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PRESBYTERIAN

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*Happy
Easter*

**KYF: EASTER
PEOPLE** P. 2

**SEEKING JESUS
POEM** P. 13

**CULINARY FLAVOURS OF
EASTER 2022** P. 18

Moderator *speaks*

AN EASTER FAITH IN A GOOD FRIDAY WORLD

By the time this month's edition of the *The Trinidad Presbyterian* reaches you, Holy Week would be upon us as we look with anticipation to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Living Lord and Saviour.

In addition, the Synod would be preparing for its 62nd Annual General Meeting later in the month. As we are engrossed in these important activities, I cannot help but reflect on the joys and sorrows that our church; our country and world are facing.

in the award of scholarships by Government. We are elated and blessed by these achievements and accomplishments. We congratulate our students and teachers not only of our Presbyterian Secondary Schools, but other Secondary Schools in the country achieving such success. To God be the Glory!

Therefore, it is safe to say that *we come to all our Easters by way of our Good Fridays*. We live in a Good Friday world - a world in which nations stagger from one crisis to another; a world anguished with



THE RT. REVEREND JOY E. ABDUL-MOHAN

We are, therefore, urged to pray for a future path of non-violence in confrontation; for an accountability to justice; and for due restitution for all victims. The loss of any one's life by any means is an atrocity. As we face the challenges and

The darkness of the Cross was dissipated by the Hope of the Resurrection.

We are distressed with the issues of school violence; mental health disorders; suicides, murders; the tragic accident involving four divers; and the ongoing war being waged in the Ukraine. The Church is deeply troubled by events in the Ukraine and their foreseeable tragic consequences for the children and young people who are robbed of a future with great possibilities. We feel drained and most times helpless and hopeless faced with these issues.

However, in this pandemic era there is still good news. Our Presbyterian Secondary Schools have had outstanding success

tensions and violence of an old era dying while a new world with new lifestyles and systems struggling to be born.

In a world like ours, what difference does an Easter/Resurrection Faith make? The Bible reminds us that those who experienced the first Easter-the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, experienced a Living Hope that moved them from fear to faith and from sorrow to joy. It was a dawning of a new day with the resurgence of hope, faith and peace despite the bleak outlook. *The darkness of the Cross was dissipated by the Hope of the Resurrection.*

uncertainties of this earthy life with all its joys and sorrows, we can be confident that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ brings a Living Hope of a better life to come.

As 1st Peter 1:3 reminds us, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...*"

Best wishes and God's blessings for a life changing Resurrection and Easter 2022!

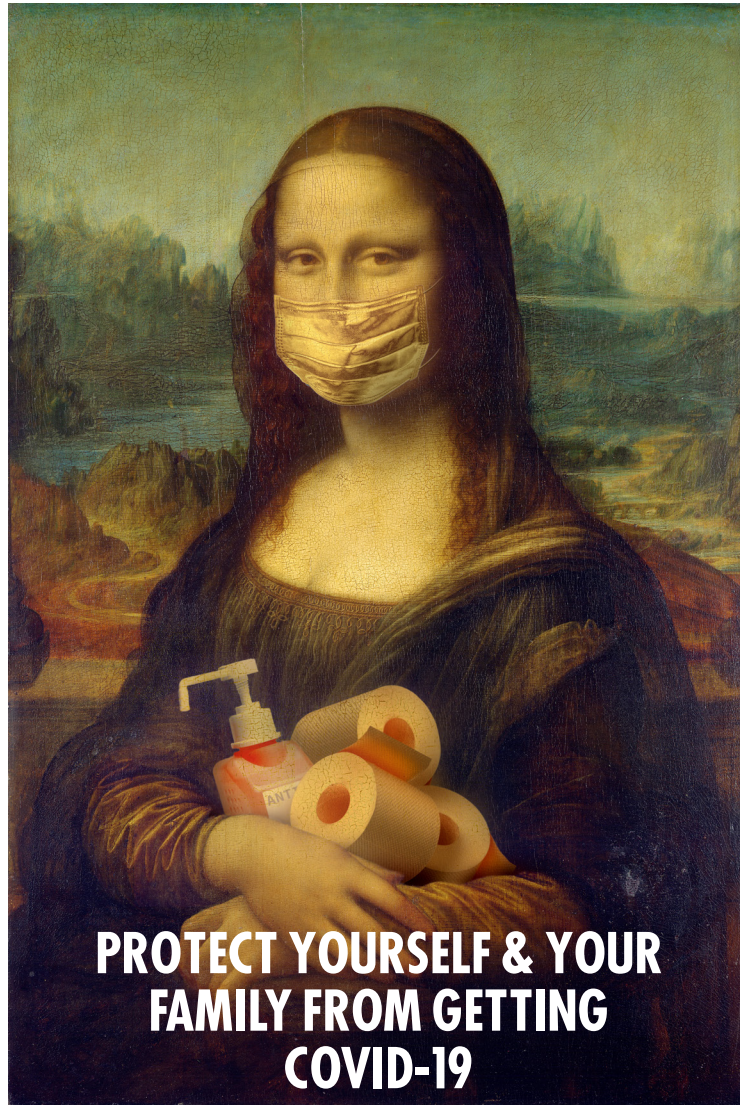
This pandemic is far from over by all accounts from medical personnel and those who were affected as the ill effects some experience long after they are given a negative PCR test result are still very much a reality. There are still spikes in cases the world over. The opinion of some medics is that the spread is attributed to three factors as Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chief medical adviser to the President, on Capitol Hill in Washington explains:

- The omicron variant's subvariant BA.2 has become transmissible.
- Society is opening up more.
- Waning immunity from the COVID-19 vaccine.

March 12, 2022, saw two years since the first case was identified in Trinidad and Tobago. The virus continues to evolve. Cases of death and infections still exist even as more and more restrictions are being lifted

in different countries as the Governments see fit.

We have to get used to once again working in offices even if for limited hours, attending schools and other learning institutions, and observing new restrictions with regard to 'safe zones'. No longer are zoom meetings the norm, we now have more visits to



the service stations to fill up our gas tanks, we have to get used to braving the traffic mornings and evenings and times in between.

We, as citizens, need to continue to be cautious and use wisdom

in our day to day operations and activities. We cannot afford to be distracted by politics. One banking institution immediately removed all signs of social distancing, and sanitizing of counters and chairs after customers' use. One branch of this institution to which I refer has had to shut its doors soon thereafter to sanitize

the entire branch – so much for cutting cost. Let us not get tired of living life with every precaution. Individuals now need to take care of their own protection and that of those whom they encounter as some who do not take care of themselves expose those who cross their paths. The danger is not yet over, and isn't likely for some time yet. There is still the need to reach out and help.

There are many unanswered questions. Vaccinations are still advised and unless vaccinations and tests and treatments reach every corner of the earth, we are all vulnerable. The three Ws are still encouraged: wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance.

