



Gospel Dynamics Newsletter

Holiness to the Lord

Volume Three - January to March, 2021

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

As we awake to the dawn of a New Day it is always prudent that we give God Thanks and Praise. We enjoy so many favours from the Hand of God. We have extended our faith to God and we have seen Him work on our behalf.

Do remember, that like Job there are times when our faith will be tried, because we have an adversary who is out to destroy us. We sometimes have our Job-like experience, it's only bad news after bad news...like the old adage goes "when it rains - it pours".

It is in times like those that we are sometimes tempted to ask God "Why me?" - sometimes we yield to the temptation and actually ask God, "Why me?".

However, it is when we are under the pressure that we need to hold on even more fiercely to the Unchanging Hands of God. To reach out in faith knowing that the God we love and serve can, and will see us through. Believing God at His Word which says to us that He will not give us more than we can bear... believing that God is the same yesterday, today and no doubt He remains the God of tomorrow.

Understanding like the song writer that there are many things about to tomorrow

and I dare say even about today, that we cannot seem to understand, but we know who holds tomorrow and we know who holds our hand.

We are blessed beyond measure, with the experiences of our forefathers that attest to the fact that God is true; that He is abundantly able. We are blessed with the Word of God that tells us of the wonders that God has wrought in times past, and His promise that these things hold true in the present.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world".

- John 16 : 33

So we can read of Daniel and rest assured that our God is the greatest animal-tamer that ever walked and will ever walk the earth. We can look back on the Hebrew

Boys and understand that there are times God will allow us to go through the fire... but if we place our trust in our Redeemer; if we refuse to bow down - we will stand in the fire, we will see the flames, we may smell the smoke - but Glory to God we will not be consumed.

In the midst of the flame, God is there - protecting, uplifting, purifying, strengthening; preparing you for a blessing that only God can give. Praise God in the fire; praise the prison bars free; hold on to God - do not let go - He will grant you your victory.

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

- Proverbs 13: 22

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Waiting can sometimes be hard; but wait for it – it will come. Believe God, He is always true to His Word. Remember the Just shall live by Faith; and as the song writer declared – “If I never had a problem, I would not know that God could solve them, I would not know what faith in God could do”.

We have been going through some troubling times, and the Word of God warns us that these days will come upon us (**John 16: 33** “*in the world ye shall*

have tribulation” but He went on to say “*be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*”).

Be of good cheer... exercise your faith, for our hope is in a Risen Saviour. Let us continue in prayer and in song: “We have a hope within our soul brighter than the perfect day, God has given us His spirit and we want the World to hear it, all our doubts are passed away”.



Greetings from the National Men's Fellowship

Bro. Martin Moolchan

Psalms 96: 1 - 4 says “¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. ²Sing to the LORD, praise His Name; proclaim His salvation day after day. ³Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. ⁴For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.”

The National Men's Executive of the Church of God's chief aim, guided by the Holy Spirit, is to reach out to all men of the Church of God in Trinidad and Tobago; supporting and motivating the men of all our Congregations, to stand firm and lift up the Name of Jesus, John 12: 32 says “*And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all peoples to Myself.*”

The Vision of the Executive is for men to worship God in spirit and in truth, to connect with God, His Word, and other men, for the purpose of winning, growing, and training God's man in Christ. It is our desire for men to walk by faith, not by sight; be led by the Spirit, be Godly leaders; and their service to God exemplified in their homes, churches, workplace, and communities.

One of the ways to achieve our goal, is outreach. We are currently visiting our Churches throughout Trinidad and Tobago to inspire men to start a Men's Fellowship in their Congregation. Statistics show that many of the Churches do not have a group or they have become dormant. The first group visited was the St. Charles Congregation. Since then, they have expressed great interest and excitement in starting their Men's Group. We are in the process of preparing to visit the Princes Town Church next.

If you would like the Men's Executive to visit your congregation, please feel free to contact the General Assembly.

At this point (*if you are a man reading this*) you might be asking yourself, what is the purpose of a Men's Fellowship?

To answer your question, the Bible says, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." This is the great commission spoken by Jesus Himself. Therefore, ask yourself this: - How do we reproduce believers? Can a Men's Ministry enable a man to better understand his calling in life and how to achieve it? Can a Men's Ministry challenge a man to grow deeper in intellect, emotion, and spirit? Can a Men's Ministry teach men how to stay sexually pure?

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The answer to these questions is a resounding
YES!

Begin the process by deciding what you want to see happen in a man's life. Once this is determined, you will need to raise up leaders who will catch the Vision and help you lead a potential army of men into a deep relationship with the Lord. Next, get help from your Pastor, connect with the National Men's Executive and other solid Men's Groups for support.

