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POINT EXPRESS

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CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US



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SIDS4 preparation moves into top gear

It's all systems 'go' as the countdown has started for Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Fourth Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)4 to be held at a newly constructed conference hall on the American University of Antigua.

The conference takes place from May 27 to 30, roughly two months away and the Cabinet wants to leave no stone unturned as it

marshals all resources at its disposal to ensure the success of the conference.

There have been several meetings taking place with sub-committees handling critical areas such as security, accommodation, transportation, health and hospitality.

On Thursday, Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene met with the Coordinating Committee to get a first-hand account of the



progress so far in finalizing all arrangements for the conference.

On Wednesday, tourism

officials including the Minister, Charles Fernandez, met with property owners who are seeking to offer up their properties for accommodation.

The government has initially said it would lease a cruise ship that would have been docked at the Deep Water Harbour with its rooms available for the delegates. But the cost of that venture proved prohibitive and the idea was discarded.

The interviewing of persons who expressed an interest in being volunteers for the conference has been taking place over the past two weeks with final selection expected shortly.

"We are entering a critical phase and it now requires all hands-on deck to fine tune the preparations for a successful conference. It is a mammoth undertaking but I am off the view that the people of Antigua and Barbuda are equal to the challenge," Greene declared.

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Chinese ambassador is happy with progress in agriculture

The Chinese ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Zhang Yanling, has expressed delight over the progress being made by local farmers who are participating in the agricultural project being implemented by the Long Ping Agricultural group.

Ambassador Zhang and a team from Long Ping met Thursday with Agriculture Minister E.P Chet Greene as well as senior officials and technicians of the ministry where they discussed what has been achieved so far under the project.

The ambassador was informed that the broccoli programme has been going quite well with those farmers involved in planting the crop reporting that they are making extra money from the sale of the crop.

The meeting also learnt that the popularity of the programme is such that more farmers have been



asking to get involved.

Extension Officer, Owalabi Elabanjo reported that there are currently approximately fifty farmers involved in the programme with the plan being to expand the acreage of broccoli production at the start of the next planting season in October.

“We ought to be able to expand our acreage in the coming months as we seek to achieve the prime minister’s goal of reducing food imports. With proper

planning, we can reduce importation of broccoli by as much as sixty percent,” he stated.

Elabanjo explained that broccoli is a seasonal crop with demands at the highest during the winter tourist season. “Depending on what time in the month of October we begin to plant, we can reap broccoli from January or February of the following year. This means that reaping will take place in the heart of the tourist season when demand is

highest,” he noted.

Overall, Elabanjo said the project is going ‘very well’ with the several crops being produced under the programme. These include sweet peppers, cauliflower, sweet corn and tomatoes.

The meeting on Thursday was to explore ways to improve on the project including ways to do better data collection and better communication between the project officers, farmers and the Extension Division.



Local News



Taxi men appeal for help with unauthorized taxi operators

The St. John's Taxi Association which operates in the Heritage Quay area is complaining of unfair competition from unauthorised operators who solicit jobs from cruise ship passengers illegally.

On Wednesday, two members of the association, Vice President Denis Friday Jnr. and secretary Lesroy Jno Baptiste were invited to the Cabinet to voice their concerns. The association wants a stronger police presence on cruise ship days to deter these 'scab' operators.

"The officials complained bitterly about unauthorized taxi cabs and private car owners that are poaching cruise passengers and are



at times using unauthorized vehicles to carry tourists. The Cabinet has promised to strengthen the law to deter the behavior that might ultimately lead to liability," according to the Cabinet Notes.

The taxi association executive members used the opportunity to raise other concerns regarding the condition

of many of the streets in St. John's and much of the roadways leading to the popular tourist attractions on Antigua.

According to Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel Max Hurst some of the roadways identified include parts of the All Saints Road, especially that portion from Midway

Gas station to the All Saints cross-road, Jonas Road to Liberta and Fig Tree Drive.

He announced that these roadways were already part of a priority list that has been compiled by the Ministry of Works and which are earmarked for improvements before yearend.

Hurst noted that Antigua has more than 400 miles of road. Floods and excessive rainfall have caused many of the street surfaces to deteriorate rapidly.

They were poorly-built during the previous administration. A new method using roll-out concrete is being relied upon to repair street surfaces.

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Medical center to house Post Office and Agriculture Ministry staff

Staff at the General Post Office and Ministry of Agriculture will have a temporary new home as repairs are set to take place on their respective buildings.

Cabinet announced this week that both institutions will be temporarily housed at the Cuthwin Lake Medical Center on Nugent Avenue (formerly NTTC) while work is being done.

The Center was initially reconfigured to house

patients who contracted COVID-19. It however was never used.

A portion of the building will however remain under the control of the Ministry of Health.

