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## BOYA Youth Convention 2009 @ Himalaya Club

**W**ell, what to say? Papa jus when you tink dat BOYA done, dey hold dis grand ting at Himalyah Club and boy...it was de best!

It was enlightening; it was fun; Rev. Nicole had the rally jamming for Jesus; De Riddim section and the band had the beat right on; the Rev. Elahie spoke well and the young lady Allison Bidaisee did a good job of helping youth understanding LOVE from a Christian perspective; and the singing was great; and the young people march around the gathering. And the drama was so touching that the ladies had to wipe tears away!!

It was so much of everything that the only thing that was needed was more time. It was hard to imagine that the event was about six hours long! Were these the same young people who often complained if the service was too long? Surely the church workers present would have asked that question, and there were many there. There was the Moderator; Rev's Paul; Sammah; Anthony Rampersad; Chance; Adrian Sieunarine and more. Kimberley was in the driver's seat most of the time, and Keron and Errol were also there. Deaconess Ashmin had a ball and Ria Seecharan was mellow at the rear.

*Continued on page 5*

## Moderator Speaks - Use your power wisely

### Homily given at Naparima College 2009 Graduation

In Micah, Chapter 3, the writer expresses disappointment as regards the leadership methods which were being used during his time. He was dissatisfied with leaders from every sphere including religious leaders.

He witnessed the abuse of power by rulers and prophets, in an effort to make a sharp contrast between what was being practiced and what ought to have been practiced, he said "But as for me, I am filled with power, with the spirit of the Lord and with justice and might."

Naparima College has produced notable graduates – a just and noble president, wise individuals who have been part of the justice system, doctors of world class and standard, agriculturists and environmentalists, artists and sculptors, dramatists and radio broadcasters, sportsmen, writers, poets and educators and the list goes on and on.

These have been truly powerful people and I suggest to you today that each one of you has the capacity to become a powerful individual. However as you aim towards becoming powerful individuals, some fundamental questions have to be addressed.

#### 1. How is power defined?

For some, "power is the capacity to influence by coercion". By coercion, I mean manipulation to a desired end. This can take the form of policy positions, legislation and the abuse of democratic processes that are void of transparency. It can also manifest itself in the creation of a dependency culture where freedom is stifled and expression and dialogue hindered.

On the other hand, some define power to mean "the capacity to influence by love". And here by the use of the word, love, we imply "an extension of self for the growth and development of all". You will have to choose therefore, the way you defined power for it will determine

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9*



whether or not we make a difference in a country where we are singing, chanting, praying and hoping that better days are coming.

#### 2. Another question that we have to address is, "what is the purpose of this power"?

The purpose of power is to empower. To empower means to create a community of leaders, a community of equals, a community where justice is not relativised based on who is defining it. The purpose of power in our context is to create a unanimous voice that echoes the sound of nationhood where every voice is melodious in spite of the string from which it is played. By that I mean, imputing dignity in all the tasks and functions people perform and by establishing processes by which people can become the best at what they do.

#### 3. A final question that we need to address as we aim towards becoming powerful individuals is, "How would you know that you had been truly powerful?"

You would have been truly powerful, when your ideology and philosophy would not have been confined to when you were in office. Your worth would not have been limited to the chair upon which you sat. You would continue to have the power to influence as long as you live and even after. Thus the world will continue to be inspired and influenced by powerful beings who have walked the earth – Jesus of Nazareth, Mother Theresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

You the Graduating Class will make all the difference. You are and you will be holders of power. How will you define it?

*The Rt.Rev.Elvis Elahie*



## Editorial: Rise up on wings as eagles

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Planning Committee of the Board of Youth Affairs' for a splendid job in organizing the National Presbyterian Youth Convention held on Saturday 24th October 2009 at the Himalaya Club in Barataria. It was obvious to all that a lot of planning and hard work went into this event. The crowd of approximately seven hundred youth, parents, leaders and church workers reacted with enthusiasm and fervor and were obviously enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship. Needless to say the praise and worship songs were infectious and encouraged by our ecumenical friend, the Rev. Nicole Ashwood (Jamaica, CANACOM), with a little help from student minister, Mr. Colin Lezama. Indeed, the church was untied! The Convention was the climax of a series of smaller youth gatherings held at the Pastoral Region level which, also was effective in mobilizing our church's youth. Kudos to those who planned at this level as well.

There was one striking feature that needs to be highlighted. Almost all the young people who planned, led or participated in the various segments were all students enrolled in University or other post-secondary institution. For example, of the two liturgical dancers one graduated from UWI on Saturday 31st October 2009, while the other is a 2nd Year Medical Student. They represent a growing number of young people within the PCTT who continue to keep church (and Jesus) an important part of their lives, in spite of tough study regimens. This augurs well for the future leadership of the PCTT. This observation is not meant to disregard the efforts of young people who enter the workforce right after High School. The point is that our young people are becoming more educated and more aware of local and global issues. They now need



to be trained to engage in theological reflection so that they can articulate a faith position on these situations. This what the church needs now! We need to challenge our young people to start reading some serious theology. The PCTT has to move rapidly and appoint a National Youth Director. A job description has already been prepared by the Judicial Committee and needs the ratification of the Synod.

I believe that we are in an exciting time in our church's history. We are finally becoming an indigenous church! Led by our youth, we are re-discovering ourselves as God's people who have unique gifts for ministry.

I am of the belief that our young people can hold their own at any international ecumenical youth event. Over the past seven years or so, some of our young people have represented the PCTT at regional and international events and have even taken leadership roles at these forums. So maybe it's time that BOYA through the Synod link up with the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF). The WSCF is over a hundred years old and is one of the precursors of the World Council of Churches. The WSCF has also nurtured many youth who eventually become world ecumenical leaders. Our secondary schools do well academically. The WSCF can provide many more opportunities for ecumenical growth for our youth.

Let us then as a church encourage our young people to "rise up on wings as eagles". *Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah*

*"Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4*

## The Trinidad Presbyterian: Communications Committee

The Trinidad Presbyterian, established in 1904, is the official organ of the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad and Tobago, founded in 1868 by Rev. John Morton.

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N.B. – Extra copies of the T.P are supplied at no cost. As an outreach ministry, the Committee suggests that these be given out to offices (police stations, doctor's offices etc) and businesses in the community.

## Take time to be Holy

When does 2009 end? Well, on midnight of December 31 of course. But if you look at some other religions you would discover Sept 19 was the beginning of the Jewish New Year, October 18-19 beginning of the Hindu New Year, and December 18 will be the beginning of the Islamic New Year.

In the Jewish calendar we are in the year 5770. The Islamic calendar is dated from 622 C.E. the year the prophet Muhammad made the Hajj to Medina...

But there is another important question for the Christian to consider. When does the Liturgical Year 2009 end? It ends on November 22 with the celebration of Christ the King. The new Liturgical Year 2010 begins on November 29 with the celebration of the First Sunday of Advent. We prepare ourselves during the Advent period of four weeks for the coming of the Child Jesus. Even though the malls are shouting to us to begin our Christmas shopping from the beginning of November, we first mark the Advent Season and then the Christmas Season.

Perhaps you are among those who think all of this is not relevant to preaching the Word as the Spirit leads. But you see we live in time, time lives in us and all of us note time. Time is also taking its toll on our bodies and senses. We also spend time and waste time. The hymn writer invites us to "Take time to be holy" and I also suggest 'take time as holy.' In the Bible there are festivals the Israelites are commanded to celebrate. These are to be celebrated so that generations would not forget the religious history of the nation, the blessings of a God of Salvation and a God of Mercy and Forgiveness. The devout Jews have special

prayers and blessings for every special need and event. There are also prayers for daily use, for example when you leave home and when you return.