The following are the active Men's Group in the Church of God Trinidad: - Arima, San Fernando and Carapichaima; and active men's group in Tobago are: - Golden Lane; and Mt. St. George is in the process of establishing their group.

There are many online resources and books for assistance. One of the books I use in Arima's Men in Ministry is the Maxwell Leadership Bible; recommended to me by the Late Rev. Clinton Providence.

The National Men's Executive is committed to the development and growth of all the Men's Fellowship throughout Trinidad and Tobago. We are available at a moment notice to do God's work with all Churches.

Let me introduce to you the members of our Executive Team:

President:

Martin Moolchan,

Vice President:

Keith Ash

Secretary:

Kern Perryman

Floor Members:

Swayne (Tom) Solomon

Desmond Carter

Peter Burke

Kevan Branker.

I end with a reminder of Jesus' prayer for

His Disciples

John 17: 9 - 19

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given Me, for they are Yours. All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine. And glory has come to Me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your Name, the Name You gave Me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that Name You gave Me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. "I am coming to You now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them Your Word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify Myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Gone ... Not Forgotten:

- ◆ Sis. Sylviana Mascall (*Marabella*) departed this life in January, 2021. We thank God for her life, for her love, and service within the Household of Faith.
- ◆ Bro. Jeremiah Lewis (*Siparia*) bade this world farewell in February, 2021. His years of dedicated service and the impact he had on the lives of the membership will live on.
- ◆ Sis. McCracken passed away in March, 2021. An amazing Woman of God, whose dedicated service for God touched many lives... we remember her Husband and other Family Members in prayer.



United in Prayer for:

- ◆ Sis. Ayesha Graham and Family, on the passing of her father in February, 2021.
- ◆ Sis. Phyllis Scotland (*Golden Lane*) and her Family, on the loss of her son Ronell Scotland in February, 2021.
- ◆ Sis. Peggy Baptiste (*Arima*) and Family as they remember the loss of their daughter Charmaine.



- ◆ For God's protection over our lives and the lives of our loved ones; praying that the crime situation in our country can be addressed.
- ◆ For the effective and efficient administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine to our citizen and from a global perspective.
- ◆ For the continued spiritual growth, and unity among the Members of the Household of Faith.



(Photo courtesy: Bro. Victor Laptiste)

Did You Know...?

This Building - originally the Savoy Guest House, located at the top of Burnett Street, Scarborough, Tobago, was home to the early Missionaries who came to Tobago in 1921. It was here they first held Church Services with our foundation Members.

The Church of God in Lambeau was the first Church of God Congregation to be established in Tobago.

The current Property at Milford Road, Lambeau, was purchased by the Missionary Board of the Church of God at a price of Two Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$240.00), from the Baptist Mission.

The former Church Building housed a Church Bell in the Belfry which was located on the Eastern Side. The Bell was rung by the Sexton "Papa Johnny" and thereafter by Bro. Randolph "Rannie" Morrison, to signify that Morning Worship was imminent. The first bell could be heard at 10:00 a.m. - then at 10:30 a.m.

and finally at 11:00 a.m. when service commenced. It was also rung on special occasions such as weddings and funerals.

Our Brothers and Sisters at Lambeau, by God's Grace, will commemorate One Hundred Years... we look forward to hearing more about their Celebratory Plans, as we unite in prayer for their continuous growth and development.

God bless us all!

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



Rev. Christopher Laptiste Snr.

Bro. Christopher Laptiste was born on December 25, 1926 in Tobago - the last of seven children. Given up for dead at the age of six months, he was left on the floor of Scarborough hospital by doctors and given no chance of survival. His father, Henry, took his baby from the hospital floor to die at home; but God was at work and spared his life.

Bro. Laptiste was saved in 1943 at the age of 17 at the Church of God, Lambeau. He came to Trinidad in 1946 and attended the Marabella Church, where he served as its Chairman from 1948 - 1950; and began his Preaching Ministry in earnest.

He went to West Indies Bible Institute (WIBI) - (*now WITC*) in September of 1950 and graduated in 1954; serving as Student Pastor at the San Pedro/Poole, Siparia, Carapichaima and Chaguanas Churches. Pastor Laptiste began his Pastoral Ministry at the Church of God in Poole and Rio Claro from 1955, and moved to San Fernando in September of 1959, where he remained as Pastor until 1972.

Later in the 1970s he worked along with the Sisters Road Church; and from 1977-1979 he Pastored the Princes Town Church, returning there in 1981 where he remained until his retirement in December 1999.