The issues at the post office and agriculture headquarters have long been documented with staff taking industrial action on several occasions demanding that the dilapidated buildings be upgraded.

Among the issues raised

by the post office workers were concerns about the building's air quality resulting from mould and a lingering musty odour.

Some work has been done on the building on High Street but there is still some work that needs to be done.

Meanwhile, the issues at the Ministry of Agriculture headquarters have forced staff to revert to COVID-19 pandemic working conditions. This

means that staff work on-line from 8 a.m. to noon daily.

It was just last week that this initiative came into play.

As with the post office workers, staff at the agricultural institution have been protesting for a long time shining light on the unsanitary working conditions.

Work on both buildings is expected to last up to six months.



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Easter Messages



The meaning of Easter

By Rev. Paul Edwards

Easter is the annual celebration of Christ's resurrection to life after His crucifixion and death. The meaning of Easter is that the Son of God paid the price for our sins and rose again to reconcile us to God (see Romans 4:25).

The story of Easter is all about Jesus. More than 2,000 years ago, he traveled throughout Israel. He told extraordinary stories, performed miracles, and went head-to-head against the religious leaders of the land.

On Palm Sunday, a week before Easter, a crowd brought Jesus into the city in a royal fashion. He spoke in the temple about humility, love, forgiveness, and justice. Many of the Jewish people saw him as a true hero: the long-awaited and prophesied savior (the "Messiah"), who will deliver them from the Romans.

As Christians, we know that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and was resurrected by God three days later. This story and belief are a cornerstone of the Christian faith!

For Christians, Easter symbolizes new beginnings and victory over death. It signifies that through faith in Jesus Christ, believers can receive salvation. The resurrection of Christ is seen as a triumph over sin and death, which gives believers hope for their own future and eternal life with God.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday is the cornerstone of the Christian faith, signifying the fulfillment of God's plan for redemption and offering believers the promise of eternal life.

It is a day of immense joy and hope, as Christians celebrate the victory of light over darkness, life over death, and the triumph of God's love



Rev. Paul Edwards

for humanity. Easter Sunday serves as a profound reminder of the transformative power of faith and the enduring message of hope that resonates throughout the ages.

Easter is considered the most important and joyful celebration in the Christian liturgical calendar. It is a time for Christians to reflect on the significance of Jesus' sacrifice and the promise of eternal life.

The resurrection is seen as a central doctrine of Christianity, emphasizing the hope and redemption offered through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus' resurrection is not just a his-

toric event. It has huge consequences for every single Christian.

Paul wrote about this in 1 Corinthians 15:17-21: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has also come the resurrection of the dead".

Jesus' resurrection thus is the cor-
cont'd on pg 7

Easter Message 2024

By Rev. Cuthbert A. Edwards PhD
 Superintendent Minister
 Methodist Church, Antigua Circuit

Dear Sisters and Brothers I greet you very warmly at this the Festival of the Resurrection as we celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord with us. It is my hope that this may be a period of renewal, growth in the faith, and confidence in the sacrificial, atoning and emancipating love of God for you, your loved one and friends!

The women who went to the Tomb on that first Easter Sunday were fearful. The emotion of fear is one that has affected many persons negatively.

There are people who are mortally afraid of the unknown, death or the future.

Others are fearful of illness, other people, and making decisions. They are immobilized and this affects their judgement and their actions. They are crippled by fear.

On that first Resurrection morning the women who went to the Tomb did so with trepidation, fearing that someone may have stolen the body of Jesus thus depriving them of the opportunity



Rev. Cuthbert A. Edwards
 of anointing his body.

An apparent stranger appeared and on seeing their fear admonished them; 'Do not be afraid.' (Matt.28:10). The women had every reason to be afraid since as Jewish Christians their identity was now distinct from members of the Jewish faith.

As a result, the Jews were making

life very difficult for them. They were not only afraid of persecution but also of the future and the unknown since their teacher and Lord had been taken away from them.

Living under Roman domination had unique challenges for living and witness. The Galileans were rebelling against Roman rule. They were reacting to Roman domination and exploitation. Life in Galilee was dangerous and the might of Rome could be unleashed upon them at any time. Like the stranger, Jesus appeared before them and bid the two women not to be afraid.

These words also ring true for us today. In an age and at a time when so many uncertainties in life abound in our Caribbean societies—employment, economic challenges, limited material resources, violence and crime, concerns about personal health; and in a world that seems far more dangerous than ever with conflicts in Europe, the Middle East, and the constant threat from terrorists, we need to hear these words over and over again: Do not be

cont'd on pg 8

cont'd from pg 6

nerstone of the Christian faith regarding forgiveness of sins and eternal life. If Jesus had remained dead, all hope would be lost forever.