Let us not get tired of being our brothers' keepers as we put our trust in God!

choosing the right *ECCE CENTRE*



COUNSELLING COLUMN WITH BERNADETTE GYAN-MANICKCHAND



Q How does one select a learning institution for an early childhood education?

Kindergartens, today, have come a long way from day-care and nursery schools. Parents, presently, seek out the most secure institution that provides comfort as well as the most advanced curriculum that suits their pocket. This would ensure that there would be a smooth and sunny introduction to further schooling as the stage is set for life-long learning.

Decades ago, when mothers and grandmothers provided all round nurturing for babies and toddlers, there was little or no need for the competition that exists today in attracting parents to schools/ establishments. Rising cost of

living as well as independent living has made parents into customers for pre-schools. What is to be considered then, when selecting the best for pre-schoolers?

Many early childhood learning establishments are labelled as 'academies', and pre-schoolers graduate in cap and gowns winning prestigious awards. There are brochures extolling their strengths explaining their aims and objectives. Parents can be overwhelmed at the task of selecting a most popular nursery or kindergarten.

Most parents expect high standards of efficiency in the running of the institution as well as good practice in the care and education of the

child. Some may also expect to be able to communicate with the staff on any subject whenever they wish, and this may not always prove to be possible. Those with a clear "open door" policy will, therefore, be one that is high on the list. Especially as there is separation between parent and child for the first time.

This exercise need not be a stressful one if we take a practical approach. First, consider the main goal of a good kindergarten program and ponder. Will my child be provided with an opportunity to grow and develop in a holistic way so that he/she will be able to practice the essential moral, social, emotional, problem-solving and study skills that he/she will use throughout his/her schooling experience?

Parents/guardian can also note the following: details of the governing body or management committee, parental responsibilities and involvement, support staff, policies regarding attendance, treatment of sudden illness, organization and equipment, collection procedures and fund-raising activities.

Partnering with your child's first place of learning is the first step to achieving all round success for everyone.

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES



EASTER PEOPLE

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

Lent yields to Easter with cyclical predictability, but celebrating the resurrection can be challenging in a world recoiling from the ominous effects of war, devastation and plague.

However, it is precisely because of the fallen state of our world that we are an Easter people. When we sing, "Thine be the glory, Risen, Conquering Son" or "Now the green blade rises" we proclaim the reality of inevitable divine triumph in the face of unrelenting earthly tragedy.

We live in a Good Friday world. We understand people who are subjected to suffering by merciless tyrants. We understand

deception, betrayal and cruelty. We understand death. Easter gives us what we do not understand. The stone that is rolled away presents to us an empty tomb. We seek memorials and material monuments and instead the angel speaks to us with a statement that is paradoxically both reassuring and disturbing - that the One we are looking for is not here, but risen and going ahead of us. When we think we have a dead Jesus in a fixed location, we have a living Christ moving faster than we are.

The Latin epitaph for the great architect Christopher Wren is "Si monumentum requires, circumspice" which can be

translated as "If you need to see my monument, look around you." The crypt, church and many buildings around London and within England were designed by Wren. Viewers looking around would appreciate that Wren built the world in which they were standing.

Jesus is alive. No epitaphs are required. We are the moving monuments determined to follow where Jesus is leading us. In this Easter season and always, let us live so that if people want to see Jesus, they can perceive the power of his living presence in us.

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CRISIS IN THE FAMILY: THE CRISES OF COUPLES

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

PART 4: ROMANTIC OR DOMESTIC?

Having defined the crises of couples as 'the consequences and outcomes of an unending list of dynamics,' [Part 2] let's focus on the crisis of Romantic and Domestic.

Is there a balance between the romantic and domestic relationship or the romantic vs domestic? This is often the crises of couples as they navigate everyday life and situations from the time of meeting through courting to setting up house. Education, career and work; children and family; religious and social activities and personal psycho-social development impact through their stages of life.

The duties, responsibilities, challenges and demands of chores and interests affect the romantic and domestic as well as your sanity. With fear, anger, indifference or separation, another relationship, the cycle continues. If you fail to manage you would manage to fail.

What is the resolve? Talk, communicate, share. What is your strategy? Strategically plan your relationship even though you both may not always follow the plan. Be

open, willing, trusting, forgiving to the other and yourself. When you may not have the answer or capacity to navigate, do not fear to turn to others for help, encouragement and assurance. Do not befriend or become victim of those who find pleasure in your misery, pain and agony. Do not pretend to care, do not FAKE it, it will catch up with you. You know your partner well. It is said, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach." Sadly, too many men and women cannot stomach what is served on the plates of pretence, dishonesty and disillusion. The result – difficulty or failure to reach the heart.

Associated with the emotions and affections, love and the heart is Romance. What is romance? Is not the way you feel and think drive of all your senses? *Romance is defined as a love affair, an atmosphere or feeling ... to build 'castles in the air.'* For some, it is the expressions (true or fake) that leads to intimacy and pleasure. Romance is more than momentary and should be considered and practiced as a way of life, with interactions and display of 'open' affection to/with each other. Romance should be genuine, unconditional and true

whether play or flirting. It is the little daily and momentary exchanges and interactions that waters and nourishes your relationship as a couple.

The questions: How romantic are you? Can you blend, merge and infuse romance into your interpersonal exchanges and relationship as a couple? This is your challenge, you can do it out of duty or out of love. To find the balance of the romantic and the domestic will keep you hopeful, happy and most importantly, sustain a healthy relationship of love.

Couples are central to family and can resolve crises, remove hurt and pain and heal lovingly but the onus is with each to understand and appreciate the strengths and weaknesses found in their domestic and romantic relationships.

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.



A Journey of Faith At Tableland

HARRY PARTAP

On Easter Sunday, the congregation of St. James Presbyterian Church in Tableland will hold a thanksgiving service to mark three milestones in the life of the Presbyterian community there. The Moderator of Synod, the Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul-Mohan, will be there to bring a message of faith and hope.

The three milestones are: the 138th Anniversary of the Presbyterian presence in Tableland; the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of the first church building; and the 34th Anniversary of the present church building.

A small group of former indentured East Indian labourers who now owned land in Tableland established a preaching point at Elswick Village (now George Village) with the blessings of Reverend John Morton. This was in 1884. This preaching point was recognised as a Mission Station when it was re-located to Tableland.

Thirty-eight years later a church was constructed. That first church was a wooden building dedicated by Canadian Missionary, Reverend W. A. Hunter, the then Moderator of the Presbytery of Trinidad on Good Friday, 14th April, 1922. The construction project was spearheaded by then catechist, Thomas Ali Hosein. That building was completed at a cost of \$2,085.

