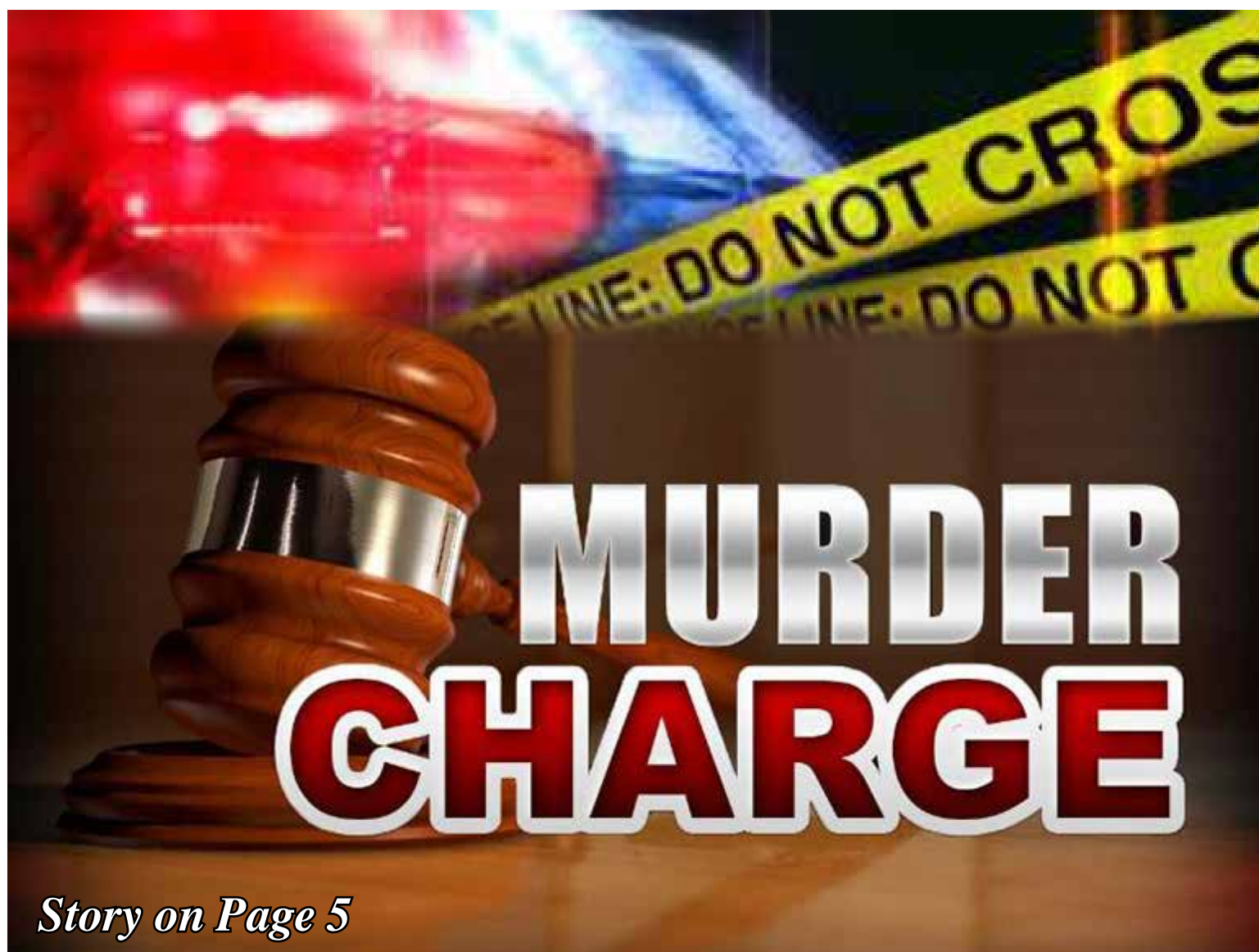


# THREE CHARGED WITH ARTHUR JAMES' MURDER



# Local News

## ABS workers' plan for stealthy Easter strike thwarted

Some ABS workers who apparently planned to stage a surprise Easter weekend strike had the proverbial 'spoke put in their wheel' after they were reminded that any further industrial action could lead to the arrest of those who participate.

The only question, however, is did Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin really order the arrest of ABS workers who strike? Or was that story fabricated by disgruntled staff?

ABS' employees have been locked in confrontation with the government over demands for the payment of overtime, which the workers claim is in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

On 30th March, ABS workers downed tools and took to the streets in protest, after their claim against the government in the Industrial Court ended abruptly, when the government filed an appeal challenging the Industrial Court's decision to strike down a motion calling for the panel hearing the matter to be removed following claims of bias.

The strike was short

lived, however as Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin reminded the protesters, who as employees of ABS are considered essential workers, that under the Essential Services Act (2008), Section Four, Sub-sections one and two, "No industrial action shall commence, or if commenced, shall be discontinued in a trade dispute in an essential service, unless it is subject to an order issued in sub-section two."

A brief meeting between the government, represented by Labour Minister Steadroy Benjamin, the ABS workers' bargaining agent, AT&LU and their shop steward, Kerrio Adams, on 4th April, which was meant to signal the start of negotiations to resolve the stand-off, ended with allegations that the AG issued a warning that ABS employees who take further industrial action would be arrested.

There were promises that further discussion would be held that week. Following the meeting, Adams reported that the ABS workers would adopt a "wait and see" approach, as



talks with the government continued.

On Thursday however, in a widely circulated voice note, a male ABS employee believed to be shop steward Adams informed staff, who seem to have been set to withhold their services over the Easter weekend, that AT&LU industrial relations officer, Ralph Potter, cautioned them that anyone scheduled to work over the holiday weekend who participates in industrial action will be arrested.

The ABS worker, who said he was prepared to go

to "St. John's Police Station and eat some bread and cheese", continued that he "had no fear of being arrested for what is mine".

He went on to suggest that his colleagues should "stand in solidarity", "bite the bullet", "stand up for what is right and what is yours" and "let the chips drop where they lie".

But late Thursday evening, information received by Pointe Xpress from reliable sources indicates that AG Benjamin never issued a threat to the ABS staff.

According to the source, as the government's chief legal advisor, the labour minister has only advised the ABS workers' union representatives of the law as it pertains to industrial action by persons employed as essential service providers, and the possible consequences if these laws are broken.

Fri 15   Day		Fri 15   Night	
83°	☀️	76°	☁️
15% E 15 mph		21% E 14 mph	
Mostly sunny skies. High 83F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low 76F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	
Humidity 65%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 76%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:51 am	Sunset 6:23 pm	Moonrise 5:32 pm	Moonsat 5:05 am
		○ Waxing Gibbous	



## Active hurricane season predicted

Less than two months before the official start of the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season, Climatologist Dale Destin is predicting an active season.

His forecast predicts 21 named storms and 9 hurricanes, 4 of which will become major storms.

“Recall that the accumulated cyclone energy index (ACE) is the universally accepted metric used to classify the overall activity of a hurricane season. The ACE forecast for this year is 182, 30 above the threshold for an active season, based on 1991-2020 data.

“A super hyperactive season is also possible. There is a 36 percent chance of the ACE exceeding 223. Further, there is a 49 percent chance of more than 19 named storms; 30 percent chance of more than 11 hurricanes and 29 percent chance of more than 6 major hurricanes,” the acting director of the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Office said.

If his prediction is accurate, the 2022



*Director (Ag) of the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service*

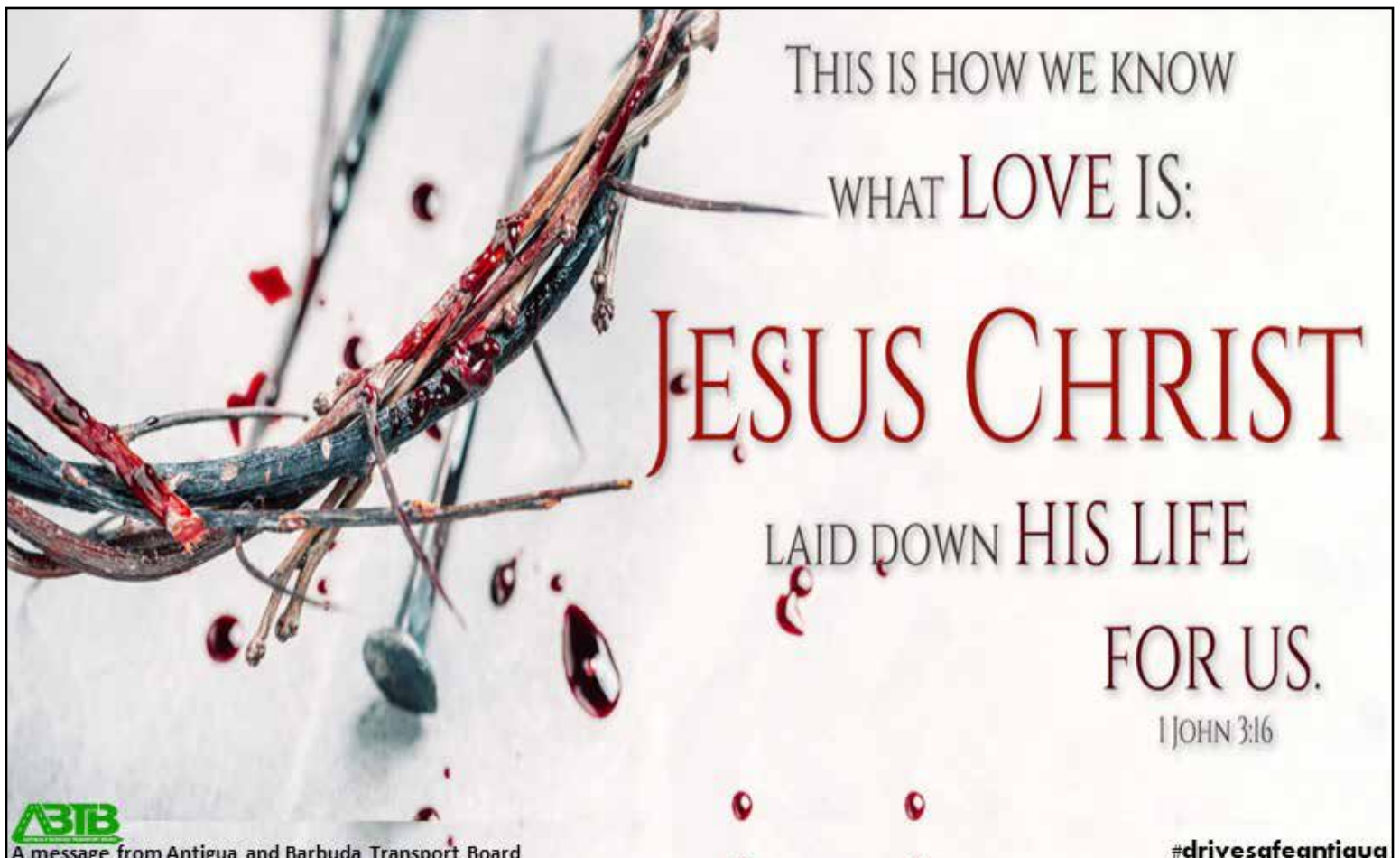
season will become the “third most active since 2017, in terms of ACE, and tied with 1998 for the 10th most active on record dating back to 1851. It would also tie 2021 for the third highest number of named storms”.