But since He has indeed risen, there is a solid hope beyond the grave. His resurrection proves that He has conquered sin and death, and that "in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). That's a great reason to celebrate!

Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb

on the third day after his crucifixion. Easter is the fulfilled prophecy of the Messiah, who would be persecuted, die for our sins, and rise on the third day (Isaiah 53).

Remembering the resurrection of Jesus is a way to renew daily hope that we have victory over sin. According to the New Testament, Easter is three days after the death of Jesus on the cross.

Easter is so important because all of Christianity revolves around the death

and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If Jesus did not die for our sins, or if Jesus did not rise again after three days, then the entire hope of Christianity is based upon nothing but lies and falsities.

In short, Christianity would be meaningless as a religion, because our sins would not be forgiven by Christ. If it wasn't for Easter, we would have to continue living as the Jews of old and offering animal sacrifices to the Lord for our sins.

Overall, Easter represents one of the most important events in Christian history and serves as a reminder of God's love for humanity and the promise of eternal life through faith in Jesus.

Easter reminds us of the victory Christ won for all of us on the cross. He triumphed over sin and death. The victory was not a one-time occurrence that exists solely in the past. Christ's victory continues to empower us today! Hope is the crux of the Easter story.

Easter Messages



cont'd from pg 7
afraid!

Fear not! Why? Because the entire world's, no, God has turned into yes. The world condemned Jesus, rejected him, mocked him, killed him by crucifixion and God raised him from death to life.

God turned despair into hope. Tragically into triumph! Death into life! No into yes! Fear is a reality for many men and women today, hence the words are as relevant as they were then, "do not be afraid." Danger and difficulty do not have the last word, God does.

Hence the two Mary's were challenged to go into a dangerous world, knowing that persecution is possible, and tell others. It was a message for the

wider community and world at large.

They were to leave their safe harbour and their security and become vulnerable. They were to go and tell in dangerous and difficult places, then, and we are to go now.

The command to go denotes action because the resurrection is not just a fact of history but something to be experienced, and to bear witnessed to.

"Therefore, the disciples of every age and generation are to go and tell others that Jesus is alive. He is risen. He has been raised from the dead. As a result, their fears were gone. Their disappointments had been resolved. This is the message, "He lives! He lives! I know that my Redeemer lives".

On this Easter Sunday, the Risen

Christ comes to us again. He speaks that word of assurance, no matter what your experience may be, you need not fear, God has made provision already. God has answered your questions. God has already said yes to all of the no's of the world.

Therefore, fear not. Do not be afraid. He has gone to Galilee so that you and I may go and discover him for ourselves and share with all persons, the good news—he is alive!

The faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that where there is hope, there is life; with hope in Jesus Christ, we need not be afraid.

May the blessings of the risen Lord fill your hearts and lives with God's peace and grace today and always.

THE METHODIST CHURCH, ANTIGUA CIRCUIT commemorates the Crucifixion of our Lord on Good Friday, Friday, 29th March and celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday, 31st March, 2024 in all of our Churches as follows.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be observed on Easter Day in all services

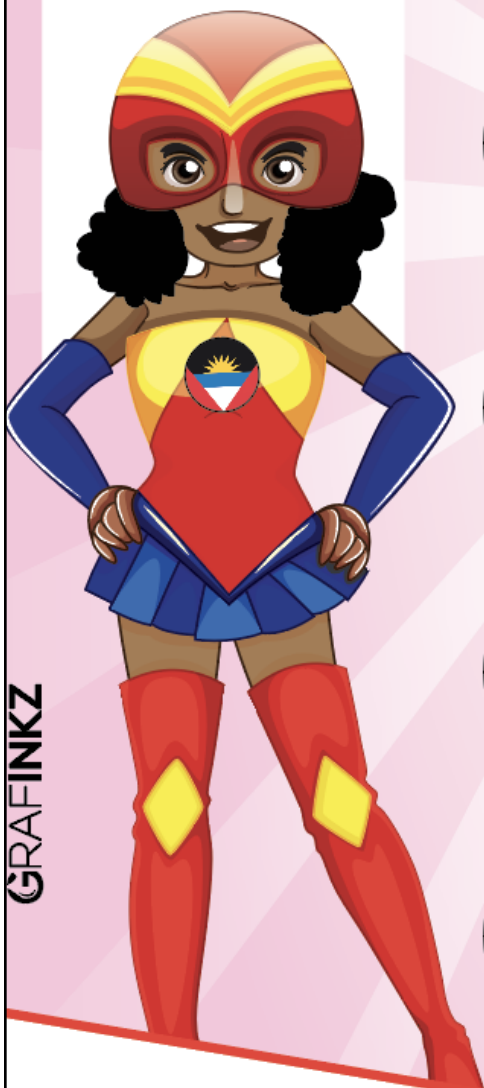
We Invite you to worship with us for these important Christian experiences