The second church building was dedicated by the then Moderator of Synod, the Rt Reverend Everson T. Sieunarine, on 24th April, 1988. The construction project was spearheaded by then schoolteacher, Dave Puntai. It was completed at a cost of \$120,000.

Emerging out of the Presbyterian community were two primary schools – the Elswick Presbyterian School and the Nipal Presbyterian School. These two schools were the only educational institutions serving all the children of Tableland and George Village for some 80 years. Out of these two schools came many persons who held influential positions in the national community in education, politics, the private sector, labour and the civil service.

The service of Thanksgiving is scheduled for Easter Sunday, 17th April, 2022, at 9.00 a.m. A 160-page book on the historical journey of the St. James Presbyterian Church will be launched.



The Cross' Perspective.

A POEM BY CAROLINE SAMPATH - ARAMALAYA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together we would walk that Calvary Road
For I was the one Jesus carried that day.
My fate was decided, I said not a word
As I watched the people gather, I heard them say.*

*Words of shame and disgrace were hurled at Him.
They stripped Him bare for the world to see,
I had seen many things but none would be as grim,
As when they would take the Messiah and nail Him to me.*

*Bruised and battered He fell to the ground,
And I saw the pain etched on His face.
Ashamed of my weight, Simon came around
And upon his back, I was placed.*

*I was there when Our Lord marched to His death,
Slowly, painfully trudging up that hill.
Off and on our gazes met
For it was onto me His blood would spill.*

*Golgotha was the place we'd soon be,
There the crowds were swarming round.
Roughly Our Lord was nailed to me,
As unceremoniously I was placed in the ground.*

*I stood there as dark dread had taken hold,
Watching Him closely as He bore the sins of the world.
As He hung to me I heard the seven words,
Words to this day still resound far and wide.*

*The day was long, and a pall was cast,
For I felt the emotions course through me.
I heard Him cry out and I knew He'd passed,
What I did not know then was He'd rise on day three!*



The Board of Women of the PCTT extends
its heartfelt congratulations to the
Moderator of Synod
the Rt. Rev. Joy Abdul-Mohan
on being awarded the National
Medal for Development
of Women - Gold



Soli Deo Gloria!



SACRAMENTAL INSIGHTS

THE INSTITUTION OF BAPTISM

REVEREND ANNABELL LALLA RAMKELAWAN,
CUREPE/ST. JOSEPH PASTORAL REGION

The moment we speak about the Institution of Baptism, we think immediately about Jesus' command to His disciples:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt.28:19- 20 NRSV).

The importance of this passage to the Baptismal practice of the Church cannot be denied. However, the Baptismal practice of the Church is not only based on this command of Jesus.

The Baptismal practice of the Church is also based on the act of Jesus when, without reservation, He surrendered Himself to Baptism. Karl Bath, a Reformed theologian, describes the act of Jesus' baptism

as *"a prologue which opens and characterizes the whole of the gospel drama that concludes with the passion."* The obedient submission of Jesus to be baptized by John the Baptist at the Jordan River marked the beginning of His earthly ministry, a ministry of costly service and love, which will lead to His passion, death, and resurrection. Jesus' baptism also symbolized His unity with lost humankind, His solidarity with sinners, the outcast, oppressed, exploited and the most vulnerable in society, and His complete surrender to His Father's will. Jesus' identification with sinners is met with God's public declaration that Jesus is His beloved Son as the Spirit of God descended upon Him.

"In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'" (Mark: 1:9-11 NRSV).

The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 10:38 states, *"But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?'"* Here, Jesus uses the mental picture of baptism to relate the life of His disciples to His mission of self-giving love. Thus, the event of baptism is a visible sign of the commencement of the Christian journey in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism signifies a person's death to the old way of life and a rebirth to a life in Christ. They become partakers of the life and love to the Triune in whose name they were baptized.

Next month we will explore *"The Meaning of Baptism"*.



9 Children Come to Jesus AT CUREPE PRESBYTERIAN

ELDER SHARMILA SINGH

“Jesus said, “Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matt 19:14).

On February 20th 2022, a beautiful Sunday evening, parents of the Curepe Presbyterian Church congregation answered Jesus' call and brought their children to Him. All nine were baptised by Reverend Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Reverend Lalla-Ramkelawan

told parents that they were declaring that their children are a gift from God and that they are surrendering them to the love, care, will and mercy of God. She encouraged them to feed, groom, water and nurture the seeds they are planting. Parents and sponsors then took their vows.

“Do you present this child, earnestly desiring that by baptism he/she be made a member of the Church of Christ?” they were asked.

They answered, “I do.”

“Beloved in the Lord, do you

receive this child in Christ's name as we have been received, promising to support him/her with constant love, wholesome example, Christian teaching and faithful prayer. Are you willing to accept so great a responsibility?”

And the congregation responded, “We are willing, God being our helper.”

The children were welcomed into the fold of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.

All done to God's Glory!

BIBLE TRIVIA

When Simon Peter went inside Jesus' tomb after his death, on the first day of the week, where did he see the cloth that had been wrapped around His head?

- A. On top of the other linen
- B. Wrapped together in a place by itself
- C. Outside the tomb

Last month's
Answer.
BLASPHEMY



Drifting From Our Moorings

PRESIDING ELDER GEORGE SAMMY

When I attended Communicants' Classes half-a-century ago, the late Rev. E. T. Sieunarine informed us that the name of our church is based on the Greek word "Presbuteros", commonly translated as "Elder"; thus, we are the Church of the Elders. This was reinforced at the First Presbyterian Church in Norman, Oklahoma, where I worshipped while a student. In that Church, Ministers were seldom referred to as Ordained Ministers, instead, they were referred to as Teaching Elders.

Two events over the past several years have led me to wonder whether we, as a church, are reconsidering the unique position of Elders in the PCTT. This article describes those two events and invites discussion on this subject.

The first incident involved a group of Ministers and church members chatting informally after a meeting. One of the members was commenting on a task we had undertaken together, and in doing

so he referred to me as a "Church Worker". The, then Moderator, who was in easy earshot, interrupted him to sternly state that, "Presiding Elders are **NOT** Church workers." Now, we all recognized that Presiding Eldership is a voluntary order, and so our position is financially different from Ordained Ministers and Deaconesses. But the vehemence with which the words were spoken conveyed a deeper meaning - that Presiding Elders occupy a lower rung in the Church hierarchy.

The second incident pertains to a change to our Constitution. In the earlier version of the Constitution, Chapter V, Clause 5, clearly states that upon election and completion of training at St. Andrew's Theological College, an Elder is to be ordained to the Eldership and inducted as an Elder of their respective congregation. The revised version of the Constitution contains very different wording. In Chapter V, Clause 14, it states that Elders are to be installed in office "by prayer and appropriate ceremony." Curiously, the title for

this Clause is "Arrangements for Ordination and Installation", but the clause itself is entirely silent on the question of ordination. I have not yet received a clear rationale why Elders will no longer be ordained in our Church.