Let us think about our Sunday Worship. It's the Lord's Day not the traditional Sabbath. The Sabbath is the day of rest, reflection and it ends with thankfulness and joy. It reminds one that God 'rested' from His work of Creation and thus it is a sanctified day. But it is a reminder that time is holy, and thus when the Sabbath is observed one is really emphasizing the fact that God gives every day as a gift. Similarly when one worships on Sunday, the Lord's Day, one is proclaiming faith in the Resurrection of the Lord. One is saying "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow" and I believe not only Christ has come into the world but Christ is risen from death. Sunday is a day to celebrate victory over evil and sin. Death has no more stings. The message of Sunday must continue throughout every day of the week to inspire and encourage us.

The Liturgical Readings for 2010 are readily available and are definitely worth your reflection as you prepare your sermons. You will notice 2010 is called Year 2 and the Sunday readings belong to C. (We complete the B readings on November 22) these lessons from the Old and New Testaments follow an ecumenical pattern. Don't you find it a blessing that as you read a Sunday lesson, whether it is from the Old or New Testament, you can say to yourself and to one another, millions within the Christian community are also reading those same words from whatever translation they may choose?

Rev. Everson T. Sieunarine

## Congrats to Daniel Seucharan on his 100th Birthday!



Congratulations go out to Mr. Daniel Seucharan who celebrated his 100th birthday on the 21st July 2009 in Toronto, Canada. The grand occasion was blessed with his children, grandchildren, and numerous family and friends, singing and reminiscing on old times.

Mr. Seucharan, who grew up in Ta-

baquite, retired as principal in 1969 from the Jordan Hill Presbyterian School. He and his family are long standing, well known members of the La Romaine Presbyterian Church. The family would like to thank all those who sent greetings and best wishes to Mr. Seucharan.

Jasmine Seucharan-Deolal

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." **Isaiah 41:10**

## Harvest at St Andrew's Princes Town

Bring back the old times days to MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.

We at St Andrew's in Princes Town have chosen to introduce a method used in the old times days in our annual harvest. Now this maybe, used to be how the churches in the bible used to have their harvest. We felt that today, many people don't plant crops, but almost everybody does some cooking.



sphere of fellowship was felt that morning. As you can see, the idea and food were well appreciated.

Harvest 2009 was a tremendous success at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The offerings that were presented and the multitude of God's children present was a clear indication that the Spirit of the Lord continues to grow.

Chelsea Nanan

We asked all who were unable to bring produce to cook a dish and bring it. It was well accepted by all, potato, bodi, pumpkin, baghi and roti were prepared all to feed two hundred people. Juice and coffee were also available. The dishes prepared were used to have a brunch after the service.

Our service was inspiring and the message was delivered by Rev Dr Randall Sammah on FAITH. We were reminded of the importance in having Faith in the Lord. An atmo-

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." **1 Matthew 9:37**



## BOYA Youth Convention 2009 (Continued from page 1)

Well we really can't tell everything so we want you to check the pictures. But, we must give special thanks to Rev. Nicole Ashwood for the heavy praise and worship session accompanied by De Riddim section and La Romain/ Debe Praise and Worship Band.

Rev. Ashwood was here for the CANACOM meeting and with her were Garth Blackford, Lesline Laing and Chelsea Mastermann. They all added their bit to make the day fun and love. ( We even learned how to make a rainstorm!)

Thanks and congratulations to the planners. The Moderator, BOYA, Mrs. Tara Lalgee as chairperson of BOYA and all the ministers, workers, elders and parents and maxi drivers who put energies together to make this such a fantastic day. Do it again people!

Kendrick Sooknarine

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## S.P.C.S.O. Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

One Saturday morning in June, 1999, a group of curious, young strangers were gathered in the Church Hall at Susamachar Presbyterian Church. We were all there for the same reason. We had heard, by various ways that, there was a pan class starting in the church.

At this time, there was no such thing in the Presbyterian Church. This novel idea started as a dream of Mr. George Poliah, who wanted to introduce a different kind of music into the Presbyterian Church. He thought of doing this by integrating our national instrument into church services. His idea would have remained just that, a dream, if not for the support of Rev. Joy and the Local Board of Susamachar.

We started from the very basics of music and steelpan, using only a blackboard and 2 tenor pans, one of them being George's own pan. Slowly but surely, we progressed from playing the scale, C major to Yellow Bird and other songs. Within a few short months, a room full of strangers who were learning to play a musical instrument was transformed into a band of friends playing sweet songs on steel-pans, who today are a family. We were all eager to share our newfound way of praising God through music, with the congregation, and on Sunday the 3rd October, 1999, the SPCSO was officially launched. That morning, the steel-pans were set up on the chancel at the very front of the church. Following the launching and dedication, a group of 12 scared musicians took their places behind the various instruments and we bravely played "Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee" which was loudly applauded by the congregation. This gave us the encouragement to continue God's work.

Immediately, practice every Sunday morning and playing for monthly communion became the norm for the band. We had only played for communions until 2000 when Rev. Joy asked us to play for her wedding and the reception at St. Michaels. Before long, we were playing for other special church services, Christmas pageants, weddings, and also for other churches. Also in 2000, we played for the Presbyterian Convention in the Centre of Excellence. This was by far, the largest gathering of people we had ever played for. Throughout the years, we have also lent a hand to our fellow musicians within the community who have hosted concerts and other shows. Most notably, we were part of the musical repertoire of the concert 'No Greater Love' put on by the Southern Presbyterian Chorale. The experience of being in such a production pushed us to aspire to become better musicians.

Apart from these, we have also been in the recording studio 4 times in order to capture the beauty and versatility of our music. The first time was in 2000, where the SPCSO, together with other musical groups of this church



Members of the S.P.C.S.O. who conducted the Worship Service on Sunday 18th October 2009 in celebration of its 10th Anniversary.

compiled the CD, "Inspirations," a Sacred Liturgy. A mere 2 years after our inception we had risen to the challenge of producing the high quality of music fit to be recorded. In 2003, we launched the CD "Nostalgic Melodies," which sought to capture the soft, soothing and relaxing side of our

music. This also provided the foundation for our playing at weddings and other events where contemporary music was more suitable. In 2005, we launched "Praises on Steel". This CD was meant for the listener to meditate on praising God. It brought the sounds of church into the homes of the congregation members. Lastly, or most recent production was "For Our Friends At Christmas Time" in 2007. This captured the sweet, innocent sounds of Christmas time in a way that could only be portrayed on steelpan. Each CD has been the culmination of many months of hard work and dedicated practice. The hours were long both before, during and after the recording sessions but it all paid off in the end, in seeing your delight in these.

At this, the 10th anniversary of the SPCSO, we truly have a lot to be thankful for. Firstly we must thank God for all his countless mercies that he has bestowed on the band. We are continued to be blessed to reach where we are today. Next, we must say kudos and congratulations to George for having the insight and taking the initiative to guide us to where we are today. Also, the band would not have started if not for Rev. Joy. She helped this revolutionary idea become a reality and for this we would always be grateful. Additionally, the band would not have been able to continue our mission in music without the guidance of the various ministers of Susamachar Presbyterian Church. We also need to acknowledge Mr. Glenn Sookhoo, Chairman and the members of the Local Board of this church. Their continued support and direct assistance have helped us to grow from a single tenor pan to this vibrant band you see in front of you today. Lastly, but very importantly, we must thank you the loving and encouraging congregation who have supported us every step of the way. From that first Sunday in October 1999 to today 2009, you have always been our number one fans. Your continued support in every venture we undertake, CDs concerts and even church services like these is greatly appreciated. Also, your kind words of encouragement mean so much to us.

Today, I have shared a little bit of our beginnings and history with you. We have all worked hard to reach where we are, but yet still we are growing and improving daily. I know that the legacy of the Susamachar Presbyterian Church Steel Orchestra will live on for many, many years to come.

Sitara Bachan

## Nanans celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Winston and Milly Nanan of the Latchu Memorial Presbyterian Church, Bamboo Village, Bamboo celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 15th August 2009 at their home in Bamboo Village with a special Thanksgiving Service.

The service was conducted by Rev. Anna Sharma, Presiding Elder David Nath and Rev. Cyril Paul. Members of the family assisted in the conduct of the service.

