger to make a way to the cross, so that in Him we will have eternal hope, joy everlasting, unconditional love and peace flowing like a river. As a new semester also begins, remember

that God is always in control. So take a breath and have faith even if it's as small as a mustard seed. For faith can move mountains. We serve a mighty and powerful God who's always on our side rooting for us.

*Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, be with us today and always. Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter. May this New Year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us. Fill us with your peace which passes all understanding and eternal hope. Amen.*



*"For we walk by Faith,  
not by sight."  
- 2 Corinthians 5:7*

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# Happy New Year

DEACONESS AMBER SEESAHAI-PAYNE, CLAXTON BAY PASTORAL REGION

## **BIBLE STORY**

Joshua 1:9

## **MESSAGE**

We are now in a brand-new year and many people look at the new year as a new beginning. It's a chance to turn over a new leaf and make some positive changes in your life. To help change habits or try something new, some people create a list called "New Year's Resolutions." Resolutions are promises concerning things that we will try to accomplish in the year to come. For example, some people try to exercise every day, stop eating sugar, pray and read the Bible every day and so much more!

Change can be hard and can take a really long time, but God helps and guides us and is always there with us. If you plant a seed, you cannot see it growing under the dirt but in time we see it grow bigger and bigger into a beautiful plant.

Joshua 1:9 ICB says: "Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go."

My challenge for you this year is to try something new and be able to do it every day for the entire year! If you feel like giving up, pray to God and try again. For you can do all things with the help of God who gives us strength!



## **MEMORY VERSE**

**"Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go."**

**- Joshua 1:9 (ICB)**



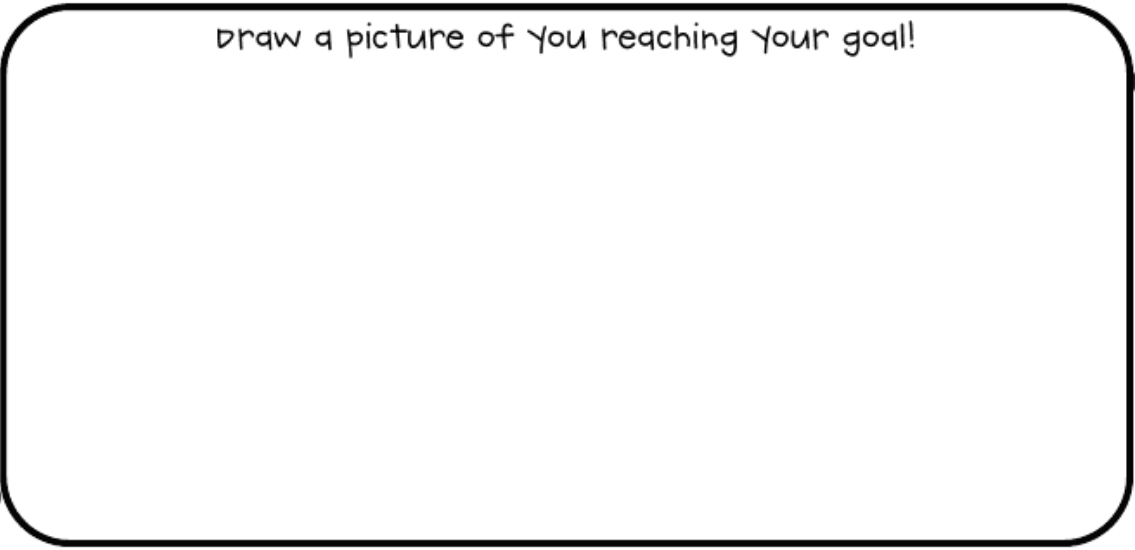


      's  
**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION**

Directions- write about one goal you have for the new year. Describe why this goal is important to you and how you plan to accomplish it.

*(This section contains five sets of primary-ruled lines for writing, each consisting of a top solid line, a middle dashed line, and a bottom solid line.)*

Draw a picture of you reaching your goal!



# IN LOVING MEMORY

## Thomas Lutchman



**SUNRISE: 09 03 1931**  
**SUNSET: 06 12 2016**

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*Not a day passes by  
That we do not think of you.  
You are always in our hearts.  
Somewhere we will meet again.  
Lovingly Remembered by:  
Wife- Florabelle,  
Daughters- Frances, Stacey  
(Deceased),  
Siblings, In Laws and Jennifer.*

## Bettylou Ramasir



**SUNRISE: 02 04 1948**  
**SUNSET: 04 11 2021**

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*Bonne Aventure Presbyterian Church  
Bettylou will be lovingly remembered  
and perpetually loved by her  
husband of 54 years Cyrus, her  
children Cintra (Imtiaz), Debbie  
Ann (Vaughn), Jezel (John) and  
Brian (Gene), and her beloved  
grandchildren Dahlia, Kerstan,  
Je'Delle and Jo-Hannah.*

## Yvonne Mahadeo



**SUNRISE: 02 10 1942**  
**SUNSET: 26 01 2011**

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*Beloved mother of:  
Allan, Marlene,  
Gerard, Andy,  
Wendy and Ricardo*

## Kay Ramlakhan



**SUNRISE: 30 12 1947**  
**SUNSET: 28 01 2016**

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*Member of the Penal Presbyterian  
Church  
Lovingly remembered by her  
husband - Willvan,  
4 children; 8 grandchildren;  
4 in-laws; friends and relatives*

## Randeem Bachan



**SUNRISE: 05 02 1952**  
**SUNSET: 02 01 2002**

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*A member of the Nistar Presyterian Church of the Chase village Pastoral Region.  
Twenty years have gone by, but it feels like just yesterday you departed from us. Always  
remembered by his wife Judy, Children: Nichole, Navida, Nadia and Lillian, Grand children  
of six (6). Sisters and Brothers Relatives and friends. You were indeed a very special  
person who is dearly missed by all your love ones.*

  
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# Read Your Bible



2022  
*January*

“Growing in Hope...”

<b>SUNDAY</b>	30-01 Luke 4:21-30	Matthew 2:1-12	Luke 3:15-22	John 2:1-11	Luke 4:14-21
<b>MONDAY</b>	31-01 Hebrews 11:1-12	Ephesians 4:17-32	Hebrews 1:1-14	John 2:23-3:15	Hebrews 8:1-13
<b>TUESDAY</b>		John 9:1-12, 35-38	Hebrews 2:1-10	John 3:16-21	Hebrews 9:1-14
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		Romans 15:7-13	Hebrews 2:11-18	John 3:22-36	Hebrews 9:15-28
<b>THURSDAY</b>		Matthew 12:14-21	Hebrews 3:1-11	John 4:1-15	Hebrews 10:1-10
<b>FRIDAY</b>		John 6:30-33, 48-51	Hebrews 3:12-19	John 4:16-26	Hebrews 10:11-25
<b>SATURDAY</b>	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	Colossians 1:15-23	Hebrews 4:1-13	John 4:27-42	Hebrews 10:26-39