One less-than-charitable explanation for these two events is simply that Elders are being "put in their place". Elders must be seen and must see themselves as less-important than Ministers and Deaconesses. If this is, in fact, the case, then it represents a significant departure from our Presbyterian heritage.

Sailors fully understand that a mooring is a point at which a boat or ship can be safely tied up before the passengers and crew disembark. A secure mooring keeps the vessel safe, even when there is no one on board. But if a vessel slips its mooring, it will either run aground or drift out to be lost at sea. We are in equal danger, as a church, when we drift from our Presbyterian moorings.



PHOTO COURTESY: IVAN TOOLSIE

Susamachar Celebrates 150 Years of Witness & Service

DINDIAL RAMLOGAN, SUSAMACHAR

The planned 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Susamachar Presbyterian Church was elusive as the Corona Virus in its variant manifestations. Yet, this 'flagship' Church of the PCTT could wait no longer to celebrate this historic landmark. So, on Sunday 20th February, 2022, it celebrated with Thanksgiving, 150 years of Witness and Service, embracing as its theme: "Building On A Rich Heritage, To Create A New Vision".

It was a brilliant Sunday morning, when guests entered the sanctuary to the pulsating sounds of the Susamachar Presbyterian Church Steel Orchestra in a Musical Interlude. Setting the tone for Service was an inspiring duet by Mrs. Ruby Pooransingh and Mr. Garth Ragbir, accompanied by Mr. Kevin Ragbir, the Junior Choir Leader.

Mrs. Nola Ramlogan, Local Board Secretary, extended a warm and cordial welcome to the esteemed

guests which included the Moderator of Synod, Rt. Reverend Joy Abdul Mohan; Mayor of San Fernando, Alderman Junia Regrello; Mr. Terrence Warde, General Secretary of Synod; Secretary of South Central Presbytery, Ms. Marlene Shah; Rev. Daniel Teelucksingh and Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah.

The Prayer of Confession, offered by Mr. Deonath Goora (Men's Fellowship), was followed by a Responsive Reading, led by

Sunday School Teacher, Mrs. Linda Seebaran.

At this point, a liturgical dance to a medley of well-known hymns and bhajans evoked a very appreciative response as it reminded everyone of the rich heritage the church hoped to build on.

The Moderator's Proclamation of God's Word was a skillfully crafted message, weaving the two dimensions of the Anniversary Theme into a harmonious blend of the nature of the Church's heritage and the quest for a new dream or vision. She reminded the congregation that Susamachar's heritage was built on the foundation laid by missionaries, catechists, local ministers, school teachers, elders, Bible Women, and men and women who labored sacrificially to propel this church

to its esteemed status. However, we need to be conscious that we are not merely inheritors of a rich heritage but are architects of a future of sacrificial service.

In creating a new vision, we need to analyze our present situation, be aware of our inheritance, ensure its continuity, foster active participation even from "dreamers", and guard against straying from the Gospel. "We are called to develop a shared praxis and corporate responsibility approach in service to Christ and Community." In conclusion, she prayed that God will bless Susamachar with resilience that its vision will be sustainable for the next generation.

Greetings were brought by His Worship, The Mayor of San Fernando, Alderman Junia Regrello; General Secretary of Synod, Mr.

Terrence Warde; Secretary of South Central Presbytery, Ms. Marlene Shah; and Susamachar's Clerk of Session, Mrs. Wendy Balgobin. They all acknowledged the immense contribution of Susamachar and extended best wishes on the auspicious occasion.

Awards for long and outstanding service to the Church were presented to Rt. Rev. Joy Abdul Mohan, Rev. Daniel Teelucksingh, Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah, Mrs. Nola Ramlogan, Mr. Curtis Seepersad and Mr. Russell Debance. This was followed by a sumptuous breakfast of indigenous dishes and exotic drinks.

150 years is a long time, Susamachar is only one of six Presbyterian Churches which have attained this milestone. Happy Anniversary, Susamachar.



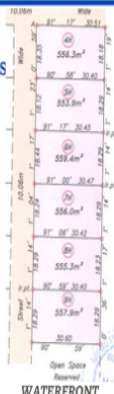
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The General Secretary of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago



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ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PRESBYTERIAN TEACHERS (ARPT) Extends Best Wishes and God's Blessings to All Retirees

MOHAN BHAGAN

My dear colleagues in education, who served faithfully and diligently in shaping and inculcating values in the lives of our sons and daughters, I salute you on behalf of ARPT as I express heartfelt gratitude for your services rendered so graciously.

For approximately two years, we have been literally locked indoors due to the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic. Of necessity, we were forced to adhere to stringent health protocols instituted by the Health Ministry of T&T. Activities in which we usually engaged had to be shelved. Prevention is always better than cure, therefore, if those among us have not been vaccinated

against the COVID-19 virus, please do so, of course with guidance from your doctors. We need to protect the lives of our families and those with whom we come into contact.

Some of our close friends and colleagues, stalwarts in education, who served PCTT and the Teaching profession, MOE T&T, with, dedication, dignity, and decorum, have gone to the great beyond within the recent past. We remember with gratitude, Isaac Ramnarine, Shadrack Ramsahai, Patrick Ramsingh, Boysie Dass, Nyron Doolan, Kenrick Singh, Daniel Sahadeo, Jit Ganessingh (teacher/poet at 93 years), and others. May their souls rest in peace, safely in the loving arms of Almighty

God, our Creator. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

To our friends who are not enjoying the best of health, we wish you a speedy recovery.

We pray, that despite the challenges and uncertainty we face, we will, through the Grace of the Holy Spirit, overcome these adversities soon.

May this New Year, 2022, bring with it, peace and a boost to our economy. Stay safe.



Principal Acting Mr. Clint Bisram (right), Class Teacher Mrs. Christine Rambarran (left) and Student Kayleigh Rajkumar (centre) receiving both the school prize and student prize

Freeport Presbyterian School Cops Second Place

IN UTC 30TH ANNIVERSARY SCHOOL INVESTMENT COMPETITION

Congratulations to the Freeport Presbyterian School represented by Kayleigh Rajkumar, a Standard 5 pupil, on placing second nationally in the Primary Schools' category of the Unit Trust Co-operation's 30th Anniversary School Investment Competition for both Primary and Secondary Schools. The competition consisted of a story writing component on a given prompt and a video of the student reading his or her written work.

Kayleigh Rajkumar will be sitting the SEA exam in March of this year. This reserved student thoroughly enjoys story writing as evidenced by the other competitions she has entered such as the Holiday Foods Story Writing contest where she placed in the top ten. She also participated in the National UCMAS Mental Mathematics competitions where she took the first place in her category. She has also represented Trinidad and Tobago in karate competitions abroad. She enjoys

other sporting activities such as swimming and badminton. She is currently pursuing Grade Five level certification in piano.

