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Stewardship Month

“They are always asking for more money! What are they doing with all the money they are getting?” “I have exams coming up! I can’t do anything until after exams.” “I don’t have time! I don’t have time! Ah doh have time!”

Within the Christian church as a whole the word “stewardship” has become a very unpopular word. This is mainly because the people of the church have come to think of stewardship primarily in terms of money. Especially, in our own church when stewardship is linked in some way to congregations meeting their allocation payments, there is the danger that members will come to feel that the stewardship program is a not so thinly disguised attempt to separate them from their money, which they have

better things to do with rather than giving it to a faceless Synod whom they are sure will spend it on unimportant things. Even some seasoned ministers sometimes consider it a daunting task to call on their members to give more financially to the church. And this in spite of the fact that our congregations routinely sing during worship, “All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give” and “Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.” But finance is not the only area that we are “stewardshiply challenged.” Getting persons to offer themselves in service at congregational meetings is sometimes like pulling teeth. And not to mention the ever popular chronic absence of regional representatives at meetings of Synod’s Boards and Committees with one notable exception! This is not to say that we do not have both generous and committed

continued on page4

**Holiday time:
It’s all about
YOUth**

The Moderator and BOYA must be very pleased with all the Youth activity held over the holidays. The regional rallies were a resounding success and we carry a few reports in this issue. The camps were also very successful both in terms of attendance and information. Young people were creating songs,

drama and dance in all corners of the island, from Point Coco to Guaico and back to Rio Claro. We invite youth to share their pictures on the facebook group. On behalf of the future church we thank all boards, leaders, youth and parents who were involved. This effort will definitely reap its rich rewards.

Moderator Speaks - Good Leadership

At various levels a number of people from all walks of life talk about whether or not we should support an Executive President for Trinidad and Tobago. Some speak from a position of knowledge and information while others make their contribution based on the limitations of their own imagination as regards the subject.

In a recent discussion with a colleague, the point was made that the issue for many people in Trinidad and Tobago is not whether or not we should have an Executive President but the fear of who will most likely be Executive President. Based on the leadership method of past and present leaders, the idea of Executive President meets disagreement based on the fear that the apparent subtle monarchical style of leadership that some attempt to practice will only be amplified.

But for me, the issue is who leads and what method of leadership he or she embraces to meaningfully govern.

When one looks at our constitution of Trinidad and Tobago in terms of what should be encouraged as far as leadership is concerned, we see:

- Its recognition and acceptance of fundamental human rights and freedoms to be enjoyed by all regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, wealth, education, status or birth; and the incorporation of adequate machinery for the protection and enforcement of all rights and freedoms;
- The inclusion of adequate checks and balances, in the Legislative, Executive and Judicial arms of Government;
- The existence of an enlightened and independent Judiciary charged and vested with the ultimate determination as to whether the law, or executive or administrative acts infringe the enshrined rights and freedoms of the individual;
- Its provision for representative government deriving its power and authority from the people, which power and authority are exercised through representatives freely chosen and responsible to them;
- Its acceptance of free periodic elections based on universal adult suffrage held by secret ballot under condi-



tions where the right to vote is exercised without hindrance or pressure; and

- Its encouragement and built-in machinery for the creation and maintenance of an efficient, honest and impartial civil service.

Thus among many other considerations, our Prime Minister or Executive President, should be characterized by the following:

1. His or her time in office is really a God given opportunity to serve all the people of a country or nation and to make a difference especially in a time and place like ours, when and where there is continuous growth in our culture of violence, disrespect for life and the environment and a total breakdown in all the basic institutions.

2. A leader like everyone else should be able to understand and accept that he or she should be part of the lifelong process of learning and as a result, continuously question his or her motive and agenda as he or she interacts and collaborates with people of every race culture and religion within the nation.

3. A leader should be benevolent. Basically, this implies genuine care and concern not

for a selected few but for all. A benevolent leader is kind to all citizens even to those whose ideology, philosophy and political identity may be very different than that of the benevolent leader. This benevolence evolves into graciousness.

4. A true leader aims at consensus in the decision making process. The consensual approach does not only save a leader from self destruction but through collaboration and dialogue, enriches all those who engage the method. Thus the learning process is facilitated and there is mutual enrichment within a community and a country. Our Prime Minister should consider the consensual method as he embarks upon his current Educational Drive.

5. When all of the above are seriously engaged, the leader will not impose his or her own will but will listen to the collective voice of the people and most likely, create fusion between the will of the Creator and the human will in the quest for creating a civil society.

The Rt.Rev.Elvis Elahie

Editorial: Stewardship Month

The month of September is significant for the PCTT. It is Stewardship month, as well as National Youth Sunday is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Month. We groan when we hear the word "Stewardship", don't we? We see it as the time the Synod asks for more money, and we are tempted to ask, "Haven't we given enough?" or "Where de money gorn?". We need to remind ourselves that our financial givings to the church are a deeply spiritual matter. Stewardship month is a time to reflect on what we give as Sunday offering, tithes or pledges. The Rev. Anthony Rampersad of the Board of Stewardship and Finance (BOSF) has written a thought-provoking article. With the economy slow as it is we are tempted to cut back on what we give to the church. But now is a time to remain consistent and faithful in our givings. Scripture instructs us about "First Fruits". Our church offering must not come from what is left over. Rather, we must take out first from our salary what we sincerely desire for God's work. Experience shows that when this is done you will always have enough for other commitments.

In this issue of the Trinidad Presbyterian we have several articles from various youth groups. This is splendid! It tells us that Youth Ministry is very much alive in the PCTT! National Youth Sunday is a day to applaud the contribution that young people are making in our congregations. It is a day to develop their leadership skills. I appeal to all members of the church not to see National Youth Sunday as a "Day off" from church. It may be that your child may be asked to preach or say the pastoral prayer. Go and support them. The Lord uses these experiences to shape the hearts of our young people. Last month, two of our very active and promising youth (and there are many out there), Adrian Sultanti (Diamond P.R.) and Sanya Beharry (Marabella/Bonne Aventure P.R.) along with leader Mr.

Joel John represented the PCTT at the YAM (Young Adults in Mission) event in Jamaica. Read their story and be inspired.

September marks the opening of another School year. The daily regimen of getting up early and doing homework begins in many homes. The Trinidad Presbyterian takes this opportunity to wish all teachers and students of all our schools the very best for the next academic year. Be faithful in all that you do, and always do everything for the greater glory of God.

By the time you read this issue we would have celebrated our 47th anniversary of Independence. This is a time to reflect on where we are as a nation. So many horrible things are happening. Our homes are no longer safe, our roads are death traps, and we seem to be living in a state of anomy. Scripture reminds us, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (II Corinthians 3:17). The truth is many of us are living in bondage. We are in bondage to bad habits and negative attitudes. We hold on to hurtful experiences. We hold grudges. We compromise. This is hurtful to our spiritual lives and does affect our lives and relationships in the home and in the church.

Let us allow the Spirit of Christ to heal our lives once and for all and become what the living God intends for us. The Tyndale Commentary says, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom from every kind of bondage, whether to the law, or to fear, or to sin, or to corruption".

May God bless our nation.

Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah

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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Christian Stewardship (continued from page 1)

members but more and more these appear to be in the minority. The first step towards getting all of us to be better stewards is to help us to gain a better understanding of what Christian Stewardship is all about.

Holmes Rolston writing in "Stewardship in the New Testament Church" pointedly states, "...the stewardship of possessions is only part of the call of the church to the stewardship of all of life." In the ancient world, the stewards were seen as persons who handled things that were not their own, who handled them in the interest of the owner and who must be ready to give account of their stewardship at any time. This basic idea is sufficient to describe the attitude we must have with regard to ourselves and our possessions as we realize that we must give account to God. God is the owner and we are the stewards. But what are the distinctive features of "Christian Stewardship?"

Since Christian Stewardship is about all of life then the Christian life must be pleasing to Christ. In attempting to explain to his critics the driving power of his life, Paul said, "We make it our aim to please him [Christ]." (2 Cor. 5:9.) The whole purpose of Paul's life was to so live that it would be pleasing to Christ. Like Paul, this must be our aim as well, to live our entire lives in a manner that would be pleasing to Christ. But why does Paul feel that he must so live that he is pleasing to Christ? What is the driving power of the Christian life? Paul answers these questions when he says, "The love of Christ controls us." The love which Paul talks about is not his love for Christ but rather Christ love for him, the divine love which was demonstrated on the cross. Christian stewardship for us today must also be seen against the background of Christ's unconditional love for us. As John writes, "We love, because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19). It is because we have been

so greatly loved by Christ that our stewardship must be about our whole lives and not on some percentage of ourselves or our possessions. Our Christian stewardship is our response to what Christ did for us. As Paul says, "And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised." (2 Cor. 5:15). Our Christian Stewardship is rooted in our understanding of what God has done for us in Christ. Do we believe that, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them?" (2 Cor. 5:19). If we do, then our response through the Christian Stewardship of all our lives will be lives lived no longer for ourselves but for Christ and we would do whatever we can to ensure that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed through our lives both as individuals and as members of the community of the church.

