



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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GOOD FRIDAY SPECIAL EDITION

# MESSAGES FOR THE TIMES

SEE PAGE 14



THE NEXT EDITION OF POINTEXPEESS NEWSPAPER IS ON  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 07, 2021

## EDITORIAL

# MESSAGES FOR TROUBLED TIMES

For the second year running, PointeXpress Newspaper has seen it fit to produce a Good Friday Special Edition, through which we ask leaders of the Church to prepare messages for their flock and the nation at large to bring some solace for these troubled times.

Once again, the church leaders have all responded positively to our request for messages without hesitation. We had to limit the number of messages due to space concerns. Five church leaders from Antigua and Barbuda are featured in today's Special Edition. Additionally, we have two other religious leaders: one from Trinidad and Tobago and the other an Apostle based in the United States, but who has Trinidad and Tobago roots. In one fell swoop, we have gone regional and international. Thanks to the kind assistance and coordination of Suzette Baptiste from Trinidad.

She worked tirelessly to coordinate the messages from the overseas based pastors.

One year ago, Antigua and Barbuda had just instituted the lockdown as the country recorded its first three COVID-19 cases and first COVID-related death. The country was in a panic! This was a new experience for all. Our personal liberties were curtailed and everyone obeyed the regulations of the State of Emergency with no questions asked.

Entering the new COVID-era just two weeks prior to the Easter Holidays and with church services placed on hold, the Easter period is the holiest time on the Christian church's calendar full of traditions and reference. In 2020, this was not to be. It was against this background, that we at PointeXpress felt that it was our duty to produce a special Good Friday edition with the messages of hope for the nation last year.

One year ago, no one thought that twelve months later we would still be in the firm grasp of this pandemic. The beaches have been closed, church services have resumed but with limited worshippers in attendance. There are still limits placed on personal movements between 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. Social gatherings are strictly forbidden. One year into the pandemic, the question of when will it be over is on everybody's lips.

The Ministry of Health has posted a set of protocols to help curb the spread of the virus, yet last weekend there was a major social event at one of the country's popular beaches. Such actions go against all the exultation of the ministry; they go against the very calls, even by those in attendance, for the country to return to normality. The request for the religious leaders this year is to offer words of comfort to the na-

tion, the region and the world to those among us who are having severe economic difficulties because of the impact of the pandemic; those who are feeling lonely; those who are depressed and those who are adrift spiritually. It is our hope that this intervention will go some way in providing even a glimmer of hope in these troubled times.

Our thanks to Rev. Algernon Lewis of the Moravian Church; Bishop Nigel Henry of the Pentecostal Church; Bishop Claudette Toby Greene of the Sacred Choice of Heaven, Mt. Lebanon Spiritual Baptist Church, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Bishop Olson Daniel of the Wesleyan Holiness Church; Dr. Carson Greene of the Seventh Day Adventist Church; Rev. Derek Browne of the Methodist Church; and Apostle Joseph Attzs of the Mantle of Christ International Ministries.



# NO RETREAT FROM GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO BARBUDA

The Barbuda People's Movement (BPM) electoral victory in local government elections on Monday will have little or no impact on the government's commitment to further the development on the sister isle.

That is the assessment of Information Minister Melford Nicholas, commenting on the BPM's clean sweep of the elections ahead of the candidates put forward by the Barbuda branch of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP).

Nicholas confirmed that the elections were discussed at Wednesday's Cabinet meeting with a general agreement that there will not be any change in course in regards to the government's plans for the island.

"The general consensus at the Cabinet as far as the developmental thrust of the government is that the elections were inconsequential. We understand that the (outcome) is based on attitudes that have formed over time and

which have hardened in more recent times," he opined.

He explained that the government has repeatedly made known its development priorities for the island. He added that he has been to Barbuda within the last month to oversee arrangements to have a land registry established on the island.

While there, the minister reported that he has held discussions with the principals of the Barbuda Ocean Club which he anticipates will spur further devel-

opment and commercial activities on Barbuda.

"We expect that by the end of the year, the airport will be completed; there will be an FBO service established to facilitate jet plane operations in and out of Codrington. The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority will have to staff the facilities there which, again, will spin-off economic benefits and opportunities that are not going to be Council-dependent," he further explained. Nicholas takes the view

that any development of Barbuda must start with the economic reality where there are over seven hundred employees of the Council depending on a subsidy from the Treasury. "This is unsustainable!"

he declared.

The information minister indicated that the focus of the government is to ensure that development comes to Barbuda; that the standard of living for islanders improve and

the people of the sister island feel included in the country's economic imperatives.

"We are not going to persuade Barbudans with rhetoric; but we will persuade them over the longer term

when they are able to see economic progress and that the island is not being marginalised. Each ministry also has an obligation to ensure its plans also include Barbuda going forward," he stated.

## REOPENING OF SCHOOLS RESTRICTED TO CERTAIN CLASSES



**By Shelton Daniel**

There will not be an across-the-board re-opening of all schools on 12th April for the third term as announced last week. Instead, only Primary School Grades 5 and 6, Secondary School Forms 4 and

5 and students of the Antigua State College will return to physical classrooms for face-to-face instructions as of Monday 12th April 2021.

The returning students/classes have been so selected because they are due to sit examinations

during the course of this year and next year. This was disclosed during the weekly post-Cabinet communications on Thursday, which explained that students of the lower forms and grades will continue to be taught from home via remote tutoring.

According to the post-Cabinet briefing notes, that decision was taken after consultation with Director of Education Clare Browne and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rhonda Sealy-Thomson. Director Browne is said to have advised Cabinet that returning



to the shift system and a day-on/day-off system would be difficult. He also explained that students due to sit exams in June would be disadvantaged without the benefit of classroom instructions.

“We, like the entire country, would like nothing else than to have all our students return to in-person instruction – face-to-face school – as of 12th April. But we can only bring all the students back when it is safe to do so,” Browne told the live post-Cabinet media briefing on Thursday morning.

He said the Ministry of Education has always been guided by the advice of health experts as to whether or when it is safe to return students to classrooms.

Browne noted that because schools are like giant social gatherings, they could easily turn into COVID super-spreaders.

“I’m not sure that we are in a position to claim that everything is under full control,” he added.

According to the post-Cabinet notes, “There is every possibility that herd immunity is likely to be achieved by the sum-

mer of 2021 ... full face-to-face classes can then resume in September 2021.”

Meanwhile, the State-owned Antigua and Barbuda Broadcasting Services (ABS) will help provide greater technological capacity to the increased need for remote tutoring.

During Thursday’s post-Cabinet media briefing, Information and Broadcasting Minister Melford Nicholas elaborated on a proposal he has made to Cabinet concerning this innovation. Nicholas – who is the Minister responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology wants – ABS TV to add one more broadcast channel to the cable television system for the exclusive use of education classes.

“Four channels are available to ABS TV, though only two are utilised at this time,” the notes state. “That added education channel would feature a multiplicity of classes being taught by trained teachers at different levels, and would operate [similar] to the GIS Channel that continuously broadcasts daily.

The Cabinet agreed to move forward on this proposal. The Minister [Nicholas] will coordinate with the Ministry of Education [and] he will report to Cabinet at the next session.”

Asked whether the education channel was only for the pandemic, Nicholas told the post-Cabinet briefing that, “The intent is to make it a permanent feature. We are still at a point of learning from the pilot that was done last year. It was well received.” Education

Director Clare Browne concurred, saying, “We are definitely in for the long haul where this education channel is concerned ... In addition to the remote learning environment where our students are going to be managed by their teachers, the Ministry of Education intends to use the television station and Facebook and so on – the Internet – to reach out and supplement what our children and young people would be receiving.”

## JOB VACANCY



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## MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT 'INTERNAL QUARANTINE FACILITY' AT PRISON

*By Shelton Daniel*

Information Minister Melford Nicholas disclosed on Thursday that, "There was an issue [with] implementing one of the Cabinet decisions, in that any persons who have been assigned to prison by the court were required to be tested before they entered the prison population."

Minister Nicholas was responding to a reporter's questions during the weekly post-Cabinet media briefing. He added, "There were facilities that needed to be put in place, and the Minister with responsibility for the prisons –

the Attorney General – did indicate to Cabinet yesterday that anyone who has been assigned by the courts for a prison term would first have to be evaluated, would first have to get a PCR test; and while they are awaiting the result for that test, they would be held in a facility at the US Air Force Base.