The highlight of the Thanksgiving Service was the Renewal of Vows by Winston and Milly. In his remarks to the very large gathering, Winston eloquently attributed the success of their marriage to several factors:

- 1) The guidance and blessing of Almighty God.
- 2) He and Milly always showed understanding and appre-



- 3) Their willingness to work hard and to be contented with what they had.
- 4) God blessed them with very good children who supported all family ventures.
- 5) Their involvement in the life of the Church.

The Nanans operate Nanan's Bird Sanctuary Tours. Over the past sixty (60) years they have taken thousands of foreigners and locals to visit the Caroni Bird Sanctuary and they continue to do so.

Congregations and Church Members can reach them @ 645-1305.

**Online Presbyterians:**  
[www.presbyterianchurchtt.org](http://www.presbyterianchurchtt.org)

## Bittersweet Orientation Service at SATC

On September 4th 2009, an overcast afternoon greeted those who graced the 'Hill' for the opening of the new academic year. Yet the weather could not dampen the spirit of the newly registered sole Tertiary Institution of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago. Students, lecturers and supporters of the College filled the Chapel where we were ably called to worship in song by first year ministerial student Colin Lezama, who set the tone for a most memorable worship lead by the Principal Rev. Joy Evelyn Abdul-Mohan.

The service was filled with the spirit of ecumenism as students from the Methodist, Anglican, and Presbyterian Churches took part, creating the right atmosphere for the Rev. Cyril Paul to proclaim God's message. He reminded us that in times of Beginnings we must be thankful for those who have laid the foundation but never forget that change is inevitable. With these changes there will be questions asked by many, "Am I ready to commit to new responsibilities? Am I comfortable with everything I am hearing about this new beginning? Am I feeling threatened somewhat by all the changes which must inevitably take place?" Yet these questions must be trumped by the belief that God loves new beginnings and with our initiative in starting something new God will give us the Grace and Blessings to finish gloriously.

Very meaningful and encouraging greetings were brought by Dr. Jennifer Yamin-Ali on behalf of the Board of Directors and Mr. Alvin Seereeram, General Secretary on behalf of the Moderator of Synod, who was unavoidably absent. The evening though blessed indeed was bitter sweet, for Former Head Students Kimberly Ramlochan and Keron Khellawan were given the task of paying tribute on behalf of the College, to a lady who gave her all to the College, Ms. Patricia Clarke. Thirty nine (39) years ago she began her work and saw many students come and go, and yes she was more than a secretary, she was a mother to many, a friend and a worker par excellence.

Following SATC's tribute to Ms Clarke, the Principal of SATC presented her with a token of appreciation and all present were treated with some delicious refreshments. We at SATC say thanks to 'Pat' for her longstanding service and in the same breath invite all who are interested in formal theological study or equipping oneself biblically for service, to come to the Hill and engage in an intellectual and spiritual encounter.

Student Minister Keron Khellawan

## Aramalaya clears the Air on proposed A-CARE Centre

### Correction of Article - New Visions: Kirkpatrick Park, Tunapuna

The Aramalaya Pastoral Region would like to set the record straight regarding an article published on page 17 of the September 2009 issue of The Trinidad Presbyterian entitled "New Visions: Kirkpatrick Park, Tunapuna".

This article, the contents of which are also in scores of e-mails and flyers, was evidently printed by The Trinidad Presbyterian in error from an unsolicited e-mail that is being bombarded into many inboxes. The sender, Ms. Sally Rampersad a.k.a. Sally Radford HAS NOT received any approval from any PCTT body to construct any facility on church lands in the Tunapuna area or elsewhere. Ms. Rampersad has ignored PCTT polity in promoting her "project". To date she has never provided any blueprint, any financial planning documents, or identified any project team to any PCTT body. In many other opinioned letters and e-mails she has also claimed to be pursuing other similar "projects". Ms. Rampersad resides in the UK and attends services at the Aramalaya Presbyterian Church during her brief stays in Trinidad.

For the record the authorized facility being pursued is the Aramalaya Communal Assisted Retiree Embrace (or A-CARE) Centre. This facility will be a home and activity centre for senior citizens on PCTT lands on Cochrane Street in Tunapuna. Ms. Rampersad is not on the project team for this project. The A-CARE project has progressed within the protocols of the system of approval under which the PCTT operates. It been intently discussed by the Aramalaya congregation and has already received the written approval of the Aramalaya Session, the Northern Presbytery and the Synod. A comprehensive 30 page booklet outlining all facets of the project has been produced and is being channeled for the ongoing review of all stakeholders. It includes 5 pages of blueprints and details on project objectives, management structure, staffing and of course budgeting.

The Chairman of the 14 member A-CARE project team is Mr. Ralph Sampath and includes specialists in various fields, including project management, social services, financing, and of course construction. As requested by the Synod, it also includes 2 representatives from the Northern Presbytery.

The A-CARE facility will consist of two buildings of three levels and will include 38 apartments with en suite kitchenette and toilet/bath, a mini-mart, coffee shop, library, internet café, a laundry and a medical attendant bay. All levels will have elevator access and all 38 apartments will have a window to the outside. The ground level will have an internal street and garden. Particular care is being un-

dertaken to ensure that pleasant communal, recreational and ethical living conditions are achieved. The centre will also be used to provide wellness, spiritual, physical therapy, walk-in adult education and other skills enhancement activities. Needless to state, there is already a large demand for occupancy.

With a floor area of 23,818 square feet and a construction cost of \$1,083.21 p.s.f. the facility is estimated to cost \$25.8 million dollars. Like any project of this size and nature all financing details and operating costs are being acutely planned, managed and reported. Even gratuity for staff has already been budgeted. The Division of Aging, Ministry of Social Development, Culture and Gender Affairs of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GOTT) has been consulted on this project and is extremely interested in the output of the A-CARE Project team, as it is their desire to use this facility as a model for future similar government projects. The GOTT will also be assisting with financing.

Members, adherents and friends of the PCTT are warned to distant themselves from any "building project" pursued by Ms. Sally Rampersad a.k.a. Ms. Sally Radford, particularly when it comes to the solicitation of funds - There IS NO Kirkpatrick Park facility or any other building project approved or even under any consideration by any PCTT body to which Ms. Sally Rampersad is a prime affiliate.

For further information on the A-CARE project please contact the Minister or Session of the Aramalaya Pastoral Region or send your e-mail comments or questions to [aramalayassessiontt@yahoo.com](mailto:aramalayassessiontt@yahoo.com). The Synod's Office can also provide contact information for members of the project team.

*Anthony R. Sampath, Clerk of Session,  
Aramalaya Pastoral Region.*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:  
The above article is reproduced as sent by  
Mr. Sampath.**

**We did recheck and it is not obvious that TP encouraged either the solicitation or the receipt of funds for Sally's project. In fact, this may never become a project. It may remain just an idea or a vision.**

**We were not aware, and did not report that this was a project on church lands.**

**We therefore encourage all readers to confirm the validity of projects they are asked to donate money towards.**

**We thank Aramalaya for this clarification and wish them the best in their efforts.**

## Hillview College: Graduation Ceremony 2009



- "Remember your greatest strength is knowing that you are a child of God,
- Dare to dream great dreams,
- Always show compassion for the weak and downspirited,
- Let humility be the foundation of your life
- You are a part of us, just as we are a part of you.
- Go with our blessings and our love"

These were the words of the Principal, Mr. Leslie Mahase, which inspired graduates at Hillview's Graduation on Thursday, 8th October, 2009. Celebrating nine scholarships, 88% of Fifth Form graduates and 97% of our Sixth Form graduates receiving full certificates.

The graduation was chaired by Presiding Elder and Chairman of the Administrative Committee, Mr. Larry Kowlesar, whose opening remarks were inspired by the school's motto "Humani Nihil Alienum," (which translates "Nothing concerning humanity is alien to me") stirred school spirit and infused a vision for the future of the young graduates. The feature address was presented by renowned author, Mr. Clifford Narinesingh, whose profound message to graduates encouraged a focus on all round intellectual development of the individual.