Congratulations to Kayleigh as well as the Principal and Staff of the Freeport Presbyterian School on a job well done.



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

62ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SYNOD DAY ONE

Thursday 28th April 2022

VACANCY

MEDIA VISUAL GRAPHIC DESIGNER

POSITION OVERVIEW
The ideal candidate will be tasked with video creation and graphic design for the PCTT and its various arms. You'll shoot and edit videos and photos for a variety of occasions. You will also be creating graphics for social media posts, projects and digital campaigns.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS
Undergraduate degree in Fine Arts or related field; may be substituted with commensurate work experience
At least 2 years of visual design and video editing experience. Videography, video editing, photography, photo editing and general graphic design skills a requirement. Strong knowledge of Adobe collections, InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator.
Deadline 23rd April 2022

VACANCY

AUDIO/STUDIO TECHNICIAN

POSITION OVERVIEW
The ideal candidate will be tasked with balancing and adjusting sound sources using equalization, dynamics processing and audio effects, mixing, reproduction, and reinforcement of sound. You will be responsible for maintaining the integrity of all associated audio and support equipment.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS
Two (2) years of production/live broadcast and related experience in production. Fully knowledgeable in all aspects of operation and maintenance of audio systems including but not limited to: audio mixer/recorder, RF microphones and IFBs as well as other Studio related support systems.
Deadline 23rd April 2022



ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF SYNOD
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
PO BOX 187, PARADISE HILL, SAN FERNANDO, TRINIDAD WI
gs.warde@pctt.org.tt

Lent: Say No to Self and Yes to Jesus Christ

REVEREND STEPHEN A. HARRIPERSAD, LA ROMAINE/DEBE PASTORAL REGION

Jesus said to them all, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

Jesus told his disciples that the Christian life is a life of self-denial. This is one of the recurring themes of His teachings. Self-denial is defined as the willingness to deny oneself of possession or status in order to grow in a right relationship of holiness and commitment to God. When Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself," he meant that this was the only way to follow him. A life of sacrifice and self-denial is for anyone who wants to be his disciple. The Apostle Paul described it this way, *"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:7). A great theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, stated, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."

The Greek verb "to deny" (arneomai) means to forget our selfish nature entirely and reject anything that will get in the way of offering ourselves for God's service. As we respond to the call this Lenten season, Jesus Christ calls us to put to death our old sinful nature with all its selfish desires.

During this period of Lent we may apply different forms of discipline to prove our allegiance to Christ and his call. Most notably is fasting which causes us to sift or assess those things to which we are attracted or attached and decide as a demonstration of 'self denial' to abstain from or give them up in this holy season. Jesus calls us to deny ourselves so that we, too, may do the

work that God has called us to do. It means saying no to those things that are not in keeping with God's will for us, at least at present. The Apostle Paul described his transformation in this manner, *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me"* (Galatians 2:20).

Secondly, Jesus said, *"Take up your cross and follow me."* In the time of Jesus Christ, the cross represented nothing but torturous death. Criminals were forced to carry their own crosses to the place of crucifixion, bearing a cross meant carrying their own execution device while facing ridicule along the way to death. The disciples did not yet know this, but later the cross would become a symbol of life and salvation. Jesus declared to his own disciples that he himself will endure suffering, rejection and even death.

A decision to follow Jesus Christ also means a life of 'cross bearing' for us, his followers. The call to take up our cross is commonly understood to mean the acceptance of trials and tribulations which we face daily, however, in my opinion, it is more than a symbol of the difficulties experienced in this world. The point is that any person, whether a follower of Jesus or not, will suffer frustration and pain in this life because we live in a sinful world. Cross-bearing is something that goes deeper, beyond the ordinary trials of daily life. When Jesus challenges us to bear the cross, He implied that it must be part of our everyday experience. It is not a response we make only at

the beginning of our Christian walk, but throughout our lives in faith, it means laying ourselves on the altar of daily obedience. The implication is that even if obedience is painful and humiliating, we should be willing to endure it all to the very end. For most of us, there comes a point in our lives when we are faced with a choice: Jesus, or the comforts of this world. Christ, himself, made that choice for us all by taking up his own cross and making the ultimate sacrifice so that by his life, death, and resurrection we can have life and have it more abundantly. Mark 10:45 reminds us, *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* The call to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, means commitment to the point of giving up our hopes, dreams, possessions, even if need be, the very life we have planned. When we are willing to sacrifice our time, energy, rights, position, reputation, privileges, comforts, and even our very lives for the sake of Christ, we exemplify what it means to take up our cross. By doing this, we are following the example of Christ who denied himself, took up his cross and followed the will of the Father.

In Luke 22: 42-43, Jesus prayed, *"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."* An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.'

John 3:16. reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice which he made on the cross for us all, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

Culinary Flavours Of Easter 2022



BRAIDED EASTER EGG BREAD

METHOD

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp active dry yeast
- 1 cup warm water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup warm milk
- 4 eggs
- 1 stick butter
- 1 1/2 salt
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 7 cups flour to 9 cups flour

Dissolve yeast in water. Stir in sugar and add 1/2 cup flour and let sit for 10 mins. Add the milk, eggs, butter, salt, and cinnamon. Stir in the 4 cups of flour and add more flour until the dough rolls in a smooth ball. Put dough in a bowl and coat with butter and let rise for 1 to 2 hours. Divide the dough into 2 pieces. Divide the first piece into 3 even pieces. Braid the dough and shape in a circle. Repeat the second dough. Let the wreath rise for 30 mins. Preheat oven to 350 F and put egg glaze on dough and bake for 30 mins.

VEG & SHRIMP TEMPURA

METHOD

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup cauliflower ((prepared in florets)
- 1 cup cleaned shrimps
- 10 ozs diced broccoli in florets
- 1 cup button mushrooms
- Oil for frying
- Soy sauce and sesame oil to serve

BATTER

- 1 cup flour
- 2 tbsp oil
- 2 eggs,
- 3/4 cup water
- Salt and seasoning

Pre-prepared veg and shrimps
For the batter, place the flour and salt in bowl. Blend the egg, seasoning, water, and flour and form a smooth batter.
Coat the veg and shrimp with the batter
Fry the items until golden brown
Put on platter and serve with sauces



*Taken from library files.
Trinidad Guardian. Flavours of Easter
2012 and March 2012.*



SWEET & SOUR FISH BALLS

INGREDIENTS

2 lb fish fillets cut 4 oz pcs
 1 tbsp chopped parsley
 1 green onion, chopped
 Salt to taste

BATTER

1 cup flour
 1 pint water
 1 tbsp baking powder
 Salt and pepper to taste
 Oil for frying

SAUCE

1 medium diced carrots
 2 diced tomatoes
 1 sliced green pepper
 2 tbsp oil
 1 sliced onion
 ½ cup tomato ketchup
 ½ cup water
 ½ cup sugar
 ½ cup vinegar
 1 tbsp cornstarch in water
 Salt to taste

METHOD

Heat the oil, sauté the onion, carrot, tomatoes, and green pepper

Add the ketchup, sugar, vinegar, water, and salt and let simmer

Stir in the cornstarch

For the batter: mix the water, baking powder, flour, salt and pepper

Coat the fish and fry

Place the fried fish in a dish and pour the sauce over it.