"Should they prove positive, then there is another facility at the Crabbs Peninsula that has just been rehabilitated, where prisoners who have come down with COVID [are] isolated. If, however, they have proven negative, there is a further quar-

antine facility within the St. John's prison itself where they will be put in quarantine and would obviously [undergo] the fourteen-day evaluation before they are allowed to be joined up with the rest of the prison population ... All those measures are put in place to ensure there [are] no more infections within the prison itself ... So, that situation which was affecting the prison has been brought under control."

Asked whether the quarantine facility at the prison was structured to provide adequate separation between individuals

placed there in order to prevent any who are infected from passing on the virus to others, Nicholas responded that he had not visited the prison in the last two years.

"The Minister of Health has been involved in the discussion ... with the Minister with responsibility for the prison ... I am satisfied there are health officials inside the prison. There is the doctor that is on retained staff at the prison. There are nurses and there is oversight by the Ministry of Health. I am satisfied that all those permutations would have been looked at, and both



the Minister of Health and the Minister with responsibility for the prison did indicate that they were at consensus in terms of ... ensuring that persons are filtered for COVID before they enter the prison system.

“Those who are already clinically determined to be infected with COVID are being isolated at the Crabbs Peninsula facility. And where persons have gone through the initial facility – even though their tests have shown negative – at the point of them being incorporated into the prison system, they are quarantined within the prison compound itself before they are allowed to mix with the general population.

“That was the brief we had from both ministers yesterday ... I cannot go any further because I would not have gone into the prison to satisfy you whether or not they have individual cells in the quarantine facility; but only to say that the fact Minister Joseph would have given his thumbs-up on approval for that programme, it would mean that he would have satisfied himself [about] those conditions as well.”

## YIDA GROUP SIGNS MAJOR INVESTMENT CONTRACT

Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Wednesday witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Yida International Investment Antigua Limited and Western Imperial Capital Limited for the establishment of an offshore medical university, a hotel, and a financial centre on one hundred acres of land in the special economic zone situated at Crabbs.

The MoA was signed by Yida Zhang of Yida International Investment Antigua Limited and Vijender Singh, CEO of Western Imperial Capital Limited and Charit Mathur, Director of Western Imperial Capital.

Speaking at the signing, Singh said that the company will establish not only an international medical school and hotels, but they are committed to the success of the project and will also work towards attracting additional investors to Antigua and Barbuda. He noted that his company will also work towards establishing a special-

ised medical testing facility that will not only serve Antigua and Barbuda but the region.

Yida, who is now a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda, said that he is committed to his adopted home and will continue to work to ensure that the projects earmarked for the property at Crabbs are realised. He said the developments at Crabbs within the special economic zone will reap significant benefits for the economy and

provide employment for thousands of Antiguan and Barbudans.

Prime Minister Browne, who witnessed the signing of the MoA, said that this new development is evidence that Yida's vision for the economic zone is beginning to bear fruit. “Prior to 2021, the project was tied up in litigation, and there was actually a restriction on the sale of property within the zone. Those restrictions were lifted a cou-

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ple of months ago, creating the opportunity now for Yida to promote his special economic zone. Yida has assured me that he has had a lot of interest in the zone and that within the upcoming months, the additional investors will travel to Antigua and Barbuda to negotiate various projects. And the sixteen-hundred-acre property, over a period of time is estimated to generate in the region of three billion US dollars in

investments,” said Prime Minister Browne.

The country’s leader also indicated that his government believes that the Yida project still has the capacity to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in investments and creating much opportunities for Antiguan and Barbudans. “There is an abundance of opportunities for employment, for entrepreneurship, opportunities for sus-

tainable careers as we seek to recover our country from COVID to make sure that we continue to attract investments so that we can accelerate the recovery and put the people of Antigua and Barbuda back to work,” he said. Western Imperial Capital Limited said that it is committed to spending over one hundred million US dollars over a period of two years on the new projects at Crabbs.



*By Phil George*

High Court Judge Ann-Marie Smith has denied the Police Service Commission’s (PSC) application for a stay of the court’s judgment and order and a stay of proceedings in the case involving the PSC and dismissed former Commissioner of Police Wendel Robinson. In her ruling on Wednesday, Justice Smith said the court’s judgment is declaratory in nature and the Police Service Commission has no right to a stay.

Last week, the judge ruled Robinson’s dismissal as top cop was unlawful and the appointment of Atlee Rodney in Robinson’s place was also unlawful, null and void.

After being suspended twice over allegations of questionable conduct, the now practising attorney was dismissed in 2019. In 2020, Robin-

## POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION’S APPLICATION FOR A STAY IN JUDGMENT DENIED

son filed a constitutional motion challenging his termination, but in November of that same year, the Police Service Commission filed an application seeking to have the constitutional motion struck out on the ground that section 105 of the Constitution does not vest any rights in a Commissioner of Police.

Last month, Justice Smith heard arguments on the Police Service Commission’s application to strike out the constitutional motion brought by Robinson and argument that the matter should proceed to summary trial on the ground that no defence had yet been filed by the Police Service Commission. The Judge pronounced that the constitutional motion was to be struck out but that she would proceed nonetheless to issue administrative orders according to PSC Chairman Kelvin John, as there has been no defence filed by the Police Service Commission and that it is clear upon a reading of the affidavit and exhibits of Robinson

that he is entitled to administrative orders.

It led the PSC to apply for a stay, which was denied on Wednesday.

This paves the way for an assessment of damages, which is set for 30th April 2021. It also means Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney’s appointment as top cop remains unlawful, null and void and that Wendel Robinson remains the Commissioner of Police and is entitled to the salary, allowances and other benefits that come with the post. Last week, Kelvin John stated Justice Smith had agreed with the contention of the Police Service Commission that the constitutional motion of Mr. Robinson ought to be struck out, but then proceeded to make administrative orders on the claim. The Police Service Commission, he stated then, will ask the Court of Appeal to review her decision to determine if it was right in law.

The judge’s latest order is also expected to be appealed.



# ANTIGUA CRUISE PORT SOLIDIFIES HOME PORT DEAL WITH P&O CRUISES



**Dona Regis-Prosper-  
General Manager**

Antigua Cruise Port has finalised negotiations with Carnival-owned P&O Cruises, the world's largest leisure company, to home-port a new mega-ship

in Antigua. The vessel "Arvia," which translates from Latin to "From the Seashore," is currently under construction in Germany and will join the P&O Cruises fleet in December 2022.

Antigua Cruise Port, led by Dona Regis-Prosper, Global Ports Holdings (GPH) General Manager for Antigua, expressed her excitement with P&O's notice of home-porting at the GPH Antigua Cruise Port. "We are thrilled to partner with P&O and the Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Tourism in the return to cruise tourism in Antigua" said Regis-Prosper.

Global Ports Holding entered

into a concession agreement with the government of Antigua and Barbuda in 2019 to develop and manage Antigua's cruise port. As part of this agreement, GPH recently completed construction of the fifth berth, which is the newest pier at St. John's Port. Arvia is one of the first ships confirmed to use the new pier, which will enable Oasis class and Excellence class vessels to bring tens of thousands of additional passengers to Antigua annually.

"The anticipation of more cruise ships coming into Antigua faster than originally projected means

## TENDER NOTICE

### — INVITATION TO BID —

#### CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE ROADS - PICCADILLY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASE 1

##### CENTRAL HOUSING AND PLANNING AUTHORITY (CHAPA)

The Tenders Board of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA), invites interested vendors to submit a bid/proposal, for works and/or services related to the **Construction of Concrete Roads (Phase 1) - Piccadilly Development Project**.

The **scope of works** and supporting documents related to this tender will be made available via a link at the Tenders Board website at [www.tendersboard.gov.ag](http://www.tendersboard.gov.ag) under **News/Notices**.

The link will provide access to an e-Procurement Platform hosted by EASiBUY where you will be required to register before being able to download the tender documents.

Please be advised that the eligibility of your bid/proposal, is subject to the completion of a Vendor Registration Form, which is also available from the e-Procurement platform.