Past Principal, the late Mr. Stephen Seepersad was affectionately remembered and honoured. Mrs Berla Seepersad was presented with a token of appreciation on behalf of her late husband for the monumental role he played in building and shaping the culture of Hillview College. Mr. Robert Ramsahai, Vice Principal was applauded and congratulated for his 36 years of dedicated service to Hillview College.

Reverend Cyril Paul, the school chaplain, offered prayers of blessing and guidance to the graduates and the Moderator, the Right Reverend Elvis Elahie, shared spiritual words of wisdom in his greetings from the church, offering the graduates the opportunity to consider how they should define "power." Nicholas Morris, the valedictorian, carried everyone on a nostalgic journey into school life, empowering his fellow graduates to embrace the future with hope. Special mention and heartfelt best wishes are extended to our two Presbyterian scholarship winners, Nikolai G. Suchit and Steffan L. Ramlogan.

We truly hope that from Hillview they will face the world with visions new!

*Hillview College*



## 105 Years of Christian Witness and Work at Cunaripo



The Cunaripo congregation of the Guaico Pastoral Region celebrated 105 years of Christian witness and work on Saturday 19th September 2009. The occasion was marked by an Anniversary & Thanksgiving Service of at the Cunaripo Presbyterian School, where services have been held since the demolition of the church building in 2008. The Cunaripo congregation have embarked on a church-building project, which is presently in the early stages of construction. The lack of a church building clearly does not dampen the enthusiasm of this group of Presbyterians. Rather, it was evident to those who attended the service that the congregation comprises a group of Christian people who demonstrate a deep and abiding love for the Lord, and a firm commitment to, and trust in His will and purpose.

The stirring rendition of the introit "Lord of the Church" set the tone for a spirit-filled worship experience, and the prayers, hymns, anthems and selected scripture readings all focussed on the guidance and blessings of Almighty God throughout the years gone by. Worship leader was the Chairman of the Local Board, Mrs. Patricia Lutchman. Secretary of the Local Board, Mrs. Josephine Sam, led the congregation through a glimpse backward into history, reminding them of the sacrifices and pioneering spirit of the early church workers, both lay and ecclesiastical. Ministers of the calibre of founding father, Reverend Dr. John Morton, his son, Reverend Harvey Morton, Reverend Ethelbert Samaroo, Reverend John Gibson, Reverend Everson Sieunarine, Reverend Geraldine Reid, Reverend Albert Bailey, Reverend Victor Ramlal and Reverend Kenrick Sooknarine all played a role in leading this congregation. Tribute was paid to them for their efforts.

As part of the celebration, several young persons of the congregation were honoured for academic achievement: Laura Sooklal, Shivana Sam and Amanda Poyah, all of whom recently completed bachelor's degrees at UWI. Also

honoured, both for his ministerial duties and as an exemplar of academic excellence himself, was Reverend Adrian Sieunarine, current minister.

The highlight of the service, the sermon, delivered by Rev. Sieunarine, was based on the sixteenth chapter of the book of Romans, in which the Apostle Paul recognizes certain individuals for their labours in the Lord's service. Rev. Sieunarine pointed out that while, to us, the reading may seem like just a list of names, it is so much more. In another 105 years, when our time has passed, others may read of the contributions made by us, and the very inclusion of our names in such a list will tell of our work, our mission, our task, our witness and our calling, for we will have then been recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life.

In true Presbyterian tradition, fellowship and the sharing of comestibles followed the service. As I ventured out into the now darkened evening, I reflected on the goodness of our God, who put things in motion so that many years ago, in a tiny village named Cunaripo, a powerless people might come to learn, through dedicated men and women from faraway Canada, of the Good News, and in the process, shower blessings unparalleled on us all.  
*Jesslyn Ramlal*

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## SAGHS: Graduation Ceremony 2009



**O**n the morning of Thursday 15th October 2009, the St. Augustine Girls' High School community marked the achievements of the past academic year at its annual graduation ceremony.

The school's auditorium was elegantly decorated in royal blue and accented with pale gold. Graduates of the Advanced Proficiency classes were attired in white dresses while the younger graduates wore shades of pink and lilac. The mood was solemn yet celebratory.

Chairman of the proceedings, and current Chairman of the school's Administrative Committee, Mr. Reynold Baldeosingh, as well as current Chaplain Reverend Anna Sharma, our past Chaplain and friend of the school Reverend Cyril Paul, and School Supervisor 1, Mr. Aaron Ramrattan, all offered meaningful contributions to the programme.

The principal, Mrs. Kathleen Anderson warmly welcomed parents of the graduates and prizewinners as well as other specially invited guests, including past Principal, Dr. Anna Mahase, and former First Lady Mrs. Zalayhar Hassanali. Her comprehensive principal's report for 2007-2008 included a tribute to founding member, Mrs. Beatrice Nobbie, who is no longer with us.

This year's graduation ceremony was unique: the coveted President's Gold Medal had come our way. In place of the usual address by a feature speaker, Miss Nadimah Mohammed, winner of the prestigious award, offered her thoughts on school life at SAGHS. In her words:

"The foundation for our successes today was cast more

than fifty years ago. It has been reinforced and perfected over decades to produce an institution which surpasses the limits of the definition of a "school". St. Augustine Girls' High School stands as the realization of a dream for girls and women in Trinidad and Tobago. It is the epitome of excellence, hard work and a commitment to the power of education in shaping our destinies. This ladies and gentlemen is the real achievement. This is the achievement that we must celebrate above all. Our individual achievements and our individual selves are enhancing threads in the fabric of this institution and it is in our collective beauty that we shine most brightly. To borrow from Aristotle, the whole is certainly more than just the sum of its parts."

Miss Mohammed also spoke with passion on the place of the SAGHS graduate in the community and in society at large. Her remarks deserve attention:

"It is the characteristic of only the weak to turn away from the battlefield when the horn is sounded for action. We have been made strong and capable. Though the armies of obstacles and challenges brandish their swords in our faces, we must hoist the flag of that common dream for our nation. We must charge forward with the hunger for a better tomorrow for our generation and generations to come.

"Though in the future we may sit at desks in far-off lands, let the image of the child living with AIDS in Trinidad ignite a fire within our pens to re-write his destiny. Whether we speak at board meetings or in grand assemblies, let our voices be rallying calls to herald change in Trinidad and Tobago. Wherever we may be in the world, let our hearts lead us back to this land that has birthed us.

"Undoubtedly, we will have the power to define the future as we move into every aspect of the professional world. Let us have the courage and the strength to be of those soldiers who will strive for the betterment of our society. As Mohandas Gandhi said, 'You must be the change you wish to see in the world.'

"My friends, life is far greater than you and me. It is far greater than the pursuit of individual desires. The absolute truth is that we are all destined to a common fate in departing this world. What separates us from those who fret their hour on stage, what makes our legacies live on is what we have done for the sake of our fellowmen. As women marching into tomorrow, let this knowledge be a source of inspiration to dream the dream that all others declare unreachable, to fight the fight that we know we can win. At the end, victory will be ours.

"Today, on this day of graduation, let this moment be a

defining one, where we reflect upon the road that has brought us here and upon the people that we have become. Let us stand at this juncture, cast our eyes upon the winding road ahead and resolve to strive for every dream, to strive for the betterment of our school, our community, our nation. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.' Let us walk out into the world with heads held high, with this firm belief in our dreams. Tomorrow will be a brighter day for Trinidad and Tobago. No goal is unreachable, Per ardua ad astra."

Miss Mohammed's thought-provoking, inspiring and memorable address received a standing ovation.

This year's graduation ceremony indeed represented the SAGHS commitment to the highest standards in education.

