

120th
ANNIVERSARY
1904 - 2024

The Trinidad PRESBYTERIAN

The Official Publication of The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad & Tobago. Est 1904
November 2024 | Contribution \$4.00

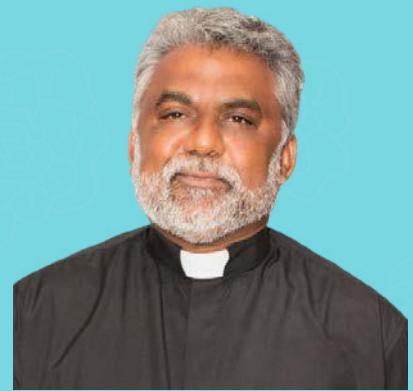


PPSBE S.E.A Awards
Reformation Sunday- Accra Confession
SAGHS & Hillview Shine at Dragon Boat

THE MODERATOR SPEAKS

PCTT MODERATOR, THE RIGHT REVEREND DANIEL CHANCE

Excellence in Education



On Saturday, October 12th, 2024, the Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education hosted its annual Awards Ceremony at the Susamachar Presbyterian Church. This event continues the Board's tradition of recognizing students, teachers and schools that have achieved academic excellence in the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) Examinations across its seventy-two (72) Presbyterian Primary Schools.

The Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board deserves commendation for its steadfast effort in applauding educational excellence. We extend hearty congratulations to all students who have performed exceptionally well. Their commitment, perseverance and dedication on this critical academic journey are truly inspiring. Special recognition is also extended to the students who, despite physical or other challenges, displayed remarkable fortitude and resilience, achieving outstanding results. These young minds have shown us the power of determination and the fruits of diligent effort, reflecting the truth of Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

As a Church, it is imperative that we reaffirm our love and support for the children of our nation. They need to be reminded continually that they are cherished, appreciated and valued by both God and society. We must encourage them not only to excel academically but also to strive for excellence in every aspect of their lives. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." It is our collective duty to guide them as they grow into responsible, God-fearing citizens.

It is important to note that this year's awards ceremony highlighted not just urban schools but also those located in the rural areas, proving that dedication to excellence knows no geographical boundaries. As a Church and as educators, we must continue to spend quality time with our children, helping them embrace the God-given opportunities to learn and realize their full potential. Through events like these, we witness firsthand the positive outcomes that stem from the consistent support of parents, principals, teachers and communities. As it says in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all parents, grandparents, caregivers, educators and corporate Trinidad and Tobago for their unwavering loyalty in nurturing the young minds of our nation. Your encouragement and the systems of support you provide are vital. Education is a key that opens doors to a brighter future. As the Bible teaches in Proverbs 16:16, "How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!" Education elevates our standard of living and breaks the chains of poverty, steering us away from the dependence syndrome that still holds so many captives, even today.

It is my fervent prayer, and the prayer of the Presbyterian Church, that the seeds of effort already planted, and those continuing to be sown, will grow into well-rounded, God-fearing and mature young men and women. May they be prepared to face their tomorrows with courage and faith, knowing that "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me" (Psalm 28:7). May God's blessings be upon all of you as we continue to walk this journey together.

"Strength does not come from physical capacity. it comes from an indomitable will." – Mahatma Gandhi
Stay focused. Stay strong. Stay blessed.

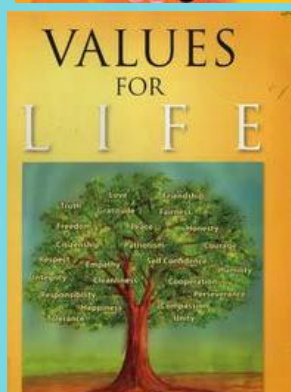


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FROM THE DESK OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

PCTT GENERAL SECRETARY,
PRESIDING ELDER MR. ASHFORD D TAMBY



Romans 12:17-19 (NIV): "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

From the moment we are born and as we grow up, we are bombarded by countless messages about what a girl and a boy should be like and what roles each of them should play, respectively, when they reach adulthood. Stereotypes portray women as sensitive, submissive, dependent, and weak, with less capacity than men to perform tasks requiring leadership. People often label women as inferior beings and hold them accountable for the violence they experience, using phrases like 'she is to blame' or 'she must have done something.'

In this way, we, as a society, are naturalizing violence through language. What comes out of our mouth sends messages that affect the lives of others to affirm, build, help, stimulate, challenge, but also to hurt, discourage, and destroy. Every word we say affects someone's better or worse life. We affect others' lives, especially those we influence, through both our words and our language.

In the first issue of this column, I spoke about the Values for Life program that the Synod of the PCTT instituted within our Presbyterian school system. More than ever, we see the value of such a program in our schools. Even responsible and "mature" adults need to remember that, as human beings, we are all capable of using our influence, power, and control to engage in some level of bullying, sometimes without even realizing it.

Our education system must monitor the level of aggression and damage that the bully or bullies inflict on the victim or victims, ensuring that the consequences are commensurate. The aggression, abuse, and damage that bullies perpetrate will usually escalate over time unless there is certain and comprehensive intervention. Intervention must include both consequences and reeducation by appropriate authorities at home and school.

Bullying needs to be seen through the Christian perspective of loving and caring for our neighbor. As we learn to love our neighbors, we can respond more compassionately. We have a responsibility to live in relation to one another as God's image bearers, with the call to humbly seek and practice mercy and justice as Christ's servants in His world.

The PCTT has three (3) books that can be used in schools to assist teachers and students in bringing awareness to these issues in our schools. For more information on these books, feel free to contact Synod's office, or if you or anyone you know is a victim of bullying or GBV, contact any one of the numbers below.

Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CADV) Day- 624- 0204 Night- 324- 8606

Rape Crisis Society South: 657- 5355 North: 627- 7273

TTPS GBV Unit 555 / 999/ 911 Whatsapp- 482- 4279

Domestic Violence Hotline 800- SAVE (7283)

TTPS Victim and Witness Support Unit 624- 8853

Children's Authority Hotline Numbers 996 / 1(868) 800- 2014

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"The Trinidad Presbyterian" was established in 1904

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

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PLEASE SEND IMAGES SEPARATELY (NOT IMBEDDED IN DOCUMENT)
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EDITORIAL

INCREASING HEALTH THREAT POSED BY DIABETES.

The International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organization was created in 1991 because of the growing concerns about the rapidly increasing health threat posed by diabetes. **World Diabetes Day** has a wide reach of a **global audience of over 1 billion people** in more than 160 countries. World Diabetes Day is and is observed on November 14th, it is an occasion for people with diabetes, healthcare professionals, advocates, policymakers and the public to unite to raise awareness of and take action on diabetes.

Diabetes is a chronic disease characterized by elevated levels of blood glucose (or blood sugar), which leads over time to serious damage to the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys and nerves. Type 2 diabetes, usually in adults, occurs when the body becomes resistant to insulin or doesn't make enough insulin, it is the more common type. Type 1 diabetes, insulin-dependent diabetes, is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin by itself. For people living with diabetes, access to affordable treatment, including insulin, is critical to their survival. There is a globally agreed target to halt the rise in diabetes and obesity by 2025 encouraging member countries to make treatment assessable and affordable. (WHO)

Diabetes, a non-communicable disease, affects millions across the globe. World Diabetes Day 2024 provides a platform for everyone – from medical professionals to the public – to learn, share, and act.

Diabetes care often focuses only on blood sugar, leaving many overwhelmed. The well-being of those affected is at the heart of diabetes care, not all are aware of its repercussions or preventive measures. There is need to start and sustain a change for a better diabetes life. Many diabetics are of the view that once they are on medication, they can eat, drink and live as usual, thinking that the medication will take care of everything. They cannot be more misguided.

Pay attention to these signs

- **Unusual Thirst:** The first important sign of diabetes is unusual and excessive thirst. If you noticed that you're thirsty all the time, something's wrong. Visit the doctor to get checked.
- **Urge to urinate:** If you start drinking a lot more, you'll also go to the bathroom more frequently. In addition, high blood sugar level increases the amount of urine production. Keep track of your bathroom visits.
- **Fatigue:** Feeling tired even when you didn't do anything exhausting? That is also one of the symptoms. You can experience tiredness in case of both low and high blood pressure.
- **Thrush:** Uncontrolled diabetes can lead to itching and burning in the genital area as the excess sugar increases the risk of getting yeast infections. Although it is relatively common and mostly harmless, it must be treated immediately as serious complications combined with diabetes can result.
- **Worse Vision:** Blurry vision is often one of the first warning signs of diabetes. A blurred field of vision, flashes, and spots of light will disappear once blood sugar returns to normal. High blood sugar can cause the lens of the eye to swell. The ultimate consequence could be blindness.
- **Slow Healing:** You may have to consider getting checked if you noticed that your cuts and wounds are healing very slowly. If you do have diabetes, you're more likely to get infected due to your weakened immune system.
- **Appetite:** One reason for an increased appetite is diabetes. Excessive hunger is not something you should take no notice of it could get serious if you don't act.
- **Weight Loss:** Like weight gain, diabetes can result in weight loss. The problem is that your body starts to break down protein from your muscles and not fat. Furthermore, your kidneys start working excessively hard trying to eliminate the extra glucose. Keep in mind that not every weight loss is healthy and go get an appointment.
- **Skin Problems:** It's not about regular acne and blackheads but much more. Your defence mechanism is just trying to help fight against diabetes with those darkening spots, rashes and itchy skin all over your body. These drastic changes are easy to notice so don't wait until it gets worse.
- **Numbness and Tingling:** Most people only get scared when they experience the first signs of numbness. Untreated high blood sugar has numerous detrimental effects starting from nerve damage, numbness, and tingling, to pain and swelling hands and feet. If this should happen, seek help immediately.
- **Lose Hearing:** This is just one consequence of the nerve damage. Since the small vessels and nerves are damaged, sound transmissions get interrupted on their way to your brain. Hearing loss is twice as common in people with diabetes as others. Seek if you notice any sudden change.
- **Bleeding Gums:** High blood glucose helps bacteria grow wherever it is. First, you start getting red, swollen gums which will bleed while you brush your teeth. Right after you see blood on your toothbrush examine yourself in the mirror. Get checked by a doctor.
- **Calf Cramps:** Diabetics are familiar with cramps, especially in their legs daily. This can also lead to circulation problems and pain in some parts of the body like thighs and even buttocks. It can be eased with some supplements and rest, but it will get worse after a longer time.
- **Perspiration:** Some diabetics experience excessive sweating even when they sleep or eat, while others stop sweating completely. Neither of these are healthy. The point is to be aware if something's different about your body.
- **Dry Mouth:** If yeast infections and bleeding gums weren't enough, your mouth can constantly be dry, as well. High levels of blood sugar cause sore and lack of moisture in your mouth.