**Bid/Proposal** for this tender can be submitted by:

uploading to the e-Procurement Platform or submitting two (2) hard copies in sealed envelopes addressed to: Chairman, Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance and **Corporate Governance, Parliament Drive and with the heading "Construction of Concrete Roads (Phase 1) - Piccadilly Development Project" - Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA)**.

Bid submission shall be no later than **12:00 noon on Wednesday 19 May 2021**.

Queries or Clarification Requests regarding the specified requirements of this tender, must be emailed to: **Chairman, Tenders Board ([tenders.board@ab.gov.ag](mailto:tenders.board@ab.gov.ag))**, with the subject heading - CHAPA Piccadilly Development Project, Query. Please note that the final day for considering queries related to this tender, is **2:00 PM on Thursday April 15 2021**.





that we will push the start of the two-million-dollars uplift of the Heritage Quay Shopping Mall and the twenty-five-million-dollars commercial development at Point to begin as quickly as possible," she continued.

In addition to a major transit port, Antigua is uniquely positioned for home-porting for cruise lines, offering key services that provide convenience and added value for cruise passengers and vessels. In addition to its strategically beneficial loca-

tion at the heart of the Caribbean, Antigua boasts various home-porting assets, including the ability to facilitate airlift from major cities in Europe and North America, allocation of a designated airport terminal for home-porting, five berths, and provisioning and other services at the port.

Colin Murphy, Head of Business Development in the Americas for GPH, heralded the new partnership as "one of the many

significant benefits that working with GPH has been able to bring to Antigua and Barbuda." He added, "No matter which destination we partner with, we are always focused on supporting the success and welfare of the community. Our strong relationships with the cruise lines helped us to support the finalisation of home-port deals in Nassau, Bahamas and now, we have delivered a similarly successful opportunity for Antigua and Barbuda."

Mrs. Regis-Prosper added that, "Our booking rates for the second half of 2021 and for 2022 remain steady, so we are truly looking forward to resuming cruising and helping our Heritage Quay tenants, downtown stakeholders, and other port partners return to a sense of normality."

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## STATE INSURANCE SUPPORTS VACCINE PURCHASE PROGRAMME



State Insurance Company Limited (SIC) is the latest business entity in the country to donate substantial sums of money to the government's vaccine purchase programme. On Thursday, SIC's General Manager, M. Lindell Francis-Butler presented a cheque for the amount of EC\$100,000.00 (one hundred thousand) to Prime Minister Gaston Browne who accepted the gift on behalf of the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda. PM Browne has said repeatedly that the government does not intend to formally request assistance from the private sector or those entities that can afford to give towards the programme. Instead, he wants them

to be motivated by their own sense of civic responsibility to help the nation in a time of crisis.

So far, the Hadeed Group of Companies, ACB Caribbean, Antigua Investment Group Ltd, and now State Insurance are among several companies that have all responded to the call to assist the nation. There have been several other donations.

Antigua and Barbuda has been shopping around for enough vaccines to inoculate the nation as soon as possible. Unfortunately, purchasing vaccines on the world market is proving to be a difficult undertaking as larger countries are gobbling up all available supplies.

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA SHIPS SARGASSUM SEAWEED TO FINLAND



Antigua and Barbuda has shipped samples of the Invasive Sargassum Seaweed to Finland as part of a new initiative being explored.

The Antigua and Barbuda Department of Analytical Services shipped two hundred and two pounds of the invasive sargassum seaweed to Finland. On the receiving end will be Origin by Ocean, a Finnish company being incubated within the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Global Innovation Centre (GIC) in Sweden.

Thursday's shipment is the first phase of a project being developed by Origin by Ocean to design a new biorefinery process (Nauvu®) for the extraction of biomolecules for use in food, cosmetics, and domestic detergent, all

from marine biomass. This first shipment of seaweed will be used by the company to do initial reference trials of the Nauvu® process against the benchmark feedstock of Bladderwrack seaweed.

The collaboration between Origin by Ocean and the Department of Analytical Services is made possible because of the synergies currently being established between the UNOPS GICs across Antigua and Barbuda, Sweden and Japan. In Antigua, the GIC is a collaboration between UNOPS and the Antigua and Barbuda Science Innovation Park (ABSIP).

A second, larger batch of sargassum is expected to be shipped in the coming weeks and will be used for the initial process trials with sargassum seaweed.

# Collective CARICOM voice for recovery at IMF-World Bank meetings



**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)*

The response by policy makers of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to the depth of COVID-19's effects on Caribbean economies needs to be urgently re-

viewed, particularly regarding debt.

An unduly optimistic assessment of the extent of damage to economies and an overly confident expectation of how long the effects will last, have resulted in inadequate instruments to help Caribbean countries get out of the hole into which they have been sunk through no fault of their own. Caribbean countries did not create the pandemic and they have been among the most successful in containing it at great cost to their Treasuries.

The staff of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank

Group (WBG) and the Directors on the Boards, representing CARICOM countries, deserve credit for advancing the region's interests. The inadequacy of the IFIs response is not their fault; it is entirely due to Board directors of some larger countries who remain stuck to mistaken policy positions whose failures have enlarged the harmful effects of the pandemic.

One of these continuing unhelpful policy positions is the application of per capita income as a criterion to deny high income Caribbean countries access to concessionary loans, even though these countries are subject to the same vulnerabilities as lower income countries.

Something of a breakthrough might have occurred. The World Bank Board has approved the preparation of loan documents of \$100 million each for the Bahamas and Barbados—two of the countries with the highest per capita incomes in CARICOM – “due to

their heavy reliance on tourism”. This is an admission that the Board of the Bank has accepted vulnerability as a criterion, that is superior to high income, as a qualification for concessionary loans. It is to be assumed, therefore, that, if these loans are approved by the Board in the coming weeks, this criterion can now be applied to other high-income CARICOM countries such as Antigua and Barbuda and St Kitts-Nevis. CARICOM Finance Ministers at the Spring Meetings of the Bank and Fund should raise this issue collectively. Doing so, is especially relevant since countries that might have been “high income”, according to IMF/WBG measurements, in 2019, are certainly not so today. High unemployment, resulting from the pandemic, has shaved as much as 30 % from per capita income in some countries and is likely to reduce it even more as unemployment increases and poverty expands.



Amid all this, the IFIs response to high and crippling debt in many CARICOM countries that has spiralled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, has increased their debt service burdens. While the Bank and Fund have explicitly stated that debt levels were, for some, more than 100 % of GDP prior to the pandemic, the debt instruments that they have provided are burdensome.

As an example, the IMF's Debt Service Suspension Initiative is only temporary. It is also applicable only to the poorest countries. Therefore only 5 CARICOM countries qualified. The initiative is supposedly to help them cope with the economic and fiscal constraints caused by the COVID-19 crisis. But it gives only a one-year grace with repayment having to be made over 5 years. Clearly, there will be an increase in the debt service burdens of these countries.

The duration of the pandemic's effects on CARICOM economies and its severe impact, will be longer than anticipated. Countries, such as Guyana and Suriname,

with their oil and gas resources will be better placed, but Post-COVID, many CARICOM countries will have much reduced economies, high debt, diminished revenues, and little capacity to recover. The UN has already said that the Caribbean will face 'a lost decade' with economies and per capita income declining to 2010 levels.

They will need access to low-cost financing and grants from both IFI's and donor governments. Immediately, they need debt relief in the forms of write-offs and deferral of repayments on easier terms.

If these initiatives are not taken, Caribbean economies will be caught in a poverty trap from which they will not emerge for a generation and, even then, only if they experience no disasters such as hurricanes, prolonged droughts, or flooding – all of which have a high probability of occurring.

The governments of CARICOM countries are struggling to keep their economies afloat with policy initiatives either to revive dormant activities, such as agricultural and fisheries production, or

to encourage new technology-based endeavours. These will help with economic diversification over time, but they will not be immediate large contributors to economic growth or replacements for industries such as tourism. The Spring meetings of the Bank and Fund are an opportunity for robust presentations of the plight of CARICOM countries, always recalling they did not originate or spread COVID-19. They are in their current situation because of their vulnerability to their trading partners which, without exception, enjoy relatively large trade surpluses with the region. Some of these same trading partners are among the most vociferous in the continued application of mistaken criteria that disqualify many CARICOM countries from concessionary financing and debt relief.