Congregation	Location	Friday 29 th March	Preacher	Sunday 31 st March	Preacher
Ebenezer	St. Mary's Street, St. John's	8:30 am	Rev Everalld Galbraith, Bishop	8:30 am	Rev. Dr. Cuthbert Edwards
Bolans	Bolans Village	The Stations of the Cross with the Anglican Church - 6:30am from Bolans' Playing field to Lady of the Valley Church		11:00 am	Rev. Dr. Cuthbert Edwards
Freetown	Freetown Village	9:00 am	Bro. Orbin Anderson	11:00 am	Rev. Wendell Samuel
Gilbert Memorial	Zion Hill (Glanvilles)	8:00 am	Rev. Wendell Samuel	8:00 am	Rev. Ramona Dinard
Parham	Parham Town	9:00 am	Bro. Ezzard Weston	10:00 am	Rev. Ramona Dinard
Bethesda	Bethesda Village	8:00 am	Rev. Dr. Oral Thomas	8:00 am	Rev. Wendell Samuel
Baxter Memorial	English Harbour	7:00 am	Rev. Ramona Dinard	7:00 am	Rev. Dr. Oral Thomas
Freemansville	Freeman's Village	9:00 am	Rev. Dr. Cuthbert Edwards	9:00 am	Rev. Dr. Oral Thomas
Barrett Memorial	Liberta Village	9:00 am	Rev. Ramona Dinard	9:00 am	Bro. John Francis
Sawcolts	John Hughes	9:00 am	Bro. Bernard Richardson	11:00 am	Bro. John Francis
Cassada Gardens	Cassada Gardens	9:00 am	Bro. Chris Matthews	11:00 am	Bishop Everalld Galbraith

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Easter: Hope in the midst of hopelessness

By Dr. Carson L. Greene

President, South Leeward Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Our world today is fast becoming a gloomy place. One does not have to look far to see the ill effects of evil. From the chaos in Haiti to the relentless bombings in Ukraine, to the killing of innocent civilians in the Israeli-Palestinian war, fear and dread abound everywhere.

Added to the horrible impact of the various wars, is the impact of climate change and the escalating economic challenges associated with the rapid increase in inflation. All of this is further compounded by the unpredictable and yet constant challenges of natural disasters—hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, floods, and the like. It is no wonder that some are led to ask, “Why go on?”

The challenges mentioned are but a few of the pressures that lead to anxiety, worry, fear and hopelessness. It is no wonder that emotional health has become the big concern for people everywhere.

Where can we find hope and comfort in the midst of all of this uncertainty? The Seventh-day Adventist Community wishes to direct your attention to the ultimate source—the God of creation who came to earth to rescue man from the plight of hopelessness.

Most of you reading this article know well that this weekend is known around the world as the Easter weekend. This is the time on the Christian



Dr. Carson L. Greene

calendar when the death and resurrection of Jesus is celebrated. For some persons, it has become but a holiday and even a time of festivity and fun. It is, however, worth noting the real meaning behind the celebration.

As indicated earlier, our world is filled with evil, crime and violence. As Christians, we understand from God’s word that when God created the world, it was a place of perfect peace and beauty. That situation, however, changed when Lucifer, an angel of high repute, rebelled against the government of God in heaven and was cast out.

Through his evil schemes he led our fore parents to sin against God. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they gave their allegiance to Lucifer (now called Satan) and thus, Satan began a reign of rebellion and evil on earth. All of Adam’s descendants were thus born in sin and under the sway of Satan.

So, what does the Easter holiday have to do with all of this? Earlier I commented that Easter is a commemoration of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is at the center of Christianity. Given that all of us have sinned (Romans 3:23) and, as the Bible points out, the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), it therefore follows that all mankind was destined to death. That is a very hopeless situation.

The good news is, God chose to do something about the situation. He chose to pay the wage. He came to earth to take our place and die the death that we deserve. Thus, he went to Calvary and died on the cross in our stead. The crucifixion story is really a story of a God of love, offering himself as a ransom for mankind. But if God had died and had not risen, then we would not be able to truly say that He has power over death. The fact of the resurrection affirms that God has power over death and that gives us hope.

It is this hope that Jesus offers to us all as we face life’s challenges. The world and the events that so concern us may seem overwhelming. The economic situation may seem a real challenge.

As you reflect on the marvelous story of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it is well to remember that He did it for you. You can make this Easter a meaningful one by committing your life to Him and have the assurance and hope of a brighter tomorrow.

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Easter Messages



Easter Message 2024

By Bishop Robert A. Llanos
Diocese of St. John's-Basseterre

It would seem a strange thing to say but the world wants a different Jesus than the one whose Death and Resurrection we celebrate every year at Eastertime. It may be that we let Easter pass us by without reflecting or fully understanding its importance to humankind because he is not the Jesus, we think we need or should have.