Christian Stewardship is rooted in Christian conviction. How much we give of our possessions or ourselves in service in Christ's church is a reflection of our true conviction to the one who gave all for us. Christian Stewardship is impossible apart from our total surrender to God in Christ. Christians are Christ's and so we must think of ourselves as Christ's stewards who will have to give account of our stewardship of not only our time, talents and treasures but also of all creation over which we have been given dominion and all our relationships within the various communities in which we have been placed.

We must therefore continually re-examine our Christian Stewardship and ask ourselves if we will be found faithful when we too are called to give account?

*Rev. Anthony Rampersad
Chairman, BOSF*

It deserves an effort

If I were to single out an event at Aramalaya which I awaited with joyful expectancy it would be the weekly Thursday Bible Study, or according to announcements, Bible sharing and discussion. The persons who gathered around the table were retired teachers, civil servants, housewives, and persons in banking and other business. They were very busy persons, often coming straight from work to Morton House—and with no expectation of refreshment! But they were eager to share their concerns,

doubts, problems with understanding obscure Bible passages, confusing demands and puzzling parables from the ancient Scriptures.

This does not mean the congregation in general rushed to these evening gatherings. Some thought they had had enough of this in Sunday School, were satisfied with the morning Sermon, and some even thought they did not need any further guidance in understanding the Bible.

I well remember someone in another Pastoral Region advising me not to use the term 'Bible Study', for it "puts people off." They think they are either preparing for the S.E.A. or some other equivalent. Some also believe the Bible is meant to be read individually and devotionally, not as a text book in literature. I confess that before a new term was found interest just faded out. However, it was a worthwhile lesson and at Aramalaya when the word 'study' is announced it is usually qualified in a sort of apologetic tone.

John Calvin, whose 500th birthday is celebrated this year, emphasized the importance of knowing, studying and teaching the Scriptures. He wrote, "Not until God speaks in the Scriptures is there a proper knowledge of God." One of the orders in Presbyterian tradition is 'the teaching elder'. It is rather interesting we were concerned about the regularity of administering the sacraments in Pastoral Regions but not equally concerned about the regular and systematic teaching of the Word. Presbyterians proudly speak of their church structure, liturgy, interpretation of the Sacraments and concern to do everything 'decently and in order'. Yet how many of us can really defend our practice of infant baptism, the relatively recent introduction of 'presiding elders', or our ecumenical involvement? With so many denominations cooperating or colliding with us, is it not important for us

to know what and why we hold fast to certain practices, doctrines and traditions?

All of this does not imply the Bible is some kind of text book where we can look for ready answers to all problems in our faith and history. Calvin added, 'for even if it (Scripture) wins reverence for itself by its own majesty, it seriously affects us only when it is sealed upon our hearts through the Spirit.' There must always be that blend of true devotion with a true love of learning. The Bible discussions at Aramalaya often ended with unsolved questions and at times a few more puzzles. But we were reminded we were trying to understand, that is 'stand under' a book very different from other books. We were trying to explore, to discover and to rejoice at wonders. The Bible is more a library than a single book. It was certainly worth the time and effort on Thursday evenings to meet at Morton House, probably more than the time and effort some of us invest in arguing about teacher appointments, transfers and promotions. Begin your own journey in your Region, call it whatever you think appropriate, even name your meeting as a prominent church in Ontario has done, 'dancing with Scripture.'

Rev. Everson T. Sieunarine

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Penal: Minister bids farewell, 13 receive First Communion, New Organ dedicated

On Sunday July 5th 2009, the Penal Presbyterian Church experienced new sounds, accepted new vows as Reverend Winston D. Ramkissoon bid farewell to the congregation. He was inducted at the Penal-Siparia Pastoral Region some five (5) years ago where he served faithfully. He embraced all challenges and gave Pastoral Care to eight (8) churches with humility.

This memorable day featured thirteen (13) young Christians who only a few days ago tasted success in the SEA exams. They received first communion having completed extensive and informative classes. It is my wish and prayer they continue to "seek ye first the Kingdom of God."

A new organ was dedicated on this Holy Communion



Rev. Winston Ramkissoon confirms one of the communicants as the elders join them

Sunday. A breath-taking Chestnut Johannus Opus 27 purchased from Holland stood on the chancel like a beacon of hope. The congregation was enlightened as organist Elizabeth Ramjattan keyed the first note. Some felt so soothing as if the dangling discords of our nation's disharmony were transformed into a Symphony of brotherly love.

In his farewell sermon he urged the congregation to remain focused on Almighty God and that some great day we will reunite with him in Heaven. A small token of appreciation was presented to Rev. Ramkissoon for his passionate service, going beyond the call of duty and sowing many seeds even in his time of need.

Roy R. Umraw



Organist Elizabeth Ramjattan plays the first song on the newly dedicated organ.

Vacancy of Executive Assistant to the Board St. Andrew's Theological College

Main Function: Provide administrative and secretarial support to the Board of Directors.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

- Provides high level of administrative and secretarial support.
- Takes minutes at Board Meetings.
- Establishes and maintains files for easy access and retrieval.
- Assists in the implementation of Board's decision.
- Assists in arranging and participation of functions.

Qualifications

- Minimum of 5 O'Levels/CXC
- Diploma in Business Administration/Management.
- Certificates in Microsoft Office Suite – Basic and Intermediate.

Terms and Conditions

- Employment is fulltime, permanent or contractual.
- Salary is reasonable including Group Health, Life and Pension.

Experience

- Minimum of 2 years working in a junior/middle management position.

Personal Attributes

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Excellent time management skills.
- Integrity.

All Applications should be addressed to:

The General Secretary of Synod
P.O. Box 187, Paradise Hill, San Fernando.
Email: pcutt@ststt.net.tt or pcutt1868@gmail.com and marked "Application for Position of Executive Assistant to Board."
The closing date for Application is 30th September, 2009.

Further enquiries can be made to the General Secretary at 652-4829; 657-3570 or 653-4788. Details can be found on the PCTT's Website: www.presbyterianchurchtt.org

Vacation Bible School at Nistar Presbyterian Church

The annual V.B.S. at Nistar Presbyterian Church commenced on July 27 and culminated on July 31, 2009. The children were engaged in many activities centred around the theme "Walking in the way of peace." Memory verses, hearty singing, colouring and art and craft filled the walls of the Sunday School room. One of the high points of their game sessions was playing on a Bouncy Castle which they thoroughly enjoyed. The V.B.S. ended with a field trip to the Pitch Lake..



This proved to be informative and thought provoking. The children enjoyed being in the company of teachers, parents and even our Minister Rev. A. Yorke who accompanied us on our field trip. I wish to thank all those who assisted in making our V.B.S. such a resounding success. I look forward to V.B.S. 2010.

Nirmala Chinebas Dindial,
Sunday School Superintendent

Induction of Elders at Marabella

Sunday August 2nd 2009 was an auspicious occasion for three faithful members of the Marabella Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Vashanti Gobin, Mrs. Zanipher Mohammed and Mrs. Molly Ramsamooj were formally inducted as Elders, having successfully completed the Elders' Course at the St. Andrew's Theological College. The Act of Induction was performed by the Minister, Rev. Letra Jacob. It was a touching moment for the three members and the large congregation who witnessed the Act.

In her Sermon Rev. Letra Jacob reminded the congregation that Elders are called upon to serve and to make use of the gifts and talents bestowed upon us by Almighty God. Too many persons are not using their gifts and talents to serve. In the leadership of the church if our work is not publicly acknowledged, we will not do more. In the Book of Jeremiah 1:5 we read, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you-----"

Scripture reminds us that before we even knew ourselves God has ordained us. Many of us are gifted with voice or music, but we do not use them to glorify God's name. When the Prophet Jeremiah was called by God he said, "..... Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But God told him not to be afraid for he would be with him, He would not leave him or forsake him. This shows us that being a youth should not hinder anyone from serving God and we should never say, "I am too young or I am too old."

Elders are not able to wave a magic wand and get the work of the church accomplished. It is very easy to give up responsibilities if the membership of the church does

not give its support. Elders will be ineffective if they are not supported. We all must work hand in hand with one another. We must never allow fear to take hold of us. God is calling us not only to serve Communion but to work beyond a Communion Service.

She assured the new Elders that like Jeremiah God would not forsake them because he has given us all that assurance when he said, "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you." (Jeremiah 8).

It was truly a blessed service of Induction especially for the three new Elders who were given the opportunity to serve Communion for the first time.