At this month's meetings of the IMF/WBG, Caribbean representatives have an opportunity to advance proposals for support. One of the points that should be made is that, since the huge balance of trade surplus that rich countries

enjoy with CARICOM states runs into billions of dollars perennially, giving them revenues and employment, they should regard debt forgiveness and rescheduling, as well as concessional financing, as investments in CARICOM countries from which they derive considerable benefits annually.

If the economies of CARICOM countries are not helped to recover, there will be a corresponding contraction in their ability to continue to buy goods and services from the rich.

Efforts must be made to create a framework that integrates debt sustainability, growth-investment, and building resilience for CARICOM countries. Such a framework must also take full account of the region's vulnerability to destructive forces they do not create, such as Climate Change.

CARICOM countries should speak with a collective voice in proposing such a framework to the IMF/WBG meetings, omitting no country.

Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)

# EASTER MESSAGE



*Dr Carson L. Greene President, South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventist.*

For more than a year now, COVID-19 has wreaked havoc all over the world. There is a general sense of anxiety, fear and uncertainty. Just about every aspect of society has been affected. Our children have had to adjust to the online environment. Our hotels are, for the most part, closed and even social interaction has been severe-

ly restricted. Never before, in our lifetime, have we seen such a global halt to business, pleasure, face-to-face learning, religious gatherings and social interaction. If this were all, it would be bad, but, added to all of this is the sad reality that millions have died! At present, the rate of infection and death is climbing in many countries around the world. When we consider these things, the passage recorded in Luke 21:26 comes to mind: "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking

after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Such is the condition of our world today, but what does this have to do with Easter? Good question! Easter is about hope, healing and restoration. Sometimes, we focus on the death of Jesus and stop there. There are two other important dimensions to the Easter story that must not be overlooked. First, Jesus did die, but he did not stay dead. He rose again! In rising from the dead, he



demonstrated that he has victory and power over death. The second dimension is equally important. This second aspect focuses on the “why” behind His death. What was the reason for His death? It is instructive to note that Jesus did not die primarily because the religious leaders were jealous of Him and plotted against Him. He came to the Earth on a mission to die for the sins of mankind. He came on a mission of redemption. His mission was one of rescue. He came to free us from the burden and penalty of sin. The condition of the world today with all the fears and uncertainty and death is a grim reminder of the result of sin. When Adam and Eve in Eden chose

to follow Satan’s way and sinned against God, the world was plunged into a state of despair. Adam expressed this idea of fear when God asked him where he was. “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” (Gen 3:10 NKJV) It was in this context that the promise of Genesis 3:15 was given. At the moment when Adam was at his lowest point, God assured him of His love and desire to save him. God spoke hope to him. God told the man that the deceiver—the enemy, would one day have his head crushed by the seed of the woman—Jesus—although in the process, some suffering would be inflicted on the Saviour. The

celebration of Easter, the death and resurrection of Jesus, is a celebration of the fulfilment of the promise of Genesis 3:15. So, as we celebrate this Easter, I challenge us to look beyond the current state of turbulence in the world and see the Saviour. He has already overcome death and soon He will come to put an end to sin and suffering forever! COVID-19, like other pandemics in the past, takes a heavy toll on our lives. We hope that, like those before it, it too will pass away. We celebrate the development of vaccines and trust that they will indeed make a difference. Yet, we still live in a world of sin and we know that it is only a matter of time before another dreaded disease comes

along. If this cycle was all there was in life, we would all have need to despair. Thankfully, Easter is about one who came to inoculate us from the disease of all diseases—sin. His death and resurrection is guarantee that the “jab of His grace” is 100% efficacious. The Seventh-day Adventist Church extends a blessed Easter to all Antiguan and Barbudans and encourages us to trust in the merits of the grace of Jesus. Our prayer is that God will extend His protection and healing to us and bring quick relief from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our desire is that you will trust in Jesus and accept His saving grace and the hope that very soon, He will come to make all things new.

**STARTING POINTE**  
with **Shelton Daniel**  
**MONDAY TO FRIDAY**  
**8:30am-10:30am**

ON AIR

POINTE FM

POINTE FM 99.1  
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY  
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
99.1 FM

# IN THIS TOGETHER

## GOOD FRIDAY!



**Algernon M. Lewis – Chair, Moravian Church  
Eastern West Indies Province**

On this holiest of days in the liturgical calendar, we find ourselves reflecting again on the significance of that first Good Friday and what it means for a world under siege.

We are all trying to figure out these realities, wondering what is next. For the person of faith, we run to the end where the Bible promises that “all things work together for good” (Romans 8:28) or to Jesus’ sixth word on the

cross, “It is finished” (John 19:30). Whereas these verses may be used as platitudes by some, they are real places of refuge in a time of uncertainty.

Yet for some people, there are no words to express their reality. They want to believe that things will work out; they want to hope that they will land on their feet on the other side of the present disruptions. However, there are



no certainties. The last year has provided cruel reminders that trouble lurks all around and strikes anywhere. Even though we know it, there are consistent chilling reminders that each of us is in the cross hairs. So how do we engage Good Friday 2021 with authenticity and hope?

The synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) carry a story that has been recurring in my mind – the story of Simon of Cyrene being compelled to carry the cross of Jesus (Matt. 27:32; Luke 23:26; Mark 15:21). Mark even mentions Simon's sons, Rufus and Alexander, maybe hinting to his readers to verify the story with them. Beyond the fact that Simon was from Cyrene which was a coastal city in modern-day Libya, Africa, it is what he did that keeps circling in my mind. Simon was compelled to bear the cross with Jesus on the way to Calvary where Jesus would do the ultimate heavy-lifting of bearing the sin of the world.

Simon could have taken a fall and pretended that he could not go on. He could have concluded that this was not his fight and there was no need for him to bear another man's burden. Rather, he chose to take his part in Jesus's story and help to carry the cross. There is no indication in the text that Simon was even a follower of Jesus. He was just another black man in the crowd. Even so, he was chosen by God for this moment –

to help Jesus bear the cross to Calvary. As we go through these days of trial and uncertainty, there is that subtle intimation that we are all in this together. There is a need for us to be willing to carry other's burdens even when it seems that this is not our fight. We are all part of the human race. Our stories intersect whether we think so or not. Some persons contracted the COVID19 virus from persons with whom they were not familiar. There is a strong possibility that if the infected person thought more intentionally about their actions in relation to the other, the infection might not have spread further. We are all in this together and our stories connect.

Recently, I read a meme that might have been imported which told about people in certain fast food drive through. The person in the car behind was impatient and even rude. The person ahead in the drive through paid for and collected the meal of the insolent patron in the back. This act was to force the insolent person to go around a second time. I thought this was most unfortunate and lacked sensitivity for the moment we are all enduring. A better response would have been to pay it forward by purchasing the food and leaving it, thereby helping that insolent person carry their burdens. We are in this together.

Another portion of the passion narrative that keeps circling in

my mind is Jesus' fourth word from the cross, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" (My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?) (Matt 27:46). This text never ceases to stir emotions in me. I cannot imagine what Jesus felt having never been abandoned by my family. I try to imagine that moment as Jesus never had to define himself outside of the intimate relationship he shared with his Father. For the first time he felt abandoned.

There are people who have felt that abandonment in this last year. Some have never been in want of work or resources, and for the first time felt the coldness of abandonment. At those times, there are no words, just emotions. At those times, one's thoughts may not be one's best friend. In times of desperation, people have turned to practices that provide the necessities of life and numb the pain but may not maintain dignity. Abandonment is real and it takes a toll on its victims. Need I say it again? We are all in this together.

As a person of faith, I have come to embrace Good Friday, realizing that it is not the end. We must journey through Good Friday where Jesus declared, "It is finished" and keep listening for the voice of God to speak a final word – He lives! The world will be in Good Friday for a while. Let us hold on together for Easter.

# WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GOOD FRIDAY?

*“Good Friday, observed before Easter, is the day when Christians commemorate Jesus Christ’s crucifixion. Good Friday is observed by Christians as a day of penance, grief and fasting. Good Friday also marks the end of the 40-day period of fasting for Christians, called the Lent.”*

*One of the things that we must be very careful of is that we do not want Good Friday to lose its significance because of tradition and customs. As a result of the aforementioned I feel very compelled to list all the players or affected groups of persons in this season.*

*God the Trinity*

*Mankind*

*Satan and his demons*

1. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit constitute the Godhead. When God said in Gen. 1:26 “And God said, ‘Let Us make man in our image, after our likeness...” you would observe God never said “Let there be” like the other aspect of creation. You would also observe that in Gen. 2:7 “And the Lord God formed the man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breadth of life, and man became a living soul.” I wish for you to further observe that nothing is said about God breathing into the nostrils of the animals and them becoming living souls. So man was created in the most perfect form and all that God required of man was strict obedience to His commands. It is my heart’s desire to show you that man was so intimately connected to his God that God charged him with the responsibility of naming the animals and when he was done, none of the names were changed. In the process of time, man was tempted and disobeyed God and obeyed Satan. This act of disobedience totally severed the relationship between God and man but this loving, merciful and gracious God would not allow man to live and die in a lost, depraved and corrupt state. God’s plan was that of redemption and redemption really means to deliverance of man from sin through a sacrifice. In this case man was lost and in sin so he could not, angels were created so they cannot; so only divine could meet divine standards so a member of the Godhead had to be the atoning sacrifice. As is, God is Spirit and blood was needed to make the sacrifice so that’s why Jesus had to take on a physical/human body so His blood could be shed and sprinkled on the cross. The very first Good Friday was when they nailed Jesus to the cross, pressed a crown of thorns upon His head and pushed a spear through His side.



**Olson Daniel (Rev. Dr.) District Superintendent  
Wesleyan Holiness Church**

2. Mankind: (For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God) with this first act of disobedience it totally corrupted man’s nature and as a result all the children that Adam and Eve would produce would inherit this sinful and corrupt nature. Have you ever wondered why we have to teach children to do the right thing but never have to do the wrong thing? It is because the man who was made with a pure nature and didn’t know how to do wrong (Man was created with free will, not a nature to sin), after sin crept in, man now has a dirty nature and don’t know how to make it right with God. Man is not only lost but is headed to the lake of fire that was prepared for Satan and his angels. Man was disconnected



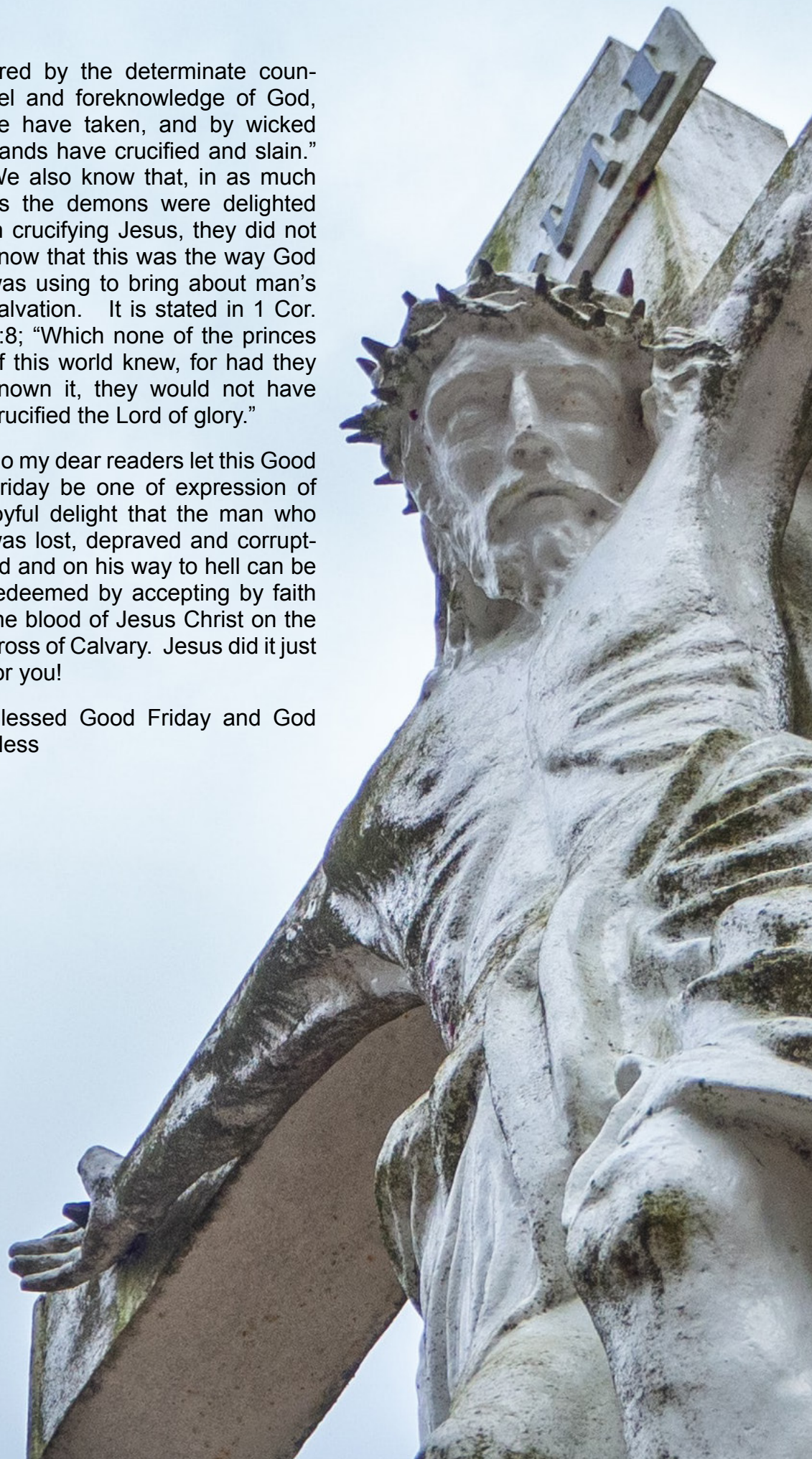
from God by exercising his will by obeying the servant (Satan) so man, in order to be reconnected to God must exercise his will to accept the offer of salvation by faith. Man is the biggest beneficiary off all the pain and anguish that Jesus suffered on the cross.

3. Satan and his demons: please don't think that I've lost my mind to even mention Satan and his demons in this Good Friday story. If Jesus crucified Himself then it would have been said that He committed suicide. No right thinking and God fearing persons could do so the kingdom of darkness was enraged about the fact that Jesus came to redeem mankind. Satan was delighted to do anything to get rid of Jesus so he sought the cruelest way: crucifixion. The Bible has made it clear that it was wicked hands that Satan used, according to Acts 2:23; "Him, (Jesus) being deliv-

ered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." We also know that, in as much as the demons were delighted in crucifying Jesus, they did not know that this was the way God was using to bring about man's salvation. It is stated in 1 Cor. 2:8; "Which none of the princes of this world knew, for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

So my dear readers let this Good Friday be one of expression of joyful delight that the man who was lost, depraved and corrupted and on his way to hell can be redeemed by accepting by faith the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. Jesus did it just for you!

Blessed Good Friday and God bless





# INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE: REDEMPTION



**Bishop Claudette Toby Greene, Senior Pastor, The Sacred Choice of Heaven, Mt. Lebanon Spiritual Baptist Church, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.**

