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Messenger



The Official News Bulletin, Church of God of Prophecy TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

December 2016



FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL OVERSEER

Vs. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

Vs. 11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:10-11

It was God who first offered His gift. John captures this truth in the ever popular “golden text” of the Bible: For God so loved that He gave His only begotten son... John 3:16

The wise men were, in fact, reciprocating by presenting their gifts to the Christ child. We, too, as wise people of God who have given our lives to the Lord ought to lovingly give of our resources to those in need. Resources can be tangible

or intangible. Giving is an expression of love. It has been said that there is giving without loving, but there is no loving without giving.

We must respond to receiving gifts with a sincere show of gratitude, and we are all beneficiaries of God’s gifts. He requires that we demonstrate our love and gratitude to Him by sharing our gifts with others. Our brethren in Haiti desperately need our gifts this Christmas Season and going forward.

I am pleased to use this medium to send Christmas and New Year’s

greetings to the following leaders and their families: General Overseer, Bishop Sam Clements, General Presbyter Clayton Martin and other General Presbyters, my fellow Caribbean Overseers and all International Presbyters, International Office staff, pastors, ministers, and national workers. We extend special greetings and thanks to our valued Harvest Partners, members and friends. May the joys of Christmas fill your hearts and homes. My wife, Maureena and our sons: Marlon, Mark and Marvin join me in sharing these sentiments.

COGOP MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER

The National Administrative Committee, at its meeting in November, 2016 took a decision to rename the National Parsonage. The new name is COGOP Multi-Purpose Centre reflecting the range of activities for which is being re-designed. Though the work is still in progress, the facility has been used to hold meetings of the Administrative Committee, Evangelism Team, Prayer Co-coordinator & Team, and

Ministerial Review Board. On May 24, Bishop Clayton Martin - General Presbyter addressed a full house of pastors, ministers, and national workers at the Centre.

This property was purchased by COGOP 40 years ago during the tenure of Bishop Ewing Dorsett as National Overseer of Trinidad & Tobago. In addition to Bishop Dorsett, this place was home to his successor Bishop Stanley

Knights, and to the incumbent. A number of visiting bishops and evangelists have also been hosted at the parsonage during its interesting history.

It is noteworthy that attempts made to sell the property were unsuccessful, indicative of God’s will that it be retained by the Church of God of Prophecy for a purpose. Let us make it a thing of beauty, a hub of activity – a user-friendly facility for the members of

the various ministries. Words would fail to express gratitude to the contributors responsible for the progress thus far; but the project is far from completion. Much more help is needed.

The next event at the newly renamed COGOP Multi-Purpose Centre is the Christmas Dinner for pastors, ministers, and national workers along with spouses.

CORE VALUES: PRAYER, THE HARVEST, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND STEWARDSHIP

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NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

“Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!” ESV Luke 1:28.

As we approach yet another Christmas season amidst the excitement of Christmas shopping and gift giving, the unchanging message of the birth of Jesus Christ still brings hope and the blessed assurance of eternal salvation to millions of people around the world.

As I reflect on 2016

thus far, I must give thanks to Almighty God, who has enabled us to accomplish many of the goals set both at the District and local levels. Many of our local churches within the District have seen some measure of growth and for this I commend and encourage you to keep working the works of Him that called you. To God be all the glory!

Let me take this time to extend best wishes from the

Office of COGOP North/Central District to you and your loved-ones; to all our Pastors and their families; to the leadership and members of True Worshipers Assembly, La Horquetta. I pray that it be a happy, holy and safe Christmas and may you enjoy the ultimate gift that God has given unto man, in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

I am thanking Almighty God for His wondrous

works and for your ardent support this year and I look forward to your continued support in the upcoming year. I declare a new year filled with growth and success in all facets of your life. Have a Christ-Centred Christmas and a purpose driven New Year!

Overseer Bishop
Elvis Williams.

MEN'S MINISTRY

We, the Directors of the National Men's Ministry, take this special moment to bring a heartfelt greetings to all our men in Trinidad and Tobago.

As we quickly approach the sunset of 2016, let us reflect briefly on precious moments with our brothers:

We prayed all night together, we worked together at our Parsonage. We washed each other's feet and we shared

Christ specifically to the men in the hospitals. Over two days, we gathered together not for a retreat, instead, we gathered together to advance and be transformed by our renewed minds.

In what can only be described as a fruitful year for the National Men's Ministry, we thank God for His hand upon the Men's Ministry and for the willing men who work with us.

Finally, we echo the words of Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Season's greetings.
Ministers Randall Rodney
and Hemraj Sirju

SOUTH DISTRICT

Greetings to all in the name of Jesus the Christ Child. We are reminded of the Angel's word to Joseph and Mary, as recorded in Matthew 1:21 “Thou shall call His Name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins”.