Florabelle Lutchman

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About CANACOM

The Caribbean and North American Council for Mission (CANACOM) is a Mission partnership of Churches in the Caribbean and North America which practices a unique vision of God's mission, based on mutuality.

The Mission Statement of CANACOM is to bear common witness, to challenge and empower one another for creative involvement in mission. There is a common understanding that mission begins at home. All are invited to begin in their Jerusalem, then to Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

CANACOM was established in 1986.

It comprises of 12 Member Churches as follows:

Guyana Congregational Union
Guyana Presbyterian Church
Presbytery of Guyana
Presbyterian Church in Grenada
Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago
United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands
Presbyterian Church, USA
Presbyterian Church in Canada
United Church in Canada
Iglesia Prebiteriana Reformada en Cuba
Verenigde Protestante Gemeente van Curacao
Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana

Functions

CANACOM is both Facilitator and Collaborator. CANACOM facilitates the mission of member churches in their own context as well as common initiatives within the partnership. As Collaborator, they contribute to a common pool on "round-table" through which the resources are shared. All churches serve as donors and receivers.

CANACOM COUNCIL

CANACOM convenes Annual Council Meetings each year, in one of the countries in which a member Church is located.

CANACOM PROGRAMMES

Three of the several programmes are Conferences, SOP and YAM.

Sharing of People (SOP)

Mutual sharing is practiced as a means of gaining new understanding, learning new ways of relating and developing new biblical mission identities. This mutuality ensures that churches both send and receive. There is an increasing awareness that we need other people, different perspectives and other traditions to shape our understanding of our calling.

That we are all "in process" and need one another is emphatically demonstrated in a visible way.

Youth Adults in Mission (YAM)
Work Camps

YAM Work Camps are opportunities to learn partnership in mission through working, living and studying together as an international group within a host country.

In July – August 2009 – two young adults from the PCTT – Ms. Saniya Beharry of the Marabella/Bonne Aventure Pastoral Region and Mr. Adrian Sultanti of the Diamond Pastoral Region represented the PCTT at a YAM Workshop/Camp in Jamaica.

CANACOM ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE – TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

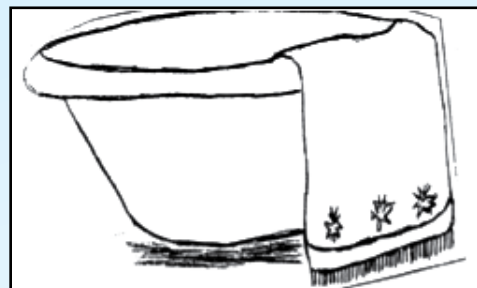
31st October – 9th November 2009 - To plan for this Conference a Planning Committee was appointed to prepare for hosting the Conference in Trinidad and Tobago. It comprises of the following persons:-

Mr. Carlos Lackhan	Mr. Ralph Sampath
Rev. Letra Jacob	Rev. Joy Abdul-Mohan
Deaconess Ashmin Gajadhar	Rev. Dr. Randall Sammah
Rev. Annabell Lalla-Ramkelawan	Rev. Bruce Kramer
Rev. Emmanuel Ramdeen	Rev. Adrian Sieunarine
Rev. Anna Sharma	Ms. Kimberly Ramlochan
Mrs. Rita Lackhan	Mr. Kenny Jalsa
Rev. Denyse Rattansingh	Mr. Joel John
Ms. Ameiza Charles	Mrs. Nola Ramlogan
Mr. Alvin Seereeram	Rt. Rev. Elvis Elahie

The Committee is headed by the General Secretary of the PCTT, Mr. Alvin Seereeram. There is a mixture of both clergy and lay members serving on this Committee. There is also representation from the Church of Scotland (Trinidad). Meetings are held monthly at Morton House. As the Conference draws nearer, the Committee will meet on a weekly basis.

A Field Trip is included to allow the visitors to see Trinidad and Tobago. Visiting Ministers will occupy our Pulpits on Sunday 1st November 2009. There will be both an opening and closing service to mark this very significant conference. Ten Youths (Stewards) will be part of the Conference. Church workers will be rostered to attend.

This Conference will indeed be another Exciting Journey in Mission Relationships. We look forward to the full participation and collaboration of all Pastoral Regions.



CANACOM Symbol

Youth Covention at Barrackpore

Dark grey skies and a heavy downpour couldn't prevent the youths of the Barrackpore Region from assembling at the Rochard Douglas Presbyterian School for the Regional Youth Convention. This venture was planned by the Regional Youth Assembly together with our hard-working Deaconess Ms. Marlene Seenathsingh. The theme of the Convention was Health and Family life.

The morning began with a vibrant chorus session led by Jordan Maicoo and Brandon Joseph. Musical accompaniment was provided by musicians of the Clarke Rochard Presbyterian Church: Elizabeth Ganga on the drum, David Dookie and Daniel Gopaul on the guitar. Our Deaconess gave a short meditation taken from the Book of Job. The guest speakers were Mr. Roy Umraw and Mrs.

Savitri Nobbee. Mr. Umraw addressed the Youths on the topics Pre-Marital Sex, Peer Pressure and Healthy living. Mrs. Nobbee spoke to the adults on the topic Healthy lifestyles.

The open forum provided an opportunity for both Youth and Parents to ask pertinent questions relating to the theme. A segment of the programme showcased the talent of the region: Meagan Lalchan- Pannist, Eddison Surajbally-Monologue, Choir- Clarke Rochard Presbyterian Church. This convention assisted the youths to draw closer to God and reaffirmed their commitment to the work and witness of the church. We anxiously await the National Youth Convention.

Daniel Gopaul



Mr. Roy Umraw addresses Youths



Mrs. Nobbee interacts with parents

Knox Presbyterian Youths visit Wild Fowl Trust



On Saturday morning, 1st, August, 2009 the Knox Presbyterian Church Youth group embarked on a bonding session and adventure to the Wild Fowl trust located in Point of Pierre.

The group arrived at the wild fowl grounds at 11 am where the president of the youth group Jason Sammy and the accompanying adults led in prayer. Miss Vanessa, our tour guide began with a brief history of the establishment. She explained that the Pointe-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust is an independent, national, non-profit, environmental, non-government, volunteer, membership organization,

encompassing of two lakes and about 25 hectares of land within a major petrochemical and oil refining complex, Petrotrin.

At this point we embarked on our tour around one of the two lakes in this pristine sanctuary. Along the way we were informed about the various species of birds that were around the area. Some of the magnificent birds observed were the White-Face Whistling Duck, Scarlet Ibis and the Neotropic Cormorants Black Ducks. These were just a few of the many species of birds seen. At the end of the journey were treated to a guest appearance by Arnold a large Boa constrictor snake. In addition to the predominately wild birds there was an injured macaw within the Learning Centre House. The injury was received when it was forced to live in cramped conditions when it was being illegally transported. This is a grim reminder of the damage that the human race is exerting on the wild life.

Enjoying the sights and sounds of the environment this hike sensitized us for the need to conserve and protect what the Lord has so richly blessed us with.

Knox Presbyterian Youth Group

San Francique Pres welcomes new members

Sunday July 12th, 2009 was a glorious day at the San Francique Presbyterian Church. For that Sunday was a bitter sweet day. There were three baptisms, nine young people who took their first communion and the last day that Rev. Winston Ramkissoon administered in the region.



New communicant members together with Rev. Winston Ramkissoon and the elders of the San Francique Presbyterian Church. **Back row - front:** Ernest Ramnarine, Lydia Soonylal, Vallisa Sookhansingh, Vidal Ganiga, Petal Bullock, Lauren Sonnylal, Dominic Nandlal, Shaunte Nandlal, Agnes Seepersad, Alvin Neemi, Shenelle Nandlal, Rev. Winston Ramkissoon, Darrian Balgobin, Doreen Ramtahal

After a service that lasted a little more than two hours there was much happiness and sadness as San Francique said welcome to their new members and goodbye to their spiritual leader. In his departing speech the Minister said that he did his best but he thought that his best was not good enough, but we from the church beg to differ. He brought into our lives much wisdom. Farewell Rev. Ramkissoon and God bless on behalf of the people who took their first communion and the rest of the church.
Shenelle Nandlal

THE POWER OF ONE- Youth Camp 2009 Aug 9th - 14th

This year campers explored the theme, "The Power of One" in relation to Family, the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ, Church and the Community.

In addition to worship and Bible studies, there were three thought provoking focus meetings conducted by Deaconess A. Gajadhar, Rev. Dr. R. Sammah and Rev. A. Rampersad. This camp was also privileged to be visited by the Rt. Rev. Elvis Elahie, Bishop Dr. Peter Mohan and Dr. George Mulrain.