Along with his wife Josephine, and their four (4) children: Jean, Rhoda, Carolyn and Christopher Jr., his Pastorates were marked with vibrant and thriving Youth Ministries, especially in music, drama and knowledge of the Word. He influenced several of his young people to attend West Indies Theological College (WITC) and to be involved in Ministry.

In addition to being a Pastor, he worked constantly as a builder. He started building at age seventeen (17), when he constructed the family home in Tobago. When the Church at San Fernando was dedicated in 1958, it was Pastor Laptiste who had built the windows and the doors.

He also constructed the Manse next door, which was completed in 1964, the Church and Manse at Princes Town, the Manse at Barataria, the Church at Siparia, the Church at San Pedro Poole; the Administration Centre at West Indies Theological College, and the family home in Ste. Madeleine.

'The Bishop' as he was nicknamed, served for several years as the Chairman of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Trinidad and Tobago as well as the Chairman of the Property Board, legally securing several properties currently owned by the General Assembly.

Bro. Laptiste loved the Lord and was strong of character, humorous, and committed. He was often a source of wisdom and sound advice. A man of deep humility, he found no task too hard to do for the Lord.

We give God thanks and praise for the Life and Legacy of
Rev. Christopher Laptiste (Snr.)

May His legacy continue to shine forth in the lives of his children, grandchildren and future generations... may His legacy live on in the lives of the many Members of the Household of Faith who were blessed by God through His Ministry.



Health and Wellness

What is Autism?

- Sis. Antoinette (Dianna) Trim MSc, MBPsS

Help! My child does not play 'pretend' games like other children his age. He repeats words and phrases over and over – has an unusual response to how things sound, smell and he misinterprets emotions. These are just some of the symptoms commonly associated with autism.

A basic definition of autism is – A mental condition, present from early childhood, characterized by great difficulty in communicating and forming relationships with other people, and in using language and abstract concepts.

An article by Joh Brock underscored the idea that the modern theories of autism are not closer to diagnosing what exactly is the cause of autism. One theory is that autism is due to the lack of communication between different parts of the brain, as cognitive mechanisms relative to memory and thoughts are stored in separate parts of an autistic child's brain.

Even though there are numerous theories out there, none is quite conclusive. It has been found that there is a relative correlation between brain growth and mental disorders. Thus any rapid growth of any part of the brain will modify behaviour and early learning experiences. Forensic Psychology has discovered that individuals who were diagnosed with autism have unusually large brains, along with an increased volume of 'grey matter' which they developed overtime. Brain sizes of such individuals were normal in their first year or two, but began to increase in size at a rapid rate as they got older.

Any underdevelopment of working memory (*A system which temporary stores and manages information, required to carrying out complex cognitive tasks, for example, learning, reasoning and comprehension*), discovered during early childhood, more often than not gives rise to vast amounts of neuropsychological disorders, for example, autism.

Therefore, an early detection rate of under-developed working memory in childhood will be welcomed in the medical community, as measures can then be put in place in order to mitigate such disorders becoming prominent in adulthood life. The use of medication does not completely eradicate the illness but, rather treats the hyper-activity which usually accompanies autism; and too, autism can be heavily influenced by genetic or non-genetic influence (Graham 2016). These conditions described can also be aligned to other mental disorders, as any abnormality with the brain can result in someone's perception, attention span being altered to such a degree, that they are unable to function normally as we know it.

If you are a parent of an autistic child, you should bear in mind that an autism diagnosis is not a death sentence. Autism exists on a spectrum; some patients may need extensive care, whilst others develop highly remarkable gifts and display a high proficiency in areas, such as art and music. Early detection is the best bet, your child will have for a normal life. It is important to remember that early, accurate diagnoses for young children with autism, ensures that the skills needed to reach their full potential are taught early, when brain plasticity is much more pronounced and consequently, the impact of intervention is much more comprehensive. If you think your children or loved ones may exude any signs or symptoms of autism, please take the initiative and contact the Autism Society of Trinidad and Tobago.

References:

Brock, J (2016). Combining The Old And The New. The Psychologist.

Graham, F. (2016, April). What Should We Be Aware Of On World Autism Awareness Day? The Psychologist.

World Autism Awareness Month 2021 commenced on
Thursday 1st April, 2021 and ends on Friday 30th April, 2021.