Finally, garnish with lemon and red pepper.

From the library files: Trinidad Guardian. Lenten Cookbook. March 2007

HEAVENLY PINEAPPLE FRIED RICE

INGREDIENTS

1 cup pineapple tidbits (drained)
 4 cups cooked rice, preferably one day old
 4 tbsp oil for stir fry
 2 shallots
 3 cloves of garlic
 ½ cup roasted cashews
 ½ cup frozen peas
 1 egg beaten
 ¼ cup raisins
 1 tbsp sesame oil
 3 tbsp chicken stock
 ½ tbsp soy sauce

2 tsp curry powder
 1 tsp sugar
 3 spring onions finely sliced
 1 cup diced shrimps semi cooked (optional)

METHOD

Put oil in pot add oil, shallots, garlic and shrimps. Then add the prepared cut up scrambled eggs and mix well. Add cashews and frozen peas. Add the seasoned rice (chopped celery and sweet peppers). Stir fry rice with chicken stock, sesame oil and soy sauce. Garnish with pineapple, nuts and celery.





Encountering... the Archives

OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

HILTON R. BILL SIBOO & REVEREND KEN K. KALLOO

The Archive is located on 'Paradise Hill' San Fernando. Here resides the Offices of the Synod of the PCTT with its Secretariat, the offices of the Moderator, the General Secretary, the General Treasurer and the Communications Manager. The St. Andrew's Theological College is on the location with Naparima College, also, on the hill.

At present, the Archives, which some consider to be 'the best kept secret and where the most meaningful discussions and exchanges occur,' is located on the upper floor of the former Naparima Teacher Training College (NTC) building which closed its doors in 1975. The Archives can be accessed through the SATC Library via the 'skybridge' or jetty.

The Archives, over recent years, have expanded from just a Repository to include a Museum and Archival Library. The voluminous contents of the Archives include: copies of The Trinidad Presbyterian from its inception, documents, ledgers, records, files, brochures, leaflets, letters, manuscripts, photographs,

audio-visual material, books, drawings, artefacts, etc.

To encounter the Archives can affect, impact, inspire, motivate and excite your way of thinking, your life and your church membership.

The Archives page now commences as a regular feature in The Trinidad Presbyterian and will provide information, reminders, and suggestions. Since its establishment in 1975, one can conduct research, study and learn about the history, the heritage and the legacy of the PCTT.

Your encounter with the Archives promises not to be disappointing as you can gain much, and the Archives can benefit from your contribution and interest.

Contact with the Archives can be made through the Synod Office at 652-4829 and the SATC Library at 653-4166 or you can visit in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays during 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

We hope to be there for your Encounter with the Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago.

Have you ever visited an Archive?

Have you ever encountered the Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago?

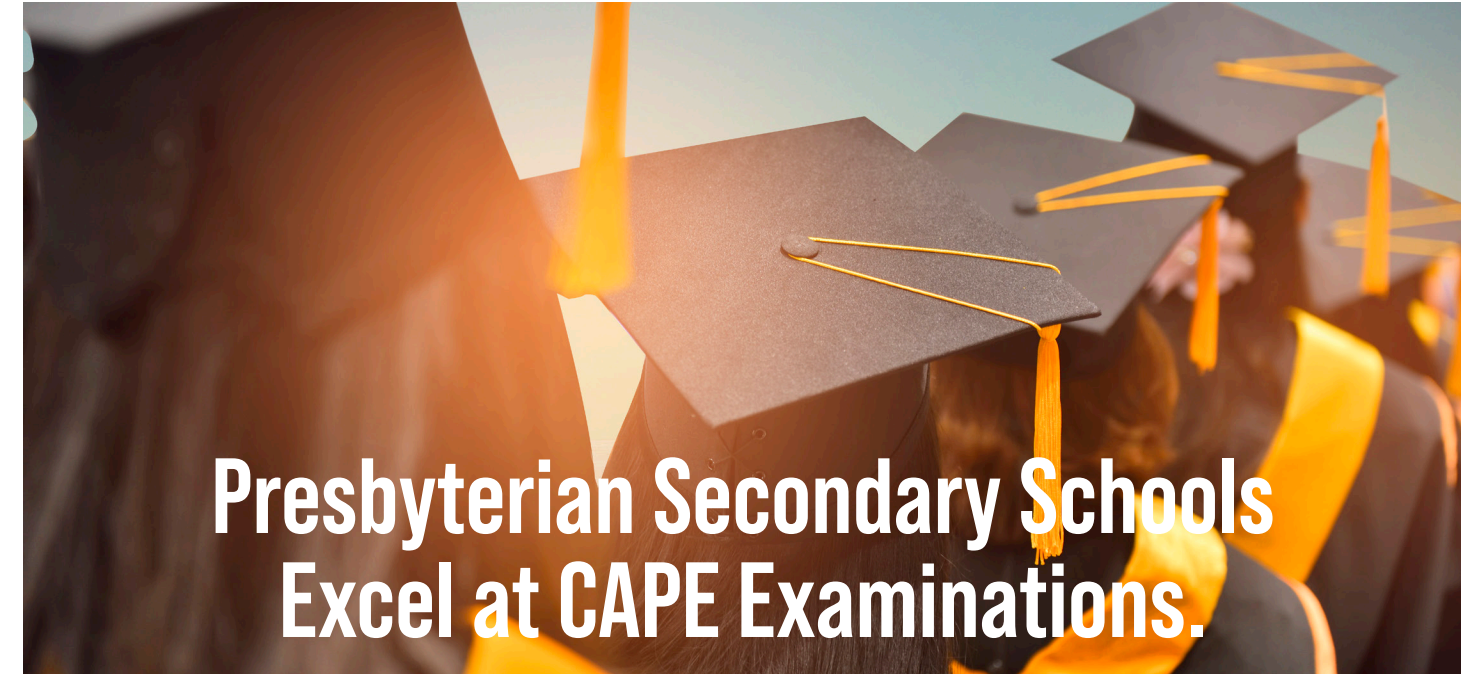
Do you know of its existence?

Do you know where it is located?

Do you know anyone who had an encounter with the Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (APCTT)? Did he/she share his/her experience with you?

If you have, then more awaits you. If you have never, then the APCTT awaits your encounter.