World Diabetes Day 2024, with its theme of 'Empowering Global Health', serves as a beacon of hope; its message is everlasting. It's a call to action. It reminds us that by coming together, by understanding, caring, and acting, we can create a world where diabetes does not dictate our lives. The overarching objective is to increase awareness, enhance care, and promote prevention among the general population.

SOUTH EASTERN PRESBYTERY 2024 ANNUAL RETREAT

Submitted by Mrs. Vashti Badal – Executive Member of South Eastern Presbytery (SEP).

On Saturday 12th October, 2024, the South Eastern Presbytery held its Annual Retreat at Diamond Presbyterian Church in the Diamond Pastoral Region.

Mrs. Rumonia Drepaulsingh, Secretary of SEP, thanked everyone for attending and laid the foundation for the retreat “We are a Chosen Generation” as its theme. *“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light”* (1 Peter 2: 9) with a focus on Music Ministry. She underscored that October is globally recognized as Mental Health month, Breast Cancer Month, Anti-Bullying Month and Church Workers Appreciation Month. Hence the theme was befitting as music therapy can encourage emotional expressions and for socializing. It helps the individual to express emotions while producing a state of mental relaxation, increasing feelings of well-being, reducing anxiety and pain.

Leader of Worship, Presiding Elder Martin Sahadath, lit a candle to mark these purposes. He urged everyone to remember we came together as a Presbytery to worship and have fellowship with one another as we are a chosen generation, and we all share in our brokenness and a collective struggle against crime, bullying, loneliness, depression, self-harm, domestic violence, among other things. Praise and worship was rendered by the dynamic Lower Barrackpore Youth Choir, musical preludes were done by Reverend Robert Dinnoo on drums and Mr. Nahan Philip Ramdath on guitar. Devotion was conducted by the Presiding Elders attached to Diamond Pastoral Region.

Prayers were offered by Presiding Elder Beryl Jacob and Presiding Elder Grace Sookoo. Presiding Elder Agnes Sultanti based her meditation on Psalm 149 vs 1-6. A Hymn of Praise on the topic, “Is Music and Singing important in Worship.” She reiterated that music encourages God’s people and we must direct our worship to God who provides unity to His people. quoting Colossians 3, “We must exalt the Lord Jesus Christ,” and Ephesians 5:19, “sing and make a joyful noise unto Lord.” She impressed upon the gathering music ministry plays a crucial role in praising God.

The Retreat was enhanced with beautiful renditions by Mr. Ethan Churaman, Princes Town PR, (The Greatest Love of All), Ms. Aaliyah Lookhoor, Tableland PR, (Gratitude) and Mr. Nicholas Mitchell, Barrackpore PR (I am the Church! You are the Church!), a Monologue from Mrs Catherina Samkaran, Riversdale PR, and a liturgical dance from Simron Sohan, guest artist.

Guest Speaker, Reverend Ria Thompson Jimdar, Minister of the Oropouche Pastoral Region shed insight into the deeper meaning of the theme: “We are a Chosen Generation”, 1 Peter 2:9 and Psalm 8:2, “Out of the mouths of babies and sucklings praise shall resound,” stating that the message Peter sent out was a word of hope to all Christians who are set aside for the purpose and chosen to be God’s people as that is our identity. 1 Peter calls us to be holy, and this means 24/7, no matter who you are, or where you are going, the verse impresses on you that God has called you to be holy, and that all priests were Levites but not all Levites were priests, Reverend Thompson Jimdar concluded that God is good, his love is eternal and now we are a people of God, part of a royal priesthood, and a chosen generation.

After a short Question and Answer Session, several members stated their opinion on the theme. Pastoral Prayer, especially to appreciate all Church Workers was said by Reverend Manan Deo. The Sacrament of Holy Communion, Benediction and Blessing of the meal were done by the General Secretary of Synod, Presiding Elder Ashford Tamby.

Tokens of appreciation were presented to Reverend Thompson Jimdar; General Secretary Synod P.E Ashford Tamby and the Sohan Family. SEP thanked all who participated, a special thank you was expressed to Mrs. Teshiera Raghunanan-Mathura, Diamond Local Board and Diamond Pastoral Session for making all physical and refreshment arrangements, the Sohan Family for live-streaming and taking photos and to the Communication Manager, Mr. Micheal Cooper-Ochiengh, and the IT personnel for their contribution to the Retreat. Lunch was served at the end when persons fellowshiped with one another.



COUNSELLING COLUMN

VICTORIA AVIAN RAJKUMAR (B.ED., M.ED., CERT. GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING)

BULLYING: HOW TO IDENTIFY AND HELP YOUR CHILD, AND THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Last month the country was once more abuzz on the issue of bullying because of an issue that occurred at a secondary school in south Trinidad. Even before the chatter, the issue has existed and unless dealt with from the root, will continue to disrupt lives and communities for years to come.

Bullying remains a prevalent issue in schools, communities, and even online spaces. Its emotional, physical, and psychological impacts are significant, affecting not only the child who is bullied but also the one doing the bullying. According to a study by the American Psychological Association (APA), bullying can lead to long-term emotional effects, including depression, anxiety, and even suicidal thoughts, especially if it goes unchecked.

As parents and members of a Christian community, it's crucial to recognize the signs early in order to intervene and offer the appropriate support. Let us explore how to identify if your child is being bullied or whether they are bullying others, how you can help either way, and how the church can play an active role in this process.

Identifying if Your Child is Being Bullied

Children who are bullied often do not immediately disclose their experiences, because they are possibly ashamed and fear any after effects of divulging this information. In the absence of your child sharing with you, there are behavioural and emotional signs that may indicate they are being bullied:

1. **Physical Signs:** Unexplained injuries, torn clothing, or lost belongings can be red flags. Children may come home with bruises, scratches, or other marks they cannot reasonably explain.
2. **Emotional Changes:** Bullied children may exhibit a sudden drop in self-esteem or express feelings of helplessness and isolation. Changes in behaviour, such as becoming withdrawn or unusually anxious, are common.
3. **Academic Struggles:** Bullying often leads to a decline in school performance. A child who was previously engaged and enthusiastic about learning may lose interest, display concentration issues, or start skipping school altogether.
4. **Changes in Eating and Sleeping Habits:** Significant changes in appetite or sleep patterns can indicate emotional distress. Bullied children may experience nightmares, insomnia, or frequent complaints of stomach-aches or headaches.
5. **Avoidance of Social Situations:** A child who suddenly avoids social gatherings, school events, or even going to school may be trying to avoid confrontations with their bullies.

Identifying if Your Child is Bullying Others

On the flip side, it's equally important to recognize if your child is the one engaging in bullying behaviour. The motivations for bullying vary but often stem from insecurity, peer pressure, or a desire for control and dominance.

Here are signs that your child might be a bully:

1. **Aggressive Behaviour:** Children who bully often display aggressive tendencies both at school and at home. They may get into physical or verbal altercations more frequently than usual.

2. **Blaming Others:** Bullies tend to avoid taking responsibility for their actions. They often blame others for their problems or make excuses for their behaviour.

3. **Concern for Popularity:** A child who is overly concerned with maintaining their status or popularity, particularly through belittling or hurting others, may be involved in bullying.

4. **Frequent Disciplinary Issues:** Regular complaints from teachers or school staff regarding your child's behaviour can be an indicator that he or she are bullying others.

5. **Lack of Empathy:** If your child seems to have difficulty understanding or caring about the feelings of others, this could signal that they lack the emotional intelligence required to understand the harm he or she are causing.

Research suggests that children who bully are at a higher risk for substance abuse, academic problems, and criminal behaviour in adulthood if the issue is not addressed early on.

How Can Parents Help?

Whether your child is being bullied or is the bully, immediate intervention is key to preventing long-term damage.

1. **Open Communication:** Establish an open line of communication with your child. Encourage them to talk about their experiences without fear of punishment or judgment. Ask open-ended questions like, "How was school today?" or "Has anyone been bothering you?"