After all is said and done, we think we know what is best for us, what will set us free and where our happiness is to be found.

Except, we have been trying our way of doing things for several millennia and accomplished very little for our efforts at true freedom, happiness, and a lasting peace.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead would have little significance had he not first been put to death by execution on the cross. To grasp the meaning of the Resurrection and what we celebrate at Eastertime we must therefore understand the meaning of the cross.

The cross is the place where our own will encounters God's will for us and the battle for true freedom ensues. Liberation comes, salvation comes, when we surrender our will to God's will on the Cross of conversion. Resurrection is the fruit of that surrender.

It was pride and rebellion that brought sin and death into the world. It is humility and a loving surrender to God's will that liberate us from them.

The consequences of sin and death are not only temporal but eternal. Whilst sin and the darkness of unfettered passions bring temporary pleasure, their consequences are eternal.

By eternal we mean now and forever. It is from these consequences that Jesus has saved us in his Death

and Resurrection. Had Jesus not risen from the dead then we could not share in his Divinity, death would have had the final word.

Because we seldom see beyond our own horizon of self-gratification and self-preservation, it is hard for us in a world of so many distractions to think about eternity and its consequences. Therefore, the joy of the Resurrection, our Easter Joy is lost to many of us.

The Jesus of Easter Joy is the one who prayed "yet not as I will but as you will" and willingly suffered for that surrender and for our sake.

We now live in the grace of Easter; we are the beneficiaries of that first Easter through baptism, but do we fully appreciate the glory of the resurrection to which we are called?

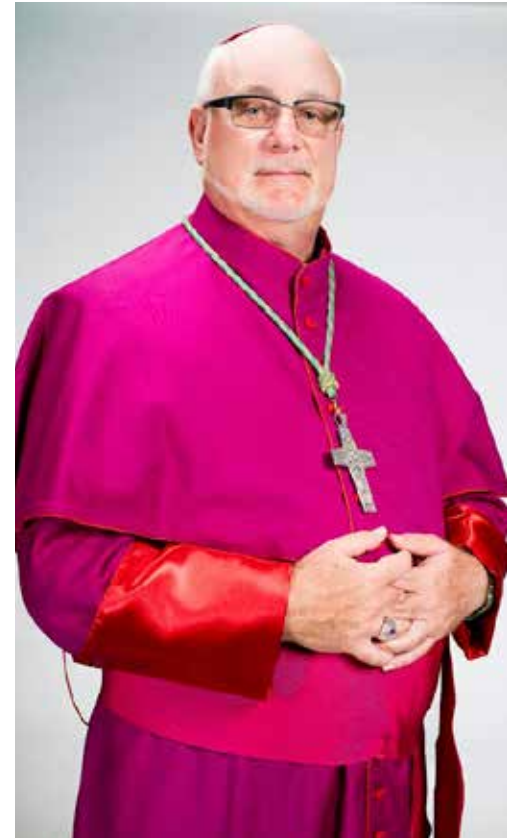
Unfortunately, as with Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem, we are not looking for a crucified king but a worldly king who is disposed to our own will, gives us what we want and exercises his power on our behalf; one who gives us a comfortable Christian life with little or no suffering.

How many of us by nature would consider it something joyful to share in the cross of Jesus in order to share in his Resurrection, yet that is what God asks of us.

The joy of the resurrection far outweighs any suffering through which we must pass to get there. The Saints tell us that we would not even be able to recall or remember the suffering so great would be the joy.

This is because, through and in Jesus, we would, in the words of Scripture, be a new creation.

To participate in Easter Joy, we must be willing to feely undertake, with the grace of Jesus' Resurrection, the offer of our minds and hearts to



Bishop Robert A. Llanos

God in full surrender and obedience so that we would learn how to love as he loves us.

The triumph of Easter is the triumph of a love that transforms from within all of God's people. It is the exercise of power for and with others, not over them.

It is setting hearts and minds free to triumph over the darkness in one's life. It is to know the truth and welcome it with joy and understanding.

It is to serve others, spending oneself generously and without reserve. It is to be a child of God, made so by Jesus' Death and Resurrection and our conversion to his will.

Easter is the triumphal moment for all of humanity when sin and eternal death were conquered and destroyed on the cross and Jesus rose again on Easter Sunday. May we all participate in this Easter Grace and the joy that comes with it. Wishing you all the blessings of Easter.



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Easter Messages



Good Friday Meditation

By Rev. Joseph Nicholas of the Moravian Church

On that Good Friday as Jesus was being put to death, the scene was very chaotic. The leaders were scoffing at Jesus. The soldiers were at center stage and they were thrilled at having this esteemed criminal guest at their mercy. They taunted him!