*Carolyn Harnanan*

## Sangre Chiquito Pres: 118th Anniversary & Thanksgiving



**T**he joyous occasion on that auspicious day began with the melodious rendition of the hymn, "How Great Thou Art" by the Sangre Chiquito Presbyterian Church's Choir. Indeed God's presence in the far east was witnessed by a packed church as members of the community, members from the pastoral region and specially invited guests, joined with worshippers from the Sangre Chiquito Presbyterian Church in their blissful celebration of their Church's 118th Anniversary and Thanksgiving Service.

Mrs' Angela Lakhiram-Ramtahal, worship leader, led the congregation in worship as the Valencia Presbyterian Church Choir and the host choir rendered their joyous anthems of praise and worship to God's glory. The beautifully adorned church was exquisitely done by the young and talented Youth Group, who rose to the occasion and worked into the night to have the church in its splendour on that blessed day.

The guest preacher, our very own Interim minister, the young dynamic and outspoken Rev. Adrian Sieunarine,

certainly had members of the congregation sitting at the edge of their seats devouring every word that he delivered as he brought life to the biblical text taken from the Book of Acts chapter 5 Verses 6-11. One could not have asked for more, as Rev. Sieunarine demonstrated the power of God in the times of Ananias and Saphira, and so called upon us to fill our minds with what is pure, good, righteous and holy in the growth and development of our church from then till now. Indeed, the significance of the service was compounded as ten persons were received into full membership and five candidates were baptized on that special day.

As the service ended with the Hymn #665, "Lord Jesus You Shall Be My Song As I Journey", the congregation shared in the delicious refreshments which were prepared by the Women's Group of the Church. The curtain fell on the evening's proceedings after everyone had their fill of ice-cream and cake and left totally rejuvenated in the greatness of God in one's life.

*Daniel & Brenda Motilal*

## A Tribute to Dr. Elizabeth Rosabelle Seesaran

**Eulogy by Harrack Balram Singh, Chairman, Citizens for a Better Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT) at the Funeral Service for Dr. Rosabelle Seesaran held at the Susamachar Presbyterian Church on October 20, 2009**

When I was told of the passing of Dr. Rosabelle Seesaran, a wave of sorrow swept over me for I realised that in this world I had lost a very dear friend. My mind reverted to those great words of the Apostle, and they are words which truly can be spoken of Dr. Seesaran: "I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith, I have finished the course."

During her illness, she lost her nephew Scott Zoba whom she regarded as her son. This brought tears to her eyes on her deathbed but as a good and genuine Christian, she never lost faith in God. Reflecting on her nephew's death and her own ill-health she said like Job did: "I had nothing when I was born. And I will have nothing when I die. God gave many things to me. Now, God has taken these things from me. But I will still praise God."

Dr. Elizabeth Rosabelle Bernice Seesaran is living proof that you are never too old to learn. After a teaching career and marriage that spanned almost four decades, she returned to the University of the West Indies to successfully complete her doctoral thesis. Having graduated from UWI in July 1996, this exceptional woman earned the right to add the title "Doctor" before her name.

For her it was the realisation of a dream nurtured by her father Francis Sampath, that his eight children would excel in their pursuit of academic excellence, as well as an opportunity to leave behind a legacy for the generations to come. Her father's dream was for her to become a medical doctor. For various reasons he was unable to accomplish his dream, but he and his wife, the late Amelia Lucky Sampath instilled in all their children the desire to aim at the highest academic standard.

Through her four brothers who pursued medical careers, Doctors Martin, Roy, Hugh and Angus Sampath, her father, a school principal, lived his dream. Fascinated, like her father, with education, her entire career and life was punctuated with her pursuit for higher learning whether it was her BA honors Degree in History at Mc Gill's University, MA in History, Diploma in Education and Diploma in Social Studies at UWI, St. Augustine, Diploma in Theology at Caracas, a one-year scholarship to the United Kingdom in Infant School Teaching Methods, or some other type of education course.

This unfulfilled passion for excellence, coupled with her career, domestic life and the numerous charitable organisations and church positions in which she served,

kept her occupied for most of her life and prevented her from achieving her goal. However, with the death of her husband in 1985, retirement as Principal 11 in 1986 and a life of loneliness on the horizon, she was spurred on to finally pursue her dream. After her husband, Isaac Deoraj Seesaran died in 1985, she had to decide what to do in life. She wanted a new vision for the future because she had to live alone. She prayed about it and after a while she felt she should retire from teaching.

She stayed on at Siparia Junior Secondary School until 1986, then left for a tour to India and returned some time later with the firm conviction that she was going to pursue her doctorate in History. She applied to UWI, St. Augustine and was accepted. Then she started doing research from about 1990 and finally her thesis was accepted and was awarded the degree in 1995. At the graduation exercise, Dr. Seesaran was the oldest graduate but the proudest of them all when she received her scroll from the Chancellor of the University, Sir Shridath Ramphal. Her accomplishments inspired a number of older men and women to return to school and university.

Her thesis represented years of diligent work, persistence and application in a programme of research in which she had no colleagues except herself, but she emerged stronger because of that loneliness. She displayed great pride for having made an original contribution to knowledge. Her thesis, "Social Mobility in the Indo-Trinidadian Community 1870 - 1917" was published. The thesis examined the process by which a middle class emerged among the Indian immigrants in Trinidad, their upward mobility through, among other things, the accumulation of cash, land and education. Dr. Seesaran always wanted to know more about our people, how they settled and advanced in society. She always said that she enjoyed her thesis because it gave her the opportunity to deliver into another world.

The idea came about following a journey to the Far East and her exposure to the Japanese tradition and ancestral worship. She felt that a similar journey into the background of her people, highlighting their accomplishments, would somehow inspire the younger generation to preserve some of what they have. She is also the author of several articles published in various journals and a book, "From Caste to Class" depicting the Social Mobility of the Indo-Trinidadian Community from 1870-1917.

Dr. Seesaran dedicated her entire life to helping others. She never had children of her own, but by establishing the Trinidad and Tobago Association for Retarded Children School in Penal (TTARC), she had been mother to hundreds of children.

She served for many years on the various Boards and Committees of the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago and was an Honorary Elder of the Penal Congregation and an honorary adviser to its Girls' Work Board. For more than a decade, she was on the Board of Education at the Integrated Education Project of SERVOL where along with the staff of the school, we organised the first Annual Drug Awareness week in schools in Trinidad and Tobago. She also served as an executive member of Citizens for a Better Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT) for many years and was Chairperson of the Republic Day Award Committee which selected outstanding citizens for the National Republic Day Award of Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Seesaran was a founder of the Church Women United in Trinidad and Tobago as well as the Penal Breakfast Centre Association which, until the advent of the Schools' Nutrition Company, supplied free lunches to the needy children of the schools in the Penal environment. She was also a Life Member of the Association for the Mentally Retarded Children of T&T.

She obtained her early education at St. Gabriel's R.C. School in San Fernando and later at St. Joseph's Covent and Naparima Boys' College which was the only school in the area offering Advanced levels. She started working as a teacher at Penal Presbyterian School where she met her husband of 35 years. That was the start of a teaching career that spanned over 42 years. She taught in schools such as

Grant Memorial Presbyterian, Naparima Girls' High School, Iere High School, Penal Junior Secondary School and Siparia Junior Secondary School.

She also taught at the University of the West Indies School of Continuing Education in San Fernando and amazingly came back in her seventies to work as a contract teacher at the Siparia Junior Secondary School. By now you must be wondering why this outstanding citizen never received a national award.

Dr. Seesaran was one of the most amazing people I had ever met and would probably ever meet. She spent her life caring for others. She would often go out of her way to reach those who were in need. In closing I must state that I have never in my life witnessed a better exemplar than Dr. Seesaran. Her humility won her the hearts of people everywhere. I was often baffled as to why she was not called upon by the powers to be to play a more leading role in our society. She was a national treasure who deserved more. It is very commendable to become involved in a church or social group but we will make no positive contribution to society if we fail to live the quality of life that Dr. Seesaran led. This country has lost a great citizen who served her God and country with great distinction.

Harrack Balram Singh

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## Preacher's Memories

When I decided to retire in 2001 I was advised by the Church Office to notify the Company administering the Ministers' Pensions Plan. The young person at the desk took my information inside and returned a few minutes afterwards.