Every year at Easter time we acknowledge the celebration of Passover in Hebrew – Pesach - the Passing over of the force of destruction, sparing the lives of the firstborn of the Israelites marking their homes with the blood of an unblemished lamb on the eve of the Exodus; their freedom from slavery in the land of Egypt. We understand that after many years of slavery God used one of their own, Moses, to free the Israelites from bondage under Pharaoh. As we emerge from the Lenten season of fasting and praying and taking time to re-examine ourselves while we reflect on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and while we meditate on the forty days that he

spent in the desert which was followed by his crucifixion whereby showing us that He is the Lamb of God. In His dying He defeated sin, by taking away the burden of our sins and setting us free, which was the greatest victory, and by his resurrection he also defeated death, for he lived yesterday, he lives today and forever. Philippians 2:10-11 tells us; "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and the things in earth, and the things under the earth; And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." Jesus walked amongst men and made the ultimate sacrifice of being crucified for our sins; by doing this, He

made God's love visible to mankind. It is easy to show insincere love; but God's love is real, and he proved this to us by forgiving us our sins and allowing his only son to be crucified for no sins of his own, but for our sin. Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to one another tender hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Today, as we experience the COVID-19 pandemic, our "Egypt" while we struggle to get out of that "Egypt" we should, in our reflecting and self-examination, ask ourselves, who is our "Pharaoh" that is causing us to doubt our ability to press forward. Years gone by, due to geographical location, it was a long process to connect with each other, one had to depend on the snail mail system. Today, with improved technology we can stay in connection with our loved ones face to face through our communicative devices and make new connections. Although challenging at times, for many, the COVID-19 pandemic has encouraged creativity and adaptation. Churches are also conducting online worship and many activities and events while we observe protocol as a result of



the pandemic. Since the world suffered the onset of this pandemic over one year ago, our ministry, The Sacred Choice of Heaven Mt Lebanon Spiritual Baptist Church, based in Trinidad and Tobago, has capitalized and engaged the online zoom communication platform for scheduled Sunday worship, for our members and well wishers, who resides outside of Trinidad and Tobago as a beacon of hope and faith in a time where creativity and adaptation is necessary for the survival for the children of God. There is a saying "with progress comes changes." We all should be willing and endeavour to accept the changes in a positive light which we all are facing and to seek the knowledge we need to align ourselves by assisting society with some of their needs in the new and next normal. By doing this we will also be honouring our responsibility to God and society. I urge you to stay faithful to God. Just like the Israelites we all have our "Egypt," and like Jesus we all have a cross to carry. These might be a state of mind, but if we humble ourselves, be persistent and place God at the center of our lives and ask our Heavenly Father to lead us through every decision we make and to accept the changes that come with the passing over, we will eventually achieve our place in that promised land.

In this season and today as we demand of God to urgently respond to our present needs, the time for self-reflection, reassessing and reconstructing to make a positive turn is now and not be confused and indecisive while enslaved as opposed to accepting what is promised to us.

As leaders, our mandate must be guided by the Holy Spirit through the body of Christ. 2 Chronicles 7:14 encourages us to humble ourselves before God, pray and seek God's face. Let integrity and uprightness preserve our nations, let us return and understand the power of daily devotions, prayer and Godly worship. With joyful expectation of the resurrection, have a blessed, holy and peaceful day and weekend. Stay Safe.

# INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE: REBUILDING



Apostle Joseph Attzs, Senior Pastor, Mantle of Christ International Ministries.

Daily we experience God's unselfish nature through Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit; however, we fail to reciprocate those acts of love. We overwhelm ourselves with the cares of the world, and our relationship with the creator deteriorates. Today, there is an urgency for us to re-establish our true sense of belonging to God as we engage in rebuilding our prayer and worship experiences with Him.

The book of Romans emphasizes that we present our bodies as a sacrifice, holy and acceptable before God. By placing ourselves before Him articulating our reverence and adoration, we make room to assume His majestic nature. Through focusing our attention on Him, we increase our awareness of being in the presence of God. Learning how to absorb God's presence through worship is one of the most valuable things we can do with our time. God intends that we are drawn near to Him. When He draws near to us, we will experience Him in ever-increasing measures.

The exploration of the Holy Writ is another way to seek the presence of God. Saints are called to practise studying His Word. Jesus said, "if you abide in Me and My Words will live in you, you will ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you." Abiding in God means responding according to His will. Jesus is always present with His Word. Abiding in the Word always brings an increase in God's manifest presence.





“Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of humankind! In the cover of your presence, you hide them from the plots of men; you store them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.” (Psalms 31:19-20).

In our attempt to rekindle our relationship with God, we need to be aware that we consult His lead. We must fashion our approach as Nehemiah did. “When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days, I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 5 Then I said: ‘Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees, and laws you gave your servant Moses.’” (Nehemiah 1: 4-7)

Nehemiah was adamant that to restore relationships with God and His people, the temple of Jerusa-

lem should be rebuilt. Through this gesture, Israel will once again have the opportunity to meet and maintain God-aligned standards. However, Paul taught the church of Corinth that their bodies were indeed the temple of the true and living God. If believers and unbelievers alike can connect to a relationship with God based on Nehemiah’s model, they will take the needed steps to rebuild a godlike nature.

It was the captivity of Nehemiah and Israel that impeded Israel’s ability to rebuild the temple. Today we must be aware of what or who has captured us and challenged our relationship with God. It may be a friend, a job, and family member, or an ungodly impediment. Like Nehemiah, we are called to prayer and fast our way out of the situation so the work of rebuilding can begin.

It is essential that at this Easter time that we seek to be revived. The threat of COVID-19 may have kept us captive, but with God, all things are possible. As Jesus Christ rose from the grave, he allowed all believers to rise from grave conditions they face from time to time. All are exposed to the possibilities of greatness and an assurance that victory can result from the mere mention of His name. We are continually remind-

ed that every knee will bow at the Name of Jesus, and the tongues of men will testify of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 2: 10).

Through our testimonies, God reveals Himself to those that earnestly seek Him (Deuteronomy 4:29). If we want to walk in the light of the Lord, then we need to experience the presence of God. One of the major ways we can do this is through worship.

It was Nehemiah’s testimony to the Babylonian king that gave him favor even with enemies. Nehemiah was Arterxerxes cup bearer, a simple captive lad who was enslaved and oppressed in a strange land. But after he presented the God, he served to the king and testified of God’s greatness the heart of the king’s heart was softened.

Today you are invited to never succumb to the tragedy that created a setback in your life. Like Nehemiah, focused on the greater fortification and the reestablishment of relationship with God. The arms of God are always ajar for the return of His people. He expects that they do not cheat Him of worship and that they employ selflessness in all efforts to honor Him. This is achieved by rebuilding the foundational beliefs that their worship must be in spirit and truth.



**TALKING POINT**

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY**  
**10:30AM TO 1:30PM**

**DR. MASERATI** **SENATOR COLIN BROWNE**



# COMMEMORATION OF GOOD FRIDAY 2021 AND THE IMPACT OF COVID-19



Rev Derek Browne, Circuit  
Superintendent Antigua Methodist Church

In 2021, a full year into the COVID-19 pandemic, we have experienced setbacks, significant loss of life of family and friends, and our livelihood has been impacted. We have also experienced an ever changing 'new normal.'

It is within this context that we enter with reverence into the presence of the Cross at this year's commemoration and memorial of the Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus. In spite of our experiences, many are resolved to acknowledge that through the grace of God we are still here, and that 'this too shall pass'! As Christians, despite the challenges, we have taken the time to continue our Spiritual Journey knowing that it is our Faith in God that helped us keep it together. Our reflections this year followed the theme: "Soul Journey: Characters Around the Cross: Flawed but Faithful – Becoming," noting that the Christian life is DYNAMIC. We are growing and

we are becoming! The journey to becoming a SAINT begins with a SINNER. It was for the sinner that Jesus came to earth to die in our place, so that we may be saved from the bondage of sin and have eternal life. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son". A record of Jesus' earthly ministry shows that he did all manner of good to help persons. In spite of all the good, however, his opponents – the chief priests, Scribes, Pharisees and teachers of the law, felt threatened by him since large crowds were following him as a result of his unique teachings as one with authority. He performed miraculous deeds of healing, casting out demons, raising people from the dead – including his friend Lazarus after being dead for four days. He even exercised authority over the forces of nature – speaking to wind and the seas to be still – and they obeyed! Jesus' 'cleansing of the temple' of its unjust practices and its hindering of the Gentile worshipers from finding peace and quiet to encounter God also led the religious leaders to seek ways to arrest and kill Jesus. It is within this context, and against this background, that Jesus having shared what turned out to be his last meal with his disciples, went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray and was then arrested. A bogus trial ensued and Jesus was condemned to death by crucifixion. This was injustice at its height. All of this was accompanied by insults, abuse, being beaten, whipped, punched, slapped, spat upon, and being pierced with a crown of thorns. His experience in one word was TORTURE! It was exhausting to say the least.

As the Scripture says, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquity and the chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed!"

Jesus was crucified, guilty only of love, compassion and doing all manner of GOOD to human kind! It's amazing that in spite of all that Jesus went through he was still able to speak 7 Words from the Cross.

