



### Quarterly Newsletter of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Trinidad and Tobago

The Word of God encourages us to leave an inheritance to our children's children... As we embrace the blessings of God Almighty in 2021, let us do so with the understanding that we have a responsibility that must live on beyond our years on earth.

We walk victoriously, as we reflect on the Greatness of God towards us during the last year.

It has been a year, like none that we have experienced before... but through it all our GOD remained constant. Our God was... our God is... Our God will forever be.

Indeed, we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus; and this must be demonstrated in our everyday life - the way we talk, walk, dress, and conduct ourselves..

Our daily life is a "Canvas" and it portrays a picture that many will see... moreover, that our young people will see.

By God's Word, we are all encouraged to "train up a child in the way he should go, so that when he (she) is old, he (she) will not depart from it". What better training can we offer than the daily picture our life presents.

***"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"***

*- Proverbs 22 : 6*

What legacy will we leave to our children's children... what memories will they conjure up when our names are called?

Will they remember our:

- ◆ Love (for God and others);
- ◆ Joy (that emanates from us in all circumstance);
- ◆ Peace (that they feel in our presence);
- ◆ Longsuffering (as we endure all things by the Grace of God Almighty);
- ◆ Gentleness (as we reach out in love and concern one for another);
- ◆ Goodness (as we seek to be the greatest Servant Leader);
- ◆ Faith (as we walk not by sight);
- ◆ Meekness (as we move in all humility);
- ◆ Temperance (as demonstrated in our approach to challenges).

Let the "Fruit of the Spirit" be our legacy... we do not know what tomorrow may bring, but one thing we know for sure is that our God remains the same.

By the Power of God Almighty, we can do all things... and by His Grace we can accomplish His Purpose in our Life... and leave that legacy that will positively impact the lives of those who look towards us as Leaders... as Children of the Most High.

*"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children"*

*- Proverbs 13: 22*

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# Greetings from our Chairman

Rev. Alister Bhola

Whether it was in 2020 or in this New Year 2021, many of us are experiencing relationship difficulties, financial hardship, legal problems, job loss, health problems, or financial stress; trusting God in hard times is the best option we have for victorious living.

While I personally have rarely found it helpful to ask God, "Why?" I have come to experience great growth when instead I ask, "Lord, what do you want me to learn from this?"

2020 was quite the year, and although it was filled with Great Challenges, I am so grateful for the lessons I have learned through it:

- As the Church of God continues to be faced with many concerns, in this New Year; none greater than the need for Pastoral Leadership, we must embrace the truth that **God is faithful**. *"God will do this, for He is faithful to do what He says, and He has invited you into partnership with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."* (1 Corinthians 1:9)
- There are situations that threatened to overtake us, but we Trust **God's faithfulness**. He is with us every step of the way; He is our Provider, our Comforter, our Defender, and our Strong Tower. As we set sail into the unknown that is 2021, be assured that **We are never alone**. *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."* (Deuteronomy 31:6)

This Body of Believers called The Church of God has a rich glorious heritage that has seen us go through the battles, struggles, mighty victories; and have accomplished marvellous things that touched, transformed and impacted individuals, homes, communities, our nation and indeed much further. Yes we went through challenges; yet through it all, God held us close and assured us that we could take courage to face each new day because He was with us. **We are never alone**.

Brethren We look forward in Hope to our Victory season! Even if the results are not what we hope, we trust God and will continue to give Him praise, for He alone is worthy of our praise - not because of what He does or doesn't do, but because of who He is. Blessings.

## Our Heritage: Built on the Word of God

Rev. Marlon Moore



Greetings to my Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

I bring to remembrance, the first day I visited the Church of God, which occurred in response to an invitation from Sister Louise Alleyne of the Logwood Park Church - via my mother, for us to attend Sunday School. As I journeyed through the Church, the echo of our heritage of singing and doctrine was a constant refrain. The writers of our hymns sought to ensure our Doctrine remained a constant in our minds, as we join our Brothers and Sisters in worship.