One of the criminals who was there with Jesus made the calculation that it was no good trying to provoke or irritate or harass the people in charge for their pain and suffering could be made worse. The other criminal was already his partner in crime. This criminal decided that he too was going to turn on Jesus; and he had no mercy.

So, insult turned into injury as we read in Luke 23:39, One of the criminals who was hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

The pressure increased and there was only one voice of reason and of mercy that was left. It was that of the other criminal and he became an advocate for Jesus and for justice as we read in Luke 23:40-41, But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

He scolded his partner in crime and as he rebuked him, he called him out for being so bareface. Then, he turned to Jesus in verse 42 and said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." Jesus heard him. Jesus took note of him and accepted him right away.

There was no pre-condition as Je-



Rev. Joseph Nicholas

sus declared in verse 43, He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

This man did what the good friends and companions of Jesus did not do. The faithful women were nearby but maybe not near enough.

On his own and before the world that day, this man, formerly a criminal, stood up for and with Jesus against the world. Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.

This man condemned by the law of the land; humiliated in public; with a life of crime, he kept away from the Temple and the synagogue; and as far as his world was concerned, he had received his just reward.

Then, to hear from Jesus, Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise. He was caught up and translated to the life of paradise right away; that same day!

He was a changed man! He could begin to imagine as the old gospel song says, Friends won't treat me like they used to since I had laid my burden down. One of those new friends was Jesus. He himself could respond, I won't treat you like I used to since I laid my burden down.

He had already rejected the old life when publicly he rebuked his former colleague. The old life was being taken away. He admitted justly but he knew; he knew the new life in Christ Jesus had begun.

Today, as we come to another Good Friday, I want somebody to come face to face with our Lord and Christ. Something transformational happens when we meet Jesus.

Ask Zacchaeus the little man who was in the tree but came down to deliver for Jesus. Ask Joseph of Arimathea a Jewish leader who could not get Jesus out of his mind and in the end gladly gave up his own tomb to bury Jesus.

Some years ago, the Republican Speaker of the House in the US Congress, John Boehner, was having issues with his Caucus and being a Catholic, he had a meeting with Pope Francis who was visiting the US. Well after the meeting, Boehner was Speaker no more. He resigned and left it for whosoever will... Something happened!

When that day comes for each one of us, we too will be able to declare in testimony, Something happened and now I know; he touched me and made me whole!

Even if I go back to things and to places and to friends, I will never be the same again; oh no!

Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise

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Easter Messages

Celebrating the cross

By Rev. Nigel N Henry
 Barbuda Pentecostal Church

Our celebration of Jesus on the Cross is quite strange when we think of it. The cross is a symbol of cruelty, shame, and disgrace. It was a gallows, an instrument of torture, a focus of inhumane death. When we think about it, there should not be a celebration.

Yet after two millennia the world stops at this time of year to celebrate in worship the Man that was painfully crucified. Isaiah 53 gives us a description of who that Man is in the most important aspects of His life - He will possess no "Comeliness."

This means that there will be no splendour, nor nothing outwardly magnificent about Him; There will be no "beauty" meaning His appearance will not be attractive. As Isaiah speaks of His death, he gets more graphic.

Death by crucifixion is the most horrible death suffered by mankind. A death on the cross is the most horrible form of execution known to mankind. We derive our word "excruciating" from it. When a man was crucified on the cross tremendous strain was exerted on the wrists, arms and shoulders, usually resulting in the dislocation of the shoulder and elbow joints.

The arms, being held up and outward, held the rib cage in a fixed position which made it extremely difficult to exhale and totally impossible to take a full breath. The victim would only be able to take very shallow breaths.

As time passed, the muscles, from the loss of blood, loss of oxygen and the fixed position of the body, would undergo severe cramps and spasmodic contractions.

While Jesus was on the cross He became the manifestation of sin, 2 Cor. 5:21. In the mind of God, Jesus



Rev. Nigel N Henry

became the sin of the world and He was judged by the Father. God poured out His wrath into the body of His Son and Jesus suffered the undiluted, unfiltered wrath of Almighty God. Jesus literally suffered the worst agony when He was on the cross which was separation from the presence of God (Mat. 27:46).

We were not there when they nailed Him, when they spat upon Him, when they beat Him and mocked Him. But He endured all that they did because He loved us! We are responsible for His death on that cross.

We are the guilty and He the innocent, yet He went to the cross and took our sins upon Himself and died our death that we might live His life, (1 Pet. 2:24). "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Is. 53:6

Our Celebration of devotion and worship must not be taken lightly – This is the sinner's victory; this is humanity's redemption; this is the liberty of a man's soul when we understand that He was indeed Wounded for our transgressions, Bruised for our iniquities, Chastised for our peace and endured Scourging for our healing.