Sumptuous meals were prepared by Chef Master Alex Tamby and his team. Occasionally, hearty lunches and dinners were catered by various church groups. The camp co-ordinators ensured that there was adequate time for team-work, spiritual uplifting, musical inspirations and educational experiences as in the Health Fair facilitated

by the Health and Family Planning Association. Additionally, there were shared sensitizing testimonies, motivational moments and summative reflections.

Of course, there were periods specially allocated for having fun, such as the Scavenger Hunt, "D' River Lime" and cook out at La Vega, where campers ate what they cooked. The week's activities culminated with the ritual of Thursday night campfire, where talented campers performed and entertained everyone to their hearts delight.

Alas, came the bitter-sweet moment of bidding adieu after an overwhelming evaluation and satisfying final worship. Every individual left empowered with a different Christian perspective to their life.

Karlene Rajkumar, Nariva Mayaro Pastoral Region

Couva/Balmain Youths walk in peace



with a combined effort of all charges in the region which included; Knox, Mc Bean, Balmain and Indian Trail. A total of ninety plus persons attended this function. The youths of the region displayed their God given talents in the forms of song, drama, speeches and playing various instruments. Rev. Bullock empowered the minds of all present with some knowledge of Peace. The purpose of this Concert and Bonfire was to integrate the youths of the four regions in one accord in serving our God. This integration is integral for the evolution of the Presbyterian Church. As the evening drew to an end and the Bonfire slowly extinguished, everyone left with a blessing and many of those, searching for peace did certainly find some.

Jason Sammy, President, Knox Presbyterian Youth Group

"Walking in Peace" was the theme used by the Couva/Balmain Youth Assembly in its Concert and Bonfire held on the 7th August 2009. It was hosted by the Knox Presbyterian Youth Group,

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- **Motivating Teenagers.**
- **Making a difference outside the classroom.**
- **How to effectively ward of student behavior problems before they occur.**
- **How to find out what you need to know about each student before it's too late.**
- **How to get students excited about learning.**
- **Getting students to perform better after life's disappointments.**

Vicky_boodram@yahoo.com • victoryconsulting@ymail.com
868-461-2824

Laity Sunday - Preaching Schedule

The Board of Men sincerely thanks all participants for willingly consenting to occupy our pulpits on Laity Sunday. A sermon outline, order of worship and the chairman's letter will be made available at Sunod's Office. For further information please contact Rudolph Sitahal (649-5649 / 761-6761) or Roopnarine Sankar (673-1144).

DATE : SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2009

SAN JUAN / WOODBROOK

Woodbrook	10.30 a.m.	Mr. Frank Gopie
San Juan	7.15 a.m.	Mr. Frank Gopie
Santa Cruz	8.45 a.m.	Mr. Dexter Rampersad

CUREPE- ST. JOSEPH

Curepe	10.00 a.m.	Mr. Emmanuel Ramkaran
St. Joseph	8.30 a.m.	Mr. Glen Chadee
Maracas	7.00 a.m.	Mr. Kennedy Bisnath
Caroni	7.00 a.m.	Mr. Devaoo Lawrence
Latchu Memorial	8.15 a.m.	Mr. Emmanuel Ramkaran

ARAMALAYA

Aramalaya	7.45 a.m.	Mr. Rodney Harnarine
Tacarigua	6.30 a.m.	Mr. Clyde Seecharan
Warrenville	9.00 a.m.	Mr. Frankie Ramjitsingh
Kelly	10.30 a.m.	Mr. Rodney Harnarine

ARIMA

Arima	7.00 a.m.	Mr. Anthony Sampath
Valencia	8.45 a.m.	Mr. Randy Ramoutar
St. Helena	10.30 a.m.	Mr. Anthony Sampath
San Carlos	9.00 a.m.	Mrs. Rowena Ramlochan

GUAICO

Guaico	9.30 a.m.	Mr. Reynold Baldeosingh
Cunaripo	8.00 a.m.	Mr. Kenny Moorley
Cumuto	6.45 a.m.	Mr. Kenneth Mahase
Caratal	6.30 a.m.	Mr. Roopnarine Sankar
Jubilee	8.00 a.m.	Mr. Roopnarine Sankar

SANGRE CHIQUITO

Sangre Chiquito	7.00 a.m.	Mr. Alan D'Andrade
Grosvenor	7.00 a.m.	Mr. Carol Jitman
Fishing Pond	9.00 a.m.	Mr. Alan D'Andrade
Plum Road	8.30 a.m.	Mr. Robin Naipaul
Plum Mitan	10.00 a.m.	Mr. Robin Naipaul

SUSAMACHAR

Susamachar	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Michael Dowlath
Susamachar	5:00 p.m.	Mr. Amitabh Boodram
Vistabella	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Amitabh Boodram
Corinth	8:30 a.m.	Ms. Paula Harrison
Golconda	10:00 a.m.	Mr. Addison Khan

CHASE VILLAGE

Nistar	10.00 a.m.	Dr. George Sammy
Waterloo	7.00 a.m.	Mrs. David Dookie
Calcutta	8.00 a.m.	Mr. W. Hanoomansingh
Bank Village	7.30 a.m.	Mr. Ernest Budhoo

CHAGUANAS

St. Charles	9.30 a.m.	Mr. Clarence Bharat
Cunupia	8.30 a.m.	Mr. Deonath Goorah
Las Lomas	7.00 a.m.	Mr. George Baksh
Longdenville	7.15 a.m.	Mr. Carlos Lakhan
Felicity	8.00 a.m.	Mr. B. Manickchand

COUVA

Knox	8.00 a.m.	Dr. George Sammy
Mc Bean	7.00 a.m.	Mr. Mohan Baggan
Balmain	8.30 a.m.	Mr. Gary Samai
Indian Trail	9.30 a.m.	Ms. Fairley Lalla

LA ROMAINE/DEBE

La Romaine	7.00 a.m.	Mr. Roy Umraw
Debe	7.00 a.m.	Mr. M. Bhagwandin
Canaan	8.30 a.m.	Mr. Roy Umraw
Esperance	9.00 a.m.	Mr. M. Bhagwandin
Hermitage	10.30 a.m.	Mr. Rudolph Sitahal

PRINCES TOWN

St. Andrews (P/Town)	7.00 a.m.	Diamond Men's Fellow
Iere	8.30 a.m.	Diamond Men's Fellow
Jordan Hill	7.30 a.m.	Diamond Men's Fellow
St. Mary's-Moruga Rd.	9.30 a.m.	Diamond Men's Fellow

RIVERSDALE

Brothers	8.30 a.m.	Mr. Frank Ramjitsingh
St. Georges	8.00 a.m.	Mr. Hilton Siboo
Riversdale	9.45 a.m.	Mr. Hilton Siboo
Morichal	7.00 a.m.	Mr. Frank Ramjitsingh

OROPOUCHE

Morning Star	6:30 a.m.	Mr. Nicholson Ramsaran
Rousilac	9:30 a.m.	Mr. Carl Goursahab
Eternal Light	8:00 a.m.	Mr. Nicholson Ramsaran

CLAXTON BAY

Ebenezer	7:30 a.m.	Mr. Ricardo Cleghorn
Mizpah	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Ricardo Cleghorn
Esperanza	9:30 a.m.	Mrs. Myrtle Brown
California	8:00 a.m.	Mrs. Myrtle Brown
Carolina	6:30 a.m.	Mr. Timothy Nagir

DIAMOND

Diamond	7:15 a.m.	Mr. Chandra Umraw
Krist-Madhli	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Donald Mitchell
Lower B/pore	7:00 a.m.	Mrs. Nola Ramlogan
Transfer	8:30 a.m.	Mrs. Nola Ramlogan

TABLELAND

Poole	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Ken Seepersad
St. James	7:30 a.m.	Mr. Lloyd Mungal
St. Julien	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Ken Seepersad
New Century	8:30 a.m.	Mr. C. Mahabir

TABAQUITE

Piparo	6:30 a.m.	Simone Singh
Tabaquite	9:30 a.m.	Mr. Leslie Naipaul
Torrib Trace	9:30 a.m.	Mr. Harry Kowlessar
Jeffers 24 Mile	8:00 a.m.	Simone Singh
Flanagin Town	8:00 a.m.	Mr. Leslie Naipaul

POINT FORTIN / CEDROS

Salazar Trace	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Reno Siloch
Guapo	8:15 a.m.	Mr. Mickey Bedasie
Coromandel	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Rawle Seepersad
Point Coco	10:00 a.m.	Simon Ali
Point Fortin	9:30 a.m.	Mr. Mickey Bedasie
Cedros	7:00 am	Mr. Rawle Seepersad

BARRACKPORE

Barrackpore Union	7:30 a.m.	Mr. Irving Hoosane
Lengua	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Irving Hoosane
Borde Narve	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Rudolph Sitahal
Clark Rochard	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Lennox Ramoutar
Rochard Douglas	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Chandra Umraw