2. **Monitor Online Activity:** Cyberbullying is a growing concern. It is also a criminal offense in our country. (Section 30 subsection 1, of the Offences Against the Person Act; "Harassment of a person includes acting in any way that would be expected to cause an alarm or cause the person distress." This can incur a fine of \$2000 or six months in jail.) Parents, you need to monitor your child's online interactions and familiarize yourself with the platforms they use. Encourage them to block or report anyone engaging in harmful behaviour online.

3. **Teach Empathy and Problem-Solving:** Help your child understand the consequences of bullying by fostering empathy. Encourage them to consider how their actions affect others. If your child is being bullied, role-play different strategies they can use to defuse situations, like seeking help from a trusted adult or walking away from confrontations.

4. Collaborate with Schools: Engage with teachers, counsellors, and school staff to create a plan to address bullying. Schools often have policies and resources that can help mitigate the problem and provide support to both the victim and the bully. (Ask about these and if there isn't any, work with the PTA and alumni to create one.)

How the Church Can Help

The church, as a community and spiritual resource, can play a significant role in addressing bullying by fostering a supportive environment where children can feel safe and heard.

1. **Teach Christian Values:** The Bible emphasizes love, compassion, and kindness towards others. Sunday School lessons and Youth Groups can incorporate teachings on how Jesus treated others and how to model his behaviour in daily life.

2. **Peer Support Groups:** Churches can create safe spaces for children and youth to share their experiences without fear of judgment. Leaders can collaborate with and utilize resource persons to facilitate discussions on bullying, equipping young people with the tools to stand up against it and support one another.

4. **Community Engagement:** Individual churches or regions can work with the schools in their area (not just the Presbyterian ones) and can organize workshops, seminars, or talks with professionals like child psychologists and educators who specialize in bullying. This can help raise awareness and educate both parents and children on the realities of bullying and how to address it.

5. **Pray Together:** Encouraging prayer as a tool for seeking God's guidance and comfort can provide both children and parents with strength. Prayers for peace, resolution, and wisdom can uplift families going through the challenge of bullying.

Conclusion

Bullying is a complex issue that requires attention from parents, schools, and communities alike. By being vigilant and recognizing the signs early, parents can intervene to provide much-needed support. The church, with its mission to promote love and unity, can be a powerful ally in this fight. We remember that we are called to, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Together, we can create a safer, more empathetic world for our children, ensuring that they grow up understanding the teachings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who underscored the value of kindness and respect for others.

A PARADIGM SHIFT : BULLYING AND CULTIVATING AN ENVIRONMENT OF COMPASSION IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Submitted by Elijah Motieram MBA

In October, we faced a heartbreaking reminder of the severe repercussions of bullying when a young person took his life after enduring constant torment of a bully. Despite desperate cries for help from his family, the stream of bullying continued, revealing a deep-rooted issue that permeates various areas of our lives—including schools, workplaces, and even houses of worship. This sorrowful incident acts as a wake-up call, urging us to reflect on our societal values and how we embody them each day. Will it die a natural death until someone takes his or her life? Is the noise a gallery to entertain the masses?

Bullying often flourishes in atmospheres where jealousy, rivalry, and self-centeredness reign. It can manifest in numerous ways, from discreet emotional manipulation to blatant aggression, and can occur wherever people interact. The relentless pursuit of superiority can push individuals to engage in harmful behaviour, often leaving deep emotional wounds on their victims. Are we witnessing the repercussions of a culture that prizes competition over compassion?

The messages in Ephesians remind us of the weight of our words and actions. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up," serves as a vital lesson in nurturing an atmosphere of kindness. Servant leadership, a popular term with limited action. Our communities need to focus on uplifting one another rather than tearing one another apart. It is crucial for us to establish environments where people feel safe, appreciated, and deserving of kindness.

Furthermore, the biblical call to "get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger" highlights the need for reflection in our fight against cruelty. The power of forgiveness is not only liberating for the one who wronged but also essential for healing the one who was wronged. When people learn to extend forgiveness and understand one another, we cultivate a culture of empathy that can tackle the root issues of bullying. As individuals, it's imperative that we take a stand against bullying by nurturing a culture of compassion.

It starts with recognizing the struggles of others and speaking up for those who can't speak for themselves. Schools, workplaces, and communities play a crucial role; they need to put clear policies against bullying in place, offer mental health resources, and create an environment where kindness is standard. This recent tragedy serves as a rallying cry—a reminder that we must be proactive in tackling the factors that contribute to bullying. It's not enough to respond after the damage is done; we need to actively prevent it. Encouraging open discussions, promoting inclusivity, and spreading empathy are essential steps on this path.

In conclusion, let us unite and declare that enough is enough. We must aim to cultivate a society that embodies the profound teachings of compassion and forgiveness found in Ephesians. Let us be champions of kindness, support systems for those who need help, and voices against the harmful culture of bullying. Together, we can create change—one act of kindness at a time.

THE FAMILY CAN

A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE THE FAMILY - HILTON R SIBOO: CONTACT: 788-2685)
THE PILGRIMAGE OF PARENTING: [PART 9] - HOW DO YOU PARENT - LEARNING. (1)

Our recent columns have looked at parenting identity. Here the challenge is... **How can a 'parenter' parent a sense and the value of learning for a child, the 'parentee'?**

What is learning? Chambers' dictionary's definition of learning is ...to be informed; to get to know, to gain knowledge or skill. A learner is one who learns.

Whilst developmental learning occurs during the stages of human life, the attitude, the sense, the desire, and curiosity to learn should be lifelong, therefore, comprising all the lessons from our daily lives the exposures and experiences. For many on this human journey, our learning and memory assist and give hope to find the meaning, and reason for our individual life, our aspirations and achievements, except to a lesser extent those mainly in survival mode.

In learning, our sources of knowledge and information is derived from oral and written communication, the telling of transgenerational stories and life experiences of self and fore parents; the sharing of traditions their sayings – whether simple, contradictory or oxymoronic. Also, from artefacts and museums, from culture and religion; and from documented and institutional sources of the sciences and technology, the arts and literature. Today's data-based cyber sources make accessible an infinite source of methodologies for learning. However, to parent learning has become the challenging responsibility for all 'parenters' to guide fact from fiction and truth from fake.

Question: How can anyone parent learning?

Be prepared. With no practical handbook, a parent should be aware that whether tribally or universally ... our learnings are impacted by the environment and socialisation of traditions, religions of the past, the technology and all social and communication media of the present.

To parent the 'parentee' to learning, the 'parenter' in the parenting relationship should question and challenge and search self, for ... you cannot give what you do not have; you cannot parent what you do not know. Parent, man and woman know yourself so you can parent your offspring and the surrogate children in your charge and under your supervision. **Be prepared** to share yourself as an example of learning as you parent and mentor.

Question: Why should we parent learning? This will be our next focus.

Can this approach improve our parenting relationships and skills and improve intra-family and inter-family relationships? I hope that this perspective can guide the understanding and effect changes and adjustments to the narrative and approach to parenting where the participants interact in a relational exchange that affects and impacts their words and actions, attitudes, behaviours and roles, duties and responsibilities.

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

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

Encounteringthe Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago

Last month, with reference to research and studies, the Central Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (CAPCTT) invited all students including the students of the SATC to access our resources for their information, education and knowledge.

For non-school researchers who may think that the CAPCTT is not accessible to your interests, it is certainly available for you as an endowment and enlightenment to your church, to you and to your family.

You may be interested in specific church related information that can inform or clarify your family church's history and, thereby, enhance your individual-personal or your church membership and participatory activities. Initially, not being desirous of penning a paper or delivering a presentation, you may become enthused that you may end up doing so, all to the benefit of yourself, your family, your church and of course the CAPCTT. Your research or study will certainly add value to the resources of the CAPCTT and assist future researchers for educational and school requirements and future generations for church, school and societal documentations or just for personal reasons.

However, where it may concern information and research on congregations and the Boards and Committees of Synod and the courts of the PCTT, where the records, minutes, reports and documents have not been made available to the Central Archives of the PCTT, the CAPCTT may be disadvantaged. To help us at the CAPCTT is to enable the CAPCTT to help you with research and study. Consequently, we ask, plead and implore that those records, artifacts, etc be shared with the CAPCTT to privilege, empower and enfranchise the PCTT of the future.

We again invite all persons, students, including the students of the SATC, members of the PCTT and others to access our resources for your information, education and knowledge.

*An encounter with the Archives is an encounter with ... yourself. The Archives are opened on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Call to arrange a visit.
Contact: 652-4829 [Synod Office] and 653-4166 [SATC Library] Asst Archivist: Hilton R Bill Siboo 788-2685*

CUREPE PRESBYTERIAN CELEBRATES NATIONAL AWARDEES

By Sarah Robinson-Gibbs & Joy Ramlogan

At the 55th National Awards held on Republic Day 24th September 2024, long-standing members of the Curepe Presbyterian Church, Professor Patrick Hosein and Professor Sanjay Bahadoorsingh were respectively awarded the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Hummingbird Medal Gold for their high achievements and contributions in the fields of Engineering, Technology and Education. Curepe Presbyterian Church celebrated their national achievements on Sunday 6th October, 2024.