Congratulations

Bro. and Sister Ramsaroop (Princes Town)
on the birth of their Fraternal Twins



Bro. Akim Wills (Arima)
on acquiring his
Bachelor's Degree in Sports Studies,
*Specialization in Exercise Science under the Department of
Kinesiology and Physical Education*



Sis. Lecharl Moolchan (Arima)
on acquiring her
Associate Degree in Graphic Design
*at the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts
of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT)*



Akeela Smith (Lambeau)
on acquiring her
Doctorate in Physical Therapy
*at The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences
in Florida*



Are you a Member of
the Church of God in
Trinidad and
Tobago?

Do you own a Business?

Do you wish to market your services
and/or products?

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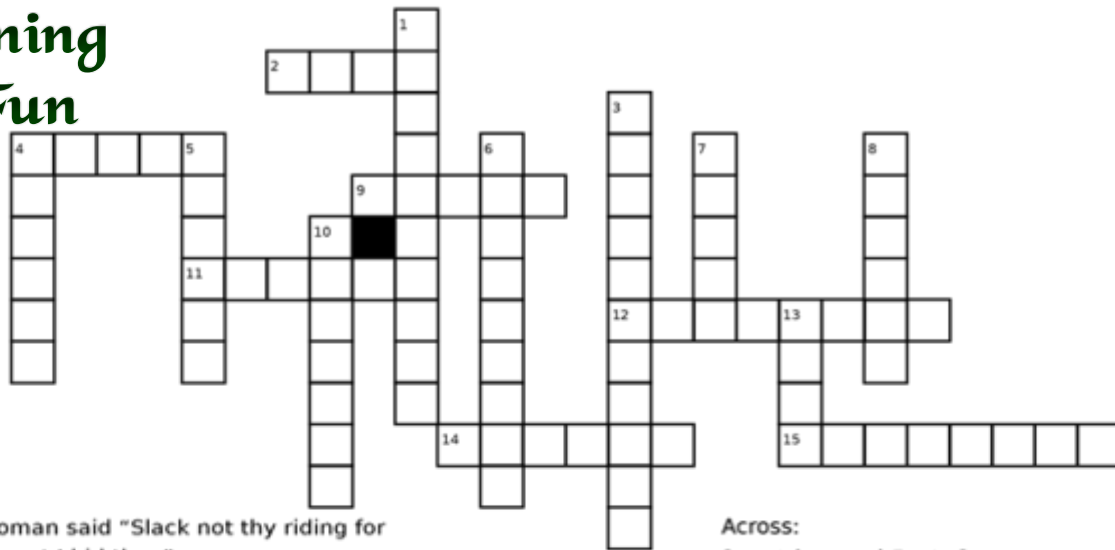
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STARTING AT
\$25

Learning is Fun



Down:

1. This woman said "Slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee".
3. One of Church of God Ordinances observed especially during Easter Period.
4. He went up by a whirlwind into heaven.
5. In Micah we are reminded to walk _____ with our God.
6. We do this in remembrance of our Saviour.
7. He encouraged himself in the Lord.
8. Nazarite killed a young lion with his bare hands.
10. God-given Mandate found in the Book of Matthew.
13. She declared "Your God will be my God".

Across:

2. Adam and Eve's Son.
4. He walked with God and he was not; for God took him.
9. He declared "I will not let you go unless you bless me".
11. God made the donkey talk to him.
12. Home to the International Headquarters of the Church of God.
14. The first name of our most senior Pastor in Tobago.
15. He said God will make his feet like hinds' feet.

The Rat Trap (Author Unknown)

A rat looked through a crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife opening a package. What food might it contain? He was aghast to discover that it was a rat trap. Retreating to the barnyard the rat proclaimed the warning; "There's a rat trap in the house, a rat trap in the house!" The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Excuse me, Mr. Rat, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it." The rat turned to the pig and told him, "There's a rat trap in the house, a rat trap in the house!" "I am so very sorry Mr. Rat," sympathized the pig, "but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured that you are in my prayers." The rat turned to the cow. She said, "Like wow, Mr. Rat, a rat trap. I am in grave danger. Duh?" So the rat returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's rat trap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house, like the sound of a rat trap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the

darkness, she did not see that it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital. She returned home with a fever. Now everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the barnyard for the soup's main ingredient. His wife's sickness continued so that friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them the farmer butchered the pig. The farmer's wife did not get well. She died, and so many people came for her funeral that the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide meat for all of them to eat. So the next time you hear that someone is facing a problem and think that it does not concern you, remember that when there is a rat trap in the house, the whole barnyard's at risk.

The Word of God encourages us to be in prayer for each other, we are to be our Brothers'/Sisters' Keeper... we are called to bear each other's burden. This must be a part of our Legacy as Christians: one of caring, loving, supporting, encouraging, uplifting each other as we walk this Christian Journey together.

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