She returned cheerfully and said, "It's all done, sir. You are now eliminated." Whenever I accepted an appointment after that, I needed to remind myself that I was a retired-eliminated minister.



BOYA Youth Convention 2009



## Trinity , Torrib Trace- Sod Turning for New Church.nov

### Thanksgiving Service and Sod Turning Ceremony of the Trinity Presbyterian Church (Torrib Trace) Theme 'Let us Rise up and Build' (Nehemiah 2:18).

On Saturday 3rd October 2009 at 3:00pm the members of the Trinity Presbyterian Church joined with other invited guests from the community and the Regional Churches to give thanks unto the Lord for all his blessings bestowed to them and to turn the sod for their new church building.



Officiating at the evening's proceedings were Rev. Clifton Mathura – Minister Tabaquite Pastoral Region, Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah – Vice Chairman – South Eastern Presbytery, Mr. Anthony Boodram – Presiding Elder – Tabaquite Pastoral Region and Student Minister Shirvan Siloch. The afternoon's programme commenced with an opening prayer by Mr. Shane Baldeosingh (Youth Leader) and song "Ever Living God" by the Church's Worship Team, after which Rev. Clifton Mathura took over.

Two scripture passages taken from the Old Testament – the Book of Nehemiah were read, the 1st by Ms. Joy Samuel – Local Board member, 2nd by Student Minister – Shirvon Siloch after which the offering was collected and blessed.

We were graced with the wonderful singing of Presiding Elder Mr. Anthony Boodram and Jade and Sharad from the New Century Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Simon Rampersad, the local board Chairman welcomed all present and thanked all for attending and sharing in our very special service. He told us about the targeted figure on the building chart on the wall and the figure as it now stands and asked everyone to give us their support in this venture.

Everyone sat in silence as our very energetic Rev. Matura preached a most powerful sermon based on the theme for the afternoon "Let us rise up and build". He reminded us that as we work hard to build our new sanctuary to worship in, we must also work at building our faith and using our gifts to serve the Lord.

Ms. Ruth Narinesingh in presenting a short history of the church recalled the hard work, commitment and dedication of all those who came and laid the foundation

in 1918 as well as former ministers, deaconesses and past members. At present those at the head are Minister – Rev. Clifton Mathura, Presiding Elder – Mr. Anthony Boodram, Chairman of Local Board and Elder – Mr. Simon Rampersad, Elder. Ms. Ruth Narinesingh and Youth Leader Mr. Shane Baldeosingh. Nest Year 2010 we will be celebrating 105 years of Presbyterians in Torrib Trace and we hope to have this service in our new church building. The church that we now wor-

ship in was built in 1956. She asked for the support of everyone present to make this a reality.

In everything we must give thanks and praise unto the Lord. We then went into a time of Prayer, led by Mr. Simon Rampersad, followed by Mr. Ronald Babooram and by Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah. After which it was a time of Praise and Worship by the Trinity (Torrib Trace) Worship Team. There were "showers of blessings" earlier but it ended in time for the turning of the sod. Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah said the prayer and dug the first shovel of (mud) dirt then Rev. Clifton Mathura, Mr. Simon Rampersad (Elder) followed by other members of the church, including the children.

The closing hymn "The Church is one Foundation" was sung and the closing prayer and benediction done by Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah. Everyone was invited to remain and share in dinner that was prepared by church members.

This was a very special day for us here in Torrib Trace. We give thanks to Almighty God for bringing us thus far. We thank him for sending Rev. Clifton Mathura to this Pastoral Region who worked so hard to help us make this day possible. May God continue to bless him and his family tremendously. We can pat ourselves on the back and say we are proud, but in all humility we ask God to carry us through because the work is now about to begin. We know that he will see us through as we continue working hard towards our physical structure and spiritual growth. The Trinity Presbyterian Church (Torrib Trace) congregation would welcome contributions to the building of our new tabernacle.

**Contributions can be made to:**  
**A/c # 90856, ScotiaBank, P/ Town.**  
*Shane Baldeosingh*

## Counselling Column: Listening

### Dear Rev. Paul,

Can you suggest a more tangible way to override my urge to value what I want to say more than what someone else wants to say? I need some help with this one. Thanks for your suggestions.

Sgd. Simone

### Dear Simone,

The secret is not to wait until you feel like listening to the other person. Chances are you may never want to hear his or her prospective. I am sure you have heard the expression "Listen up". You can learn to activate your interest by listening up by doing the following:

**LOOK** at the other person. Strictly speaking, you cannot truly listen to another person while you are doing something else at the same time. Put down or turn away from what you are doing or working on. Place your papers or pen on the desk. These body movements say "This can wait. You are more important." Such actions on your part indicate, physically and psychologically, that he/she is your top priority.

**LIFT** your eyebrows, establish eye contact, and put an expression of interest on your face. If your face is slack, your level of interest will be the same. If your eyes wonder your mind will too. The simple act of focusing on the other person's face and raising your eyebrows counteracts lethargy and activates your curiosity.

**LEAN** forward and adopt an attentive posture so you are literally and figuratively on the edge of your seat. By leaning slightly toward the other person you have just said with your body language, "I am here for you. You have my full attention." By reaching out and affirming the other person in this way, you are ready to listen to what he/she has to say and you would think less of what you want to say. As a matter of fact you can only respond by listening.

Best wishes as you try these simple, down-to-earth suggestions.

**Sgd.: Rev. Cyril Paul**

*(If you have a question you would like answered in this Column, write to: Rev. Cyril Paul, #53, First Street, Barataria.)*

## Congratulations Kimberly



The Nistar Presbyterian Church extends heartfelt congratulations to our Church member Kimberly Nafiah Aziz on her scholastic achievement. A graduate of St. Augustine Girls' High School, her recent accomplishment has allowed her to join an exceptional group of the best and brightest stu-

dents who share a commitment to excellence, education and world betterment.

Ranked in the top one percentile in the World for SATs and subject tests she gained acceptance and a full scholarship

into the prestigious United States College, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and through her success in her CAPE exams, receiving ten distinctions was awarded a National Open Scholarship in Mathematics.

Kimberly has also been selected and gained membership to the dynamic organization, The National Society of High School Scholars (USA). She has done wonderfully well and attributes her success to God's blessings, support from her parents, Carl and Jacinta Aziz, dedicated and hard working teachers both at school and in Church, for which she is very thankful.

We pray God continues to hold Nafiah in the palm of His hands as she embarks on this new journey in her life.  
*Daniel & Brenda Motilal*



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## Children's Corner: The **KINGS** of God's People

**W**hen the children of Israel reached the Promised Land of Canaan they found other peoples living there. These peoples were ruled by kings. Joshua, who Moses named as their leader before his death, led his army into many battles and the first city they captured was Jericho. Joshua then divided the land among the eleven tribes except Levi who were the priests. Before Joshua died, he reminded the people to stay true to their God Yahweh and not to worship the Gods of any of the other peoples. But this was just what they did and they stopped following God's law.



Jeroboam. Both kingdoms turned away from worshipping their God Yahweh and began to worship other Gods with many of their king's encouragement.

Many prophets warned them that God will punish them for their unfaithfulness to God and for not being one people but they did not listen. About 150 years later, both kingdoms were destroyed, first Israel in 722 B.C. by the Assyrians and then Judah in 586 B.C. by the Babylonians. The chosen people of God were taken into captivity and exile. They had not only lost the Promised Land but their temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians. When the

When Samuel, the last of the Judges grew old the people asked him to appoint a king to govern them and fight for them. Samuel tried to explain that it was better for them to live under the rule of their God Yahweh who was their king but they insisted on having a king like the other peoples.

Samuel spoke to God who told him to find a king. He anointed Saul from the tribe of Benjamin. Saul was a successful soldier and warrior but when he disobeyed God and became ill, God told Samuel to find another king. Samuel went to Bethlehem of Judah and anointed David the son of Jesse. David was the shepherd boy who had killed Goliath and was also a soldier in Saul's army. When Saul and his sons died in the battle at Mount Gilboa, David became king. He expanded the kingdom and made Jerusalem the capital city before his death.