Professor Patrick Hosein is a pioneer in the fields of Telecommunications and Computer Engineering, within the context of Small Island Developing States. He spearheaded efforts to manage Trinidad and Tobago's country code top-level domain ccTLD (dot tt domain). Through the ccTLD, schools nationwide have been able

to have an online presence and embrace Digital Transition, Digital Literacy and benefit from open-source software for educational institutions. He holds forty-two (42) patents based on the Telecommunications Industry, which have been incorporated into standards for wireless telecommunications and have garnered international recognition. Professor Hosein is the Administrative and Technical contact for the TT top level domain, CEO of the TTNIC, a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, UWI, and a National Geographic Explorer.

Professor Sanjay Bahadoorsingh is a committed and industry-focused engineering educator with an unwavering commitment to advancing societal development, reshaping industry standards and driving technological advancements.

He became the youngest male professor within the UWI and holds many key positions in standards and policy making. He is the Chairman of the National Technical Committee for Electrical Codes at the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards, responsible for the development and update of all local electrical standards. He has overseen many high-profile projects and was essential in the commissioning of T&T's inaugural grid-connected solar park at Piarco International Airport and T&T's first public electric vehicle DC Fast Charger at NP Preysal Service Station. He served as a Special Technical Advisor for the commissioning of the country's first commercially and publicly inspected solar powered EV DC Fast Charger. Professor Bahadoorsingh represents the nation's interests across boardrooms, classrooms, and maintenance facilities and has shaped the trajectory of electrical engineering practice locally and regionally and inspired countless individuals.

Both gentlemen hold God's love and guidance as their anchor in having his works multiply in their endeavours based on a passion for education, excellence and continued mentorship of the nation's youths.



Professor Patrick Hosein (L) and Professor Sanjay Bahadoorsingh (R) at the President's House



Chairman of CPC Ranjit Boodoo, Prof Patrick Hosein (ORTT), Prof Sanjay Bahadoorsingh (HBM) and Vice Chairman of CPC Anish Bahadoorsingh



What is the Accra Confession?

The Accra Confession was adopted by the delegates of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) 24th General Council in Accra, Ghana (2004), based on the theological conviction that the economic and environmental injustices of today's global economy require the Reformed family to respond as a matter of faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Accra Confession calls upon Reformed Christians around the world to engage injustices in the world as an integral part of their churches' witness and mission. [See page 2 for a list of North American churches represented.] The full text of the confession begins on page 2.

Why does the church need the Accra Confession?

1. Justice is a matter of faith. The Accra Confession states that matters of economic and environmental justice are not only social, political, and moral issues: they are integral to faith in Jesus Christ and affect the integrity of the church. Being faithful to God's covenant requires that individual Christians and the churches take a stand against current economic and environmental injustices.
2. The unity of the church is critical. Unity is concerned with togetherness, however divisive the issues confronting the confessing body may be. While the complex realities of globalization have not led to a full consensus, the global Reformed family addresses the problematic nature of today's global economy in the Accra Confession.
3. The church stands in solidarity with persons who are suffering and struggling. Following the justice traditions of the biblical prophets and of Jesus in the Gospel narratives, the Accra Confession views the current world (dis)order by "looking through the eyes of powerless and suffering people." It calls the churches and society to hear the cries of the people who suffer and the woundedness of creation itself, over-consumed and under-valued by the current global economy.

The story of the Accra Confession

The Accra Confession is the outcome of a fifteen-year-long process...

- 1989 – At the 1989 World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) General Council in Seoul, Korea, "An Open Letter to the Children and Young People of the Planet" called upon WARC member churches to enter into a covenant for justice given "the threats to life in our age, for the sake of the whole creation, the future of all humanity and especially for the children and young people of the planet."
- 1995 – The call was intensified in 1995 when the African churches at a consultation in Kitwe, Zambia, suggested to the Alliance that the current global economy be declared as antithetical to the Christian faith in a manner similar to the confessing churches' historical stances against Nazism and apartheid.
- 1997 – The 1997 WARC General Council in Debrecen, Hungary, called WARC member churches to engage in "a committed process of recognition, education, and confession regarding economic injustice and ecological destruction." The process later became known as *Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth* and was implemented in the various regions of the world in partnership with the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation.
- 2004 – The 2004 General Council at Accra, Ghana, was a culminating point of the *Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth* process. The churches from the global South in particular challenged the Reformed family at Accra, asking how long they would have to wait for a unified confession of faith against the harm done within the current global economy. While some of the churches from the global North were not willing to take a doctrinal confessional stance, in the end there was consensus regarding the problematic nature of today's global economy and the injustices it produces. Hence, the assembly reached a decision to respond in a confessional manner, that is, to take a faith stance regarding current global economic injustices and ecological destruction.

To view the complete document and confession, please visit : <https://wcrc.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AccraConfession-Introduction.pdf>

NEW CENTURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATES IT'S 71ST ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Mr. Premraj (Bice) Seebransingh

The name Susamachar means 'Glad Tidings', Akashbani means 'The Word from Heaven' and Arunodai means 'A new dawn'.

New Century, what does this mean? Century means a year, century, etc., which falls within the Christian era — that is, the period dating from the birth of Christ. New — means recently created, made, acquired, or discovered.

The name 'New Century' was chosen because it was the first church constructed in the 'New Century' of the existence of The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago when its centenary anniversary was celebrated in 1968. The Church became a 'New Church' evolving from a wooden building with a galvanized roof back in 1956 to a simple but beautiful concrete structure located on the outskirts of Princes Town in the Petit Café, Indian Walk area, a member church of the Tableland Pastoral Region. Later, in 1969, the new building was initiated by then student minister Mr. Allison Nobbee and dedicated by Reverend Arthur Charles Dayfoot on August 23rd 1969.

On the morning of Sunday 25th August, 2024, the dedicated and faithful members of the New Century Presbyterian Church could not be stopped by any yellow level weather alert as they came out to celebrate its 71st Anniversary. They lifted their voices in praise during a chorus session led by Mrs. Charlotte Tamby and accompanied by Mikael and Shawn on the drums. The New Century choir did justice to the occasion with their introit as well as their anthem aptly entitled: "Gratitude" followed by a soulful rendition on the steel pan by Miss Ariana Roopa. Our congregation was then reminded of our historical evolution by Mrs. Annette Dipchansingh.

Our resident Minister, Reverend Peter Arjoon, shared the worship session of this auspicious occasion with our very own Presiding Elder (P.E.) and General Secretary of Synod, Mr. Ashford Tamby.

Presiding Elder Tamby got everyone up and out of their pews to meet and greet their fellow brothers and sisters during the singing of "Won't you greet somebody in Jesus' name." After which Rev. Arjoon delivered a very relevant sermon for this anniversary on the theme: "The Church worthy of its calling to work and witness" based on the scripture reading from Ephesians 4:4 – 11. Reverend Arjoon reminded the congregation that just as parts of the body work together, so to the church is to remain united together with the love of Christ and being Spirit filled and Spirit led.

After being filled by the Spirit and the Word of God a sumptuous box lunch was shared with the congregation causing some of ladies to jokingly utter, "Ah doh have to go home to cook today." Happy 71st Anniversary, New Century Presbyterian Church!!!!



GRATITUDE TO THE PCW MEMBERS OF MIZPAH CHURCH – CLAZXTON BAY

BY DENISE MOHAMMED

On 13th October 2024 at 10:00, 15 women and 3 men from the Claxton Bay Pastoral Region gladdened the hearts of 75 children of the Penal, Lady Hochoy School. This was a marvelous gesture from the P.C.W Group. Mrs. Margaret Bissessar and the P.C.W, the great leader of this venture, organized a variety of gifts, refreshment, and love for each student, the Principal, teachers, and auxiliary staff. The group also brought relevant books, art material and Christmas toys to these lovely children.

The Principal, Mr Mohan, of The Lady Hochoy School warmly welcomed the P.C.W group together with the Deaconess Marlene Seenathsingh, two members of the Penal Presbyterian Church P.C.W – Elizabeth Ramjattan, Donna Boodram and retired Minister, Reverend Ralph Umraw.

There was a half hour meditation period. Reverend Umraw began with an opening prayer and Deaconess Marlene Seenathsingh told a thrilling story. A few choruses were sung by the students, teachers and the P.C.W group.

This spectacular event was well appreciated with gratitude. The Principal in an estatic mood expressed his appreciation to all especially the P.C.W women and hoped to see them again. He prayed that the good Lord bless us and our families abundantly for our generosity and love for humanity.

This same group of charitable women donated 25 prized hampers earlier in the year to families of Suchit Trace, Penal . These citizens live on the bank of the river under very poor conditions. They built little houses on the bank and use the river water for drinking, cooking, bathing and for toilet facilities. This group of women's hearts was astonished at the generosity of the Mizpah PCW.



Lift up your voice and sing

Inviting All Alumni to join us and participate in the studio recording of the College Song in honour of our 70th Anniversary celebration

Open Invitation

November 2024

Saturday 9th November
Hillview College School Hall
@ 3 PM

CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE
Register at
hoba.org.tt/song

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Sat 9th November, 2024
SCHOOL'S COMPOUND
1:00PM - 6:00 PM

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HAUNTED HOUSE
PHOTOBOOTH
KARAOKE
A VARIETY OF EATS & SOFT DRINKS

CELEBRATING 140 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AT TACARIGUA PRESBYTERIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Written By Anycia Ramoutar-Bhawan, Principal Primary of Tacarigua Presbyterian Primary School

This year marks a significant milestone for Tacarigua Presbyterian Primary School as it celebrates 140 years of educational service and excellence. Under the theme, "140 Years of Learning: Honouring the Past and Inspiring the Future", the school hosted a week of festivities that not only paid homage to its rich heritage but also set a forward-looking tone for future generations.