So let all the people of earth know that the 'Man on the Cross' is Jesus the Christ, the Saviour of mankind and there should be no hesitation in Celebrating on Good Friday because it signifies that our sorrow can be turned to joy; our pain to healing, our bondage to freedom, and our death to life.

In the words of the song writer, "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe, sin has left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow." Jesus died for all of us, the least we can do is give Him our hearts in the benefit for our salvation.



Players of the Sea View Farm football team. (File photo)

Freeman's Village extend lead after Sea View Farm drop points in Second Division

Leaders Freeman's Village opened up a four-point gap at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division as second-placed Sea View Farm dropped points in the latest round of matches on Wednesday.

Freeman's Village strengthened their position at the top of the league with a 3-0 win against ABAYA at the Parham playing field.

Malik Charles scored in the 63rd minute to wrap up their latest victory after conversions by Dylan George in the 9th minute and Roy Gregory in the 29th minute gave Freeman's Village a two-nil lead at halftime.

Their 13th win in 15 matches carries Freeman's Village to 39 points, four ahead of Sea View Farm, who remain in second place.

ABAYA remains in 18th place on goal difference with six points after crashing to their 12th defeat in 14 matches.

Sea View Farm lost ground on Freeman's Village after dropping two

points in a 1-1 draw with Soccer Academy at the ABFA Technical Center.

Michael Peters scored in the third minute of added time (90+3 minutes) to snatch the draw after Ikah Codrington's 23rd-minute conversion gave Sea View Farm a one-nil lead at halftime.

Sea View Farm also finished the match with 10 men after Rhezal Gomes was expelled in the third minute of added time when he was given a red card for using offensive, insulting, and abusive language to the referee.

Their second draw in 15 matches carries Sea View Farm to 35 points, while their fourth draw in 12 games allows Soccer Academy to move up to seventh place on goal difference with 25 points.

English Harbour lost further ground on the frontrunners after slipping to a 2-1 defeat against Blackburn Palace at the English Harbour playing field.

Second-half goals by Jady Coates in the 63rd minute and Diquan Harry

in the 86th minute allowed Blackburn Palace to come from behind and snatch victory after Yakira Hughes' 18th-minute conversion gave English Harbour a one-nil lead at halftime.

Their eighth win in 17 matches allows Blackburn Palace to move up to fifth place by advancing to 29 points, one adrift of English Harbour, who remains in third place on goal difference. It was the fourth loss in 16 matches for English Harbour.

But there was no play in the other Second Division match scheduled for Wednesday. The Young Warriors won by default against the Celtics, who failed to show up for their encounter at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

The result allows the Young Warriors to move out of the cellar to second from the bottom of the standings on goal difference, advancing to six points from 14 matches.

The Celtics will remain in 17th place on goal difference after losing for the 11th time in 14 matches.



Winston Reid, left, is the Lead Curator for the Barbados Cricket Association. (CWI Media)

Curators and grounds staff workshop reap benefits ahead of T20 World Cup

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (CWI) – The men and women who will be responsible for the preparations of the pitches and fields for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 are now well equipped with the tool of the trade.

Following a two-week series of workshops, the ground staff across the region went through theory and practical sessions geared towards education and re-education on the rudiment of their crucial roles.

Over 100 participants completed the workshop series which included both indoor educational sessions and outdoor practical events. The events were led by senior officials of Cricket West Indies (CWI).

Winston Reid is the Lead Curator for the Barbados Cricket Association (BCA). He is based at Kensington Oval in Barbados, the venue for the final to be played on Saturday June 29.

Reid had a hugely successful

cricket career when he played over 100 matches at the regional level for Barbados. He joined the staff at the historic venue in 2005, ahead of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2007.

“This was a very good initiative by the ICC (International Cricket Council), CWI (Cricket West Indies) and the BCA (Barbados Cricket Association). This is something that should be encouraged, and I know the staff here benefited tremendously.

“It was a wonderful eye-opener, an education in many ways it was enlightening and interactive ... and the responses I got from the others who participated, said to me it was clear they too benefitted in a meaningful way,” Reid said.

“The reason behind the workshop was to improve in every way we can and to do better at our jobs. We are gearing up towards the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which will be the biggest

event we have ever hosted. We will be staging the final here, at this magnificent venue, so we want to make sure everyone is fully equipped.”

Reid added, “Not only for Kensington, but for curatorship at all the other venues around the island and the region. We want to see better pitches and fields and playing conditions for our players to show their skills and also to entertain the fans in the stands. So, this was a very timely workshop series which augurs well for the game in the West Indies going forward.”

Roland Holder, CWI Manager of Cricket Operations and Head of Cricket for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, outlined the reasons behind the series of workshops.