One question that I have asked myself is, "How can I preserve that which was given to me?" This question is so vital, as it ensures that the Church of God remains true to its foundation and founding principles.

I would not want us to think that I have become dogmatic. There is always new information to process. However, such information should not alter our heritage, since what has been imparted to us is based on the Word of God.

The heritage of the Church of God is intertwined with its legacy. Therefore, it is crucial as we focus on the future, that these are not shelved by the quagmire of time. If we are not careful, our heritage may be slowly

*(continued on page 3...)*

eroded by the next best wave in Christendom.

As we look towards the future, can I suggest a united outlook that seeks to build us as an Institution of God. A return of that heritage and legacy of community, which said, "No man is an Island. No man stands alone". Since our inception it has always been about the Word of God and working together for its efficacy.

**May our motto unite us again - "A United Church for a divided World".**

## Did You Know...?

*(... Continued from Volume 1)*

The church building of the Church of God, Logwood Park was destroyed by Hurricane Flora in 1963. Accordingly, services were held under a tent, and then under the house of Mrs. Ellen Forbes-Wright "Tantie Ellen".

The rebuilding of the Church resulted in the dedication of its current structure, on 28th October, 1978.

### **THE CHURCH OF GOD IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

- 1925: Meeting held in Golden Lane and Surroundings.
- 1929: A Day-School was started in Orange Valley.
- 1931: Meeting started in Arima. Open Air Meeting held in Sangre Grande and Matura.
- 1946: Meeting held in Marabella.
- 1950: Establishment of the West Indies Bible Institute now West Indies Theological College.
- 1956: Open Air Meetings held in St. Charles.
- 1959: Dedication of Houston Memorial Building at La Pastora.
- 1966: Incorporation of the General Assembly of the Church of God.
- 1973: Church established in Diego Martin.
- 1974: The building in Diego Martin was completed.
- 1981: Arima Church of God was established, led by Pastor Edward and Sis. Elsie Daniel.
- 1984: Vision of a fourth (4th) Church in Mt. St. George, Tobago.
- 1995: Mt. St. George Building dedicated.
- 2012: Outreach Services in Sangre Grande led to the acquisition of property to be used as our Sanctuary.
- 2015: Meetings held in Canaan, Tobago... leading to the purchase of property and commencement of building at Canaan Farm Road, Canaan.

## Greetings from Tobago

**Pastor Oswald Joseph**  
Chairman,  
Tobago Island Council



New Year Greetings to my beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Name of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, and soon coming King.

We, the Tobago Island Council (T.I.C.) have suffered some major setbacks in the year 2020 because of the pandemic.

The Lord of Host was, and is with us; the God of Jacob was, and still is our refuge (Psalm 46:7). He hath brought us safe thus far.

As a result, we look forward to great things in the New Year 2021, for the honour and glory of God; with all of us supporting each other in doing the Will of God, and carrying out His Divine Purpose.

We will achieve great things in this New Year and beyond. Therefore, I take this opportunity to wish everyone all the best, and a Holy Ghost Filled New Year.



# UNITED IN PRAYER

## - for Health & Strength:

~ Rev. David Brathwaite ~ Rev. Rollin Bacchus ~ Rev. Gordon Luke ~ Rev. Frankie Drakes ~

- ◆ For each other, and our Brothers & Sisters in Diaspora during this COVID -19 Pandemic;
- ◆ For wisdom, knowledge and understanding, as we seek to carry out our God-Given Mandate, utilizing the means available to us during this period in our life.
- ◆ For the West Indies Theological College, that all things will be established, to ensure that it's doors remain open in fulfilment of its Mission and Vision.
- ◆ For God's Guidance in the appointment of our Deacons and Deaconesses.