While predictions from experts will vary, Destin is advising the public to begin preparations ahead of the 1st June start of the hurricane season.

“According to other forecasts surveyed, the consensus is for an ACE of 161, 19 named storms, 8 hurricanes and 4 major hurricanes, a busy and active season. This is generally consistent with my forecast but with a notable 21 less ACE. However, regardless of the forecast, you should always be well prepared each season, as it only takes one hurricane to ruin your year and or life.

“The main reason for the above normal forecasts is the current La Niña, which should last into the first half of the hurricane season and maintain favourable conditions for tropical cyclone formation even beyond August, into the peak of the hurricane season,” said Destin.

He cautions that while the official Atlantic hurricane season has standard start and end dates, it is not unheard of for hurricanes to develop before June or past the 30th November end of the season.



THIS IS HOW WE KNOW  
WHAT LOVE IS:  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
LAID DOWN HIS LIFE  
FOR US.  
1 JOHN 3:16

**ATB**  
A message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

#drivesafeantigua

# Local News



## Trio charged with murder after burnt body identified

Three men have had their kidnapping charges upgraded to murder in connection with the death of Arthur James, whose burnt body was discovered in the trunk of a car last year.

Police say they have charged brothers Zamir and Obasic O'garro, along with Uroy Joseph, all of Liberta, with committing the crime.

Last October, Arthur James's family filed a missing person report at Freetown Police Station when he failed to return home. The police commenced investigations into the matter, and in November, the three accused were arrested and charged with James' alleged kidnapping.

They were taken before the court where they were remanded to Her Majesty's Prison. However, with the exception of Joseph, both Zamir and Obasic O'garro were able to make bail.

James' body was discovered in his



*Three people have been charged with the October 2021 homicide of Arthur James burnt car in Willoughby Bay area on 30th October, 2021.*

While the body could not be immediately identified, samples were sent overseas for forensic testing.

With charges now laid, it is now confirmed that the results of the DNA tests conducted positively identified the body as that of Arthur James.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers, who is acting in the absence of Commissioner Atlee Rodney, said he is pleased with the progress that has been made in the investigation.

He pointed out that the probe had numerous complexities that required patience, as well as diligent and professional police work to bring it to the stage where further charges have been laid.

DCP Jeffers acknowledged the critical role played by the FBI Forensic Lab and the support of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in the investigation. He commended the team of investigators for their hard work, and commitment and also thanked James's family for their patience.

## A&B nominated for several 2022 World Travel Awards

The prestigious World Travel Awards, now in its 29th year celebrates excellence in all areas of the global travel and tourism industry.

Antigua and Barbuda has been recognised as a leading destination with nominations across various categories including - Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination, Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination and Caribbean's Leading Honeymoon Destination.

The destination has previously celebrated award

wins for the Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, the statutory body responsible for destination marketing, has also received a nomination for Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board.

Minister of Tourism and Investment, Charles 'Max' Fernandez remarked, "These nominations are a testament to the level of work and commitment displayed by the Tourism Au-



thority and the Ministry of Tourism in our relentless effort to maintain Antigua and Barbuda as a premier destination, more so com-

ing out of a near two-year pandemic. With continued strategic marketing, I foresee many more nominations

*cont'd on pg 5*



## Three fined for defrauding pensioner

High Court Judge Stanley John has ordered three people to compensate an elderly woman thousands of dollars after they defrauded her approximately five years ago.

Prosecutors say Cherylline Mullin, Lornette Henry and Baronet Warner conspired to deceive and defraud the 72-year-old woman of \$64,110.

The trio obtained the money from the victim over a period of a month alleging that it was bail money to help Henry and a friend.

Reports are that Henry, the victim's cousin, pretended that she and another individual had been arrested by the police in the summer of 2017 and needed help securing bail.

It is believed that Henry gave her co-conspirators the victim's number



and Mullin, claiming to be a police officer, reached out to her with the concocted story about the need for bail money.

The pensioner reportedly handed over the money to the fraudsters in the form of cheques and cash drawn from a joint bank account shared with her husband.

Reports indicate that so moved by the appeal for help, the victim even

borrowed money so that her cousin, Lornette Henry, would be spared jail time.

At the end of the trial of Cherylline Mullin and Lornette Henry on 12th April, 2022, the duo, was found guilty of committing the offence.

Baronet Warner pleaded guilty and avoided trial.

The three have been ordered by Justice John to repay the woman \$21,000 by 30th June, 2022, or in default face three years in prison.

Additionally, Cherylline Mullin and Lornette Henry must each pay a \$7,500 fine within 14 days, or be imprisoned for nine months.

Warner, was fined \$2,500 which must be paid in 14 days. In default, he will serve three months in prison.

### cont'd from pg 4

and awards coming our way as we expand and explore the vastness of the tourism industry which is so vital to our economy."

Several of Antigua and Barbuda's hospitality and tourism service providers have also been nominated for the 2022 Caribbean awards. Those award nominations are within the categories of: Caribbean's Leading Boutique Hotel, Caribbean's Leading Resort, Caribbean's Leading Destination Management Company, Caribbean's Leading Airport, Caribbean's Leading Airport Lounge, Caribbean's Leading Tour Operators, Caribbean's Leading Adventure Tourist Attraction, Caribbean's Leading All-inclusive Family Resort, Caribbean's Leading Green Resort, Caribbean's

Leading Luxury All Suite Resorts, Caribbean's Leading Luxury All-Inclusive Resorts, Caribbean's Leading Luxury Resort, Caribbean's Leading Resort, Caribbean's Leading Villa Resort and Caribbean's Most Romantic Resort.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority invites the general public to vote for Antigua and Barbuda in the 29th World Travel Awards. Voting for the twin-isle nation can be done on worldtravelawards.com at the link [www.worldtravelawards.com/nominees/2022/caribbean](http://www.worldtravelawards.com/nominees/2022/caribbean).

[worldtravelawards.com/nominees/2022/caribbean](http://www.worldtravelawards.com/nominees/2022/caribbean). Voting ends on May 3 2022.

This year's World Travel Awards Caribbean & North America Gala Ceremony will be hosted in Jamaica on June 14, 2022.



# Developing countries also victims of Ukraine war

**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

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

In the words of UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, the war on Ukraine by Russia “is fast becoming a matter of life and death for vulnerable people around the world”.

His comment is strongly supported by a UN report, published on 13 April and entitled, “Global Impact of war in Ukraine on food, energy and finance systems”. Its findings make grim reading and should fully dispel all the opinions that Russian aggression against Ukraine is a “white peoples’ war” or that it does not affect regions as distant as the Caribbean.

Here’s what the report finds in summary: The war in Ukraine, is producing alarming cascading effects to a world economy already battered by COVID-19 and climate change, with particularly dramatic impacts on developing countries. Commodity prices are reaching record highs across the board. On April 8, the Food and Agriculture Orga-

nization (FAO) stated that food prices are 34% higher than this time last year and have never been this high since the FAO started recording them. Crude oil prices have increased by around 60%, and gas and fertilizer prices have more than doubled. The world’s poorest countries tend to be net food importers and export and import measures on trade can further exacerbate rising food prices. At current price levels, FAO estimates increases in undernourishment and food insecurity.

Therefore, as the UN Secretary-General has aptly put it, “the war has launched a silent assault on the developing world”. The Caribbean is not excluded from this assault. And while Belize and Guyana might be excluded, to some extent, from CARICOM countries that will experience food shortages and high prices for food imports, no other CARICOM country will be spared the undernourishment and food insecurity that will ensue.

But Guyana and Belize will suffer from wheat shortages because Russia and Ukraine provide around 30 per cent of the world’s wheat and barley, one fifth of its maize, and over half of its sunflower oil. Also, together, Russia and Ukraine



*Sir Ronald Sanders*

account for a fifth of the world’s fertilizers which are now either not being produced or are not being exported. Consequently, the agriculture sector in all CARICOM countries, including Guyana and Belize will decline.

Ordinarily, countries in the Caribbean would look to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) to assist with the grave financial challenges that will, undoubtedly, flow from this deeply troubling situation – the full impact of which has not yet been felt and is, perhaps, clouding popular perception of the clear dangers that are now on the region’s doorstep.

However, to help countries in the Caribbean cope with the impact of the

COVID-19 pandemic, the WB and the IMF extended special mechanisms for lending to low and middle-income countries. Except for Antigua and Barbuda and St Kitts and Nevis, the two institutions also provided credit to high-income countries such as Barbados and the Bahamas. In August 2021, the IMF also expanded the allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) equivalent to \$650 billion to boost liquidity and reserves around the world. About \$275 billion of that \$650 billion went to emerging and developing countries, and low-income countries received about \$21 billion.

The credit that was extended, while immediately

*cont'd on pg 7*

*cont'd from pg 6*

helpful to the recipient countries that were confronted with a decline in income from COVID's effects on their economies and increased expenditure, particularly in health and support for the poor and unemployed, means that the majority of CARICOM countries are now facing the limits of their borrowing capacity.

It will be difficult – if not impossible – for them to find the increased resources needed to pay for skyrocketing oil prices and food. Further, the IMF has gone as far as it can go in expanding allocation of SDR's to increase liquidity and reserves.

The IMF and WB, whose Spring Meetings with world governments are now in session, have announced no new avenues of assistance. Thus, they are telling Caribbean countries that "the increased financing needs of the Caribbean region will lead to even higher debt levels, which for some were in excess of 100% of GDP prior to the COVID-19 pandemic".

They have also indicated that diversification of small economies is very difficult. This means that reliance on industries such as tourism and one-crop agriculture – both of which are vulnerable to extreme Climate Change events will continue.

So far, however, the IMF and WB have not produced any new means to increase liquidity and fiscal space, so that governments in developing countries can invest in the poorest and most vulnerable.

The countries that control the WB and IMF – the United States, Germany, France, China and Canada among them – should step up with the means for small economies to provide for their people.

After all, even in this crisis, as is Climate Change and the COVID-19 pandemic, small countries were the least contributors but the biggest victims – as they are of an unjust interna-

tional financial system.

Against this background, it should also be clear that Russia's aggression against Ukraine is a humanitarian disaster for that country but a dagger at the heart of developing countries, especially small economies. Up to 1.7 billion people – over one-fifth of humanity – are being cast into poverty, destitution and hunger on a scale not seen in decades.

Apart from the fact that Russia's military aggression against Ukraine is a violation of international law that has weakened the system and left small nations bereft of the only meaningful protection that they had, the economic

consequences are also now battering small countries disproportionately.

This is why Russia must be sent the clear message by all the world that nothing justifies its violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and the disregard to the rules of war that have killed thousands of civilians including children, and put the world's economies in jeopardy.

The war must end, and global peace and security restored by all. Small economies must raise their hands for this cause.