When David's son Solomon became King, he inherited a strong and wealthy kingdom but he was not faithful to God. Although he was remembered to be a wise king, he made friends with many other kings and rulers and allowed them to worship their Gods even in the magnificent temple he had built in Jerusalem.

When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king but he was not as wise as his father. The people turned against him and the Kingdom of the Israelites was split into the Kingdom of Judah in the south which he ruled and the Kingdom of Israel in the north that was ruled by

Babylonians were defeated by the Persians, King Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and gave them money to rebuild the temple.

The kingdom of Israel ceased to exist but the people who returned to Jerusalem returned to worship and serve their God. They prayed and lived with the hope that one day God would send a messiah an anointed one, a king who will be like David who would defeat all their enemies and returned them to the glory of their Promised Land. They believed that he would be a descendent of David who would be born in Bethlehem in Judah.

**BIBLE READING:** 1 Samuel 8:1-22.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Thou art my king, O God. Psalm 44:4

**SONG/HYMN:** O what can little hands do, to please the king of heaven? #21 - Hymns for Children

**ACTIVITIES:** 1. Design and make crowns of kings (you can use these for the three kings of the east).  
2. What are the names of sons of Jacob also called the twelve tribes of Israel?

**PRAYER:** God, you are the king of all the earth, help me to keep your commandments and let me praise and worship you alone. Amen

*So until next month children,  
go with all my love and God,  
Uncle Bill*

## The Family Can: make all things new

**A**s we continue with this as our focus for 2009, be reminded of the fact that you must believe this and secondly, it is up to you each member of the family to make it happen.

We previously noted that the values, norms and traditions of a people are stored within the culture of its families and this wealth can be accessed and retrieved by descendants from generation to generation. However, each

succeeding generation must contribute to this store in a meaningful and practical way which ensures that they add rather than waste this wealth. It is therefore required that the children and young of families be socialized to this wealth. Take time to identify and record your family's worth now, if you have not done so. It is in knowing the past and the rich history of your family that each and all family members can continually draw to refresh, renew and restore themselves.

This month we look at how 'errs' or mistakes can help to make all things new for the family.

As human beings, we all make mistakes but a human weakness is 'to play strong when we are wrong'. We usually therefore take a stubborn, aggressive position that can extreme to physical violence and brutishness. For those who lack the physique for arrogance, verbal arrogance or mouth power is utilized. We defend the indefensible or the unacceptable and instead of accepting responsibility for our words, actions, attitudes or behaviours, we opt often deliberately and defiantly to lay the blame squarely on the shoulders of others in the attempt to exonerate our self. Such behaviours occur in all human interactions whether social or personal but often the worst occurs within our families where we are best known and can seldom fool the others.

So take a minute to ask, what are our human foibles and mistakes? What are your human mistakes? And I dare ask you to ask yourself, what are my human mistakes? Are you perfect without any personality and personal-social flaws or weaknesses that make you prone to errors? To the extent or truthfulness of our answers and responses would be found the conflicts, disapproval or dynamics within your family relationships. Your errors therefore, and your attitudes that follow would reflect the state of your intra-family relationships.

It is therefore concomitant on each of us to accept that we all make mistakes, we all err and we must believe and accept that 'to err is human'. However, if we recall that the saying adds, 'to forgive is divine', it raises the question, who is to forgive? The answers are firstly, the one who has erred who must be remorseful and self-forgiving and secondly, those who were the victims or were offended or were the receivers or the err. In fact all have the duty and responsibility to forgive. As hard as this may be, forgiving our trespasses is as important as forgiving those who trespass against us. So where is this first demanded? In your family, because if you cannot forgive the errs of those in your family how hypocritical would it be to forgive others.

Each day brings new opportunities to any family or family member to forgive the errs or trespasses of other members. The challenge is to forgive but the question remains, are you willing to undertake this to make the changes that can benefit not just you but your family? Take time therefore, to do your part to bring pleasantness and peace that can make all things new for your family.

**THE FAMILY CAN ... make all things new; believe it and in 2009 a miracle can happen in your family!**

*A MONTHLY THOUGHT TO HELP IMPROVE YOUR FAMILY  
Hilton R. Siboo*

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."  
2 Timothy 3:16-17*

## TP Comics: God must have a sense of humour...



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## Memoriam: Roseabelle and Gerald

In Loving Memory of



### Ramrattan Boyan Dookie

Sunrise: 18th February 1944  
Sunset: 30th November 2006

Three years have passed since you left us

To some you may be forgotten  
To others a part of the past  
But to us who loved and lost you

Your memories will always last.

We mourned for you in silence

No eyes can see us weep;

But many a silent tear is shed,

While others are asleep.

Lovingly remembered by:

his Wife Feroza, five children, four in-laws

And eleven grand children

In Loving Memory of



### Reynold Suepaul (formerly the Elder and Secretary of the Grosvenor Presbyterian Church)

Sunrise: 28th November 1948  
Sunset: 6th November 2008

A light from our household is gone,  
A voice we loved is stilled.

A place is vacant in our home,

which never can be filled. 'Twas hard to part with one so dear. We never thought the time was near.

Farewell dear one, your life is past. Our love for you till the end will last.

Sadly and lovingly remembered by:

Wife: Pearl

Children: Dane, Nadine & Dillon

Daughter-in-law: Alicia

Brothers, Sisters, Nieces, Nephews & Friends.

Rest In Peace!

The TP wishes to acknowledge the incorrect printing of Reynold Suepaul's Sunrise and Sunset dates in our October 2009 Issue and to advise that the above dates are the corrected ones. Our apologies and condolences to friends and relatives of Reynold Suepaul.

In Loving Memory of



### Eleanor Nanan

One year has passed since that sad day  
When the one we loved was called away  
God took you home  
It was His will  
But in our hearts you liveth still.

Dearly remembered by:

Your Loving Husband, Children,  
Grandchildren, Brothers, Sisters, In-Laws, Relatives and Friends.

May you always rest in peace.

## J.C. Mac Donald Annual Dinner & Entertainment

Members of the Board of the

### J.C. Mac Donald Home for the Aged presents their Annual Dinner & Entertainment

on Saturday 28th November 2009

Mediterranean Room

Paria Suites & Conference Centre

South Trunk Road, La Romaine

at 7:00 p.m.

Contribution- \$200.00

**Come and Enjoy a Wonderful Evening**

## Tobago Mission to celebrate 20 Years

The Tobago Mission of the PCTT invites you and your family to attend the 20th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Tobago

DATE: Sunday 22nd Nov. 2009

TIME: 4:00 pm

VENUE: The St. Francis Anglican Church, Bon Accord, Tobago.

Come and worship with us. "And everyday in the temple and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News about Jesus the Messiah" ACTS 5:42

For further information you may contact, members of the local board: Larry 391-3770 (Elder), Florie 680-0462 (Elder/Chairperson), Marissa 788-3622 (Treasurer) or Ruth 620-5299 (Secretary). Information could also be obtained from Mrs. Tara Persaud 673-0375 (Secretary of the Northern Presbytery) or Rev. E. Ramdeen 665-8828

Courtesy PCTT Tobago Mission. "A growing congregation."

## The Experience of Confirmation

My experience was a wonderful one as it should be. Confirmation is my commitment to Jesus Christ. I will now have him to be my personal Lord and Saviour. I know as a very young person that I will be faced with many challenges but knowing that I have Jesus as my guide, I can be reassured of facing these challenges boldly.



My classes which started off in May and ended in July were very enlightening. I learnt where God should be in my life and that is being first at all times. I learnt things about the church that I did not know before. I learnt of the structure of the church and the functions of some of the boards and committees. I also learnt some of the history of the Presbyterian Church which all Presbyterians should know. In the classes I became aware of the administration of the church, about the sacraments and the statement of Faith.