MARABELLA / BONNE AVENTURE

Marabella	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Sampat Raghunanan
Gasparillo	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Sampat Raghunanan
Bonne Aventure	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Emma Bhola
Mayo	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Krishna Persad
Reform	7:30 a.m.	Mr. Joseph Bridgelal
Ben Lomand	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Emma Bhola

NARIVA/MAYARO

Rio Claro	7:00 a.m.	Fyzabad Men's Fellowship
Ecclesville	7:00 a.m.	Fyzabad Men's Fellowship
Mafeking	8:30 a.m.	Fyzabad Men's Fellowship
Navet	8:30 a.m.	Fyzabad Men's Fellowship
Biche	7:00 a.m.	Fyzabad Men's Fellowship

PENAL/SIPARIA

Penal	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Addison Khan
Penal Rock Road	9:00 a.m.	Mr. Karamchand Mitchell
8 Mile (Divine Rock)	10:30 a.m.	Rosalind Daniel Mohan
Erin	7:00 a.m.	Mr. Dennis Williams
Siparia	8:30 a.m.	Mr. Dennis Williams
San Francique	10:30 a.m.	Ms. Frederick Lakhan
Mendez	10:30 a.m.	Mr. Karamchand Mitchell
Quinam	5.00 pm	Ms. Melissa Mahatoo

"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."
Luke 12:6-7

Well done Amber!



Congratulations to Amber S Hasanali, a member of the Mizpah Presbyterian Church in Claxton-Bay. An A' Level Student, graduated from San-Fernando Gov't Sec. School and was awarded a challenge trophy in July. Amber is also an active Sunday-School teacher and very vibrant member of the Church's Youth Group. A very hard-working member. God Bless You. *From the Minister and members of the Mizpah Presbyterian Church.*

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

**141
YEARS**

**REALIZING A NEW VISION:
PRESERVING THE IMPORTANT
ELEMENTS OF OUR HERITAGE;
REFORMING AND RENEWING OUR
PRESENCE TO THE GLORY OF GOD;
BEING A PROPHETIC VOICE IN
OUR COUNTRY.**

Tacarigua P. C. W. celebrates 50 years

On Sunday 31st May 2009, P.C.W. members from Wood brook through Guaico Pastoral Regions and other invited guests, attended a Thanksgiving Service at the Tacarigua Presbyterian Church to commemorate 50 Years as a group.

The pews were filled, the Church was beautifully decorated, and a Banner depicting our 50th Anniversary, and our Theme "Women in Ministry-Bringing Life to Lives." The evening began with an introit from the Choir "Above the Hills of Time," this was followed by the Call to Worship by intern Minister Kimberly Ramlochan. During the singing of the first hymn, one of our long standing members, Mrs. Rose Balwant lit the Memorial Candle in memory of those who have gone before us. This was followed by a Memorial Prayer, done by Rev. Cyril Paul.

The First Scripture Lesson: Exodus Ch 1 vs. 15:22 was read by Mrs. Stella Oudit, Secretary of the P.C.W. and the Second Scripture Lesson: St. Luke CH 4 vs. 14:20 was read by Student Minister Ria Thompson.

The President of the P.C.W. Ms. Susan Sair welcomed everyone to the Service, and gave a brief History of the Group. "Our Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month, at 4.30 pm in the Church Hall. Members are assigned to conduct Worship Sessions for the various months of the year, which always formed the more important part of our meetings.

Some of our activities include, attending P.C.W. conferences, visiting the sick, helping needy cases during the year, contributing to Children's Homes during the year, namely The Autistic Society, and Bridge of Hope, cottage

meetings, distribution of food hampers during the year, and at Christmas time, Christmas get-togethers, and an occasional trip to Tobago."

The President also paid Special Tribute to those who have gone before us, and were very vibrant in leading our group. Rev. Mary Naimool, Mrs. May Bally, Mrs. Melba Maharaj, and Mrs. Marjorie Cameron, and all other ladies who served faithfully.

The Guest Speaker, Rev. Joy Abdul-Mohan was introduced by Ms. Tara Dwarika, Treasurer of the P.C.W. Rev. Joy Abdul-Mohan gave a very inspiring message, based on the text, Exodus Ch 1 vs 15:22 her theme was "Women in Ministry-Bringing Life to Lives." In her message, she stressed the importance of Women in the Church and Women in the World. She referred to Shiphrah and Puah, the two midwives who helped the Hebrew women to give birth. The King instructed the midwives to "Kill the baby if it is a boy, if it is a girl let it live."

Rev. Abdul-Mohan congratulated the P.C.W. for the work they have done over the last 50 years, and encouraged the group to continue their work in this part of God's vineyard. The President thanked Rev. Joy Abdul-Mohan for her very inspiring message. Floral presentations were made to Rev. Abdul-Mohan and Mrs. Barbara Paul. Special Anniversary Tokens were distributed by members of the group to families present. Everyone was invited to the Church Hall to have refreshments and enjoy the fellowship.

Radio Heritage carried our Service Live to listeners throughout the Country. This was done courtesy Mr. and Mrs. Laing of our congregation. Ms. Susan Sair

Regional Youth Assembly at Nariva / Mayaro: "Our Church, Our Responsibility"

Our assembly was held on the morning of August 15th at the Rio Claro Presbyterian School. The joyful day began with a mini-parade from the Rio Claro Presbyterian Church led by the Rio Claro Scout Troop. The youths were quite happy to have in their presence, the Rt. Reverend Elvis Elahie, who was accompanied by Rev. Daniel Chance. The moderator emphasized that if there is to be change in the church, we must want change and be willing to change. He also stressed that every Presbyterian is responsible for the movement, flexibility and life of the church, not just its functioning as an established institution.

Mr. Lawrence Herman presented the findings of the



Regional survey aimed at determining the issues of youth involvement in the church and developing a practical solution. The five churches within the region gave group performances related to the chosen theme. The first regional

choir rendered the theme song "Standing on the Promises". A very young but accomplished Presbyterian woman, Ms. Sofia Chote, an attorney at law, was the feature speaker. She highlighted that many youths are seeking to answer the question, "Who am I?" but they should be more focused on accepting that they are a child of God with a unique purpose. She urged the youths to reach out to the world because they are not the future leaders of the church but rather: the leaders of today

Walk for a wall at Debe Presbyterian Church

The morning of Sunday 12th July 2009 started out perfect for a walkathon. The blue Sunday sky was streaked with wisps of white clouds. At 8 o'clock over sixty Church members were all called together in the car park for a short devotion done by Presiding Elder, Mr. Timothy Beepath. The Naparima College Boy Scouts signaled the start of the walk with the pulsating sound of their drums. And we were off, enthusiastic and energized. Shoulder to shoulder we started our route that took us from the Debe Presbyterian Church. As we crossed the street we were met with a horrifying view: a hill. Spirited members of our Local Board encouraged us onwards while the scouts continued their cheerful music and before we knew it we were heading downhill. We continued on our route with a mike leading the way and playing selected music which included the late Michael Jackson's "Heal the world" and an ambulance bringing up the rear (which we thankfully did not need to use) and were greeted by members of the community.

As we persevered down the S.S Erin Road we discovered members of the congregation with water and so had our first water stop. On and on we walked down the Main Road in the direction of Penal. Red in face, the sun burning the tops of our head and the soles of our shoes considerably thinner we gathered at the M.S. Foodcity supermarket for our last water stop. There it was decided that we ought to head back to the church for a short worship service. The walk back to the church felt significantly shorter because we had the very promising prospect of breakfast provided by congregation members'. After everyone devoured their breakfast, our very own Reverend Rawle Sukhu led the congregation in a worship service ending with a prayer, giving thanks for the success of our walkathon.

The proceeds of the walkathon will go towards the rebuilding of a wall that is posing a threat to the Church's building. Ashley Jhagroo

Vacant Position of Administrative Assistant St. Andrew's Theological College

Applicants are kindly invited for the position of Administrative Assistant, SATC Incorporated.

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Accounting: to ensure that the Financial Policies and procedures of SATC are followed; to have overall responsibility for the Accounts, etc.

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Closing Date: 30th September 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

All Applications with detailed resume should be addressed to:
The General Secretary of Synod
P.O. Box 187, Paradise Hill, San Fernando.
and/or Fax: 652-4829 and/or Email: pctt1868@gmail.com or pctt@tstt.net.tt and marked "Application for Position of Administrative Assistant, SATC"

For further details please contact the General Secretary of Synod at Tel.: 652-4829/653-4788.

Happy 75th to Thelma!



Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Mrs. Thelma Boodhan who celebrated her 75th Birthday on the 24th August, 2009. She serves as an Honorary Elder at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Princes Town and is an activist of the PCW there. **God's Blessings!**

Prison Ministry – Poetry

ENCOUNTERS

A free man becomes a slave in christ,
A slave becomes free in christ.
Lord i am glad we can talk anytime,
Lord help my roots to grow deep in you,
So i will be made strong.
God help me to be part of your family,
Without god life has no lasting solutions!

MY HEART

Plow up my hard heart o lord!
Let thy seed be planted not in vain.
Oh lord as i cry my heart is full of pain,
For lord i give to you my heart not in vain.

WRITTEN BY TYRONE CLARKE,
INMATE – MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON
Submitted by Rev. Anthony Rampersad
Prison Chaplain

La Romaine /Debe Regional Youth Gathering

The La Romaine /Debe Pastoral region held its first youth gathering on Saturday 8th August, 2009 at the Emmanuel Presbyterian church. The theme chosen for this youth gathering was "YOUTH REVOLUTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY." The programme for the day began with worship led by our very own Reverend Rawle Sukhu following was a singspiration led by the host youth group from the Emmanuel Presbyterian church. Mrs Jennifer Ramdin one of the elders of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church welcome all to the youth gathering and wished them every success in their endeavours. The President of the Emmanuel Presbyterian youth group, Ms. Anali Horrel introduced the chairperson for the days proceedings who was Mrs. Anita Singh-Mohammed of the St. Agnes Presbyterian Church.

The feature speaker was Attorney –at-Law Mr. Kevin Rattiram. Mr. Rattiram told the audience that this Youth Revolution should not be one of a violent nature but rather a process of changing one's thoughts. He emphasized that there must be individuals who must infiltrate the various institutions of society to make a difference. He made mention that we should move away from our comfort zones with foresight if change is to take place. Mr. Rattiram told the youthful audience to be part of any revolution you need to have young persons who must fill leadership roles, he emphasized that youths are not the leaders of tomorrow but rather the leaders of today. He employed the youths to be obligated to their churches, community, country and to the world so that positive contributions can

be made ,he asked "how many of you will be able to say you contributed to your society or will you hang your head in shame that you did not?"

He told the youths that a revolution should have a "snow-ball" effect where you build gradually until ultimate attainment of your objective is achieved. He encouraged the youths to become fishers of men. Mr. Rattiram emphasized the need for activities which must be meaningful and interesting for young people such as sports, music, and debating. Mr. Rattiram shared some of his own experiences with the youths and attributed that all his achievements are blessings from God and that he gives God thanks everyday for these blessings. He concluded by congratulating the region for its theme and wished them every success in this Youth Revolution.

Many inspirational items were on the programme where one guest artiste, Mr. Mark Ng Wai of the St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church, sang to Gods honour and glory, also sharing her beautiful renditions was Ms. Lianna Doodath. Following was a sumptuous lunch enjoyed by all after which fun activities took place by all members sharing their talents. The programme ended with a challenge to all churches by Reverend Sukhu to the region to continue in this revolution to build their youth groups .It was a day well spent and fulfilling to all.

La Romaine / Debe Region



Emmanuel Presbyterian Youth Group



Emmanuel Presbyterian Youth Group



Esperance Presbyterian Youth Group



Emmanuel Presbyterian Youth Group

New Visions: Kirkpatrick Park, Tunapuna

Once again there are new visions being shared in the Tunapuna area. This time some persons are hoping to build a new retirement home and recreational centre that will be called Kirkpatrick Park. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome and we hope that others will catch this vision too.

ACCOMMODATION :

There will be accommodation for 20 persons. This will be a two-storey oriental quadrangle with basement and fountain ; 19 en suite single rooms, 1 en suite double room for 16 females, 3 males and 1 couple

FEATURES:

The proposed facility will have the following:

- Lounge and restaurant with stage - to be used as a Church Hall
- Pool with Fountain for hydrotherapy with wooden deck;
- Library
- Printery with Internet, Fax and Photocopier
- Music, TV,
- Beauty Salon, Spa, Gym,
- Sports and Games,
- Reception,
- Warden, Guard, Carer

- Laundry, Stores,
- First Aid
- Kitchen, Bakery, Juice Bar,
- Garden,
- Upper Deck with balcony,
- Clinic and Pharmacy

The proposed centre will have its facilities named to commemorate Patriarchs and Pioneers of the PCTT. The centre will allow persons to come in as well and will offer: Music lessons, academic coaching, short courses, counseling, therapy and other skills.

ARE YOU INTERESTED? CONTACT:

Telephone: 663 6704

Email: sallysr@sttt.net.tt

sally@bridgefield.org

"But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends."
2 Corinthians 10:17-18

Counselling Column: Upset and Confused

Dear Rev. Paul,

I really like my boyfriend when I met him about a year ago. But something is happening that is threatening to break up our relationship. He keeps asking me about the guys I used to go out with. Then he would become very jealous. Then I would get upset with him for bringing up something I did not want to talk about in the first place. Where do we go from here?

Sgd...: Upset and Confused

Dear "Upset and Confused"

Thank you for writing to the Counselling Column and for raising a concern which I am sure many couples have had problems/fights over.

Both of you need to sit down and have a good talk about this matter. Be open with each other about how you feel and focus on what is happening to your relationship as a result of these questions. From what you shared in your letter it is quite clear that unless you and your fiancé do some-

thing quickly about this problem, it will definitely succeed in breaking up your relationship.

So here is what you two can consider doing: Agree to desist from discussing the people you previously dated. In other words, stop bringing up former girlfriends and boyfriends. From your letter, your fiancé is the one who does the bringing up, so my suggestion is really for him. Try this out, and I feel confident that you could get along a whole lot better.

If you happen to run into a former boyfriend or girlfriend, just look at each other and say something like "History". That one word would keep you from falling back into old unhelpful habits.

You have probably heard the popular saying, "unless we learn from our history we are doomed to repeat it." You cannot only learn from your history, you can also learn that naming your history prevents you from repeating it.

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.)

Children's Corner: The tests



When school reopens shortly and you go back to your classrooms, your teacher will give you tests to see if you have learnt or understood the lessons that you were taught in the class. I am sure that you would want to pass all these tests.

These tests are important, but the more important tests are the tests of your behaviour and attitude in choosing to do what is right and true. The devil tested or tempted Jesus to see if he really loved God and would do God's will. Your friends at school or on the playground will test you to see if you really love your parents and to see if you will do the tasks they want you to do.

Memory Verse: St. Luke 11:4 ...and do not bring us to hard testing. (GNB) or ...and lead us not into temptation (KJV).

Scripture Reading: St. Luke 4:1-13.

Song: Satan is a sly old fox or
Hymn: Yield not to temptation. BOP#

Prayer: Lord, as a child I am tested everyday to see if I practice the right things I have learnt from my parents, my family, my teachers, my friends and others. Help me not to fail these tests, but give me the strength like Jesus to do what is right. Amen.

Activities:

1. do this test after you have read the scripture passage
What was Jesus' first test? What did he say?
What was Jesus second test, what did he do?
What was Jesus' third test, what did he say and do?
2. Write out some things you would say to someone when they test you, e.g.
My mommy said...
My daddy said...
My teacher said...
The Bible says... e.g. get thee behind me, Satan
3. Draw a picture of one of Jesus' temptations.
Until next month, remember to be good.

With all my love and blessings, Uncle Bill.

Children, have you ever done something that you were told not to do and was sorry for afterwards? Have you ever tried to prove to your friends that you can do as you please without having to answer to your parents, your teachers and others in charge of you? Have you ever wanted things your own way and did not listen to others?

These were tests in your life to see if you will do the tasks you have to do and do it the way you were taught and told. As children you are tested everyday to see if you would do the things that are right and true. Did you know that even Jesus was tested many times during his life? His best known tests were called the temptations. Jesus had these three tests when he had to decide how he was going to do the tasks God had given him to do.

A temptation is also called a test. When you are tested or tempted, you see in your mind pictures of what you should do and pictures of what you should not do. Your test is to choose like Jesus did after something good, big or important happens to you.

The Family Can: make all things new

As 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.

Far too often we separate, distance or isolate ourselves when we are in distress and difficulties that arise from major or minor illness, accidents, incidents and trauma. We become absorbed in our self, our problem and our disturbances and begin to see life narrowly through our own eyes, failing to understand that the eyes of our family are resources that are available to help us see clearly and understand the dilemma and trauma we have experienced or perceived. As they say, we turn a molehill into a mountain.

During this month let us focus our thoughts on 'recovery' because resulting actions can lead to positive outcomes and consequences which can make all things new for your family. As family members interact with each other to bond, to form and to grow relationships, the attitude and behavior of any member can create and cause recovery to extend itself indefinitely.