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

## Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

### ACROSS

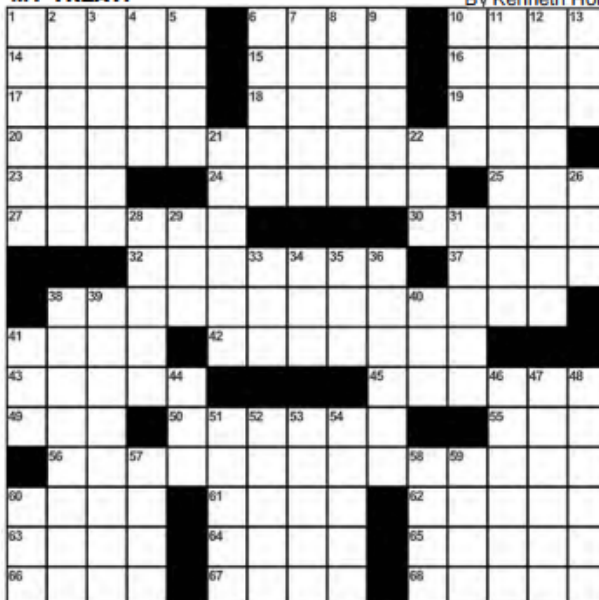
- |                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Loosed from bondage           | 41) Crime boss                     |
| 6) "Quiet down!"                 | 42) Prepares                       |
| 10) "___ Was a Rollin' Stone"    | 43) Sung drama                     |
| 14) Logical proposition          | 45) Oration platforms              |
| 15) On the ocean                 | 49) Word on many price tags        |
| 16) Word with "screen" or "teen" | 50) Pants pressing line            |
| 17) Not perfectly round          | 55) Vicksburg combatant, briefly   |
| 18) African spread               | 56) Make lots of money             |
| 19) Break in the action          | 60) Taunting remark                |
| 20) Multipurpose ointment        | 61) Gas leak indicator             |
| 23) Before, in the beginning     | 62) Emcee's opening lines          |
| 24) Like a volunteer             | 63) Word before a discounted price |
| 25) Bygone Turkish title         | 64) It's carried by singers        |
| 27) Agreeable types?             | 65) Earthy pigment                 |
| 30) Based on the number eight    | 66) Grows more antiquated          |
| 32) Casbah setting               | 67) Tournament position            |
| 37) "Where the heart is"         | 68) Stops working                  |
| 38) Candy and other sweets       |                                    |

### DOWN

- 1) Disk type
- 2) Idolize
- 3) Doesn't hold back
- 4) Mideast bigwig
- 5) Carpenter's groove
- 6) Any port in a storm
- 7) Deplete
- 8) Alabama march site
- 9) Pilgrim to Mecca (Var.)
- 10) It may be hard to swallow
- 11) Flatterer
- 12) Having more than one spouse at a time
- 13) Word indicating a tie
- 21) One in mid-thrust
- 22) Tokyo, formerly
- 26) Public house potable
- 28) Country estate
- 29) Wearer of pointy footwear
- 31) Kind of board
- 33) Zamboni surface
- 34) In-flight info, for short
- 35) Get \_\_\_ of (trash)
- 36) Evening party
- 38) Frolicking about
- 39) Capable of performing
- 40) Opposite of paleo-
- 41) Police officer
- 44) Point of no return?
- 46) "We hold these \_\_\_ ..."
- 47) Wish undone
- 48) Absolutely hates
- 51) Laugh-a-minute folks
- 52) Provide, as with some quality
- 53) Square things
- 54) Reduce to bits
- 57) Custodian's collection
- 58) Christian designer?
- 59) Grimm beginning
- 60) \_\_\_ few rounds (box)

### MY TREAT!

By Kenneth Holt





# Easter Messages

## *An Easter to truly give thanks for*

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020, the world was in a much different place than it is today.

It is fair to say that everyone was scared, confronted with the reality of a highly contagious disease that spread through the air and which could be deadly.

Mass hysteria took hold everywhere. One after another, countries closed their borders, companies brought their operations to a close, and people retreated to their homes in fear of even the most casual of human contact.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda, the government announced that the country would go into lockdown with a five-hour window for essentials such as food, water and medicine.

COVID-19's arrival at the end of March 2020 came as a severe shock, particularly as church services were suspended and with Easter, Christianity's holiest holiday, just around the corner.

In Antigua and Barbuda, as is the case with many other faithfals in the Christian community, there are ingrained traditions and practices associated with the Easter season.

These include marches with palms on Palm Sunday, to re-enactments of the crucifixion and visits to the gravesites of loved ones early on Easter Sunday morning.

The lockdown ended all of this. There was a sense of unease among the devout as they pondered the question: "What is going to happen to our Easter traditions?"

Recognising that the exigencies of the pandemic lockdown would not allow for 'normal' Easter celebrations, we at Pointe Express thought it was our duty to play a role in assuaging the pervasive fears of those in our community. We felt that the inability to congregate due to the restrictions ought not also impact our ability to worship and observe long held traditions.



Therefore, we invited leaders in the Christian community to pen messages to their congregations, and the nation, which we would publish in our newspaper in the hope of making up for the lack of corporate worship.

To our delight, many church leaders responded to our request and the Pointe Xpress Good Friday Special Edition 2020, the first of its kind, was published and was very well received.

The publication also marked a transition for Pointe Xpress as we transitioned from a physical to electronic copy; a move which has become permanent.

Another well received Good Friday Special followed in 2021.

So in 2022, as we embrace the reality that societies must contend with coping with COVID-19 for the foreseeable fu-

ture and finding normalcy in the chaos, Pointe Xpress is exceedingly pleased, for the third year, to continue our Good Friday Special tradition.

While the arrival of vaccines have helped, societies and economies have reopened and restrictions continue to be relaxed, the COVID-19 virus has shown remarkable adaptability as it continues to morph into new variants.

Our hope is that the Easter messages this year will bring hope and peace to us all as we mark the third Easter in the midst of a pandemic.

We at Pointe Xpress wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Antiguan and Barbudan church leaders who have again helped us to make the Easter Special possible through their contributions.

Happy Easter to all!



# Easter Messages

PAGE 9

## He died once

*Romans 6:8-10*

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

From the time that we are born we face death. And it is not just a risk of life, even before we have finished growing, our bodies begin to decay. We face every kind of disease, the weakening of our strength through diabetes, high blood pressure, cancers, arthritis, our strength decline, and our bones and joints fail, our eyes dim along with a myriad of other attacks on our human life.

The Apostle Paul reveals an essential truth about Christ's physical death on the cross, as well as His resurrection from death by God's power. He emphatically declares that Christ's death was a one-time victory over death for all men. Jesus Christ will never die again.

God defeated death and Christ left behind the grave, and death can never hold Him again. Paul wrote in the previous chapter that Adam's sin introduced sin and death into the world. In truth, death reigned over all who came from Adam. Death had dominion, or authority, over humanity. Every person will submit to it eventually.

Christ, too, submitted to death on the cross, but He was resurrected, death no longer had any power over Him (Acts 2:24; Acts 13:30). The resurrection set Christ free from the authority of death. In the same way, we who are "dead" to sin through faith in Christ are no longer forced to submit to sin. Further, this separation from

the power of sin is permanent; death can never again reign over the life of a believer. This does not mean we are incapable of sin (1 John 1:9-10), but it does mean we should never be dominated by sin (1 Corinthians 10:13), and those who have been saved will not live in constant sinfulness (Galatians 5:19-24; 1 John 3:6-9).

Just as all humans are appointed to die once, the Lord Jesus Christ died once. He died on a cross, not because He deserved to die. He did not die because He was a sinner. He did not die because He had sinned. When Jesus died, He died not for Himself but to "bear the sins of many." Hebrews 9:28

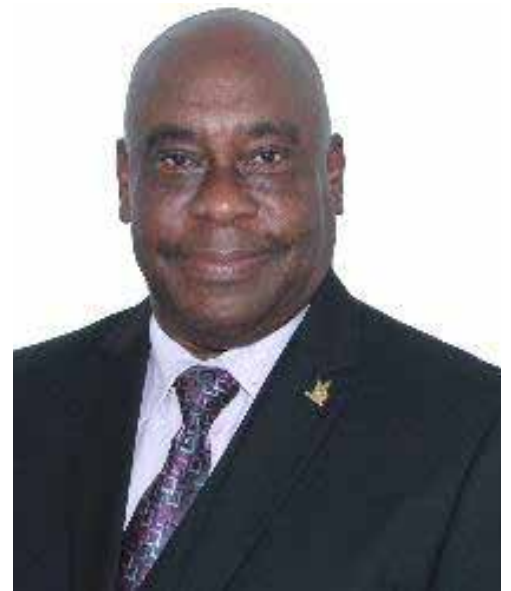
The sins of all mankind was laid on Him and took them away through His agony on the cross, Isa. 53:4-6. He took our place and was judged by God the Father as our substitute, 1 Cor. 5:21.

Now, because of His death, sinners like us can be redeemed from our sins, 1 Pet. 1:18-19. We can be washed whiter than snow, Isa. 1:18; Rev. 1:5. We can be saved by grace, Rom. 10:9, 13. And all of our sins can be forgiven, Col. 2:13-14; Psa. 103:12; 1 John 1:7.

What a amazing thing it will be to leave this world through the door of death and step into His presence in glory. Not because we deserve to be there, but because He took our place and died to save us. He is an amazing Substitute.

The heart of the child of God longs to see Jesus Christ, who loved us and died to save us. One day that desire will be fulfilled, and we will look upon His face. On that day, we will stand before our God and be accepted by Him personally because of what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross.

If you are saved, Jesus is coming



*Bishop Nigel N Henry*

for you one day. He will take you to His heavenly home, to fulfil the promise of spending eternity in His presence. He who died once will cause us to live twice.

I hear the Saviour say  
 Thy strength indeed is small  
 Child of weakness, watch and pray  
 Find in Me thine all in all  
 Jesus paid it all  
 All to Him I owe  
 Sin had left a crimson stain  
 He washed it white as snow  
 Lord, now indeed I find  
 Thy power and thine alone  
 Can change the leper's spots  
 And melt the heart of stone  
 Jesus paid it all  
 All to Him I owe  
 Sin had left a crimson stain  
 He washed it white as snow  
 And when before the throne  
 I stand in Him complete  
 Jesus died my soul to save  
 My lips shall still repeat  
 Jesus paid it all  
 All to Him I owe  
 Sin had left a crimson stain  
 He washed it white as snow  
 God Bless Antigua and Barbuda.  
 Do have a meditative Good Friday and  
 a joyous and safe Easter.

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

# Easter Messages



## Staying in the light

There is an innate response that seasoned Christians most times give when they are confronted with dark times and situations. Decisions are made from the surface of our beings with little thought to resort to the core of who we are to address our dark circumstances.

In these indecisive moments, it appears that we forget that in our temple's core resides El Shaddai, the powerful and mighty God who is more than able to address the challenges that we face: regardless of if they are great or small.

At times we are worrying about the negative outcomes that may derive from the dark experience without thinking that they are blessing in disguise. In Job's account, the declaration was that "with moisture, He loads the thick cloud; He disperses the cloud of His lightning." (Job 37:11). While for a moment the clouds may appear to block out the light, it is the contents of the cloud working with the light that will make new and fresh experiences.

If only we can endure the extraction of the dark challenges we face, we will be ushered into a brighter place. It is important to note that the darkness must run its course. At times we hope for premature clearances, but prematurity comes with a cost and at times with greater challenges.

Job 37:11 also perpetuates the importance of darkness remaining in the presence of the light. Irrespective of the denseness of our clouds they are never any match for the light they are exposed to.

The verse says that the light causes the cloud to scatter. As believers, we subscribe to Christ being the light of the world. In an epistle to the early church John said, "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him, there is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5(NIV). The notion underscored in this message from John is for us to remain continually in the presence of God. While in His presence there is no room for darkness to find permanency in any area of our lives.