The First Word ... "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do". After all that they did to Jesus, he still found it within his heart to ask God to FORGIVE them! Some persons find it difficult to forgive others for far less BUT Jesus shows us the way of love. If we want God to forgive us we must be prepared to forgive others. The Second Word ... "To-day you shall be with me in paradise". One criminal crucified on a cross beside Jesus came to the place where he saw in Jesus - the Christ, the Son of God. Even then, he made his peace with God as he asked Jesus to remember him when he comes in glory. Jesus assured the dying thief, "today, you will be with me in Paradise!" It is never too late to turn to the Lord! If you cry out to him he will hear and save you from your sins. The Third Word ... "Woman, behold your Son! Behold thy mother!" In spite of what Jesus was going through, he still loved and cared for his mother and sought after her wellbeing. He committed her to the care of the beloved disciple and him to her care. Jesus demonstrated that his was a selfless love.

The Fourth Word ... "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" At Jesus' lowest, he cried out with the words of Psalm 22:1. The pain and suffering was taking its toll on him physically. Darkness covered the land. His life was literally weighing in the balance. His will was being tested. In that moment he was feeling a sense of aloneness which could be equated with abandonment.

The Fifth Word ... "I Thirst". His throat was parched and breathing was becoming difficult. It was one of those human conditions that each of us can appreciate. Imagine the dehydration setting in. His thirst needed to be quenched. The Sixth Word .. "It is finished". Jesus' cry was not one signaling the end in defeat but a loud cry signaling the accomplishment of his mission. A cry of victory over sin and death. The deed was done and it was done according to God's will. The price was paid. As the hymn writer notes, "It is finished! The battle is over, It is finished! There'll be no more war; It is finished! The end of the conflict, It is finished and Jesus is Lord." The Seventh Word ...

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having mustered up all the strength he could gather he spoke his final word from the Cross. As with the first Word he addressed his Father, so in his last he addresses

his Father entrusting and commending his spirit into God's hands. He then breathed his last and died. As we come under the reflection of the Cross and consider the Crucifixion of Jesus and the events and circumstances surrounding his death that was considered very BAD and EVIL actually turned out to be GOOD because God always has a way of bringing some good out of bad situations or situations meant for evil. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the bad and evil it has inflicted on the world – it has taken a major toll in crippling economies and especially those associated with Tourism since a number of borders have closed and travel has been restricted in many instances. Further, there are specific requirements associated with travel

which will no doubt require 'proof of vaccination' in the near future. The late Rev. Dr. Myles Munroe often highlighted that "Every Crisis presents an Opportunity." I believe the crisis which the Covid-19 pandemic presents, as has hurricanes previously, is an opportunity for us as a nation of Antigua & Barbuda, and other tourism dependent economies of sand, sea and sun, to think seriously and take hold of the opportunity to divest and grow the economy by promoting Agriculture and the associated Agro-processing industries, along with manufacturing. From Good Friday, we have learnt that out of bad can come good. Out of the Crucifixion of Jesus came the salvation of humankind. Out of Death came Life. Similarly, out of Covid-19 and the ac-

companying challenges can come a more sustainable local grown market and supply of poultry and other products which would lessen the need for imports, which should be supported and protected by the government.

In the midst of people losing hope, one must recognize that with God, all things are possible. Hope is ever alive even when things seem hopeless. Let us look to God who always has the final say! I take the opportunity to wish all a reflective 'Good Friday' as we journey once more with Jesus to the Cross. Let us spend time kneeling at the Cross knowing that we can leave ALL our burdens and cares, as Jesus leads us to new life, joy and peace beyond the grave.





# THE CHALLENGE OF EASTER



**Bishop Nigel N Henry**  
**Barbuda Pentecostal Church**

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 1 Corinthians 15:14-19 (NIV) The early church was blessed by dramatic growth, dynamic miracles, and leadership. These things allowed the church to touch its world and make a difference. There was another factor in their great growth - They were the target of devilish attacks and persecution. They faced their trials, they overcame them, they rose above them and they brought glory to God. When we consider the early church and their success, we may forget that what they gained was out of the furnace of trial and affliction. We should be under no delusion that we to in our technological times will also have to go through times of trial and trou-

ble. However, when these times come, we must handle them correctly, or they will handle us! For all Christians, the Easter season celebrates the most joyous time of year, as it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But how can we be joyous when living in isolation enduring the slow ache of loneliness? What is the timeline for returning to normality? No one really knows. This uncertainty may leave our already frayed anxieties sinking into depression. Gnawing desperation grips us, wondering what will happen next. And even if we can deal such challenges, we might just be really bored, every day with the same sludge as the day before. Besides how can we be joyful while the virus continues to threaten lives daily and its consequences devastate our global, national, and local communities? This is why, this Easter season I ask you to think back once again to the reactions of the men and women, who witnessed the devastation of Jesus's horrific death. They were quite clueless about what was to burst forth from that obscurity.

The present coronavirus challenges are real. Yet so too was the resurrected body of the risen Jesus—this is the whole point of the writings of scripture and Christianity itself. The resurrection brings the understanding for the saving of our mental, physical and spiritual selves. Our entire persons.

This Easter season must be more than about mere survival of our current physical, psychological, and spiritual challenges. It should be that of the clear understanding that Jesus experienced all our human joys and sorrows. He shared our lives; He transformed our lives. Everything we

now go through must take on a greater, deeper, and new meaning. Jesus's resurrection offers us abounding hope. And even in these times—or because of them—this should make our heart leap for joy. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the essential tenet of our faith! If this is not true, then our faith is false! If he did not rise, then there is no eternal life, and death is ultimately forever!

Easter as we know is a time of jubilation. It is a reminder for those who are feeling helpless, discouraged, and afraid because of pain, problems, and challenges – that life has its brighter side as well. Easter is “light at the end of the tunnel” for those who may have been overwhelmed by life's circumstances, including those who may have already lost their sense of meaning and purpose in life. Easter brings a message of hope and possibilities for millions of people around the world who have been displaced due to armed conflict or war or natural disaster. Easter evokes a sense of optimism for those who may have been discriminated against because of the colour of their skin, their sexual orientation, their beliefs, their class, and sociocultural and political status. At the same time, Easter serves as a rebuke for those who cause pain and suffering of others. Easter is also a call to repentance and transformation for those who welcome its salvation message. For Christians around the world, Easter is great, wonderful news, that needs to be spread out in words, in thoughts, and in deeds. Hence, the celebration of Easter is a call to mission. God Bless Antigua and Barbuda. Do have a joyous and safe Easter.





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## COMMUNITY NOTICES

"The Ministry of Tourism and Investment would like to advise all small and large property owners that ALL tourism accommodations MUST be inspected and certified to operate in the current Covid climate.

Once certified, the property will be published on the official "certified tourism accommodation" list that is updated daily and shared with the relevant airport and health authorities.

Once your property is found to be operating without the proper certification, you will be reported to the health authorities who will take all necessary corrective actions.

Please be guided accordingly."

## NOTICE

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT  
OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND  
BARBUDA ANUHPB 2021/

In the Estate of **ROLAND PRINCE**,  
late of Liberta Village,

St. Paul, Antigua, Deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF  
APPLICATION FOR GRANT

SECOND PUBLICATION

**TAKE NOTICE** that an Application has been filed by **ROLANDA PRINCE**, of Bolans Village, St. Mary's Antigua, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the lawful daughter, and lawful Attorney of one of the children, of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 16th day of July, 2016.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated the 25th day of March, 2021

**TALIA N. DACOSTA**

**ATTORNEY-AT-LAW**

**STAPLETON CHAMBERS**

Filed by STAPLETON CHAMBERS Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is Stapleton Chambers, Stapleton Lane, P. O. Box 2891, St. John's, Antigua, email: [craig.jacas@stapletonchambers.com](mailto:craig.jacas@stapletonchambers.com), Tel No: 268-562-7185; Fax No. 268-562-7967

## EASTER WEEKEND NOTICE

The Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) Coast Guard reaffirms the decision made Wednesday March 31 2021 by the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda concerning the closure of beaches and seas.

All are advised that beaches in Antigua and Barbuda will be closed for four consecutive days beginning on Thursday evening, April 1, 2021, from 7:00 p.m., to Tuesday morning, April 6, 2021, at 5:00 a.m.