Founded on June 23, 1884, by Canadian Presbyterian Missionaries, Tacarigua Presbyterian started as the Tacarigua Canadian Mission Indian School, primarily educating children of East Indian indentured labourers. Initially operating in a modest wooden building with 45 students, it was the nurturing ground laid by the school's first teacher, Ms. Semple, from Canada, and Ms. Annie Blackadder, whose 32-year tenure helped shape the school's legacy. The institution was once known colloquially as "Blackadder School," a name that echoes with affection in the community.

The anniversary week was a showcase of tradition meshed with modern values.

featuring performances and contributions from students, staff, and esteemed guests. The celebration began with a stirring rendition of the National Anthem by Jayden John, a Standard Five student, followed by an inspiring sermon delivered by Reverend Adrian Sieunarine. Distinguished attendees, including Mr. Chris Metivier, School Supervisor II, and Mr. Vickram Ramlal, Chairman of the Presbyterian Primary Schools' Board of Education, offered their commendations, acknowledging the school's vital role in shaping educational and community development in Trinidad and Tobago.

The program highlighted the school's commitment to the arts with performances like Sariah Lavington's enchanting pan solo, Ivanna Copland's graceful liturgical dance, and a powerful rendition of "Glorious" by the school's choir. Mr. Angil Warren provided an insightful historical perspective, tracing the school's journey from its origins to its present status as a beacon of educational excellence.

The week's activities included historical presentations, tree-planting ceremonies, and speeches from notable figures, painting a vivid picture of Tacarigua Presbyterian's deep-rooted commitment to growth and excellence. Principal, Anycia Ramoutar-Bhawan, expressed deep gratitude for the school's enduring legacy and the community's support over the years. She proudly highlighted the school's exemplary performance in the 2024 Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) exams, where it ranked 6th among all Presbyterian schools and 7th in the St. George East Educational District.

Reflecting on the resilience of the Tacarigua Presbyterian family, especially through recent global challenges, Principal Ramoutar-Bhawan praised the community's unwavering determination and faith. As the school looks to the future, it remains committed to fostering academic excellence, instilling robust values, and preparing students to thrive in an ever-changing world. Tacarigua Presbyterian Primary School continues to be a pillar of high performance and inspirational learning in Trinidad and Tobago.



Current Staff of Tacarigua Presbyterian School
School Supervisors, Chairman of PPSBE, Principal, and Invited Guests



SEA 2024 AWARDS FUNCTION

Submitted by Geeta K Maharaj, General Secretary, PPSBE.

The Presbyterian Primary School Board of Education (PPSBE) hosted its third consecutive SEA Awards Function on Saturday 12th October, 2024, at the Susamachar Presbyterian Church. The entire programme flowed seamlessly by our expert co-chairpersons, Mr. Daniel Gopaul, Vice Principal (Ag.) Penal Presbyterian School; and Miss Sherry-Ann Bissoo, Teacher Primary, Canaan Presbyterian School. The Opening Prayer was offered by Presiding Elder Ashford D. Tamby, General Secretary of the Synod of The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago (PCTT), following which Dr. Alicia Gayah-Batchasingh, Teacher Primary, Brothers Presbyterian School, led in the singing of the National Anthem.

Greetings were brought by Ms. Geeta K. Maharaj, General Secretary, PPSBE, who stated the Board's purpose for awarding excellence; Mr. Aaron Ramrattan, Director of School Supervision and Management, Ministry of Education (MOE), followed, he emphasized the importance of developing resilience in their school life; and The Rt. Reverend Daniel Chance, Moderator of the Synod of the PCTT, who urged the awardees to be the change that they want to see. Deputy Permanent Secretary, Wilson Henderson, MOE, arrived later in the programme and shared some brief but note – worthy remarks.

Ms. Gowrie Cleaver-Nanan, Principal (Ag), Exchange Presbyterian School, sang most melodiously and later, Ms. Caitlyn Samuel, a past student of Curepe Presbyterian School treated all to a lilting violin solo.

The Feature Speaker, Mr. Dexter Rampersad, School Supervisor 1, St. George East Education District, sought to encourage the SEA 2024 Awardees to create a community of care at their school. He explained that this type of school community can be generated through support by keeping one another strong, persevering, being compassionate and empathetic, as these qualities will stir the school spirit. Mr Rampersad urged the students to use the next seven (7) years at their respective schools to transform the school's culture by holding firm and fanning the flames for a collective positive school soul within their peers. He impressed, "Your perspective in life will reflect upon everything you do and everyone you meet."

The high point of the function was the presentation of awards. The various categories were District Awards, recognizing the top five (5) students in each Education District; Special Awards were given to seven (7) students who shone in the face of adversity; Top 20 Awards recognised those students who excelled overall; the Top Three (3) Performing Schools and the Top Performing School gaining the apex position of the seventy-two (72) Presbyterian Primary Schools. All student awardees received certificates and trophies. Mr. Vickram Ramlal, Chairman, PPSBE, emphasised that this event was to motivate all 72 Presbyterian Primary Schools and all students to strive for excellence in all their endeavours.

The three top performing students received a glass trophy and a cash award. They were: First place - Liam Rajkumar, Freeport Presbyterian School; in Second place - Bridget Lackraj, Tacarigua Presbyterian School; and Third place Saira Bisnath, Exchange Presbyterian School. The Top Performing School was Exchange Presbyterian School receiving the Challenge Trophy. Trophies were awarded for Second place to Canaan Presbyterian School and for Third place to Cumuto Presbyterian School.

Ms. Donna Ramjohn-Khan, SEA 2024 Awards Committee Member and retired School Supervisor 1, delivered a heartfelt Vote of Thanks on behalf of the PPSBE after which Co-Chair, Daniel Gopaul, made some closing remarks. Moderator Daniel Chance offered a closing prayer following which everyone was invited to lunch.

The PPSBE applauds the hard-work of the SEA 2024 Awards Committee led by Mrs. Wendy Gajadhar and Ms. Michelle Mahabir-Dass, Principal, Waterloo Presbyterian School and its members. The commitment to detail and the ethic of teamwork demonstrated by the members of this committee resulted in an event that can only be described as top notch. The PPSBE also recognises those who worked external to the Committee but who provided much needed support in areas integral to the success of this event. To God be the glory!

SEA 2024 AWARDS FUNCTION

Submitted by Geeta K Maharaj, General Secretary, PPSBE.



HEALTH: “PLAYGROUNDS OF POSSIBILITY”

Dr. Joel David Teelucksingh

I was honoured to be the guest speaker at the recent opening of a new play park at Debe Hindu School, an initiative made possible by the Rapidfire Kidz Foundation and RIK Services. Standing there, witnessing children running, laughing and exploring, I realized how crucial spaces like these are—not just for fun, but for fostering the health, development and overall well-being of our young generation.

A playground represents more than just a collection of swings and slides. It symbolizes an investment in the children's future and is a sanctuary for their growth in a world dominated by screens and sedentary lifestyles. I was reminded of our Presbyterian values—service, community and nurturing the potential of every child, Children build friendships, stretch their imagination, develop emotional resilience and grow physically with outdoor play. As more of their time is spent in front of screens—whether watching TV, playing video games or scrolling through social media - they lose the benefits that come from physical, social, and creative engagement.

We are called to be stewards of God's creation and that includes caring for our children. Physical activity is especially important as childhood obesity is on the rise. Sedentary lifestyles combined with poor diets have resulted in increased rates of obesity, diabetes and heart disease among young people. Running, climbing, swinging, and jumping provide much-needed exercise, strengthen muscles, build coordination and improve cardiovascular health. Fresh air and sunshine help boost our body's natural defenses.

The great outdoors plays a crucial role in mental well-being. The pressures of academics, the fast pace of technology and the growing complexities of social relationships can take a toll on children's mental health. Anxiety and depression are rampant. Regular play has been proven to reduce stress levels due to the release of endorphins—those “feel-good” chemicals that the body produces during physical activity.

Increased screen time and focus on near objects (like phones and tablets) contribute to an increase in myopia—nearsightedness—among children. When they spend too much time indoors, their eyes become accustomed to close objects, which can weaken their ability to focus on those in the distance.

Bullying is a sad reality for many children and can have lasting emotional and psychological effects. One of the overlooked benefits of outdoor play environments is that they provide opportunities for children to learn and practice social skills, such as cooperation, empathy and conflict resolution. When children play together, they have the chance to share, communicate and negotiate with one another. They learn the importance of including others and of treating everyone with kindness and respect. Playgrounds can serve as a breeding ground for positive social interactions and can help build resilience against the negative effects of bullying.

Parents, teachers and community members must create environments that foster inclusiveness, understanding and kindness. Trinidad was known for its close-knit, family-oriented atmosphere and this park reinforces those values.

The government should prioritize building and maintaining more recreational facilities, especially in underserved areas, to ensure that all children have access to safe spaces for outdoor play.

George Bernard Shaw once said, “We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.” Outdoor parks are places where laughter echoes, friendships bloom and memories are made.

According to the Gospel of Matthew: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). Outdoor parks are spaces where our children can come, where they can be free to be themselves and where they can know the joy of God's creation. It is a testament to what can be achieved when we come together as a community, guided by faith and love.