Healing may be miraculous, but recovery is based on your ability and willingness to trust and believe and have faith in others, particularly in members of your family who can provide their support. Recovery strengthens the bonds between you and members of your family, but often we

as individuals try to do it on our own, by our self as it is 'my problem not yours, I do not need your help, it is not your business, get lost, don't bother me, if I want your help I will ask for it'. We personalize and suffer.

Sometimes there is the fear of recovery because it presents challenges to our excusing our weaknesses, failures, and disabilities. No longer can we hide behind our problem and be treated with sympathy, but we are challenged to take or re-take charge of our own life. Yes, but even so we can choose to become tyrannical with the 'you don't know what I have been through' justification. Sadly, you have missed the point that recovery is ongoing as all addicts learn and accept what they cannot change, that is, you cannot do it by yourself or 'on your own' but you need the support and encouragement of others and who best but your family who have shared your experiences and suffered with you through the difficult times. When you recover your family recovers. Be mindful therefore that the family can make all things new for you.

Each day brings new opportunities to any family or family member caught in the continuum of trauma and recovery but the question remains, are you willing to make the changes required for recovery? Take time to recover as this brings healing and a newness that makes 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*

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

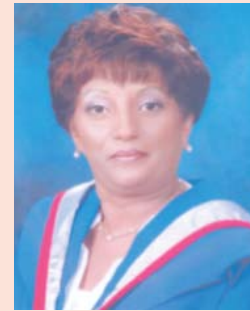


(See John 10:1-18)
I FIND IT MUCH EASIER TO BE A GOOD SHEPHERD WHEN I AM CARING FOR ONE SUPER LARGE SHEEP INSTEAD OF A WHOLE FLOCK OF SMALL ONES

08-21-2009 Thanks to Dad Hengeveld
SURE YOU MUST HAVE A GOOD VIEW FROM UP THERE, BUT WHATEVER, THAT THING MUST BE A WICKED HAY GUZZLER

Memoriam: Roseabelle and Gerald

In Loving Memory of



Rosabelle Rajpaulsingh

(nee Parsotan)

Sunrise: 29th June 1955

Sunset: 3rd September 2008

To some you may be forgotten

To others a part of the past

To us who loved and lost you

The memories will always last.

Lovingly remembered by:

Dear son Rainer

Mother – Cecelia Parsotan

Sisters – Crystabell, Carol, Joan and Sherry

Brothers – Ralph and Russell

Nieces and Nephews and In-Laws.

Her many friends,

Colleagues in the Teaching Profession

and members of the Fyzabad Presbyterian Church.

In Loving Memory of

Gerald Wilfred Phillips

Sunrise: 13/02/1928

Sunset: 29/08/1998

We hold our tears when we speak your name;

But the aches in our hearts remain the same.

Lovingly remembered by:

His Wife – Joyce (Lakhan)

Children – Sherry, Gary and Anna

Daughter-in-Law – Sindy

Son-in-Law – Roy

Grandchildren – Seven

Brothers and Sisters and In-Laws.

"If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." **Romans 14:8**

We must do better!

The PCTT needs to be proud of thirty four of our "small" primary schools (i.e less than 20 students admitted to the exam) that have done well at the 2009 SEA examinations. Ten schools that are worthy of mention are: Esperanza, Felicity, Cumuto, Fishing Pond, Mitan, San Francique, Elswick, Nipal, Piparo, and Tabaquite. Accolades must be extended to Michael G. Seucharan of Tabaquite Pres., who was among the first 100 students for 2009. Michael is now enrolled at Naparima College.

However, 94 of our students from several Presbyterian primary schools scored less than 30% in the SEA exam, and therefore will remain in the primary school system. I want to suggest that these children should be deemed "delicate" learners and we must do what we can to raise their level of performance. They need Tender Loving Care to assist them. I wish to make the following suggestions:

1. Quality Performance must become the right of all students. All Principals and teachers and other stake holders, including ministers and the PPSBE must endeavour to do better for the children.

2. Read and study Matthew 25: 31-46. In helping the underperformers, we will be serving Jesus.

3. Principals, whether Acting or Appointed must be exemplary with regard to their regularity, punctuality and instructional leadership. Many teachers will respond

positively to what they see.

4. Teachers must be in the right place in the right time with the right lesson. PROPER PLANNING PRODUCES PERFORMANCE.

5. Encourage parents to read to their children especially in the earlier years. By Standard Two, the majority should be fluent readers. Reading is the key.

6. The use of the dictionary should be taught as early as possible and students encouraged to use it.

7. Use concrete apparatus in the teaching of mathematics. Mathematics is all around us. Use practical examples.

8. Presbyterians must remember the Stewardship rule: Time, Talents, Treasure. The two marks of a Christian are: "Giving and Forgiving"; and "What you give lives".

9. One year from this day, there will be a rich harvest when many more students will be better ready for Secondary School. Therefore, WE MUST ACT NOW!

10. Remember, teach with a smile and a happy heart today.

Ken Seepersad

Read the Bible in one year: Sep-Oct '09 Guide

1st	Psalms 91-92 Acts 1	12th	Psalms 105 Acts 12	23rd	Isaiah 41&42 Acts 27
2nd	Psalms 100 Acts 2	13th	Psalms 106 Acts 13	24th	Isaiah 43&44 Acts 28
3rd	Psalms 101 Acts 3	14th	Psalms 107 Acts 14	25th	Isaiah 45&46 Ephesians 1
4th	Psalms 93-94 Acts 4	15th	Psalms 108,110 Acts 15	27th	Isaiah 47-48 Ephesians 2
5th	Psalms 95-96 Acts 5	16th	Psalm 109 Acts 16	28th	Isaiah 49-50 Ephesians 3
6th	Psalms 97 Acts 6	17th	Isaiah 29&30 Acts 17	29th	Isaiah 51-52 Ephesians 4
7th	Psalms 98 Acts 7	18th	Isaiah 31&32 Acts 18-19	30th	Isaiah 53-54 Ephesians 5
8th	Psalms 99 Acts 8	19th	Isaiah 33&34 Acts 20-21	Oct 1st	Isaiah 55-56 Ephesians 6
9th	Psalms 102 Acts 9	20th	Isaiah 35 &36 Acts 22-23	2nd	Isaiah 57-58 Mark 1
10th	Psalms 103 Acts 10	21st	Isaiah 37&38 Acts 24-25	3rd	Isaiah 59-60 Mark 2
11th	Psalms 104 Acts 11	22nd	Isaiah 39&40 Acts 26		

e-TP: <http://www.zorce.com/trinidad-presbyterian/TP-SEP-09.pdf>

Online Presbyterians:
www.presbyterianchurchtt.org

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The Camp Experience: Leadership

The First Day

When I walked into the kitchen on that first day, it was full of chatter. Old friends meeting again and new friends meeting for the first time, the energy was contagious from the moment you arrived. Meeting old friends and greeting new ones was only a part of this extraordinary weekend. The unique group gathered together for ice breakers, where each person was given a chance at an introduction, next we began fun activities that showed each and every personality, as the atmosphere began to warm and was less formal. To end each day a lively worship introduced us to the vibrant and fun praise and worship sessions that were a significant part of camp life.

The Second day

The day at camp always started bright and early. Personally it is very difficult not to feel excited for the day ahead, sessions that were beneficial to life and fun activities were planned for the entire day. First, we all gathered in the Chapel for morning worship which was conducted by our peers in their respective groups. We were all encouraged to participate and we were fortunate to hear the word of God through our peers and their own unique connection with God.

For our study sessions the theme was: "The Power of One." The first session led by Rev. Adrian Sieunarine, made us explore what exactly is our identity and what does it mean. We were called upon to be a thermostat, a device which regulates temperature, and not a thermometer which is regulated by temperature, in other words, we were called to be those who control the situation around us and is not controlled by it. This session made us look at who we are beyond our title and our name but a deeper meaning, a deeper identity.

The second session led by Rev. Kalloo was centred on breaking down barriers that may interfere in our church and life in general and thus prevent us from following in the path of Jesus Christ. This interactive session allowed each person to voice their concerns and anything that may be preventing them from serving God, for example lack of confidence, support or age difference, just to name a few. This session served to be very beneficial as we addressed all our concerns and problems and we came up with various solutions to solve them.

The third session for the day led by Mr. Kenrick Sooknarine, taught us how to build bridges in our lives, how to establish relationships with people in and around our church. The last session led by Student Minister Colin Lezama, recapped all that we had learnt and offered suggestions to strengthen our youth group and church life.