At times there may be confusion as to how the darkness dissipates without any human effort but what should be understood is that "the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:5). We may not understand the workings of the Lord because of the cloud of sin that overshadows our lives, but we are encouraged to trust Him where we can't trace Him. We must truly believe that all things work together for good for them that love God and are called to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Our purpose should be to remain continuously



*Dr. Joseph A. Attzs*

in the light.

It is natural that when we experience the dark clouds of envy, hatred, malice, deceit, mistrust, abuse, and at times religious exploitation, to name a few; there is a level of uncomfortableness that comes with these impediments. The reason for this is that we were not created to experience darkness. Our manufacturer stamped us with the seal of light that we may be a true representation of He who created us in His image and likeness.

According to scripture, we are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:5). Hence, darkness interferes with the organic processes of our day-to-day existence in this world. Darkness pulls us away from our true potential as we perform our daily

duties for the Kingdom with high levels of mediocracy. John explains, "But if a man walks in the night, he stumbles because there is no light in him (John 11:10). Those moments of stumbling retard our possible accomplishments because they are clouded by our sins.

Whenever we are absent from the presence of God, darkness is our place of abode. Moses provides an account of what we will experience in the dark place. He said "And you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to help you (Deuteronomy 28:29) (ESV). This awareness shared by Moses probes for increased connectivity with the King

*cont'd on pg 11*



# Easter Messages

*cont'd from pg 10*

of kings and the Lord of lords. Failure to heed these instructions mars the prosperity of our body, spirit, and soul. Too often, when we are in the present light, we choose to veil ourselves with dark things. It is important to address the removal of these coverings that hinder our relationship with God and by extension the relationship with the Church of God. Our aspiration should be to honour God in all that we do. Staying in the light should be our first step in that direction.

As we prepare to celebrate and commemorate Resurrection Day it is necessary that we remember who the Light of the world is. When we think of Christ in His nature as a man hanging on the cross of Calvary, facing one of the darkest moments in His earthly walk we can attest to the gruesomeness of His challenges. The humanness in Him declared that he wished he would not endure the bitter cup as

the weight of the world rested upon His shoulders. According to the scripture, the sky turned black as he was nailed to the tree. All around Christ there appeared to be obstacles that were intended to dim the light that He was. However, he remained purposeful in his assignment.

Christ's assignment was to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to find the true light. To truly address the needs of His mission he yielded himself to the hands of the father. He understood that when in the presence of light, darkness can be overcome. The work that he was set out to accomplish was a design from the light maker Himself. Christ was conscious, just as we are in this earthly plain understanding that to remain light, we must be plugged into the source: He remained plugged into the Father.

The choice is all ours to choose light over darkness for we are a peculiar people. "But you are a chosen

race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. (1 Peter 2:9) (ESV). This coming Resurrection Day, remember that darkness has already been made subject to light. The Light has conquered death, the grave, and the enemy, and now sits at the right hand of the Father.

Be vigilant and keep watch knowing, "The light is among you for a little while longer". Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtakes you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. (John 12:35) (ESV). However, as believers, we know where we are going because we are following the light; although the clouds are dark, a brighter day will emerge.

***His Eminence Apostle Dr. Joseph A. Attzs, Mantle of Christ International Ministries***



  
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# Easter Messages



## Lament with me

I grew up going to Good Friday services. However, these services were no different from the others with preaching, singing, fellowship, and special items. In reflection, I do not think we do Good Friday justice by making it enjoyable. It is almost as though we rush through Good Friday to Easter. Good Friday and Easter are eternally tethered, but they stand alone as different phases of the unfolding drama of God's story in the world.

Good Friday is pivotal in Holy Week. Good Friday is the day that everything changed as the ultimate sacrifice was made. It is not so much that an angry God required the blood of his son for the sin of the world, as it was a loving Shepherd/Son who laid down his life for his sheep/friends. Even though Jesus seems to casually say that he has the authority to lay down his life and take it again (John 10:18), it is not that simple. As we listen closely to the passion narratives including Jesus's prayers on the cross, we hear deep struggle and sorrow, we hear the lament of Jesus.

Lament is a major literary style in the Bible. To lament is to express deep pain and sorrow. Those who lament in scripture seem to speak of a dark night of the soul when all hope seems lost and there is separation from anything good. We get that when Jesus cries out to God - My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you

want (Matthew 26:39b). In this same narrative scene, the struggle continues and Jesus cries out again - My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done (Matthew 26:42b). In this painful lament and struggle, we also hear a resolve to do the Father's will. This moment is pregnant with pain and anguish as Jesus senses the future.

The lament of Jesus is most potent while he is hanging on the cross - My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Matthew 27:46c). These words are always difficult for me to read or to listen as they seem to come from a deep place of sorrow, grief, abandonment, pain, terror, and disappointment. At this moment, Jesus experienced something he had never experienced before. It seems that God has broken fellowship with Jesus and left him to die a painful, cruel death.

Some Christians have suggested that Jesus only used these words from Psalm 22 in the moment, but he did not really mean them. This might be their attempt to save God from looking wicked and uncaring or to save Jesus from looking weak. The truth is, in that moment, Jesus was weak and helpless and God was hidden from Jesus. As Fred Gaiser asks, "Could this be true at the cross, that God, for the sake of the world, allows Jesus to bear the sins of the world? Perhaps only this act of full solidarity between Jesus and humanity would be enough, as Jesus said, "to



*Rev Algernon Lewis*

draw all people to myself" (John 12:32). In other words, Jesus had to bear the full weight of the sin of humanity in order to pay the price for the sin of humanity. There was no imitation or performance here. This was part of the unfolding drama of the story of redemption. Jesus shared in the physical pain and suffering of the world as well as the spiritual suffering that comes with separation from God.

What does this mean for people in this time and place? I suggest that we intentionally embrace Good Friday for the space that it provides for lament. Embrace the fact that pain and anguish are part of the journey through a fallen world.

We need to reject the narrative that pain and sorrow are to be shunned at all costs. We must learn to endure the pain, rejection, abandonment, and sorrow that often come our way. We learn to embrace them by reminding ourselves that they do not have the last word. People of African descent know the turmoil our forebears endured so that we could have the lives we have today. They endured because they looked ahead to a better

time.

A few years ago, I attended a Good Friday service that was like no other. It was in the night and the lights were dimmed. About twelve candles were lit to begin the worship service. Texts of scripture were read about the life of Jesus and hymns were sung. After each scripture, a candle was extinguished, consistently reducing the light in the room. After the last Scripture was read and the last candle extinguished, barely leaving any light in the room, we all left. There was no talking, no invitation to return on Sunday, no fellowship. We all left seeking to identify with Jesus in his suffering. This was their regular Good Friday service. I left the service feeling more connected with the Good Friday experience of Jesus. I also left wondering how that service would work in my context since all our services trend toward excitement to encourage attendance.

This Good Friday, no matter what the struggle, I encourage you to employ the principle of the lament - speak out the pain, anguish, disappointment, fear, and

*cont'd on pg 13*



# Easter Messages

PAGE 13

## The Good Friday Message

Another Good Friday is upon us and to so many it would just be another Good Friday or the third one of the pandemic.

I would like to bring some perspective to the significance of what Good Friday represents for us and I would do so in two parts.

1. The Message of Good Friday could be man's worst nightmare: when this world is over and we have to stand before the God of all creation.

We must never forget the very reason for Jesus to leave heaven and come to this earth. All of us need to be reminded that will not and cannot violate the will of any created being, to include angels. The very reason why now affected this sin riddled world is because Lucifer exercised his will and wanted to be like the Most High God, according to Isaiah 14. In that very moment he and all the angels who followed him were cast out of heaven.

Satan was determined that he was going to prove that he could get men to disobey God and so he was off on his mission. Let it be observed that Satan never picked the fruit and gave to Eve just spoke to her to exercise her will of choosing to obey God or not.

It so happened that she chose to push aside all what God had said to them "But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." The serpent said to her "And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die." if you eat it.

When this happened, God released His first plan of redemption for the entire human race according to Gen. 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and

the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel."

This was the statement of God sending His only begotten Son into the world. The bruising of His heel was His crucifixion but the crushing of Satan's head was the fact that His crucifixion would completely destroy the stronghold of Satan over humanity and men can be set free.

So it would work out to be man's worst nightmare if God gave His only Son to pay the ultimate price to redeem us back to God and men did not receive it. Only a holy and righteous person could meet divine expectations and Jesus coming into the world was an act of God paying the ultimate price to forgive man for sinning against Him.

2. It could work out to be man's greatest joy: the only way that man could be reunited back to his God is to accept, by faith, the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Sin has put an enmity between God and man and nothing that man could ever do to bring him peace with God.

Man's sins are a barrier between him and God and he could never feel at peace with himself.

God is not only a loving God but He is a just God and therefore must punish sin. The reality is He doesn't want to punish us but wants to forgive us.

The good news is that once we acknowledge that we are all sinners and that Christ died in our place and that if we accept what Jesus did on the cross then it would cancel our sins before God and free us from the penalty of sin.

The penalty of sin is death and eter-



*Rev. Olson Daniel*

nal separation from God in hell but the Good news is that we do not have to die without hope.

It is a joy to know that while we are living that we are sure that our sins are forgiven and we are at peace with our God.

It is a joy to know that it doesn't matter how sinful one might be or how far one has gone, the message of Good Friday is that there is hope in accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

There is going to be a judgement day and the greatest feeling would be to be standing there before God knowing that you have confessed your sins and God has in fact forgiven your sins as you accepted what Christ did on the cross on that memorable Good Friday.

Do not just see this as another event or occasion but rather one that you should seek to be connected to God through Jesus Christ. We do not have to pay the price but just accept what Jesus already paid for us.

Call upon Jesus to wash away your sins so you could live a life pleasing to God. May God truly bless the nation of Antigua and Barbuda and grant to all who ask Him, salvation.

***Rev. Olson Daniel, Pastor  
Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church***

***cont'd from pg 12***

dread that you feel. Bear your soul and drain the bitterness. It is normal to lament. You may speak it to others, but your best option is to pour it all on Jesus because he has

been there where you are. Jesus knows the pain of rejection and disconnection. Jesus knows what it feels like to have his Father hidden from view. Jesus knows your pain. Jesus also knows that the

lament of Good Friday eventually makes way for the next phase of the journey.

As a Christ-follower, I am confident that God shows up in the midst of the lament of our souls and delivers. Not-

withstanding, we must allow the full darkness and pain of Good Friday so that we can fully appreciate the glory of the Resurrection morning.

***Rev Algernon Lewis of  
the Moravian Church***

# Easter Messages



## Reflections on the Lenten Season, Holy Week & the Festival of the Resurrection 2022!

Truly, the past two years have been nothing short of 'challenging' in so many ways! As the pandemic prolonged it became more personal as persons we knew were tested positive for Covid-19. By the grace of God many pulled through, some less affected than others. There are some who still have lingering effects, while others succumbed to the virus. Sadly, a number of persons whom we knew.

The pain of a neighbor, friend and 'fishing buddy', who lost his wife to a 'crippling illness' was himself taken only a matter of weeks later to Covid-19. This eventually came to be the anticipated cause of his wife's death also. And the pain of families having their loved ones buried in a 'shotgun' funeral denied the dignity of a 'proper' burial. The lack of personal support of family, friends and loved ones, was 'heart-wrenching' to say the least. This has made the grieving process that much more difficult.