THE PROVIDENTIAL GRACE OF GOD

Reverend Dr. Randall Sammah

“Nothing but the Providential Grace of God”. These were the exact words of the Reverend Rebecca Collins Kahnt (Pastor Becky), as we spoke on the phone sometime in June 2024. Pastor Becky is the minister of the North Sewickley Presbyterian Church (NSPC) in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. But how did we ever meet? I refer the reader to the Trinidad Presbyterian of October, 2024, p. 22, where, together with my daughter, Hannah, we raised awareness about the medical condition of CMT. Hannah attended a special camp (Camp Footprint) in a small town, Fombell, for youth with this condition. Parents, however, were not allowed to hover around. So the issue of Shelley(wife) and I finding accommodation arose. With limited USD funds, staying in a motel posed a difficulty. This became a matter of prayer. And the prayer was answered! Somehow, I was moved to do an internet search of Presbyteries in the Pittsburgh area. Contact was made with the Reverend Tom Harmon of the Beaver-Butler Presbytery who approached Pastor Becky with our request. And here is when God really intervened! Pastor Becky approached the Mission Committee of NSPC. The Mission Committee prayerfully and unhesitatingly took up the challenge. Our Synod's office assisted with the initial communication!

A seven hour road trip took us to the quaint township of North Sewickley. While there, we received “Five Star” hospitality and friendship from the Vargias and Creese families and experienced a bed and breakfast (b&b) stay. Pat Vargias was meticulous in planning out an itinerary making sure that there was never a dull moment. I even got a Cessna plane ride featuring an aerial tour of Pittsburgh! Special mention must be made of the Reverend Jim Swanson and his team of Camp Run Presbyterian Church who also contributed to making our stay a memorable one. One morning, Pastor Jim drove us to the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary where I acted as an ambassador for SATC with the hope of forging links. Along the way, we encountered highway traffic as well ... four lanes merged into one. It felt like home! Other families also pitched in with providing meals and historical tours of the area. To be warmly welcomed into an Amish home will be unforgettable. However, a humbling experience was being invited to preach the Word at NSPC on Sunday 18th August. It was an outdoor Service. I revived the memory of the early American Presbyterian Missionaries who came to Iere Village, Trinidad, he originated from Pennsylvania. I should note that it is the norm to have one minister to serve one, or maybe two congregations. Can we ever get there?

Before our Pennsylvania expedition, we spent a wonderful two weeks in Queens, NYC with Shelley's cousins Deanne and Ricky Montano, and their mother, Pearly, who were originally from Siparia. We really had a great time- road trip to the Luray Caverns in Virginia, as well as Shenandoah National Park and Washington D.C., where we visited the White House and a few museums.

All along, we saw God's hand at work through the people, the places and the experiences with which we were blessed. To God be the Glory.



CUREPE CELEBRATES 143 YEARS OF TOGETHERNESS

Submitted by Adil Dattoo



In the month of September, the Curepe Presbyterian Church celebrated 143 years of the church's presence as a beacon in the community. For the first three Sundays of the month, different preachers explored the lesson of what is required of a believer in the Lord. Presiding Elder Mr. Larry Kowlessar, Reverend Emmanuel Ramdeen and Reverend Damian Sieunarine encouraged the congregation to continue to let God's love shine through them. These lessons all taught that love for God was most important for believers and the Curepe Church being in existence for this long is a testament of that.

Further inspiration of the possibilities that are opened when people devote themselves fully to God was gained through a series of guided walks through the past by Professor Sanjay Bahadoorsingh. He told the congregation about the formation of the church, its many firsts and the strength and determination of its congregation that has been able to stand strong in the face of adversity. These facts also showed that the success of the church was greatly due to the faith of many generations of families who currently continue to worship in Curepe. In celebration of the congregation and its achievements, three members were recognized. These three people exemplified the importance of an unconditional devotion to God and dedication to the Church: Angela Carmen Ramlachan, Denny Seepersad and Keturah Naranjit. Each of them is inspirational, these three have been using their talents, skills and gifts to continue to let God's love shine through them and enlighten all with whom they interact.

The month of September has truly been a month of celebration for the Curepe congregation; they have celebrated the strength of their love, their history, the results of their dedication and one another.



Mrs Angela Carmen Ramlachan receiving a commemorative plaque from Presiding Elder Mr. Larry Kowlessar.



Ms. Denny Seepersad receiving a commemorative plaque from Rev. Emmanuel Ramdeen



Elder Mrs. Keturah Naranjit receiving a commemorative plaque from Reverend Damian Sieunarine.

BORDE NARVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 149TH ANNIVERSARY AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Submitted by Rumonia Drepaulsingh and Cynthia Gobin

The celebration of the 149th Anniversary and Thanksgiving Service of Borde Narve Presbyterian Church in the Barrackpore Pastoral Region on Sunday 22nd September, 2024, at 7.00 a.m. was one of a bittersweet moment. As the congregation celebrated 149 years of worship, we also said farewell to our Minister, the Reverend Manan Deo, who was appointed to the Princes Town Pastoral Region. The service was enhanced with the beautiful renditions of songs by the Susamachar Junior Choir and musical preludes by Mr. Kevin Rabgir on the organ.

Ms. Cynthia Gobin, the Chair of the Local Board, welcomed all to the service and presented a brief history of the Borde Narve Presbyterian Church. This year, the Local Board decided to honor Twelve (12) youths for their Academic Excellence. At the Primary Level (SEA) to Secondary Level, Salim Sookhoo, Joshua Mohamed, Jada Mohamed and Jonathan Roopchan; Secondary (CXC to Cape): Cidney Gangaram, and Gaberiala Beckles; Tertiary Level: Kishanna Seepersad, Delisha Faith Khan, Adam Hosein, Vicky Beckles, Alexis Seepersad and Corina Mohammed.

Leader of worship was Reverend Manan Deo who also delivered the message on the theme, "Stewardship- Faithfully Managing God's Gifts," quoting from Psalm 78: 1-7 read by Alexander Hosein and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 read by Adam Hosein. Offertory prayer was said by Ms. Linda Soogie Kissoon.

Mr John Roopchan shared a moment of reflection and gratitude to Reverend Manan Deo on his faithful and fruitful five (5) years that was rendered to the Borde Narve Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Anita Ramnarine said the vote of thanks and tokens were presented to Reverend Manan Deo and to his beautiful and supportive wife, Mrs. Marilyn Deo.

Benediction, the closing prayer and blessing of the refreshment were done by Reverend Manan Deo after which all members shared in a fellowship breakfast.



ROCHARD DOUGLAS PRES CHURCH BIDS FAREWELL TO REV MANAN DEO

Submitted by Michael Cooper-Ochiengh



Rochard Douglas Presbyterian Church bid farewell to Reverend Manan Deo on Communion Sunday, 14th October 2024.

Reverend Deo served as an Intern Minister in the Barrackpore Pastoral Region in 2018 and 2019.

After his Induction as a Minister in August 2019 his first assignment was to the Barrackpore Pastoral Region where he built a strong relationships with many throughout the region. We thank God for his servant leadership to our members and region and we wish him God's choicest blessings as he moves to the Princes Town Pastoral Region.

GOD BLESS OUR NATION: REPUBLIC DAY SERVICE AT KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Submitted by Jason Sammy, Elder at Knox Presbyterian Church

"God bless our nation, of many varied races." These are some of the words to song "God Bless Our Nation," by Ms. Marjorie Padmore. The song represents the beauty, productivity and bountiful nature of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

On September 22nd, 2024, the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church, celebrated being a Republic Nation with a special service that placed emphasis on praying for the nation and instilling national pride. Members of the congregation were dressed in the national colours of red, white and black.

The service began with a procession into the church with the Chairman, Mr. Curtis Bipat, carrying the national flag. A cross section of the congregation was part of the procession including members of the Sunday School, Youth Group, and PCW Group. While the procession proceeded, the Knox Presbyterian Church Choir sang, "God Bless Our nation," in very patriotic and illustrious way. Reverend Damian Sieunarine delivered the sermon which focused on the love for the nation and seeing God as the creator of this nation.

While a Republic Nation is one in which there is a President as the Head of State and the people decide who leads them, Republicanism also represents the resilience of the citizens against social ills. Republicanism symbolizes the hope of the citizens for a better tomorrow and the ability to overcome obstacles with God's support. In the words of the National Anthem, "... and may God bless our nation..."



NEW CENTURY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

REVIVAL SERVICES

"Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity"

26 November 2024 | Rev. Damien Sieunarine

27 November 2024 | Rev. Robert Dinnoo

28 November 2024 | Rev. Namelia Lutchman-Pulwarty

Leaders of Worship

- Rev. Peter Arjoon
- Deaconess Calpurnia Chance
- P.E Ashford Tamby

TIME: 6:30 P.M



HARVEST THANKSGIVING AT MARABELLA

Submitted by Florabelle Lutchman

"When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands" (Deuteronomy 24:19).

Harvest Thanksgiving - an occasion in our church calendar which reminds us of the importance of giving thanks for all the blessings we have received from God.

At the Wilson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Marabella, this occasion was celebrated on Sunday 22nd September, 2024. Officiating was Mr. Stefan Wilson, Elder of Morton Memorial Presbyterian Church. The church was beautifully decorated with produce of every kind. The church was also filled with members coming out to worship on this special day of thanksgiving.