## Gone ... Not Forgotten:

- ◆ Sis. Lenora Cummings (*Princes Town*) departed this life so quietly on 9th December, 2020, loved and cherished, gone but not forgotten.
- ◆ Sis. Isabella Eudora Iton (*San Fernando*)... memories will live on, as she bade farewell on 16th September, 2020.
- ◆ Bro. & Sis. Eversley (*Siparia*)... wonderful Servants of God, passed on mere hours apart on the 16th and 17th August, 2020.
- ◆ Rev. Clinton Providence (*Arima*): Pastor, Dad, Friend, Mentor - Bro. P was all this and so much more to so many within the Church of God in Trinidad and Tobago, Regionally, and Internationally. He departed this life on 12th August, 2020.
- ◆ Brother Junior Lynch (*San Fernando*): served and worshipped faithfully at the Church of God, San Fernando; many congregations and our College benefited from his skill as a Plumber; he also left us on 12th August, 2020.

## Leaving a Legacy to your Children's Children...



### *Rev. Edward Arthur Cumberbatch*

1873 to

Wednesday 13th November, 1946

*(excerpts from West Indian Gospel Trumpet Newsletter)*

Rev. Edward Arthur Cumberbatch was our first full-time native Pastor (1912); ordained in 1913, and registered as a Marriage Officer in 1923.

Rev. Cumberbatch was born in Barbados in 1873 and after traveling around the West Indies for a few years, settled in Trinidad in 1905. In 1907, he gave his life to Christ, as the Word of God would reach him through the Church of God Movement in Trinidad, under the leadership of the then Missionary - Rev. George H. Pye.

As the Church of God Movement was in its early years in Trinidad, Rev. Cumberbatch was chronicled *(in the West Indian Gospel Trumpet: January-February, 1947 issue)* as being among the "first fruits".

In his thirst to know more about Christ, Rev. Cumberbatch attended Theological Classes conducted by the Missionaries for three (3) years, during which time he also conducted part-time Ministerial duties.

His acceptance of God's Call to Ministry, led to his appointment to serve as Pastor in several of the Congregations in Trinidad and also in Tobago:

- ◆ 1911 to 1921: Port of Spain Congregation.
- ◆ 1921 to 1923: Princes Town Congregation.
- ◆ 1923 to 1926: Port of Spain Congregation.
- ◆ 1926 to 1927: San Fernando Congregation;

And from 1927 to the time of his passing in 1946, he served as Pastor of the three (3) Congregations in Tobago (Lambeau, Logwood Park, and Golden Lane).

The "West Indian Gospel Trumpet" Newsletter, was a publication of the Church of God *(featuring the Church of God Congregations throughout the West Indies)*. It was noted that "up to 1942, the magazine received occasional inspiring articles from the beloved saint." A Devotional Column was eventually established in 1942 and entrusted to Rev. Cumberbatch.

Among the many things for which Rev. Cumberbatch was remembered, are the following words "a pardoned soul need not fear death, for when death makes the arrest, Christ shows the debt paid with His Own Blood".

Rev. Edward Arthur Cumberbatch had seven (7) children; among them our dearly departed Rev. Carlton Cumberbatch. His legacy lives on within the Church of God in the lives of his grandchildren and great grandchildren: Sis. Mrytle Cumberbatch continues to make melody to God on the Keyboard and Bro. Edward (*Eddie*) Cumberbatch's Tenor Voice always brings a peace to your heart as he sings to the honour and glory of God.

Rev. Edward Arthur Cumberbatch was also loved for his Tenor Voice, and this gift for singing is also evident in his great grandchildren Elysia and Richelle, as they raise their voices in tribute to God.



## Leaving a Legacy to your Children's Children...

# Rev. Clinton Providence

Friday 21st June, 1946 to  
Wednesday 12th August, 2020

Rev. Clinton Providence or “Bro. P” as he was fondly called by many; was born in the island of St. Vincent on Friday 21st June, 1946 - the sixth (6th) of ten (10) children.

At a very young age, he gave His life to Christ, and in response to God’s calling, journeyed to Trinidad and Tobago, where he attended the West Indies Bible Institute (*as it was called then; now West Indies Theological College*), graduating with this Bachelor in Theology.