As a Church, we have also been deprived of the opportunity of meeting together in-person / face to face for the past two years. Palm Sunday, Good Friday and the Festival of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday), high points in the Christian calendar, were NOT the same. There was the feeling that we missed out on something special, even though we met virtually for worship. There were some persons within the Church Family who were left out and not able to join us because they were not 'tech savvy'. We seriously MISSED that which we sometimes took for granted!

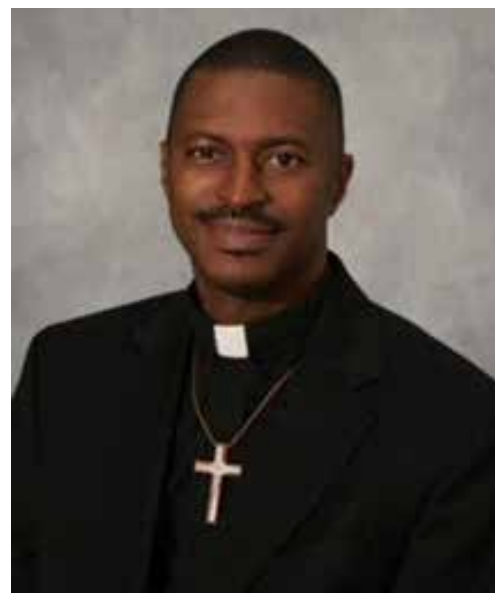
We thank God for the Antigua Broadcasting Services (ABS) on its various platforms, television, Facebook and radio, and all other media platforms used to share the message and reach out to persons in Antigua & Barbuda and around the world. Especially those who were unable to meet face to face when the opportunity arose because of underlying conditions. Even with this oppor-

tunity the Presence & Fellowship was definitely missing.

This year was the first since 2019 that we met face to face on Palm Sunday – which was definitely refreshing. We look forward to Good Friday when we can all sing together; feel the pain together; shed a tear together; as we reflect and commemorate Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross. We also look forward to celebrating the Festival of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday) together.

We give God thanks and praise as we 'inch' our way toward seeing the back of the Covid-19 pandemic. As we experience what I hope is the beginning of the end of the pandemic, it is my prayer that we will all REMEMBER what we have been through these past two years. Let us note, cherish and have a greater appreciation of the importance of life and people. Let us realize that 'things' are replaceable; 'people' are not! Let us remember those difficult days that we thought we couldn't pass, and also those things that we thought we couldn't live without. Let us dig deep to recognize that we have whatever we need within us - many of which we take for granted. We are stronger than we think! Let us also give thanks to God for bringing us to this time and place, through his grace and mercy. The pandemic has taught us many things of which we should be always mindful – LEST WE FORGET! There is a tendency that when there is a challenge, many call out to the Lord. BUT, when things are good or getting better people tend to forget and take things for granted! May God give us minds to remember!

Emotions this year are heightened with the realization that after two long years we will celebrate face to face. Ash Wednesday 2022, marked the beginning of the Penitential Season of Lent. This forty (40) day season of preparation for the celebration of the Festival of the Resurrection was marked by our usual Ash



*Rev. Derek C. O. Browne*

Wednesday Service at Ebenezer from 12:15pm-12:45pm. Although it went a bit over time, it was a special feeling as we shared face to face in such a service for the first time in two years. This service was the first of six (6) held during the Lenten Season. This year we shared on the theme: "Journey through Lent: Discipleship – Walking the Footsteps of Jesus!" We shared on the "Walk of Self-Emptying," "Walk of Forgiveness," "Walk of Humility," "Walk of Faith," "Walk of Truth" and the "Walk of Obedience." These devotionals helped us to focus our thoughts and to seek a closer walk with God. These, of course, were aided by the practice of the spiritual disciplines to include fasting, prayer and study. While we emptied ourselves of that which does not belong in us, we also asked God to fill us with the Holy Spirit.

On Palm Sunday we commemorated Jesus' Triumphal entry in Jerusalem. It was joyous to lift and wave our palm branches in celebration with the multitudes gathered in Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday, recounting his dramatic presentation of the Prophecy of Zechariah. Jesus' offer of himself as their King was a wonderful spectacle – with much pomp and ceremony! Riding on a don-

*cont'd on pg 15*



# Easter Messages

*cont'd from pg 14*

key made it quite clear that Jesus was coming in peace. That his kingship was not 'ordinary', and likely, that expectations may be different. As Jesus was seen then as the most popular celebrity, many were anxious to see him and to join in the procession. They were all waving their palm branches and laying out the "Red Carpet". They shouted their "Hosannas!" hailing – Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest! Theirs was a cry for help. A cry to save them from their oppressors. At least, expectations were high! Their long awaited Messiah was here! BUT, when expectations are NOT met, people become disappointed! Jesus' Kingship was unlike any other, as his was based on LOVE! He came not for war, as they may have expected, but in peace!

After a busy week, and one which 'ruffled the feathers' of the authorities, Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples. On this occasion, he gave new meaning to the meal. Having given thanks he broke bread and gave it to them saying 'This is my Body'. Similarly, he gave thanks for the cup and gave it to them saying 'This is my blood of the new Covenant poured out for you.' Having indicated that one of them will betray him – he went to the Garden of Gethsemane to face the challenge of the cross. However, not before teaching them the lesson of humility by washing their feet and commending to them that example that they should

wash each other's feet – the task designated for the household slave. He also share an important teaching with them – more a command, if you will. They were to love one another as He had loved them!

A night of prayer, as Jesus prepared to face the Cross, was followed by his arrest and a bogus whirlwind trial. This was followed by a guilty verdict which came out of nowhere – no real charge against him, no real witnesses, simply a matter of Jealousy by the authorities! The mockery and abused ensued during the night nonstop till the morning! What a tragedy! These symbols accompanied our journey: "Bread & Wine – that reminds us of Jesus' body broken and his blood shed for you and me"; "A towel & Basin – that reminds us that Jesus – the King was servant of all"; "A money Bag – containing 30 pieces of silver reminds us that we sold Christ for our own ends"; "A Crown of Thorns & a Purple Robe – reminds us of that with which we mocked our Savior Jesus"; "A Whip – reminds of that with which we scourged Christ"; "Palm Branches – reminds us of our fickleness of how eagerly we hailed Jesus with our hosannas but also how eagerly we shouted with the crowds – Crucify him!", "Nails – reminds of that with which we pinned Jesus to the Cross"

He was given a place among criminals on the cross and crucified! He suffered bitter pain and anguish, and died! However, all was not lost! He conquered death and

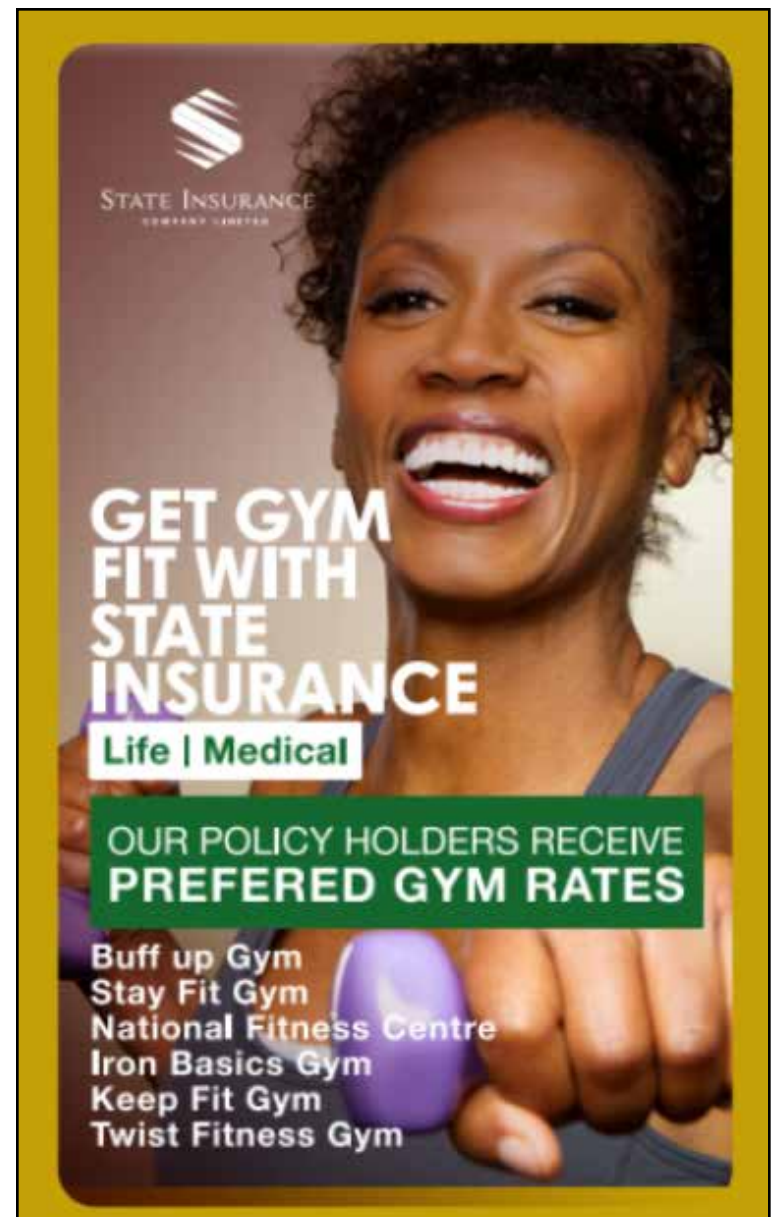
rose triumphantly from the dead. The tragedy of the cross of shame was transformed to a radiant cross of victory and glory, and tells the story of triumph over the grave. "Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!" "He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me, and talks with me, along life's narrow way!"

What a reversal of events! What was meant for evil, God turned around for good! What was a horrible and bad Friday became the GOOD Friday! Death brought forth life! One can only imagine what the celebration will be

like this year after two years absence of our face to face worship!

I take this opportunity to wish you a blessed and holy season. May Good Friday be one of reflection and true soul searching as we contemplate the sufferings Jesus bore for each of us on the cross. May we further celebrate the Festival of the Resurrection with unbridled praise as we share together in worship – in person – face to face for this most joyous celebration.

**Rev. Derek C.O. Browne,**  
*Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Antigua*



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# Technology



## Elon Musk makes offer to buy Twitter

By Dearbail Jordan

Tesla boss Elon Musk has offered to buy Twitter, saying he is the right person to “unlock” the social media platform’s “extraordinary potential”.

In a surprise announcement, Mr Musk said he would pay \$54.20 a share for Twitter, valuing it at about \$40bn.

It recently emerged that Mr Musk was Twitter’s biggest shareholder after he built up a large stake in the firm.

He said that if his offer was not accepted: “I would need to reconsider my position as a shareholder”.

Twitter’s share price jumped by 5.3% to \$48.32 in early trading, before falling back to more than \$46.20 later on. A filing with the US financial regulator appeared to show text and/or voice messages from Mr Musk to Twitter’s board, showing that he had raised the idea at the weekend that the business should go private.

Mr Musk had been invited to join the board, but Twitter announced on Sunday he had decided against it.

In the messages published in the filing, Mr Musk said he was not “playing the back-and-forth game” and said of his offer: “It’s a high price and your shareholders will love it.”

He said he would have to sell his shares if the deal did not go through.