The service opened with a processional by the Preacher, Leader of Worship and all Elders who walked up with different produce to the altar. The Marabella Steel Orchestra accompanied the processional with 'All my life you have been faithful.'

The Choir sang beautifully: 'Day by Day and with each passing moment strength I find to meet my trials.' Scripture Passages were read by Elders: Ms. Susan Mathura, Mrs. Vashanti Gobin and Mrs. Jennifer Sastoo.



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The Leader of Worship was Elder and Local Board Secretary, Mrs. Florabelle Lutchman.

Both the Choir, and the Marabella Steel Orchestra led by Miss Usha Kesraj and Mr. Marlon Paul thrilled the members of the congregation with their touching and inspirational music in song and on pan.

In his Sermon entitled 'Harvest of Life,' Mr. Wilson spoke of the cruel and selfish world in which we live, but we have decided to give thanks and express our gratitude for all that God has provided for us.

When we harvest in our lives, we must remember that we are called to share with those who may not have. We need to ask ourselves, 'Am I giving generously, honestly and selflessly?'

The Service ended with the closing Hymn- "Let All Things Now Living" followed by the Blessing and Benediction by Mr. Wilson.

Everyone then partook of the produce displayed and gave a small donation.

NARIVA MAYARO PASTORAL REGION SERVICE OF APPRECIATION FOR ELDERS

Submitted by Alisa S. Boochoon, Treasurer of Session.

Sunday 8th September, 2024, was a memorable day for the Elders of the Nariva Mayaro Pastoral Region. At 3:00 p.m., the Rio Claro Presbyterian Church was filled with members and their families from the five churches of the Region: Mafeking, Biche, Navet, Ecclesville and Rio Claro. They gathered together with the church workers of the Region: Reverend Radica Moonoo; P.E. Mr. Martin Sahadath; P.E. Mr. William Gokool and Student Minister, Mr. Brandon Paul, to show appreciation to the elders of the Region.

The air was filled with melodious music from the Penal Rock Presbyterian Church Choir. The choir sang two (2) anthems, 'I will serve the Lord' and 'How great is the feeling' with the sound of the electric guitar echoing through the church.

Leader of Worship, P.E. Mr. Martin Sahadath, led in the Opening Prayer while P.E. Mr. William Gokool said the Prayer of Thanksgiving. Reverend Radica Moonoo, resident Minister, welcomed everyone. Special welcome was extended to Student Minister, Mr. Brandon Paul; the Penal Rock Presbyterian Church Choir and Mr. & Mrs. Sohan (the photographers).

Student Minister, Mr. Brandon Paul, read the scripture passage taken from Galatians 6:1 -10. In her message, Reverend Moonoo encouraged us to "not give up, but look up and live up to your calling." When you sow in the Spirit, you reap in the Spirit. She reminded the congregation that in the absence of the Minister/ Church Worker, an Elder is the Minister.

Galatians 6: 9 tells us not to grow weary while doing good. Once a person has been inducted as an elder he or she will always be an elder. An elder should continue to feed the flock and rewards will follow. The elder should serve to the best of his or her ability and seek God in prayer. All nineteen (19) elders of the Region were presented with a Plaque and a Stole. The elders expressed their gratitude to the Church workers for the appreciation shown to them.

Student Minister Brandon Paul rendered two (2) items on the Steel pan. 'Goodness' of God' and 'Nearer my God to thee.'

P.E. Mr. Martin Sahadath extended thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the Service. Rev. Moonoo dedicated the offering, blessed the refreshment, said the Closing Prayer and pronounced the Benediction.



Church Workers and Elders of The Nariva Mayaro Pastoral Region

MODELS THAT DESCRIBE OUR CHURCHES

Submitted by: Presiding Elder George K. Sammy

(PART 2)

This second article in the series discusses the World View of congregations. As Presbyterians, we are not isolated from the world. We are a part of it, and each congregation views the world in its own way.

Four congregational world views are cited in the textbook *“Studying Congregations:”*

- **The Optimistic World View** expects that everything will work out in the end and the great forces in the world will be harmonized. But this does not mean that we must wait passively for God to fix the world. Paul tells us in Acts 20:35, *“In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*
- **The Romantic World View** sees life as a quest guided by knowledge that comes from an inspired (charismatic) spirit. This likely means the Holy Spirit, since we read in John 16:13 that when *“the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.”*
- **The Tragic World View** believes that the vicissitudes of life lead from apparent success to inevitable crisis and decline. This is a very pessimistic world view that predetermines failure and denies the possibility of success.
- **The Ironic World View** takes life on its own terms, based on empirical facts. While some may see this as pragmatic, it fails to recognize that even in the worst of times God can work miracles in our lives.

Our congregation’s world view strongly influences on how we interact with our society, so understanding our world view is vital to our mission as a Church.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS?

Mr. Stefan Jerome Wilson, Elder of the Morton Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Dearest gentle readers, as this year soon comes to a close, I’ve realized that life can give us many lemons. Something unpleasant or unexpected can turn our lives upside down. We have all been there. But hope is never lost.

You see, the beautiful thing is that in the midst of the storm, God who created, saved and redeemed us has never left nor forsaken us. In these times, through His Son Jesus Christ, he makes his presence known in our lives even more, such that something happens about these lemons:

1. Water is added. The song writer reminds us that the oceans will rise and the thunders will roar, but the Lord soars with us. Psalm 89:9 says, “You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them.” This means that we will expect storms: A family issue? A rocky relationship? A health scare? Work problems? The thing to remember is... we are not alone.
1. Stir the mixture thoroughly. Sometimes whatever we face feels like a whirlwind, a force so great that we feel we are losing our grip or even losing ourselves. Jesus told the disciples who were with him in the boat when the storm raged, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” (Matthew 8:26). It’s easier to forget who we are, and even whose we are. But we must have faith to know that God sees all, and truly knows where He is taking us...we simply need to trust, exercising our faith.
1. Add Sugar. Sometimes we feel abandoned, lost, we may be torn into pieces. We may wonder what’s next. But if it is one thing God’s Word reminds us, is that if we submit to the will of God, his will shall be done. That may also bring a transformation in you, a new perspective, learning from the past and embracing the future, such that the Lord gives you an assurance that as the Psalmist says, “... tho the weeping may endure for a night, joy comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5).

As I close, I ask the question again; what do you do when life gives you lemons? Make lemonade. Till next time, reader! May the Lord be with You.

BOARD OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (BOSR) 2024 STATIONERY OUTREACH PROJECT

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13)

The BOSR, as part of its continuing mandate to assist our primary school children from needy families organized the distribution of three hundred and sixty (360) Stationery Packages to our seventy-two (72) Presbyterian Primary Schools. Each school received five (5) Stationery Packages, three (3) for senior students and two (2) for junior students. These packages comprised a combination of notebooks, copybooks, colouring books, word search books, drawing books, erasers, pens, pencils, rulers and crayons. The distribution took place commencing from the 20th June 2024 just before the July/August vacation and before the return to classes in September.

The BOSR wishes to thank the Principals of our Presbyterian Primary Schools, the General Secretary and the staff at the PCTT office, the Principal and Staff of the SATC, Chairman of the Presbyterian Primary School Board of Education as well as all members of the BOSR and the youth from the Barrackpore Pastoral Region who assisted with packaging and distribution of these packages. The BOSR is also grateful to all members of the PCTT who have generously contributed to the work of the BOSR by giving financial donations throughout the year. The BOSR looks forward to your continued support in administering to the needs of the poor and needy in our society.



BOSR stationery packages being distributed by Mr. Russel Ramlagan BOSR member and Mr. K.B Mitchell of the PPSBoE to Ms. Cynthia Gobin Principal at Inverness Presbyterian School.



Mrs. Carolyn Choon teacher with students at Penal Rock Presbyterian School receiving stationery packages from Rev. Sookansingh.

THE DIAMOND SCHOLARS

Submitted by Dr. Darren Ramsook

The path to growth is never straightforward. I have never heard a success story without failure or tribulations. It is on that broken path where you truly experience God's mercy, your family's love, and the opportunities presented by your environment.

Our parents always ensured that my brother and I stayed grounded in the Church (Diamond Presbyterian) throughout our upbringing, making sure we attended Sunday School services—even on days we didn't feel like going. It was in those classrooms that we learned the lineage and lessons of the Bible, a foundation that would guide us through the challenges ahead.

During our time at Naparima College, we received devastating news. Our father, Davidson, had been involved in an accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Words can't fully capture the trials we faced in the months and years that followed. Each second was filled with uncertainty, each day brought new turbulence, and every month felt like a battle. Yet, through these hardships, we learned the importance of taking life one step at a time.

The true hero of our story is our mother, Debbie Parbhu-Ramsook. She became the glue that held our family together, an emotional cornerstone in our daily lives. I believe her strength and understanding were deeply rooted in her faith and upbringing in the Diamond Presbyterian Church. Through her actions, she taught us what perseverance really means—how to keep going, how to give your best; even when the world seems to be against you.

Her strength and foresight ensured that our education, spiritual growth, and personal development remained a priority. Even when we wanted to give up, she kept us in school. Even when happiness felt out of reach, she found ways to keep us smiling. She sacrificed her own well-being so that we could find contentment. Because of her unwavering dedication, my brother, Dr. Dillon Ramsook, earned his PhD in Process Engineering and

now serves as a professor at the University of Trinidad and Tobago. I, Dr. Darren Ramsook, earned my PhD in Electrical & Electronic Engineering and am currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

Looking back, we see our journey as a single thread woven into God's greater plan. Our father (Davidson Ramsook) taught us how to be strong, and our mother (Debbie Parbhu-Ramsook) showed us what that strength looks like in action, and our heavenly father gave us this opportunity for us to grow.