The last learning experience of the day was something that has always been on the camp itinerary, that is, the bible

study. This particular study was led by Intern Minister Kimberly Ramlochan and she dealt with the temptations of everyday life. Each group was given a specific part of the chosen passage to comment and bring their interpretation on. As always this allowed us to voice what we as youths learn and know about the bible. The worship on the night before the last day of camp is often a more spiritual and calm time, a time of reflection of what was said and what was learnt. This worship and chorus session took on an even more exhilarating and spiritual form. The lights were turned off, and the only light came from the cross at the front of the church, prayer requests were made and we all prayed together, a very pensive mood filled the atmosphere. One can only describe this as a soothing, calming moment of clarity, where you can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Final Day and Goodbyes

The day started at the Susamachar Presbyterian church, we were fortunate to be invited as guests to listen and we also participated in the service. After the service, we visited the J.C. McDonald Home for the aged. When we arrived, we sang choruses and then disbursed into smaller groups. My experience was filled with mixed emotions, having lost my grandfather who was also in a home for the elderly, earlier this year. However, by knowing our singing was the reason for their smiles and clapping, it is the most rewarding feeling in the world. One of our new friends even went into her room, pulled out a song book and began to sing for us. When we returned from the home, we had a debriefing, it was unanimous that we were all awed at the influence we had on the residents of the home.

After a hearty meal, we started our team building exercises. We were forced to think outside the box and co-operate as a team to complete each task. We learnt many important leadership skills, for example learning to co-operate, the importance of brainstorming and team work. This was very fun as there were many laughs along the way. Our last activity as campers of the 2009 leadership camp was evaluation and worship. I can definitely say that without a doubt, no one breathed a negative word about their experience; it was truly an exciting learning and beneficial experience. Above all, it was a spiritually enriching experience. One analogy that describes that weekend is that camp is like a gas station, just as a car goes to a gas station to be refuelled and reenergized, we also do the same. We reaffirm our spirituality, with the extra blessings of making new friends, friends that are there for thirty plus years. In the end, on behalf of all the campers, I would sincerely like to thank all the persons who have made this leadership camp possible. Keep doing what you do and God Bless; it is truly a blessing to have all of you to organize such a wonderful event.

*Anushka Ameerli, Chaguanas Pastoral Region
Spiritually Enriched Camper*

Chase Village Pastoral Region Youth Gathering

Walking in the way of peace" was the theme adopted by Rev. Brenda Bullock to inspire those who attended the Youth Gathering, which was arranged by the Chase Village Pastoral Region's Regional Development Committee. The days' proceedings commenced with Rev. Arthur Yorkes' opening prayers and followed by an electrifying Praise and Worship session led by the combined efforts of Mrs. Tara Persad, members of the Waterloo Presbyterian church choir and the dynamic young organist Nathan Nagir. Our Guest Performer was one of our very own congregant, Mr. Ellis who brought his message to the gathering through two calypsos entitled 1) Choices 2) Causes and Answers.

Deaconess Ashmin Gajadhar then brought greetings from B.O.Y.A. and introduced Rev. Bullock as the guest speaker. Dea. Gajadhar reminded the audience of their responsibilities as Presbyterians in mobilizing the youths and instilling in them Christian values and beliefs. She noted that the precedent has now been set in the region with this event being an annual occurrence that could positively impact on the membership and renewal of faith of fellow Presbyterians.

The highlight of the day was the motivational speech delivered by Rev. Brenda Bullock. Her message invoked the participants to contemplate on the theme "Walking in the way of peace". Her discourse drew upon biblical and current events which sought to highlight how God's love creates that peace. She emphasized that this trait was not easily achieved and can only be gained through commitment and dedication in living the life God wants to, and not the life we believe he wants us to. Her message was indeed commendable as this was expressed by the Local Board representative of the Waterloo Presbyterian church upon her delivery of a token of appreciation to Rev. Bullock.



Gary Samai (guy with microphone) leading participants in a discussion. In the background Nathan Nagir organist.

A healthy discussion was then initiated by Gary Samai, Secretary of the Bank Village Presbyterian Church local board. The interactive session allowed the participants to reflect on the creation of a peaceful being and society. One member each from the four churches (St. John Bank Village, Waterloo, Calcutta and Nistar) in the region then presented their views and opinions. Their responses all echoed that peace begins within the individual and can only be achieved

and reflected to the larger community of family and country if we follow the messages given to us by Jesus.

This was followed by group presentations from the four churches they included;

- St. John Bank village - power point presentation
- Nistar - poem
- Calcutta - jokes
- Waterloo - article

These were presented by various members who were enthusiastic and elated for the opportunity. The youths all expressed their passion for the development of the region and praised the R.D.C for its work and commitment to the region's youths.

The gathering concluded with closing remarks by Presiding Elder Mr. Emmanuel Ramkaran who thanked all the persons involved, including the Waterloo Presbyterian church's local board, participants, presenters, and organizers. A prayer circle was then formed to bless the refreshments and end the days' activities.

*Gary Samai
Secretary, Local Board
St. John Bank Village*

Article Submission Guidelines for the Trinidad Presbyterian

Please note that if you wish to submit an article to the Trinidad Presbyterian (TP), there are some simple guidelines to follow:

1. Deadline for submission of all articles is the 15th of each month. Late submittals of articles have a way of causing sleepless nights.
2. Articles should be TYPED and EMAILED to ALL of the following addresses: trinidadpresbyterian@gmail.com ; pcutt1868@gmail.com ; pcutt@tstt.net.tt
3. Please use - Times Roman font, 12-point Size.
4. ALL articles must have a writer's name (or names) and a suggested title.
5. If photographs are submitted, give full details of name(s), location, details of the event and so forth. In particular, CHECK SPELLING OF NAMES. Where possible, please send good quality medium- or high-resolution digital photos. Although photos can be placed into documents, separate JPG photos are preferred. Captions for photos can still

be indicated in documents. Send digital photos of around 1024x768 pixels in size or higher. Larger photos will take longer to email, so you may need to downsize photos to around 1800x1200 depending on the speed of your internet connection.

6. Photographic tips: a) Please try to shoot photos with lighting on the subject or use flash if (sun)light is behind the subject/person in the photo. b) Ensure that subject/people in the photo are IN focus. c) Read the manual on your camera and learn how to use all the features. d) Do additional research on basic photography on the internet or books on photography.
7. If your article must be HANDWRITTEN, please deliver your hard-copy to: Synod's Office, PO Box 187, Paradise Hill, San Fernando. VERY EARLY!

Thank You for Your Kind Cooperation!
The Communications Committee, May 2009

YAM 2009: “Ketch up di fire, Spread di Mission”

Adrian Sultanti (Diamond Region), Sanya Beharry (Marabella/Bonne Aventure Region) and Joel John (a CANACOM member) represented PCTT at the CANACOM Young Adults in Mission Workcamp held in Jamaica from August 2nd – 15th. We made up a group of thirty (30) young people from Canada, Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Republic, England, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago, US and Zambia; all gathered to ‘landscape’, paint and visit the Mt. Olivet Boys Home. There were two workshop days where we learnt about dealing with troubled teens, time management and event planning in order to help us plan our own personal mission projects at home. The following days were spent under the Jamaican sun, preparing an old corn field for planting and painting some buildings. In the evenings, we played football, cricket and marbles with the boys – most of whom were a lot better than us! – and spent time talking with them.

The Yammers were treated to visits to two historic places. On the Jamaican Independence Day (August 6th), we toured Accompong, which is a Maroon Village made up of slaves who had escaped and successfully fought off the British attempts at re-capture. We also visited the famous Dunn’s River Falls, which is a river/waterfall that ends at the ocean, where we formed a human chain to climb to the top.



At the end of it all, the theme to “Ketch up di fire, Spread di Mission” was one that resounded around the world. All participants enjoyed this life changing experience that set an undying flame in our hearts to follow God’s will in our lives.

Our love and gratitude to all who helped us get there. Until we meet again... Peace and Blessings!

Adrian, Sanya and Joel

Canacom Council Conference 31st Oct – 9th Nov 2009

The Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago, a member of CANACOM – Caribbean and North American Council for Mission – will be the host Church for the CANACOM Council Conference from 31st October to 9th November 2009, at Morton House Spiritual Life Enrichment Centre, Aramalaya Presbyterian Church, Cochrane Street, Tunapuna.

This is an International Conference and delegates from the Caribbean and the Americas. The World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and the World Council of Churches are expected send participants.

The Theme for this Conference is “Mission 2020; Restoring the Home Front”. Some issues will include Health Opportunities, Male-Female Relationships and Empowerment. Under “Health” HIV/AIDS is proposed to be the primary

matter for discussion. It must be noted that the Church’s theological underpinnings will govern the discussions and the resolutions/proposals made.

Among the presenters expected for the Conference are Rev. George Mulrain (Methodist), Rev. Pat Sheerattan-Bisnauth of WARC and Fulato Mayo of WCC. The leader will be Rev. Nicole Ashwood EIM Secretary, CANACOM.

In addition to the presentation on various topics and discussions, there could also be a call for Bible Studies and children’s activities.

Participants are expected to arrive from around the 28th October 2009 and depart from the 9th November 2009.

Synod Office