Following his graduation, Bro. P along with his wife Beryl left for Tobago, accepting the call to Pastoral Ministry at the Church in Lambeau; where by God’s Grace, they would have a powerful impact on the lives of the Membership throughout Tobago.

His ever-growing passion for Christ and his desire to serve, would also lead him to travel abroad to further his studies at Warner Southern University, where he secured his 1st Degree in Psychology & Counselling. Upon his return to Trinidad, along with his family (*Beryl, Kathyann and Noel*), Bro. P accepted the call to serve at the newly developing Church in Arima.

Bro. P’s zealously for God did not dwindle, and so he pursued his studies online with the Covington Theology Seminary, obtaining his Masters of Ministry in Christian Counselling.

Over the years, he would continue to serve the Lord, as he dedicated his time, and talents to be used by God in Ministry. He “wore many hats” and committed himself to going beyond the call of duty, to ensure the growth and development of the Church. Some of the many areas in which he served included:

- ◆ Chairman of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Trinidad and Tobago
- ◆ Lecturer and President of the West Indies Theological College
- ◆ Chairman of the Ordination and Credentials Committee
- ◆ Senior Pastor at the Church of God Centre of Ministries.

One of the young ladies that grew under Bro. P’s Ministry while in Tobago is quoted as saying: “He was the most humble, inspirational, caring, supportive, spirit led and filled, exemplary teacher, best husband, best dad, best grand-dad, best uncle, cousin, brother, best pastor, best adopted dad to so many and just simply the best. He is loved and will be cherished in all our hearts.”

So lasting was the impact upon the lives of the church membership, that plans were on the way in 2020 to honour Bro. and Sis. Providence at a reunion of the ‘Church of God Youths of the 70s and 80s’. Covid19 and his departure from this life, altered these plans. A presentation was made to Sis. Providence by representatives of this group thereafter.

Among other things, Rev. Clinton Providence was a Man of God, Family Man, Hard-Worker, Compassionate Man, a Listener, Proud Pastor of the Church of God Centre of Ministries, a Doctrinal Pastor of Church of God Reformation Movement, a Graduate, Lecturer & President of the West Indies Theological College and a proud Vincentian.

His Legacy will live on... as we may ever so often recall his voice, as he declared, “That’s the Word.”



## Heritage

Pastor Beryl Providence  
Chairman,  
Board of Evangelism

Heritage is a word that we use in relationship to things and behaviour patterns that we have inherited but what does it really mean. I would like to relate it to the Word of God.

Oxford dictionary says: for example: Property inherited. A special or individual heritage. Individual possession. An allotted portion. It ended by saying "God's love remains your heritage".

For this conversation I would like to zero in to the fact that "God's love remains your heritage". Being an inheritor, what is our expectation when we have gained ownership to this heritage.

We are to maintain its value by knowing and understanding the purpose of the inheritance which has become our heritage.

Our Christian heritage is given to us through our rebirth in Jesus Christ. From the Old Testament we see the maintenance of our heritage is by teaching the truth and values of God's instructions.

In the book of Deuteronomy 11:19. God's instructions is for us to teach his precepts to our children in our homes, when we walk along the road, when we lie down and when we get up.

Our Heritage gives answers to where we are and how we got here. In Joshua 4: 20 - 24: God told Joshua to let the people take twelve stones from the river they crossed and set it up to worship Him. He further explained when your children should ask for an explanation you must explain that: It's their crossing of the Jordan River to Dry land, as He had done for them at the Red Sea.

This heritage must be taught to the people of the earth that they may know the Hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.

That's our heritage.

In the New Testament, Jesus also told of our inheritance.

John 14: 3 states our Heritage in Christ: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am."

That's our heritage.

I close with this example: A few days ago, I came home feeling "under the weather". My two grandchildren JR and Athena, said one after the other "Granma don't worry, God will take care of you".

That's my heritage to my grandchildren: that they will know and experience that God will take care of us, in our situations.

God's love remains our heritage.