As a young person I know that the road for me is long and has just become and it is my hope that as I get older that I would grow spiritually to serve my God in the best possible way. It was a great delight in coming to these classes and sharing with my colleagues and learning from our Minister.

The culmination of all my endeavours with respect to confirmation ended with me being confirmed on

Sunday 2nd August 2009 at the Woodbrook Presbyterian Church. This has now enabled me to take part in Communion with other communicant members and I am now considered as a full member of the church with my name being entered on the church's membership roll.

*New Communicant Member*

*Rejuvenate Yourself!*

*Villa Calyandra*

Black Rock Tobago  
2 minutes from Turtle Beach  
your home away from home  
enjoy a quiet sanctuary  
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wraparound porch, swimming pool, B-B-Q pit  
situated on an acre of land  
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## Exciting Walk-a-Thon at Marabella

It was 7 a.m. on Saturday 3rd October 2009, and a very cool morning. The Marabella Presbyterian Church Women's Group, members of the Marabella Congregation and members from all six sister churches in the Marabella/Bonne Aventure Pastoral Region, were setting off on their second annual Walk-a-thon, organized by the PCW Group of the Marabella Presbyterian Church. How excited everyone was!!



The President of the Marabella PCW, Miss Gloria Lowkie, welcomed everyone. The Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Elvis Elahie, offered a special prayer asking Almighty God for blessings and the safety of all the members participating in the walk. Rev. Letra Jacob, Minister, then blessed the meal that would be enjoyed after the walk.

All participants, dressed in appropriate walking gear, enthusiastically set off along the Marabella Main Road, along Battoo Avenue, making a circle through Gopaul Lands and down to the Marabella Roundabout and back to the Church Compound.

Leading the walkers was the vehicle with the microphone-with Mrs. Florabelle Lutchman informing the residents of the reasons for the walk. The Naparima Sea Scouts Band led by Mr. Kadir Mohammed followed. Resi-

dents were most happy to come out and meet the walkers and offer a donation to a worthy cause- proceeds going to the Just Because Foundation- the Foundation that offers care and support for children with cancer and the refurbishing of the Fitzroy Bachan Memorial Hall.

After the refreshing, but tiring walk, on our return to the Church exciting activities were engaged in. Mrs. Indra Narinesingh and Ramesh from Fit for Life led the many willing participants in an excruciatingly exciting Aerobics Session. Prizes were awarded to the youngest and oldest participants. The Just Because Foundation Members were also present and we willingly purchased book marks, pencils, bags, cups etc. to assist the Foundation. They also provided a lesson on the dangers of smoking. As everyone participated in the delicious breakfast of sada roti, pumpkin, bodi, bhaji and curried mango they were entertained by the beautiful singing voices of El Drago and Mrs. Hyacinth Joseph.

It was truly a morning of excellent fellowship and fun bringing us all together as one. This is one time in the life of our church that made us especially aware of the gifts of God's grace. To God be the Glory!!!

*Florabelle Lutchman*

## Double blessing for Canaan Youths



Two young members of the Canaan Presbyterian Church Congregation have done us proud. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Sunpaul Laloo.

Mark and Ryan Laloo, students of Naparima College have excelled in

CAPE 'A' Level and CSEC Examinations respectively. Mark won an Open National Scholarship this year in Science. He is at present enrolled at the UWI Faculty of medicine at Mt. Hope. Ryan, still a student at Naps secured first

place in the Caribbean Secondary Examination Certificate (CSEC) among T & T Students and by so doing won the President's Award. As children both attended Sunday School Classes and Youth Group Meetings.

This announcement was made and well received by the congregation at Canaan at the National Youth Sunday Service on 27th September 2009. When asked what the secret of success was, Ryan calmly and confidently replied that his belief in God, the excellent teachers at Naps and the full support of his parents and the Church accounted for the success.

Our congratulations and prayers to with them in their fields of endeavour!

*Roy Mootoo, Honorary Elder*

## News from the East



*Fun at MMPY Family Day*



*Members of the GALA*



*Rev. A. Sieunarine delivers the lecture on John Calvin*

The Morton Memorial Church of the Guaico Pastoral Region has continued to enjoy the choicest blessings of Almighty God in the year 2009. The year began on a high note, for the young and energetic Reverend Adrian Sieunarine had been assigned to the Guaico Pastoral Region in November of 2008. With the installation of the new Local Board for the 2009 term of office, of which Mrs. Rowena Ramlochan was elected the Chairman, a packed round of activities began. Ten (10) committees of the Local Board were commissioned. They proceeded to work assiduously.

Services were held every Wednesday during Lent. A display of artifacts and memorabilia relating to the Holy Land, donated by members of the congregation who had made the trip, was mounted during Lent by the Young Adults' Society. A Confirmation and 1st Communion class began during Lent, and culminated in the confirmation of thirteen (13) young persons on Holy Thursday, five of them from Morton, one from Cunaripo, five from Grosvenor and the others from Cumuto.

In May a special Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration was held at Morton for the four young persons of the region who have dedicated themselves to full-time service - Deaconesses Lisa Dharamgit and Anupa Nanan, student minister Keron Khellawan and Intern Minister Kimberly Ramlochan.

The July-August vacation saw several activities taking place. A vibrant Vacation Bible School started things off, with participation by members of the wider Sangre Grande community, elders, the deaconess and the Minister. An average of twenty-three (23) children gathered every day for a week to learn about God. They participated in drama, art and craft, sing-song, sports and games, and the true highlight of the VBS, worship.

On the 1st of August the Social Committee of the Local Board held a Family Day. The families of the church spent an enjoyable afternoon in creative sporting activities.

The youth group, Morton Memorial Presbyterian Youth, and the Sunday School put on a fashion show, there was entertainment and lots of snacks. Also in August, the Guaico Arts & Literary Society, formerly the Young Adults' Society initiated a service-lecture on the life and contribution of founding father, John Calvin, to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of his birth. A Powerpoint presentation and lecture by The Minister, Reverend Adrian Sieunarine, along with an interactive question/discussion segment featured.

As the month of August drew to a close, two more events took place. A regional youth gathering took place at Morton Memorial on August 15th at which young persons expressed their hopes for the future and revealed their plans for the church, in a preamble activity to the BOYA Vacation Camps. The youth of Morton Memorial appeared to be unstoppable, as they assembled at Manickchand's beach house on the final Saturday in August for a retreat. The rainy and stormy weather was no match for the warmth and zeal of the sixteen young boys and girls who sang choruses lustily, prayed to God on a range of issues, and enjoyed fun, food and fellowship on the beach.

At Morton Memorial all the arms of the church continue to function; the Compassionate Committee seeks to assist wherever they can to relieve need and pain, elders continue to visit families, assisted by the P.C.W. The Minister himself has also embarked upon an aggressive visitation schedule. The Local Board continues to meet each month. The choir and organist continue to lead in the musical aspect of the worship experience.

We at Morton look forward to the celebration of our church's 112th Anniversary in November, and indeed, to the celebration of the holy Christmas Season with its round of special activities. We continue to trust in Almighty God and to witness and work in His Holy Name.

*Jesslyn Ramlal*

# Canacom Council Conference 31st Oct – 9th Nov 2009



The Synod of the PCTT hosted a dinner for the visiting delegates of CANACOM (Caribbean and North American Council for Mission) at St. Andrew's Theological College on Tuesday 3rd November 2009. The PCTT is host to the meeting from 31st October to 9th November 2009. The meeting opened with a service at the Aramalaya Presbyterian Church, where the Church of Scotland (Trinidad) was inducted as a full member. Some of our young people are serving as Stewards at the meeting.

## PCW visits refurbished Iere Home Nursery School



The St. Andrew's PCW Group of Princes Town visited the Iere Home Nursery School and made a donation towards the Christmas Treat to the Principal/Administrator, Mrs. Priscilla Jute. The women were in high praise for the school whose motto is "Love One Another". They interacted with the teachers and students. Mrs. Thelma Boodhan



BOYA Youth Convention 2009