On behalf of my brother (Dr. Dillon Ramsook, aged 31) and I (Dr. Darren Ramsook, aged 28), we thank God for allowing us this path, and we thank our parents for the upbringing that they gave us.



Dr. Dillon Ramsook



Dr. Darren Ramsook

"TAKE WHAT YOU NEED" CUNUPIA'S PCW HOST SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH DRIVE

Submitted by Sherman Gokool, Cunupia Presbyterian Church

On Saturday, October 5th, 2024, the Presbyterian Church Women's (PCW) group of Cunupia Presbyterian Church organized a remarkable outreach initiative titled: "Take What You Need" at the church's compound on Southern Main Road, Cunupia. This event, rooted in compassion and community service, was a resounding success as the women of the PCW demonstrated what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ in today's world.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the PCW worked tirelessly, collecting a wide array of essential items. From clothing, household goods, toys, and books to toiletries, baby items, and more, the generous contributions from both the congregation and the wider community poured in. The PCW members then carefully sorted and arranged these items in preparation for the outreach event.



On the day of the drive, the collection was made accessible to anyone in need, with the simple invitation: "Take What You Need." People from all walks of life were welcomed to come and select items that would help them meet their immediate needs, fostering a spirit of generosity and dignity. The initiative allowed the PCW to connect with the wider community in a meaningful way, reinforcing the church's commitment to outreach and support for those in challenging circumstances. The "Take What You Need" drive was not only a display of kindness but also a reflection of the PCW's dedication to service, inspired by Christ's teachings. By offering these items free of charge, the women of Cunupia Presbyterian Church reminded the community that even small acts of love can have a big impact.

This initiative serves as a powerful reminder of the role the Church can play in extending care and support to others. The PCW's efforts, with the backing of the Cunupia congregation, helped make a tangible difference in the lives of many, furthering the mission of spreading hope and compassion. May this drive inspire more acts of kindness and outreach within our community, as we continue to live out our faith in meaningful ways.

CANAAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ANNIVERSARY

Service

Come join us for an evening of celebration and fellowship.

SUNDAY
17TH NOVEMBER 2024
5:00 PM

Dinner will be served.

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ST. AUGUSTINE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL AND HILLVIEW COLLEGE SHINE AT THE 17TH CHINESE BICENTENNIAL ARRIVAL DAY DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL

Submitted by Sherman Gokool Teacher III St. Augustine Girls' High School



The vibrant waters of Chaguaramas Broad Walk came alive on the weekend of October 12-13, 2024, as teams from across Trinidad and Tobago gathered for the 17th Chinese Bicentennial Arrival Day Dragon Boat Festival. Among the standout competitors were the St. Augustine Girls' High School Dragon Boat Team, the SAGHS Sea Serpents, and the Hillview College Dragon Boat Team, Hyperion. Their remarkable performances not only showcased their athletic prowess but also highlighted the spirit of teamwork and dedication nurtured within our schools.

The Dragon Boat Festival is more than just a competition; it is a celebration of the rich cultural heritage that binds us. The event pays homage to the arrival of Chinese immigrants to Trinidad and Tobago, reflecting the diversity and unity of our nation. For both the SAGHS Sea Serpents and Hillview Hyperion participating in this festival is an opportunity to connect with this heritage while fostering friendships and camaraderie among athletes from various schools.

The achievements of the SAGHS Sea Serpents and Hillview Hyperion are a direct result of countless hours of training, teamwork, and unwavering support from coaches and families. The athletes demonstrated resilience and determination, qualities that will serve them well both on and off the water.

As we celebrate these achievements, let us acknowledge the dedication of the coaches and supporters who helped nurture these young athletes. Their commitment to excellence has not only led to success in competition but also instilled valuable life lessons in teamwork, discipline, and perseverance.

In the fiercely contested races, both teams made their mark, demonstrating their hard work and commitment. The results from the weekend were a testament to their skill and determination.

- **21 and Under Open Small Boat**
- 1st Place: Hillview College Hyperion
- 2nd Place: Presentation San Fernando Vikings
- 3rd Place: Trinity Won Ton Warriors

- **16 and Under Open Small Boat**
- 1st Place: Hillview College Hyperion
- 2nd Place: QRC bluebloods
- 3rd Place: Presentation San Fernando Vikings

- **21 and Under All-Female Small Boat**
- 1st Place: St. Joseph Convent Wavebreakers
- 2nd Place: SAGHS Sea Serpents
- 3rd Place: Holy Name Convent Water Dragons

- **21 and Under All-Female Standard Boat**
- 1st Place: St. Joseph Convent Wavebreakers
- 2nd Place: SAGHS Sea Serpents



• **16 and Under All- Female**

1st Place SAGHS Sea Serpents

These impressive results not only highlight the competitive spirit of our students but also their ability to excel in a challenging and exhilarating sport. As we reflect on this year's Dragon Boat Festival, the successes of the SAGHS Sea Serpents and Hillview Hyperion inspire us to continue fostering the spirit of sportsmanship and community among our schools. With a bright future ahead, we look forward to seeing these teams continue to grow, compete, and excel in the years to come.

In Loving Memory



SOMARIAH MOOTOO

"Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near; still loved, still missed, and very dear." – Unknown

Sunrise: 27.7.1942.

Sunset: 19.11.2020.

Lovingly remembered by her children
Marilyn, Shirley, Clyde, Marian,
Ronald and Susan.

Her grandchildren, greatgrandchildren,
siblings, family, relations and friends.
Former Congregational member of the
Morning Star Presbyterian of Fyzabad.



PHILLIP MAHADEO RAMDEEN.

Sunrise: 25 01 1939

Sunset : 17 10 2023

Phillip was an active member of
Susamachar Presbyterian Church.

Devoted husband, father and
grandfather

From Judy (wife)

Ria and Lisa (daughters)

Dirk (Son in law)

Tyler, Alexander, Dominic, William and
Luca. (grand sons)

To live in the hearts of those you loved
is not to die.



RAMLAGAN SEEDIAL

Sunrise: 4 August 1930

Sunset: 11 November 2008

*A special person, a special
face.*

From: Your wife Ivy.

*Children - Angela, Kenny,
Michael, Ann and Denzil.*

Grandchildren of 11

Great Grand of 4 and

Other Relatives and Friends



PAULINA DOOKIE

Sunrise: 24 Jan 1941 - Sunset: 10 Oct 1999

Loving Memories never die

As years roll on and days pass by

In our hearts a memory is kept

Of one we loved

And will never forget.

You will always be a part of us

Paulina dearest

Former member of Ecclesville Pres. & Grant
Lal Behari(Corinth) Pres, Church.

Lovingly remembered by children: Nia and

Navin, Daughter in law Sheri and 5

granddaughters, brothers & sisters, nieces
& nephews, relatives & friends.

To live in the hearts of those you loved is
not to die.



FRANKLIN MOHAMMED

Sunrise: 08.04.1938

Sunset: 30.11.2023

Loving Remembered By:

Children: Lyndon & Loraine

Daughter In Law: Jennifer

Son In Law: Shaun

Grandchildren: Josiah & Kaitlyn

Many relatives & friends

"Safe in the arms of Jesus"



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LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES Year C

Many churches are used to lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. This is written for that tradition, using scriptures for the day from the Revised Common Lectionary.

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath.

To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT: HOPE

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.
We light this candle in hope. Light the first candle.

Hear God's promise of hope from **Jeremiah 33:14-16**:

Let us pray:

Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT: PEACE

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.
We light this candle in hope. Light the first candle.
We light this candle for peace. Light the second candle.

Hear Zechariah's song of hope for peace to the Christ child.

A reading from Luke 1:76-79:

Let us pray:

God of hope, Prince of Peace, You speak peace into the world in the Way of the Christ child. Help us embody your peace and live as peacemakers that we may called children of God. God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT: JOY

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.
We light this candle in hope. Light the first candle.
We light this candle for peace. Light the second candle.
We light this candle in joy! Light the third candle.

To those who live as exiles from home in a dark time, to those enslaved as exiles due to others' oppression, to those who are sin's exiles from their best God-promised selves, the Lord speaks the joy of good news. A reading from Zephaniah Reader 1: **Zephaniah 3:14-17**.

Reader 2: **Zephaniah 3:18-20**.

Let us pray:

(Isaiah 12:2-4, Philippians 4:4)
Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT: Love

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!
Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.
We light this candle in hope. Light the first candle.
We light this candle for peace. Light the second candle.
We light this candle in joy! Light the third candle.
We light this candle with love. Light the fourth candle.
Hear again the Word of the Lord drawn from Zephaniah 3:17

Let us pray:

God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, Teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world. God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come.

CHRISTMAS EVE/ CHRISTMAS DAY FIFTH CANDLE: CHRIST CANDLE

We have watched;
we have waited in hope.
Light the first candle.
for peace.
Light the second candle.
in joy!
Light the third candle.
with love.
Light the fourth candle.

Now our redemption draws near! The Christ candle (the center white candle) is lit.

Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 9:2-7

Glory to God in the highest!
Aleluia!
Amen!