With all that is taking place in our world today; same sex marriage, persecution of Christians, increased hardship, joblessness we see a troubling

shift in the moral, spiritual, political, social and economic landscape of the nations of the world. It would seem that the world is crying out for help for problems that bigger than any Government, group or individual can handle.

The obvious question in the face of this global crisis is, “Is there any hope?”

God gave hope to all men in every nation, over two

thousand years ago when Jesus, the word made flesh, was born of the Virgin Mary. The Angels said, “I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people”.

When Jesus came into this world, He invited all to come unto Him. He is the only hope for this troubled and hopeless world. He wants to change every one of us from the inside out if we would only

open our hearts and let Him in as our Saviour and Lord. He was born that we might be born again.

A blessed Christmas to all the families in the body of Christ and a year of increase in 2017.

South District Overseer,
Bishop Kelvin Ramkissoon

WOMENS MINISTRY

“Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” Luke 2:12

As Christmas approaches we are glad that our Lord is no longer in a manger but reigns in the hearts of all men who would just let him. I take this opportunity to wish all our women and our entire church family a wonderful Christmas and a Christ-filled new year.

Sister Ouida McMillan, President,
National Women's Ministry

PRO (PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER)

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Among all the wonderful words that so describe our Lord and Savior, let us be grateful that he is our “Prince of Peace”. A peace that money cannot purchase... A peace that is not experienced only during the upcoming

festive season, but for those who are in Christ, a peace that is all year through.

Warm holiday greetings and a bright and prosperous 2017 to the entire COGOP family. Looking forward to more meaningful communication for the New Year!

Elder Joy Sampson, Public Relations Officer and the Corporate Communications team.

STRATEGIC REVIEW & TRAINING 2016

Pastors, licensed ministers and lay ministers of the Church of God of Prophecy, Trinidad and Tobago attended the annual Strategic Review hosted at the Redemption Worship Centre on November 26, 2016. The session intended to facilitate a collaborative planning process featured corporate prayer and worship as well as a keynote address by incumbent National Overseer, Bishop Maurice Jones who offered a brief history of the COGOP movement in Trinidad and Tobago including its genesis in 1954, incorporation in 1959 and his appointment to the helm of the national body in 1998. Bishop Jones shared the impression placed on his heart by the Lord that “now is the time for the church to act as the King’s business required haste.” He further challenged his leaders present to think of ways to implement the COGOP core values **prayer, harvest, leadership development and stewardship** at their local churches with a strong encouragement to prioritize prayer.

The strategic review session featured a great line up of dynamic facilitators who stimulated the minds of all who attended. Bishop Dr Richard Jeremiah, Senior Pastor of Christian Fellowship Ministries, COGOP of the North/Central district shared powerful thoughts on leadership development and its link to discipleship. He highlighted the well touted principle that everything rises and falls on leadership and reiterated that much of the work we have to address is within the church.

Another facilitator was Dr Margaret Burgess, an Attorney-at-law who addressed the role of the church in “Child Protection”. She shared with the leaders present that the church is never above the law and highlighted the importance of churches having protocols to protect its members. Dr Burgess spoke on the Children’s Authority which commissioned in May 2015 in Trinidad and Tobago with responsibility for the care and protection of

children from abuse and urged the Church to be aware of the cases coming forth as many may be found within our churches. She further reiterated that all cases of abuse to children ought to be reported immediately to the necessary authority and failure in doing so would result in legal ramifications.

Present were Mrs. Narissa Bhagoutie and Ms. Rochelle Gabriel representatives of CUNA Caribbean Insurance of which COGOP is a policy holder. They presented on the special Family Indemnity Plan highlighting its benefits and the enrolment process, it was well received.

District Overseers and other leaders were given the opportunity to report on all present and upcoming work taking place within their purview. It was a day well spent as the COGOP leaders were challenged to think strategically in moving forward toward fulfilling the great commission of making disciples of Christ.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

As we come to the end of another year I thank God for the work he has done and continues to do in the lives of our children. It is my hope that our children be inspired to live holy lives and to stand up for righteousness. May God’s love, joy and peace saturate your hearts and minds during this Christmas season and may His blessings be poured out to all families in 2017. Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a purpose filled New Year!

Cherise Rodney-Osborne
National Children’s Ministry Director

NEW COGOP ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



COGOP TT gets much needed Administrative Support

We extend a warm welcome to Minister Kimline Clement who is now the Administrative Assistant to the National Overseer. Effective September 2016, Kimline added this responsibility to her burgeoning full-time ministry portfolio while she continues to make an excellent impact as co-Director of the COGOP National Youth Ministry with her husband Pastor Adrian Clement.

Kimline is no stranger to this type of Administrative function having worked with Youth for Christ as an Administrator and Project Coordi-

nator in the past. She has considerably scaled back her work with Youth for Christ as her responsibilities with COGOP increase but continues to work with the organisation (YFC) on special projects.