“This is not a threat, it’s simply not a good investment without the changes that need to be made,” he added.

Victoria Scholar, head of investment at Interactive Investor, said: “This is a deeply



Elon Musk

hostile move from Elon Musk who has threatened to ‘reconsider’ his 9.2% stake in the company if his 100% acquisition offer is rejected.”

In his filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, Mr Musk said he had invested in Twitter because “I believe in its potential to be the platform for free speech around the globe, and I believe free speech is a societal imperative for a functioning democracy.”

“However, since making my investment I now realize the company will neither thrive nor serve this societal imperative in its current form. Twitter needs to be transformed as a private company.” He added: “Twitter has extraordinary potential. I will unlock it.”

Twitter said its board “will carefully review the proposal to determine the course of action that it believes is in the best interest of the company and all Twitter stockholders”.

Mr Musk is the world’s richest man, according to Forbes magazine, with a net worth of \$219bn mostly due to his shareholding in electric vehicle maker Tesla. He also leads the aerospace firm SpaceX.

Dan Ives, senior equity research analyst at Wedbush Securities, said Twitter will either

be forced to accept Mr Musk’s bid or find another buyer.

He said: “There will be host of questions around financing, regulatory, balancing Musk’s time (Tesla, SpaceX) in the coming days but based on this filing it is a now or never bid for Twitter to accept.”

“Ultimately, we believe this soap opera will end with Musk owning Twitter.”

Rumours have been swirling for weeks that Elon Musk was considering starting his own social network, but with the news he’d lifted his stake in Twitter to 9.2%, it seemed like he was scratching the itch by investing in one rather than building his own. Donald Trump’s Truth Social platform’s struggle for relevance and technical woes has proven that building a social network is perhaps not so easy.

While some were shocked Mr Musk rejected a position on Twitter’s board, seasoned watchers commented that accepting it would come with rules and conditions that might not be a good match for the world’s richest man and his fondness for speaking his mind on the platform.

There’s been considerable disquiet among staff at Twitter over the whole affair, with some employees taking to the platform to vent their frustra-

tion and concerns about controversial statements Mr Musk has made in the past.

If Mr Musk’s takeover is successful, we’ll likely find out how he intends to run the company courtesy of one of his many tweets.

Twitter had offered Mr Musk a seat on its board after it emerged that he held a 9.2% stake in the company. The role was set to become effective last weekend but then Mr Musk decided against taking it.

On Monday, Twitter’s chief executive Parag Agrawal had tweeted that he thought the decision by Mr Musk not take a seat on the board was “for the best”. He added: “We have and will always value input from our shareholders whether they are on our board or not. Elon is our biggest shareholder and we will remain open to his input.”

Though he also warned staff: “There will be distractions ahead.” After that announcement, Mr Musk posted a cryptic tweet of smiling emoji with its hand over its mouth.

Mr Musk has already given a hint of the things he would like to change at Twitter.

He has suggested changes to the Twitter Blue premium subscription service, which was launched last year in Canada and Australia, including slashing the price, banning advertising and giving users the option of paying the monthly fee with the cryptocurrency, dogecoin.

Mr Musk also asked his 81 million followers on Twitter whether the company is “dying” and if its headquarters should be turned into a homeless shelter.



## Concerned scientists probe sea urchin deaths in Caribbean

By **Dánica Coto**

Sea urchins are dying across the Caribbean at a pace scientists say could rival a mass die-off that last occurred in 1983, alarming many who warn the trend could further decimate already frail coral reefs in the region.

Dive shops first began reporting the deaths in February, perplexing scientists and worrying government officials who are receiving a growing number of reports about dying sea urchins from islands including Antigua, St. Lucia, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Vincent, Saba and the U.S. Virgin Islands as well as Cozumel in Mexico.

"It's very concerning, particularly because it's happening so quickly," said Patricia Kramer, a marine biologist and program director of the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment, a scientific collaboration to improve reef conditions in the region.

At first, the mortality event was linked only to black sea urchins — diadema antillarum — which are recognizable by their extremely long, skinny spines. But two other species have since been affected, including the rock boring sea urchin and the West Indian sea egg.

The deaths worry Kramer and other scientists including Dana Wusinich-Mendez, Atlantic-Caribbean team lead for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's coral reef conservation program: "Losing our sea urchins would be really devastating."

The deaths are of concern because sea urchins are herbivores known for being efficient grazers that remove macro algae from coral reefs and clear space for baby sea corals to attach themselves, the two scientists said.

"They're kind of the unsung heroes of the reefs because they do so many good things," Kramer said.

While macro algae are an important source of food and shelter for some fish, too many of them can degrade coral reefs that are under stress by warmer-than-average



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ocean temperatures and a disease known as stony coral tissue loss.

Overfishing across the Caribbean already had led to a greater abundance of macro algae, which was kept in check by sea urchins that are now dying, said Shamal Connell, an officer with St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Fisheries Service who oversees research.

"It's very urgent that we find a solution," he said.

The Florida-based Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute and the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment recently created a network to investigate the deaths, analyse tissue samples and find solutions.

Kramer noted that very few black sea urchin populations recovered from the 1983 event that began in the Atlantic Ocean near the Panama Canal and spread northward and then eastward over the next 13 months.

During that time, only the black sea urchin was affected, with 90% or more of the population dying, though at a much slower rate than the current event, she said.

"Just when we're getting to the point where they're recovering, they're dying," Kramer said.

The U.S. Virgin Island of St. Thomas was the first to report the newest round of deaths in February, although it's unclear whether that's where the event started.

In mid-March, the Dutch Caribbean island of Saba reported similar deaths, noting that 50% of the sea urchin popula-

tion in its harbour was dead a week later. Officials in Saba said they have around 200 sea urchins in a nursery and are gathering information about the new mortality event, adding that they are treating some with antibiotics that might cure them or prevent them from getting sick.

Meanwhile, Monique Calderon, a fisheries biologist with the government of St. Lucia, said scientists on the eastern Caribbean island are considering launching their own survey to get more details about where the sea urchins are dying and why.

"When the last die-off occurred in the 1980s, the sampling done wasn't robust enough to determine what the issue was exactly, what might have caused it," Calderon said, adding that she hopes to find an explanation with improved technology.

She said dive shops in St. Lucia and other Caribbean islands have reported ocean floors littered with sea urchin spines or sea urchins floating in the water when they are normally anchored to a reef via hydraulic structures known as tube feet.

Divers also have found dying sea urchins with droopy spines or with their white skeletons poking through their bodies.

The loss of sea urchins comes amid coral bleaching events resulting from high ocean temperatures and the presence of a disease known as stony coral tissue loss that has affected more than 30 coral species in nearly two dozen countries and territories in the Caribbean, according to the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment program.

Coral reefs also provide protection from rising seas and storm surges generated by hurricanes that have grown more powerful with global warming, and they are a key attraction for a region that relies heavily on tourism.

"We worry that a real crisis is developing in the Caribbean," the Diadema Response Network stated in a recent report on the loss of sea urchins.

# Regional News



## Former St. Lucia opposition leader jailed on tax related charge

CMC - A High Court judge Tuesday sentenced former St Lucia opposition leader Marcus Nicholas to six months in jail after he was found guilty of “uttering or using false documents for tax purposes”.

Justice Patrick Thompson imposed the sentence on Nicholas, who in 2017 was arrested after he attempted to get a tax return payment in his girlfriend's name.

A jury in November last year found him guilty of the charge.

“I take full responsibility,”



Marcus Nicholas

ity,” he told the court, adding “I am sorry that I put the Court and the country in this position and accept full responsibility”.

The Court heard that Nicholas, who first entered Parliament in 2001 as a member of the United Workers Party (UWP),

wrote a letter to the Inland Revenue and signed it in his girlfriends' name as well as writing her name below the signature.

The judge in imposing the sentence said Nicholas, a former deputy speaker, who also served as a junior minister in the government of the late Sir John Compton following the 2006 general election, should have known better.

Nicholas served as opposition leader from April 2004 to November 2006 and did not contest the 2011 general election.

## Mixed review for human rights in the Caribbean

CMC - The United States has given a mixed review of human rights practices and policies in the Caribbean, ranging from “significant human rights issues” to some Caribbean Community (CARICOM) governments rarely taking steps to prosecute government and law enforcement officials accused of committing abuses and corruption.

The US State Department has released its annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices covering internationally recognized individual, civil, political, and worker rights, as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements.

In its 2021 report, Washington noted that while all the CARICOM countries were multiparty parliamentary democracies, the situation in Haiti, where President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated on July 7 last year, is worrisome.

It said while the November 2016 general national legislative elections were considered free and fair by international observers, in January 2020 the terms of the majority of parliamentarians expired due to a failure of the country to conduct elections in 2019.

“Only ten elected members of 30 remained in the upper house, while the lower house had none. As a result, parliament was unable to reach a quorum and ceased to function. Nearly 400 unelected mayors served at the pleasure of the executive.”

It said controversy arose regarding the length of Moïse's mandate and whether it expired in February 2021 or 2022, due to ambiguities in the constitution.

“Despite opposition from most political actors and civil society, President Moïse remained in power until his assassination on July 7. Three days before his death, Moïse

had named, but not yet sworn in, Ariel Henry to replace Joseph Joute as prime minister.”

The report noted that while Henry was later sworn in as head of the government and signed a political accord with a large number of opposition parties and civil society organizations, the planned 2021 presidential and legislative elections had already suffered logistical difficulties and delays.

“Moïse's assassination and an ensuing lengthy process to negotiate a political accord resulted in an agreement to delay elections until 2022 or later.”

Washington also noted that while the Haitian National Police, an autonomous civilian institution led by a director general under the authority of the minister of justice, is responsible for maintaining public security, there were “credible reports” that

*cont'd on pg 19*



*cont'd from pg 18*

members of the security forces committed human rights abuses.

The Human Rights report noted that gang violence escalated throughout the country, particularly in metropolitan areas, and the gangs allegedly received support from political and economic elites.

“Kidnappings for ransom by armed gangs increased and affected all sections of society. Armed gangs were also responsible for armed conflicts resulting in approximately 20,000 displaced persons, for capturing up to ten police stations and substations, and for blocking fuel supplies in October and November, bringing economic life and freedom of movement to a virtual standstill.”

The report notes that in most, if not all of the Caribbean countries, significant human rights issues included credible reports of serious acts of official corruption, credible reports of degrading treatment of prisoners by prison officers and the existence of a criminal libel law, the criminalization of consensual same-sex sexual conduct between adults, trafficking in persons; and the worst forms of child labour.

There were also “significant human rights” issues such as unlawful or arbitrary killings by police in at least three Caribbean countries.



*In this Jan. 25, 2021 file photo, Arnel Joseph is returned to the National Penitentiary after being brought before a judge in handcuffs in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Authorities say Joseph, who they describe as one of Haiti's most powerful gang leaders, was shot Friday, Feb. 26, a day after he and dozens of other inmates escaped from prison during a breakout that left at least eight people dead, including the prison director. (AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery, File)*

The report noted that in Guyana, there have been “reliable reports that members of the security forces committed abuses.

In Jamaica, the report noted that significant human rights issues included credible reports of unlawful and arbitrary killings by government security forces, harsh and life-threatening conditions in prisons and detention facilities, arbitrary arrest, and detention.