Where can you find the APCTT?



Presbyterian Secondary Schools Excel at CAPE Examinations.

"What makes a child gifted and talented may not always be good grades in school, but a different way of looking at the world and learning." Chuck Grassley.

The Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education, and the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago extend heartiest congratulations to our five (5) secondary schools for their resounding success in the CAPE 2021 examinations. At our schools, we ensure that an ethos of moral and spiritual values is instilled in all students. We know that they have all faced many challenges during the pandemic, however they have been able to effectively adapt to the challenges that they have faced and continue to represent the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad & Tobago proudly and it shows with these scholarship announcements. We are proud of the amazing commitment displayed by our administrators,

teachers and students during these unprecedented times. We have received over one third of all the scholarships awarded, broken down as follows:

Hillview College - 7 scholarships (1 open, 6 additional)

Naparima College - 8 scholarships (6 open, 2 additional)

Naparima Girls' High School - 9 scholarships ((3 open, 6 additional)

St. Augustine Girls' High School - 9 scholarships (4 open, 5 additional)

Total: 33 scholarships (14 open, 19 additional)

We are also proud of the achievements of Niall Hosein from Naparima College for his award of the President's medal.

The Presbyterian Secondary Schools' Board of Education will also like to thank the parents for their unwavering support and the students for their cooperation

with the teachers and school administration amidst the many changes and uncertainties of the past few years. Our schools will continue to make efforts to mold these young minds to think logically and critically and become nation builders as well as caring human beings. One of the things that all our schools ensure is that the beliefs of the Presbyterian Church are always at the forefront of everything that they do. Our schools undoubtedly help their students tap into their potential and emerge as the best versions of themselves, while retaining their individuality and creativity.

Congratulations on a job well done and remember the words from Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."



The Hope in Resurrection

MYIA BISSOON, CHAGUANAS PASTORAL REGION

The essence of Christianity lies within believing in Christ and his sacrifice which will grant us all salvation. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a fulfilment of the promises made to us and a means of hope in our heart for a new birth into the light and into a living hope for our great enemy death has been defeated for He has faced death and has been made alive once again.

1 Peter 1:3 says: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

The living hope spoken about is not of any ordinary and worldly hope but one that is alive and well

aligned with the Lord, it is an eager and confident expectation that we all will be saved from the hellfire and we will rise like Christ and be reunited with him.

Living hope is anchored in the past—Jesus rose from the dead. It continues in the present—Jesus is alive. And it endures throughout the future—Jesus promises eternal, resurrection life.

Hope is essential within our daily lives as it is what brings us through any tribulations and the uncertainty of what there is in store for us, it is that trust that we have that our situation will improve no matter the circumstances and so we must trust in the Lord, hold strong to our faith, and carry on with living hope that we, too, will be resurrected and given the crown of life and will be

granted the fruits of our efforts in the hereafter.

PRAYER: Dear God, allow us to be steadfast in our faith and let us place our trust wholeheartedly in you, keep us in good health and strength and help us to overcome the challenges that we face in our daily lives. We hold dear to us your promise of everlasting life so be our light through this broken world and fill us with your everlasting hope of a better life. Amen.



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



CPS Virtual Easter Bonnet Parade

VINCENT RAMKHELAWAN, TEACHER

The students of the Charlieville Presbyterian Primary School hosted its annual Easter Bonnet Parade but this year, because of protocol restrictions, we utilized the facilities that technology offers to pre-record the celebration. Our first Virtual Easter Bonnet Parade was aired on Friday 1st April 2022 on YouTube as the principal, Mrs. Dianne Phillip-Ramjattan, formally closed the January-April 2022 Academic Term for her staff and students. Mr. Alister Ramrattan, the teacher of Standard One, enthusiastically hosted online.

When we think about Easter, we reverence in humility the sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who paid for our mortal sins. In fact we would have just finished engaged in Lenten Worship that focussed on the significance and symbolism of the most important liturgical season to Christianity. However, the images change from the cross, nails, blood, the crown of thorns and the torn garments to the rolled stone, empty tomb, white lilies, blinding lights, the women visiting, the angel reminding of Jesus' promises, the joy of a Living Lord. Easter signifies the resurrection of our Lord.

In terms of fashion, Easter is

sometimes symbolized with the headpiece dubbed the Easter Bonnet. Wearing new clothes—or restoring old ones—at Easter, which is celebrated in the Spring time, is an old custom that has been practiced for generations. Spring sparks the celebration of renewal and rebirth for people who live on the earth's Temperate climates, as well as a pretence for some new finery. It mirrors the Easter story: as nature would have perished during the cold months – a resurrection of life is evident in the change of season to Spring. In the Christian calendar, Easter signals the end of Lent, so we indulge in a little millinery extravagance.

The wearing of Easter Bonnets became a tradition, it is even documented in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, which mentioned it as Mercutio chides Benvolio: "Did'st thou not fall out with a Tailor for wearing his new Doublet before Easter?" But it was a song written by Irving Berlin in the 1930s that ingrained the notion of wearing a new hat for the *Easter Parade* into the popular culture psyche. The elaborate hats (which often matched a special dress) were worn to church and then to the Easter Parade which began in New York,



USA in 1870.

An Easter bonnet can be dramatic or whimsical, unusual, or inventive, is typically wide brimmed with a pastel satin ribbon and springtime motifs such as flowers. This was evident in the displays of the children at Charlieville. Even the decor of the event was skillfully designed by their teachers: Mrs. Andromeda Phillips, Mrs. Carol Nandlal-Seejore, Mr. Alister Ramrattan, and Mrs. Sheena Ramoutar. Mrs. Allyson Rampersad and Mrs Sally Seepaul awa token baskets filled with goodies and stationery to all participants.

Special thanks are offered to all the students, parents, teachers, staff and sponsors that contributed to the success of the parade. Happy Easter 2022!



*Happy
Easter!*



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BIBLE MESSAGE STORY

Preparation: Bring two Easter baskets, one containing Easter candy and one that is empty

MESSAGE

Who among you receive Easter baskets on Easter morning? Today, we brought along Easter baskets for each of you.

Now there is only one Easter basket left. Let's look in this one to see what it contains. Wait a

minute; this basket is empty! Why would anyone get excited about something that is empty on Easter Sunday?

Actually, this is the most exciting news of all! When the disciples and Jesus' other followers came to the tomb on that first Easter, it was empty. Jesus' body was not there because He had come back to life! That is why we have something to celebrate on Easter Sunday. God has conquered death. Jesus was not still in the tomb. It was empty because He is alive!