He said the series was crafted by CWI and designed to upskill existing curators across the region by exposing them to international best practices for

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Wins for Da Project and Court Martial in ABBA's Second Division

Da Project and Lava Smoke Shop Lower Ottos Warriors recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Wednesday night.

Da Project recorded their fourth win in five encounters with a 55-49 victory against Court Martials in the second game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Bryan Matthew sank 26 points and claimed five rebounds; Nyique Watkins converted nine points and grabbed 10 rebounds; and Tyler Jacobs scored nine points for Da Project.

Baldwin Anthony produced 19 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, and Regillio Cisse scored 12 points and claimed five rebounds for the Court Martials.

The Lower Ottos Warriors claimed their fourth win in six games with a 57-49 victory against Cecil Charles Cristos United in the first game.

Abdul Khan converted 15 points and claimed 18 rebounds; Ariel Quallis produced 14 points, 15 rebounds, and seven assists; Kwame Huntley had 10 points and six rebounds; and Ernesto Celero chipped in with 10 points for the Lower Ottos Warriors.

Dwayne Samuel converted 16 points and snatched 19 rebounds, and Mikhail Gomes produced 14 points, eight steals, and six rebounds for Cecil Charles Cristos United, who suffered their fifth loss in six games.

Meanwhile, the ABBA leagues will take a break from March 29 to April



6 to facilitate the CPTSA Wings Sports Club's hosting of its 18th annual Gillian Brazier Women's Basketball Tournament at the JSC Sports Complex from

April 1 to 6.

Games in the ABABA leagues will resume at the JSC Sports Complex on April 7.

The ABBA executive is also issuing a reminder to all teams with outstanding financial balances with the national association to make those payments.

According to a media release from ABBA, any team failing to fulfill its financial obligations with the national association will forfeit their games in the league until it settles all outstanding balances.

ABBA is also notifying teams that after March 31, no transfers of players or additions to rosters will be permitted.

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pitch preparation and applicable maintenance, while simultaneously expanding the cadre of curators by identifying new talent with the appropriate combination of theoretical knowledge and practical exposure, to lend further expertise to match venues to deliver a world-class event in June.

A CWI Curators Manual was also produced in the lead up to the workshop and will be disseminated to the curators.

Six countries in the West Indies will host matches in the ninth edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup which will be played from June 1 to 29.

The West Indies, which hosted the event in 2010, will hold matches at Sir

Vivian Richards Stadium, Antigua; Kensington Oval, Barbados; Guyana National Stadium, Guyana; Daren Sammy Cricket Ground, Saint Lucia; Arnos Vale, St Vincent and Brian Lara Cricket Academy, Trinidad.

The event will be the largest in the tournament's history with 20 international teams playing 55 matches across nine locations.

It is the first time USA will host matches at a T20 World Cup, with 16 first-round matches split between Nassau County International Cricket Stadium (New York), Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium (Dallas), and Broward County Stadium (Lauderhill).

Four Canadian teams for Gillian Brazier Basketball Shoot-out

Four teams from Canada will be participating in the 18th Gillian Brazier Basketball Shoot-out, which will take place at the start of next month.

After three Canadian teams, which represented Juel of Ontario, participated in last year's five-team tournament, the four teams from Canada will join two teams from Antigua and Barbuda in the 2024 Gillian Brazier Basketball Shoot-Out at the JSC Sports Complex from April 1 to 6.

Maple Mauraders, Ravens, Canucks, and Stingers of Canada will battle hosts CPTSA Wings and Cyclones of Antigua and Barbuda for supremacy in the six-team round-robin women basketball competition.

The six teams have been divided into two zones. Maple Mauraders, Canucks, and CPTSA Wings will battle in Group A, while Ravens, Stingers, and Cyclones will compete in Group B.

The event will commence with an opening ceremony at the JSC Sports



Players of Juel 1 of Canada are all smiles after capturing the title of the 17th Gillian Brazier Basketball Shoot-Out in 2023. (File photo)

Complex on Easter Monday at 5 pm.

The two teams from Antigua will be in action during two matches that will take place after Monday's opening ceremony.

The Cyclones will face the Ravens in the tournament's opening game at 6 pm, and the CPTSA Wings will meet the Canucks in the second encounter at 7:45 pm.

The top two teams in each zone will advance to the semi-finals, which will take place on April 4 and 5. The two semi-final winners will clash in the championship final on April 6.

Juel 1 of Canada captured the 17th Gillian Brazier Basketball Shoot-Out.

They won the female competition by snatching a one-point win against fellow Canadians Juel 2 in a

nail-biting final at the JSC Sports Complex on Good Friday last year.

The tournament, which is organized and hosted by the CPTSA Wings Sports Club, is held in honour of former national player Gillian Brazier, who died several years ago after succumbing to multiple sclerosis, which is a chronic disease of the central nervous system.