It said there was also significant government corruption; a lack of investigation of and accountability for gender-based violence; and the existence

of a law criminalizing consensual same-sex sexual conduct between adults, although the government did not enforce the law during the year.

In Suriname, where the security forces were also linked to human rights abuses, “significant human rights issues included credible reports of cruel and degrading treatment of individuals by police, serious and widespread acts of corruption and the existence of some of the worst forms of child labour.

“The government took steps to investigate, prosecute, and punish officials who committed human

rights abuses, whether in the security forces or elsewhere in the government. Corruption cases were investigated, and the government implemented the laws on corruption effectively at times.”

Washington also reported that in Trinidad and Tobago “there were credible reports that members of the security forces committed some abuses.”

It said “significant human rights issues included credible reports of unlawful or arbitrary killings by police, refoulement of asylum seekers, serious acts of corruption, and human trafficking.

## Colombia president: Evidence implicates ex-soldiers in Haiti

AP – Colombian President Iván Duque said Wednesday there is evidence and testimony that seriously implicate “practically all” of the former Colombian soldiers being held in Haiti in the assassination of that country’s president, Jovenel Moïse.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Duque said the arrested ex-soldiers still need to be tried, but that “clearly, based on the testimony of many,” it is evident “that there is a level of implication” in the July 7 killing of Moïse, who was assassinated at his home in Haiti’s capital, Port-au-Prince.

More than 40 people have been arrested in Haiti in connection with the killing, including several Haitian police officers, a former Haitian senator and 18 former Colombian soldiers.

Duque struck a harsher tone than in the past regarding the Colombians held in Haiti since shortly after the killing. Previously, he had said a small group of recruiters knew what the real intention of the ex-soldiers’ trip to Haiti was and they misrepresented the goal of the mission to the former soldiers.

The president told AP on Wednesday that he never said the former soldiers were misled.

“I have always said that an investigation has to be carried out, and the inves-

tigation has been done, and in fact the Colombian police contributed,” he said. “And in fact, one of the people who fled from Haiti, who was later captured, talked about the level of involvement.”

Duque seemed to be referring to Mario Antonio José Palacios, identified as one of the main suspects in Moïse’s murder. He is detained in Florida. According to the accusations, Palacios spoke voluntarily and said he was hired to travel to Haiti to offer security and participate in a purported operation to arrest the president.

Families of the ex-soldiers have complained that the detainees have not been able to defend themselves in Haiti and do not have lawyers.

In July, Duque said that “within the group (of former soldiers) there were people who had received different instructions.” Even so, the president pointed out that “regardless of the level of knowledge one had,” it was clear the entire group participated in the assassination.

That same month he also told a radio station that “everything indicates a large group of people who arrived in Haiti were ‘blindfolded,’ taken for a supposed protection mission, while others, a small group apparently, had detailed knowledge of the criminal operation and the



*Two suspects in the assassination of Haiti’s President Jovenel Moïse are moved to be displayed to the media at the General Direction of the police in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, July 8, 2021. Colombian President Iván Duque said Wednesday, April 13, 2022, that there is evidence and testimony that seriously implicates “practically all” of the former Colombian soldiers who are arrested in Haiti in relation to the assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph, File)*

intent to kill the president of Haiti.”

On Wednesday, Duque said Colombia’s hands are tied in the judicial process in Haiti.

“We can try to work diplomatically to guarantee that the trial be carried out earlier and that they have a minimum of conditions as inmates. But beyond that, Colombia cannot act, because clearly there are some facts. There are some accusations. There are some testimonies,” the president said.

Duque, a conservative who cannot seek re-election in Colombia’s May 29 presidential election, also spoke about the socialist government of President Nicolás Maduro in neighbouring Venezuela.

In 2019, Duque said that Maduro’s administration

“had very few hours left.” On Wednesday he acknowledged receiving criticism for making that comment.

“Maybe, if you look at it in hindsight, maybe if I looked at it with a self-critical sense, I would say, well, I shouldn’t have done it,” Duque said. “But what I can say clearly is that, thank God, we raised our voice. Thank God, more than 50 countries reject that dictatorship.”

“Many people say, well, but then you are going to end your government in August and Maduro will continue to be the dictator of Venezuela. Perhaps. But I am not going to stop working a single day in my life for the freedom of Venezuela, because the freedom of Venezuela is also the protection of Colombia,” Duque added.

## NY Governor criticized as Caribbean American Lieutenant Governor, indicted, resigns

CMC – Caribbean American New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams has criticized New York Governor Kathy Hochul after she accepted the resignation of her Lieutenant Governor, Caribbean American Brian Benjamin on indictment of bribery and related offenses.

Damian Williams, another Caribbean American, who is the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, had announced on Tuesday that Benjamin, the son of a Guyanese mother and Jamaican father, was charged with bribery, honest services wire fraud and conspiracy to commit those offenses.

The charges were “based on his use of his official authority while a New York state senator to direct a state-funded grant to an organization controlled by a real estate developer (‘CC-1’) in exchange for campaign contributions made and procured by CC-1”.

Benjamin, 45, who resigned shortly after prosecutors unsealed the indictment, pleaded not guilty when he made a short appearance at the Federal District Court in Lower Manhattan. He was released on a US\$250,000 bond.

“As Lieutenant Governor, Kathy Hochul denied knowledge or awareness of Andrew Cuomo’s (former New York Governor) wrongdoing,” Williams, the son of Grenadian immigrants said.

“Now, she’s repeating the same posture and strategy with her own Lieutenant. Either she’s consistently shamefully out of the loop, or shamefully enabling through her inaction and either way, it’s clear that, unless we elect leadership outside of the old ways of Albany, these patterns of scandal and corruption will keep repeating,” said Williams, a candidate for Governor of New York in June’s Democratic Primary.

“Throughout our campaign, we’ve



*New York Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin leaves the courthouse in New York, Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Benjamin has been arrested in a federal corruption investigation. Authorities said the Democrat was arrested Tuesday on charges including bribery and falsification of records. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)*

highlighted how the Hochul administration represented Albany’s dysfunctional status quo. She claims to have cleaned up the Capitol. But just this week, with historic hand-outs to Buffalo billionaires, donor-driven scandals, and resignation, it’s never felt more familiar, or clearer that we need drastic change.”

Hochul said in a brief statement late Tuesday that she was accepting Benjamin’s resignation “effective immediately.

“While the legal process plays out, it is clear to both of us that he cannot continue to serve as Lieutenant Governor,” said Hochul, who had appointed Benjamin, a former New York State Senator, representing Harlem, last August, as her second-in-command.

“New Yorkers deserve absolute confidence in their government, and I will continue working every day to deliver for them.”

In announcing the charges against Benjamin, Williams, said the former New York Lieutenant Governor is also charged with two counts of falsifying

records in connection with the preparation of contribution forms that falsely reported certain contributions made by CC-1 as being made by other individuals.

Benjamin is also charged with making false statements in a questionnaire he submitted while seeking to become Lieutenant Governor.

“As alleged, Brian Benjamin used his power as a New York state senator to secure a state-funded grant in exchange for contributions to his own political campaigns,” Williams said, adding “by doing so, Benjamin abused his power and effectively used state funds to support his political campaigns.

According to the indictment, during the period 2019-21 Benjamin participated in a scheme to obtain campaign contributions in exchange for the use of his official authority and influence as a New York State senator to obtain a US\$50,000 state-funded grant for a non-profit organization.

“Benjamin and others acting on his behalf, or at his direction, then engaged in a series of lies and deceptions to cover up his scheme, including falsifying campaign donor forms, misleading city regulators, and providing false information on vetting forms he completed while seeking to be the Lieutenant Governor of New York State,” the indictment alleges.

Benjamin’s attorneys, in a statement late Tuesday said their client is suspending his campaign for lieutenant governor to “focus his energies on explaining in court why his actions were laudable, not criminal”, adding that there was “nothing inappropriate” about the US\$50,000 grant.

They also said their client “looks forward to when this case is finished, so he can rededicate himself to public service.”



# Brooklyn subway attack suspect ordered held without bail

AP – The man charged in this week's Brooklyn subway attack has been ordered held without bail, with prosecutors saying he terrified the "entire city."

Frank James was arrested in Manhattan on Wednesday, a day after the attack, and made his first appearance in federal court Thursday.

Authorities say he unleashed smoke bombs and dozens of bullets in a train full of morning commuters, shooting 10 people. All were expected to survive.

Investigators are continuing to examine the 62-year-old's possible motive.

James is charged with a federal terrorism offense, which pertains to violent attacks on mass transit systems. There is no evidence connecting him to terror organizations, international or otherwise, at this time, authorities say.

James, was arrested in Manhattan on Wednesday, a day after the attack. Authorities say he unleashed smoke bombs and dozens of bullets in a train full of morning commuters, shooting 10 people.

"He fired approximately 33 rounds in cold blood at



Law enforcement officials lead subway shooting suspect Frank R. James, 62, centre right, away from a police station and into a vehicle, in New York, Wednesday, April 13, 2022. James, accused of shooting 10 people on a Brooklyn subway train, was arrested Wednesday and charged with a federal terrorism offense. (AP Photo/John Minchillo)

terrified passengers who had nowhere to run and nowhere to hide," federal prosecutors wrote Thursday in court papers asking that James be held without bail.

They called the shooting premeditated and calculated, saying that James wore a hard hat and construction worker-style jacket as a disguise and then shed them after the gunfire to avoid recognition. Prosecutors suggested James had the means to carry out more attacks, noting that he had ammunition and other

gun-related items in a Philadelphia storage unit.

Authorities say a trove of evidence connects James to the attack. His credit card and a key to a van he had rented were found at the shooting scene. Officers also found the handgun they said was used in the shooting; tracing records show James purchased the gun from a licensed gun dealer in Ohio in 2011.

Investigators were examining many hours of videos that James posted on social media, including one

a day before the attack, in which he delivered profanity-laced diatribes about racism, society's treatment of Black people, homelessness and violence. He also talked about his history of psychiatric treatment, and he complained about New York's mayor is dealing with homeless people on subways and with gun violence.

James was born and raised in New York City but had moved to Milwaukee. He'd recently left Wisconsin and had briefly lived in Philadelphia.

## UK plan to fly asylum-seekers to Rwanda draws outrage

AP — Britain's Conservative government has struck a deal with Rwanda to send some asylum-seekers thousands of miles away to the East African country, a move that opposition politicians and refugee groups condemned as inhumane, unworkable and a waste of public money.

Home Secretary Priti Patel visited the Rwandan capital, Kigali, on Thursday to sign what the two countries called an "economic development partnership." The plan will see some people who arrive in Britain as stowaways on trucks or in small boats across the English Channel picked up by the U.K. government and flown 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometres) to Rwanda, apparently for good.

Migrants have long used northern France as a launching point to reach Britain, either by hiding on trucks or ferries, or — increasingly since the coronavirus pandemic shut down other routes in 2020 — in dinghies and other small boats organized by smugglers. More than 28,000 people entered the U.K. on small boats last year, up from 8,500 in 2020. Dozens have died, including 27 people in November when a single boat capsized.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said action was needed to stop "vile people smugglers (who) are abusing the vulnerable and turning the Channel into a watery graveyard."

In a speech near the Channel coast, Johnson said "anyone entering the U.K. illegally ... may now be relocated to Rwanda."