Commenting on her new portfolio Kimline said “the position is very necessary; the administrative support will help us manage the Lord’s business better. My plate is full, but I prayerfully considered the matter and was happy to answer the Lord’s call to contribute more to the advancement of the Kingdom by supporting the amazing work that He is doing through the Church of God of Prophecy.”

Kimline also manages an NGO called Excel Mentorship and Success Coaching, an organization she also co-founded with husband Adrian.

We are very grateful to have Kimline join the team at the COGOP TT National Office. Welcome and hats off to this willing, dedicated and capable servant of the Lord.

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NYMTT (NATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRIES TT)

“God is faithful...” these words aptly echo the resounding retort to the amazing provision of God throughout the ministry exploits of the NYMTT in 2016.

This year was one of pressing forward, in spite of the many setbacks and challenges, through it all, God’s glorious purposes prevailed in the end. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the Pastors and District Overseers that support and toil with us as we strive to build and invest in the present and future young leaders of the COGOP.

We desire and anticipate, that in

2017 and beyond, there will be an outpouring and an uprising of the Holy Spirit’s power upon every child and young person to seeing them launching forth in power and purpose to make spiritual, secular, academic and societal impact for His glory.

The Youth National Day of Prayer, National Camp Summit (NCS), National Youth Leadership Retreat, National Director’s Youth Ministry Tour, and now, FYA Movement and College and Career Ministries Network (CCMN), has at some level, sowed a seed to help some

youth leader, youth group or young person discover God’s divine plan and potential in 2016. Therefore, we kindly encourage you, to give back generously and lend support to these ministries in 2017.

On behalf of all our faithful and vibrant youth leaders and youth of the NYMTT, we wish you and your family a glorious Christmas and a purpose-driven 2017, God Bless.

Pastor Adrian and Kimline Clement - National Co-Youth Directors, COGOP NYMTT.

NATIONAL PRAYER COORDINATOR

As we approach the close of 2016, I gladly send Christmas and New Year greetings to the Church of God of Prophecy family. God’s peace and blessings to National Overseer Bishop Maurice Jones and his family, the District Overseers, Bishops, Pastors, Ministers, National Workers, Intercessors and all members of the Church of God of Prophecy.

The past year brought God’s rich and awesome presence through wonderful times of prayer and fellowship. Our aim to have increased prayer at all levels was accomplished through

our local, district and national gatherings in the North – Central, South and Tobago Districts. Thanks to all who made these sessions possible and a special thanks to the Tobago District for an absolutely wonderful prayer experience.

I look to 2017 inviting God to have His way in each individual, each church and each district as He orders, He guides and He directs the prayer of Church of God of Prophecy.

Minister Carol Gray, National Prayer Coordinator

C.O.G.O.P. HIGHLIGHTS 2016

Undoubtedly, the 99th International Assembly held in Orlando, Florida was the major highlight for COGOP, in 2016. General Overseer - Sam Clements, the General Presbyters, Assembly Task Force and all workers must be commended for planning and executing an event of such magnitude. It was a rich and refreshing experience. We congratulate Bishop Tim McCaleb, the new General Presbyter for the vast area of Asia and Oceania. Let us continue in prayer for him and his area which includes the two most populous nations on the planet – India and China.

At the 2016 Assembly, Trinidad and Tobago had its largest delegation to date and our national instrument the Steel Pan was expertly featured when played by our own Pastor Kelvin Corbett twice during the event including in the prestigious position just before General Overseer’s address.

See these important happenings anticipated for the 2017:

JANUARY

- We begin the New Year with prayer. The session of seeking takes place from 1st to 21st January
- Caribbean Leadership Conference in the beautiful Cayman Islands – 25th to 28th January. The theme is “Seek the peace of the City”.

FEBRUARY

- February is Stewardship month. At the last Assembly, ‘stewardship’ was officially adopted as the fourth core value for the international body. Material on the subject is available online and from the Trinidad and Tobago’s national office. Pastors are urged to preach and teach biblical stewardship.

MARCH

- In March, we must accelerate our soul-winning efforts. The National Evangelism Team is expected to be fully functional by that time.

JUNE

- In June, we will receive a large mission team led by Bishop Winston and Pastor Christian of the West Side Worship Center, COGOP, New Jersey. These harvest partners are excited about coming to Trinidad and Tobago and plan to work in both islands. We plan to maximize this mission.

JULY

- July is National Convention month from the event will take place 27th to 30th July.
- Graduation for the students of Hagion Ethnos Institute COGOP extension sites is carded for 29th July.

AUGUST

- The annual National Camp Summit will be hosted by the National Youth Arm of COGOP Trinidad and Tobago from 6th to 12th August.