## The Teacher's Hand

*Thanksgiving Day was near. The first grade teacher gave her class a fun assignment — to draw a picture of something for which they were thankful.*

*Most of the class might be considered economically disadvantaged, but still many would celebrate the holiday with turkey and other traditional goodies of the season.*

*These, the teacher thought, would be the subjects of most of her student's art. And they were, but Douglas made a different kind of picture. Douglas was a different kind of boy. He was the teacher's true child of misery, frail and unhappy. As other children played at recess, Douglas was likely to stand close by her side. One could only guess at the pain Douglas felt behind those sad eyes.*

*Yes, his picture was different. When asked to draw a picture of something for which he was thankful, he drew a hand. Nothing else. Just an empty hand.*

*His abstract image captured the imagination of his peers. Whose hand could it be. One child guessed it was the hand of a farmer, because farmers raise turkeys. Another suggested a police officer, because the police protect and care for people. Still others guessed it was the hand of God, for God feeds us. And so the discussion went — until the teacher almost forgot the young artist himself.*

*When the children had gone on to other assignments, she paused at Douglas' desk, bent down, and asked him whose hand it was. The little boy looked away and muttered, It's yours, teacher.*

*She recalled the times she had taken his hand and walked with him here or there, as she had the other students. How often had she said, Take my hand, Douglas, we'll go outside. Or, Let me show you how to hold your pencil. Or, Let's do this together. Douglas was most thankful for his teacher's hand.*

*Brushing aside a tear, she went on with her work.*

*~ Anonymous*

***Lend a Hand Today...***

## Pursue the "all Things"



**Pastor Kemar Rhoomes**  
Chairman,  
Minister's Conference

The accomplishments of our Christian life is restricted only by what we can envision for ourselves. In all cases, what we envisage is a

subset of what God can and will do if we obey Him. God has promised to add "all these things" to lives of those who seek His Kingdom and His righteousness (Mt. 6:33). In Christ, we have the opportunity to experience spiritual fulfilment, material and financial advancements, personal and professional promotions, divine healing, and increased joy, peace and contentment plus eternal life.

Channeling our faith in pursuing God's promise of "all things" will divinely enrich our lives. Like Paul, we can daily grow in doing all things through Christ, the embodiment of God, our reliance (Phil.4:13). Believers of all background share in the possibilities offered by God. As declared by Jesus, "all things are possible" with God, our strength and capability. The gravity of our circumstances or the limited nature of our vision has no bearing on the power and work of God. The faithful and loving God has availed to the upright the assurance of His best. Through the Psalmist (84:11), God reminds us that He will never withhold His "good things" neither will He put us to shame for trusting in Him.

Our continued success will rely on faith, prayer and action. Faith and prayer are essential. Yet without movement, faith is aimless hope; and prayer, vain words. Faith without works is dead, says James (2:14 - 17). Whereas we don't depend on labour for God's blessings, our progress, void of direct action, will be a revolving door of sameness. God is not static, nor His favours assigned to a P.O Box. God is active and dynamic. He delivers His blessings in any form and at every stage of our journey irrespective of our situation.

For 2021, dream big. Envision the fullness of God's "all things" in your life. Take hold of every opportunity that God provides with confidence and courage. Where God leads, follow. When He counsels, act. Combine faith and prayer with decisive action. Step out and take hold of His "all things possible". The unbroken egg will never benefit the hungry. Nor will doubt ever profit the righteous. Remove the shells of doubt from your faith and embrace the fullness of God's promise of "all things".

## Learning is Fun



### WHO SAID THAT...?

#### Across

2. "...I will not let you go unless you bless me..."
3. "...thy people shall be my people..."
4. "...whatsoever he saith unto you, do it..."
5. "...Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister:..."
6. "...and if I perish, I perish"
9. "...Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation"
10. "...for who can stretch forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?"
12. "...woe is me, for I am undone:"
13. "...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

#### Down

1. "...thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh..."
2. "...as for me and my house we will serve the Lord..."
4. "...if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."
7. "...slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee"
8. "...call me Mara..."
11. "...I am not the Christ..."