The Rwandan government said the agreement would initially last for five years, and Britain had paid



*A group of people thought to be migrants are brought in to Dover, Kent, England, by the RNLI, following a small boat incident in the Channel, Thursday April 14, 2022. Britain's Conservative government has struck a deal with Rwanda to send some asylum-seekers thousands of miles away to the East African country. Opposition politicians and refugee groups are condemning the plan as unworkable, inhumane and a waste of public money. (Gareth Fuller/PA via AP)*

120 million pounds (\$158 million) up front to pay for housing and integrating the migrants.

Rwandan Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Biruta said the agreement "is about ensuring that people are protected, respected, and empowered to further their own ambitions and settle permanently in Rwanda if they choose."

He said his country is already home to more than 130,000 refugees from countries including Burundi, Congo, Libya and Pakistan.

Johnson denied that the plan was "lacking in compassion" but acknowledged it would inevitably face legal challenges and would not take effect immediately.

Rwanda is the most densely populated nation in Africa, and competition for land and resources there

fuelled decades of ethnic and political tensions that culminated in the 1994 genocide in which more than 800,000 ethnic Tutsi and the Hutus who tried to protect them were killed. Human rights groups have repeatedly criticized President Paul Kagame's current government for being repressive.

Johnson, however, insisted that Rwanda had "totally transformed" in the last two decades.

Britain says relocation decisions will not be based on migrants' country of origin but on whether they used "illegal or dangerous routes" to reach the U.K. from a safe country such as France. Not all such arrivals will be considered suitable to be sent to Rwanda; it was unclear what the criteria for making the decisions would be.



## IMF chief: Ukraine war and inflation threaten global economy

AP – The head of the International Monetary Fund warned Thursday that Russia's war against Ukraine was weakening the economic prospects for most of the world's countries and called high inflation "a clear and present danger" to the global economy.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the consequences of Russia's invasion were contributing to economic downgrades for 143 countries, although most of them should continue to grow. The war has disrupted global trade in energy and grain and is threatening to cause food shortages in Africa and Middle East.

Georgieva made her comments in a speech on the eve of next week's spring meetings of the IMF and the World Bank in Washington.

An unexpectedly strong recovery from 2020's pandemic recession has caught businesses by surprise, leaving factories, ports and freight yards unable to keep up with robust customer demand and forcing prices higher.

Chronically high inflation, which is forcing the world's central banks to raise interest rates and likely slow economic growth in the process, amounts to "a massive setback for the



*International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva speaks during the World Government Summit at the Dubai Expo 2020, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, March 29, 2022. (AP Photo/Ebrahim Noroozi)*

global recovery," Georgieva said.

Georgieva also warned of "the fragmentation of the world economy into geopolitical blocs," with the West imposing far-reaching sanctions on Russia and China expressing support for the autocratic Russian regime of President Vladimir Putin.

"In a world where war in Europe creates hunger in Africa; where a pandemic can circle the globe in days and reverberate for years; where emissions anywhere mean rising sea levels almost everywhere — the threat to our col-

lective prosperity from a breakdown in global cooperation cannot be overstated," Georgieva said.

Before the war, Russia and Ukraine had supplied 28% of global wheat exports. And Russia and Belarus accounted for 40% of exports of the fertilizer potash.

"Now," Georgieva said, "grain and corn prices are soaring, and leaders across Africa and the Middle East are telling me that supplies are running low. Food insecurity is a grave concern.

"We must act now with a multilateral initiative to

bolster food security. The alternative is dire: More hunger, more poverty and more social unrest — especially for countries that have struggled to escape fragility and conflict for many years."

Georgieva called on the world to support the Ukrainians and noted that the IMF had delivered \$1.4 billion in emergency financing to help Ukraine meet its immediate spending needs. The IMF is also offering assistance to Ukraine's neighbours, including Moldova, which has accepted more than 400,000 war refugees.



## Tottenham Hotspur Stadium architects chosen for Old Trafford redevelopment

BBC – Manchester United have appointed the architects who designed Tottenham Hotspur Stadium to draw up plans for the redevelopment of Old Trafford.

Architect firm Populous and management consultants Legends International will work together with the aim of increasing the stadium's capacity.

Both companies worked on Tottenham's 63,000-seater stadium which opened in 2019.

Old Trafford currently has a capacity of 74,000.

"Work will begin immediately on developing options for Old Trafford and studying their feasibility, with the aim of significantly enhancing the fan experience," a statement on the club's website said.

"Fans will be at the heart of the process, starting with a meeting between the consultants and the Manchester United fans' advisory board



*Old Trafford has been home to Manchester United for 112 years later this month."*

Last month, it was reported that United were considering a number of options for redevelopment, including demolishing Old Trafford and building a new stadium.

Three sides of Old Trafford have been expanded over the past three

decades but the South Stand has posed a problem because it is close to a railway line.

The club also want to improve their training ground and have appointed architecture and design firm KSS to draw up plans for an "expanded, state-of-the-art facility".

## Wilson ready to serve on ICC Men's Cricket Committee

Joel Wilson is looking forward to being part of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee. The international umpire was appointed as the Elite Panel Umpire on the committee at the ICC's Board Meeting in Dubai recently. The 55-year-old welcomed the opportunity and says he sees it as a significant step, and he is keen to make a positive contribution.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be selected by your peers to represent the fraternity on such an important committee. The committee is designed to

improve all aspects of the game, particularly the rules, regulations, laws, and playing conditions. Over the next year I look forward to working the other members of the committee in the attempt to improve all aspects of cricket ... and I hope to make a more than positive impact"

Wilson is the most experienced umpire presently in the West Indies. He first officiated in international cricket in 2011. So far, he has stood in 28 Test matches, 75 One-Day Internationals and 39 T20 Internationals.



*Joel Wilson*

In its communique the ICC also outlined that ICC Board approved and ratified the appointments of Mahela Jayawardena as Past Player representative (reappoint-

ment), Gary Stead – National Team Coach representative, Jay Shah – Member Board representative and Jamie Cox – MCC Representative.

# Sports News



## Tyson Fury v Dillian Whyte: World champion 'not thinking about retirement'

BBC – World heavyweight champion Tyson Fury says retirement is not on his mind before his bout with Dillian Whyte.

The unbeaten Fury, 33, faces his fellow Briton, 34, at a sold-out Wembley Stadium on 23 April, St George's Day.

At the news conference to announce the fight last month Fury said he would "100%" retire after it.

But he backtracked on Thursday saying: "I am only thinking about Dillian Whyte at this moment, I am not thinking about retirement."

Speaking during a news conference for his first UK fight since 2018, Fury did not talk about his links to



WBC heavyweight champion Tyson Fury worked with Daniel Kinahan for several years

Daniel Kinahan, who has been sanctioned by the US Treasury.

Kinahan has worked with Fury and fellow world champion Josh Taylor, and his links with boxing were the subject of a BBC Panorama investigation in 2021.

On Tuesday, US offi-

cials announced sanctions against several top members of the Irish Kinahan organised crime group, saying that Daniel Kinahan "is believed to run the day-to-day operations of the organisation".

Several journalists were on Thursday's Zoom call,

which also featured promoters Frank Warren and Bob Arum as well as Fury and Whyte. But none of the journalists had the opportunity to ask Fury a question about Kinahan.

Fury will defend the WBC title he won from Deontay Wilder then retained during his trilogy with the American.

They were three of the five fights Fury has had in the US since beating Francesco Pianeta in Belfast in August 2018.

Having failed to agree an all-British bout with Anthony Joshua, Fury's return to the UK against Whyte has attracted 94,000 ticket sales - the biggest post-war boxing crowd in the UK.

## Gujarat beats Rajasthan to claim fourth win in IPL

AP- Captain Hardik Pandya and fast bowler Lockie Ferguson powered Gujarat Titans to a 37-run win over Rajasthan Royals in a battle of early table-toppers in the Indian Premier League on Thursday.

Pandya led Gujarat to an imposing total of 192-4 with an unbeaten 87 off 52 balls after Rajasthan's Sanju Samson won the toss and opted to field first.

Ferguson used his change of pace to claim 3-23 that included the key wicket of Jos Buttler (54) on the last ball of batting powerplay as Rajasthan was restricted to 155-9.

Gujarat sits alone atop the standings after its fourth win in five games. Rajasthan slipped to third on net run-rate.

"Captaincy is fun and it allows



me to take responsibility and be the flag-bearer," Pandya said as he has pushed himself up in the order and batted at No. 4. "I am not used to batting this long, (but) it gives me a lot of time. I can calculate and take risk. The

last game it did not come off but today I made sure I did."

Buttler's 23-ball half-century included eight fours and three sixes inside the first six overs but Ferguson's twin strike derailed Rajasthan's chase.



## Tiger Woods to play JP McManus Pro-Am at Adare Manor in July

BBC – Tiger Woods has been added to a star-studded field for the JP McManus Pro-Am at Adare Manor.

The 15-time major winner will play the two-day event in the Republic of Ireland on 4-5 July - less than two weeks before the Open Championship.

Woods stated his intention to play at the 150th Open at St Andrews having completed 72 holes at the Masters on his competitive comeback.

His stirring return came 14 months after a life-threatening car crash.

The Pro-Am, hosted by legendary Irish racehorse

owner JP McManus, will boast an impressive field of the world's best golfers including Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm and Brooks Koepka.

It will be Woods' fourth appearance at the charity event, which will be held at the County Limerick venue set to host the 2027 Ryder Cup.

"His presence at Adare Manor will undoubtedly bring huge excitement to the thousands of spectators," said McManus.

"We are very grateful to him for giving up his free time to be with us."



Woods made the cut at Augusta as he returned to competitive action 14 months after a life-threatening car crash



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## Former Colombia captain Freddy Rincon dies following car crash



Rincon was part of Colombia's 'golden generation' reaching three successive World Cups in the 1990s

BBC – Former Colombia captain Freddy Rincon has died after suffering severe head injuries in a car crash.

The 55-year-old was driving a car that collided with a bus early on Monday in Cali, Colombia.

Former Real Madrid midfielder Rincon scored 17 goals for Colombia and played at the 1990, 1994 and 1998 World Cups. He shares with Carlos Valderrama the record for the most appearances at the tournament for his country, having played in 10 World Cup games.

Rincon was part of the side that ended the nation's 28-year wait to play at the World Cup when they qualified for the 1990 finals, and scored a memorable goal in a 1-1 draw against eventual win-

ners West Germany.

He also played club football for Napoli, Palmeiras and Santos, as well as leading Corinthians to victory in 2000 at the first FIFA Club World Championship - now the Club World Cup.

"Despite all the efforts of our teams, Freddy Eusebio Rincon Valencia has passed away," said Laureano Quintero, the medical director of the Imbanaco Clinic in Cali where Rincon was being treated. The Colombian Football Federation (FCF) said it mourned the death of Rincon.

"We will miss him and remember him with great affection, appreciation, respect and admiration," said the FCF.

"We send strength, support and our

condolences to his family, hoping they can bear this sad and painful loss."

Brazilian club Corinthians recalled "our captain" leading them to their FIFA Club World Championship success in 2000. "It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a great idol," they said on social media. "Eternally in our hearts."

FIFA, football's world governing body, sent its "sincere condolences" to Rincon's "loved ones, former teammates and fans from the clubs he played for, and of the Colombia national team".

"Rest in Peace" it added.

Italian club Napoli said they would also like to send their condolences to the family of Rincon, who played for them during the 1994-95 season.