Visits to offshore island for private parties have also been restricted.

Commercial fishing vessels (both regular and sport), ferry services and vessels transporting passengers and/or goods to and from Barbuda are exempt from the weekend restrictions. All other watercraft are to remain in port.

The ABDF Coast Guard will facilitate the movement of all prohibited watercraft under exceptional circumstances on a case by case basis. All vessels seeking authorization of movement must provide a sail plan upon request.

The ABDF Coast Guard can be contacted via Marine Radio Channel 16 or telephone via +1-268-462-3206/462-0671/462-2841/3.



# NATHAN BAGGALEY: OLYMPIAN TRIED TO SMUGGLE \$150M OF COCAINE

Photo Caption: Nathan Baggageley was a double silver-medallist at the 2004 Athens Olympics and three-times world champion

BBC Sport - An Australian Olympic kayaker and his brother have been found guilty of attempting to smuggle A\$200m (\$152m; £109m) of cocaine into the country. Nathan Baggageley and Dru Baggageley will be sentenced later this month. Both have pleaded not guilty. Dru and another man were arrested in 2018 after a dramatic police chase at sea that also involved the navy and air force. Nathan purchased the boat used in the incident. Dru and the other man, Anthony Draper, made an 11-hour journey in June 2018 to meet up with

a foreign ship that was carrying the drugs. However, they were spotted by surveillance planes and followed by a navy ship. Footage captured Dru throwing packages of cocaine overboard while Draper attempted to get away from the ship. They were later caught by a Queensland police vessel off the coast and arrested by armed officers. Dru claims that he thought he was collecting tobacco and not cocaine and said he was kidnapped by Draper and made to go on the voyage. He said Draper threatened his family if he didn't

help him. However, Draper claimed he was recruited by Dru to drive the boat and alleged he was told they were picking up "smoko" which he assumed was marijuana. Draper pleaded guilty to importing cocaine earlier this year but his sentence was reduced for testifying against the Baggageley brothers. Prosecutors say Nathan - a double silver-medallist at the Athens Olympics - was involved in the plan, purchasing the boat and fitting it with a satellite phone and a navigation system. But he said in court that the boat was pur-

chased with money given to him by Dru and said he was told it would be used to start a whale watching business, ABC News reports. His fingerprints were also discovered on tape used to conceal the boat's registration number. It isn't the first time the two brothers have been charged with drug offences. They have previously been convicted of involvement in a drug manufacturing group that made hallucinogenic tablets. They were also convicted in 2009 on other drug charges. According to ABC News, they could both face life in prison.

## SANASIE, HOPE WITHDRAW FROM CWI PRESIDENTIAL RACE - SKERRITT, SHALLOW TO RUN UNOPPOSED AT NEXT AGM

SportsMax - Cricket West Indies (CWI) presidential candidate, Anand Sanasie, has announced the decision to withdraw from the race for regional cricket's top governing post, after citing concerns with recent events at the CWI and Guyana Cricket Board (GCB).

Doubts had been raised regarding the viability of the former secretary of the GCB's candidacy, following the election of a

new executive on Monday. Losing his position on the CWI board would not necessarily have meant the end of Sanasie's candidacy but serious doubts were raised regarding the ability to garner support from his home country. Sanasie's running mate, Calvin Hope of Barbados, also announced his withdrawal.

The deposed official, however, continues to question the legitimacy of

the election that he claims were influenced by partisan actions on the part of the Guyana sports minister.

"Unjust, irregular, imprudent and hasty actions taken by the partisan and compromised Minister of Sport in Guyana, Mr. Charles Ramson Jr, have led to dubious GCB elections being held and a new group purporting to be the new executive installed. I am advised by my legal



team that these elections cannot withstand judicial scrutiny which may arise and which have every



possibility of prevailing. It should also be noted that the court-ordered Demerara Cricket Board election is very likely to be set aside," Sanasie stated in the press release.

He went on to claim that the meetings with the sports minister were held without the then nominated GCB directors despite their objections. Sanasie also claimed that there was attempted impropriety at last week's CWI annual general meeting,

which was to feature the leadership election.

"...there was an attempt to hold an Annual General Meeting and Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections without critical requirements outlined by the Articles of Association being complied with. This attempt, until it was thwarted at the last minute, remains cause for serious concern by those who have an interest in good governance of CWI. A major scandal was

averted by the judicious and prudent actions of the Barbados Cricket Association (BCA) and the Guyana Cricket Board to save CWI global embarrassment and ridicule."

He, however, also extended congratulations to incumbent president Ricky Skeritt who will head into next weekend's elections unopposed.

"Consequently, I take this opportunity to extend congratulations and best

wishes to Mr. Ricky Skeritt since he will be uncontested. I urge that more deliberate efforts be made to strengthen the finances of CWI and to improve in the areas of prudent fiscal management, accountability and transparency. I also urge that greater respect be accorded to Territorial Boards and that there is considerably more inclusivity in executive decision making and corporate governance."

## MIAMI OPEN: NAOMI OSAKA LOSES TO MARIA SAKKARI IN QUARTER-FINALS, MEDVEDEV ALSO OUT

BBC Sport - World number two Naomi Osaka's 23-match winning run came to an abrupt end as she lost 6-0 6-4 to Maria Sakkari in the Miami Open quarter-finals. Japan's Osaka was stunned by the Greek 23rd seed's aggressive start, making 12 unforced errors and not landing one winner in a 21-minute opening set. Osaka, 23, hid under a towel as she tried to compose herself and fought back to lead 3-0 in the second set. But Sakkari, from 4-1 down, broke twice to win five games in a row for victory. Sakkari, 25, celebrated with a loud roar as she earned the biggest win of her career, triumphantly hugging her team after beating a player ranked in the world's top three for the first time. The world number 25 will play Canadian eighth seed Bianca Andreescu in the last four, after she beat unseeded Spaniard Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-4 3-6 6-3. "I'm so excited, I'm super happy. I have no words," said Sakkari, who set up the meeting with Osaka after fighting off six match points against American Jessica Pegula in the last 16. "Winning a match like that, where I faced six match

points, helped me a lot today. I have made a lot of comebacks and that is probably my trademark." Osaka's defeat means she will not be able to regain the world number one ranking from Australia's Ashleigh Barty, who faces Ukraine's Elina Svitolina in the other semi-final. Medvedev knocked out in last eight There was a surprise defeat in the men's quarter-finals too as Russia's top seed Daniil Medvedev was eliminated in straight sets by Roberto Bautista Agut. The Spaniard beat Australian Open finalist Medvedev 6-4 6-2 in just 92 minutes to reach his fourth ATP Masters 1000 semi-final. He will meet Jannik Sinner in the last four, having been beaten by the Italian 19-year-old in Dubai in March. "I want to give Daniil all the credit, I know he is one of the best players in the world," said Bautista Agut.

"He's been winning a lot of matches, he's number two in the world, so I'm very happy and proud about how I played today. I think I showed a great level on the court."



## KRAIGG BRAITHWAITE: GLOUCESTERSHIRE SIGNS WEST INDIES TEST CAPTAIN FOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP



BBC Sport - West Indies Test captain Kraigg Braithwaite will join Gloucestershire for the 2021 County Championship.

The 28-year-old will be available for their first eight matches, but with Covid-19 restrictions in place he is not likely to make his debut until the second round of games.

He is currently leading West Indies in their series against Sri Lanka.

"I have always enjoyed county cricket and cherished the times I've been able to play in England," said Braithwaite.

"I'm excited to come to Bristol and do my best for the team, the club and of course the Gloucestershire supporters."

Braithwaite is no stranger to the county game having previously had spells at Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Glamorgan from 2017-2019.

He made his Test debut as an 18-year-old in 2011 and has averaged 32.24 over 67 matches, with a top score of 212 against Bangladesh in 2014.

"To be able to bring somebody in who has played the number of Tests Kraigg has, and now as captain, is going to be a massive boost for the guys in the dressing room," said Gloucestershire head coach Ian Harvey.

"He will obviously add quality to the team now but also moving forward as a group, his presence here will be extremely beneficial for us."

"Kraigg has been on our radar for some time now. The way he goes about playing the game really impresses a lot of people at the club and it's fantastic that we've been able to bring him in for the early part of the County Championship."

## DEWS



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