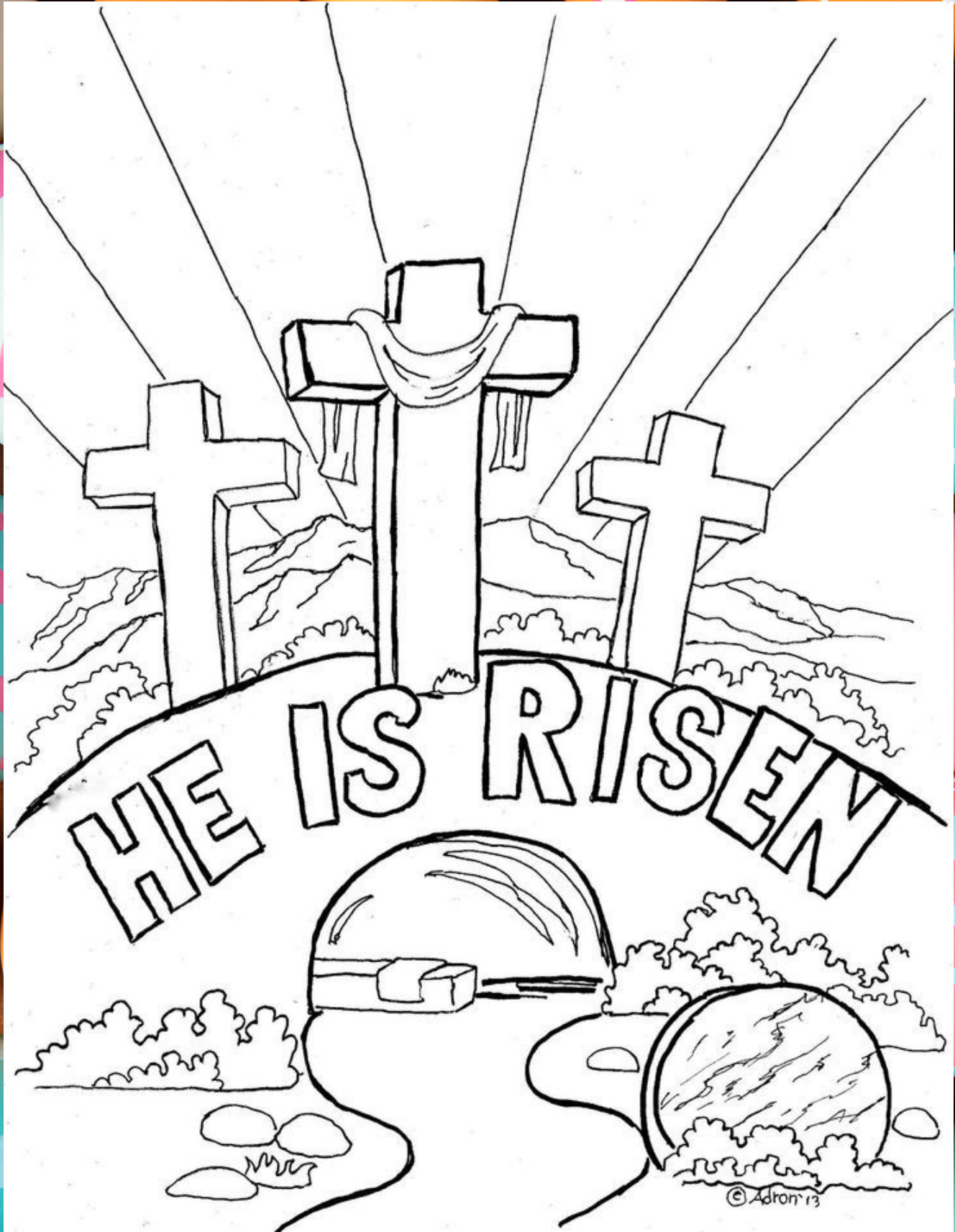
We are reminded that Jesus died for our sins. We are also reminded that he rose again from death to show us that through Him, we can live forever with Him in Heaven.

Let us say the words.

"Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!"
Let us share this good news.

MEMORY VERSE

**"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body."
Luke 24:2-3 (NRSV)**



© Adron 13

IN LOVING MEMORY

Harold Mangaroo

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

A wonderful husband and father.

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith"
(2 Timothy 4: 7)*

Lovingly remembered by his Wife: Mona
Children: Sherry & Peter, Karen & Roddy, Marlene & Bart, Darry & Kim
7 Grandchildre, 6 Great Grandchildren



SUNRISE: 21 09 1934
SUNSET: 26 04 2017

Girlyu Somaria Noyan

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Past member of the Lower Barrackpore & Penal Rock Presbyterian Churches.

*Today the anniversary of the day we lost you
And for a time it felt as though our lives ended too
But loss has taught us many things
We face each day with hope and happy memories To help us on our way.*

Lovingly remembered by her Husband: Jerandel Noyan
Children: Rachel Noyan-Mohan, Steewarson Noyan & Jeralyn Noyan
Son & Daughter in law: Neil Mohan & Lisa Noyan
Grandkids: Mikhael, Mikayla, Michele, Anthonio, Aaliyah & Aidon



SUNRISE: 15 01 1956
SUNSET: 19 04 2021

Lystra (Leela) Ragnauth

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*Wife of: John Ragnauth
Mother of: Reverend Errol Ragnauth, Gerald, and Rhea
Mother in law of: Vanessa, Ornella and Amrith
Grandmother of: Michelle, Michael Navin, Varin*



SUNRISE: 07 08 1954
SUNSET: 05 01 2022


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

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

TrinidadPresbyterian@pctt.org.tt

Please keep all article contributions between 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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Read Your Bible



April
2022

“He is Risen!”

SUNDAY		<i>John</i> 12:1-8	<i>Luke</i> 22:14-38	<i>Luke</i> 24:36-43	<i>John</i> 20:19-31
MONDAY		<i>Exodus</i> 40:1-15	<i>Luke</i> 22:39-53	<i>Luke</i> 24:44-49	<i>Revelation</i> 1:9-20
TUESDAY		<i>Judges</i> 9:7-1	<i>Luke</i> 22:54-65	<i>Luke</i> 24:50-53	<i>Revelation</i> 2:8-11
WEDNESDAY		<i>Luke</i> 18:31-34	<i>Luke</i> 22:66-23:6	<i>2 Corinthians</i> 1:3-24	<i>Luke</i> 12:4-12
THURSDAY		<i>Hebrews</i> 2:1-9	<i>Luke</i> 23:7-25	<i>Acts</i> 5:12-16	<i>Isaiah</i> 5:11-17
FRIDAY	<i>Isaiah</i> 43:8-15	<i>Hebrews</i> 2:10-18	<i>Luke</i> 23:26-56	<i>Acts</i> 5:17-26	<i>Revelation</i> 4
SATURDAY	<i>Psalm</i> 126	<i>Luke</i> 22:1-13	<i>Luke</i> 24:1-35	<i>Luke</i> 24:36-40	<i>Psalm</i> 30:6-12