

# **President's Report: AGM - 2023**

## **CHURCH TEACHERS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INC Overview:**

This is the twelfth CTCAAI AGM subsequent to the official launch in 2011.

We are governed by a constitution from which our By-Laws derive its operational structures.

CTCAAI is structured to have a Board of Directors (all volunteers) which consists of seven officers and other ex officio members. This team manages the daily affairs of the organization. Additionally, the president of each chapter is automatically a board member. Each paid-up member in the Association, in good standing, may run for open position on the board during the AGM and may nominate and vote for others.

Our organization, Church Teachers College Alumni Association Inc. (CTCAAI) seeks to promote a cohesive and cordial connection among Past Students of Church Teachers' College. As a Not-for-Profit Organization, we aspire to provide opportunities for students to pursue their dreams in becoming graduates of this noble institution. We strive to exercise and establish a tradition of benevolence and goodwill with integrity.

Benevolence, in making a difference in the lives of many including current students. This focus has become one of our perennial goals and is enshrined in our motto – Return-To-Reciprocate (R2R).

Goodwill, as our organization will continue to provide avenues for past students to relive, if not reclaim, the nostalgia and excitement of friendship and camaraderie that lives on forever. While our numbers continue to grow, we continue to benefit from each one telling another, thus increasing the number of past students who are becoming aware of the organization. This is evident in the last few months as we watch our numbers grow on social media as stated in our Vice President's Report.

### **Scholarships:**

CTCAAI continues to encourage Benevolence in the form of Financial Support for scholarships, Awards, Bursary, etc. There is no limit to how much you can donate; and we will work with you to codify your preference regarding how your gift should be distributed or disbursed. We are extremely grateful and appreciative to our past students who have donated funds to the organization for scholarships over the years. We wish to express our gratitude to two current donors, Marilyn Barnett and B. Roy Davidson.

Ms. Barnett is the Benefactor of Kerr Jarret Gift of Hope (KJGH) Scholarship. The scholarship is intended for a student of Early Childhood Education and preferable living on KJGH.

Dr. Davidson is the Benefactor, in conjunction with NAJASO, of the Muschett Humanities Award (MHA). The scholarship honors the life and wishes of the late Carol Muschett and her Family. The MHA Scholarship is made possible by book sales from the book written by Carol. The name of the book, "NAJASO a Catalyst for Change" is available for purchase. If you need additional information, please contact us at the email address, [ctcaai1965@gmail.com](mailto:ctcaai1965@gmail.com).

Previous Benefactors include, Ms. Hettie Powell (The Hettie Powell Scholarship) and Ms. Hope Grant (The Mary Stewart Bright Futures Scholarship (MSBF), so named after the wife of the founding principal, Godfrey Stewart. This was a targeted scholarship being awarded to a specific student.

CTCAAI has also given monetary awards and bursaries to help numerous students with some of their financial obligations. We are elated to resume our gifting after a pause due to the challenging years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to the STAR Committee that has been diligent over the years; and for the continued dedication and professionalism that guide their deliberation in making this process equitable and transparent. Special thanks to Marilyn Barnett (manager) and Liz Smith (document design and development) for their leadership and commitment. Other members include Ale Wilson, Marcia Linton, Errol Tomlinson, Aggett Crosbie and myself.

**We encourage many others to give back with whatever is comfortable, including cash and kind. R2R is our motto.** We pride ourselves on integrity and accountability.

### **Fundraising:**

This year, 2023, we resumed our annual CTC Alumni South Florida Family Picnic. Despite the hiatus lasting over three years, the support was tremendous. We could not have been so successful without the Planning Team, donations of your time, food and money; sales of tickets to alums, friends and families; and the volunteerism of so many alums. Special thanks to those who adorned themselves in aprons and held the serving line; the drinks line and other supporting activities for hours. Despite the heat and threat of inclement weather you were not intimidated. We encourage all alums attending this event in the future to be joyfully ready in giving a helping hand.

Our targeted amount of US\$2000.00 was surpassed by over US\$500.00. A BIG THANKS TO ALL.

We continue to encourage our members to participate in fundraising activities including payment of membership dues (**US\$20.00 & JAM\$1000 annually, depending on your geographic location**). Our board members serve on a voluntary basis. However, there are administrative costs associated with running the corporation. Costs include annual corporate State registration fees, location rentals to host meetings and events, communications, mailing, Website hosting related fees, etc.. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all our members who have been supporting this venture.

Thanks to everyone who continues to support our annual events even from a distance.

### **Membership:**

We continue to look for alums in different locations to start up new chapters. Please speak with any member of the board if you are interested in launching a chapter.

We have seen and welcomed the organic growth continuing on social media. Our Membership Director, Ale Wilson, Treasurer, Collington (Barry) Farquharson and many others have been involved with the expansion of our membership and dues. We encourage the continued outreach to your Batchmates and others to join in and make this experience a true reflection of a Churchite.

**New Website:**

Our website (<https://ctcalumniinc.org>) is up and running and available for membership usage. We are evaluating the rising costs for hosting the site and have begun looking at ways to reduce the cost. If we have anyone within the Alumni that is proficient with WordPress (using Elementor) please report yourself immediately for duty. As we continue to add content and adjust the page navigation, we ask that members use the 'Contact Us' page and send us your comments. The new addition to the site is the 'In Memoriam' tab under the 'Members' page. We would like to honor the 'fallen' among us while informing our readers about those whom have gone ahead of us. If you are aware of staff or students who passed and there are no objections from families to mention their passing on our site, please let us know or contact us at the 'Contact Us' page or email address [ctcaai1965@gmail.com](mailto:ctcaai1965@gmail.com).

**Challenges:**

Without challenges we will not be able to grow. Challenges advise us there are much more to be done. We know that we are still at the incubation period (new kids on the block – so to speak) when compared to numerous well-established tertiary and high school institutions. We, however, can learn from our growth pains, and can adopt the successful paths others endured. It is still our optimal plan to expand our foothold by building more chapters to reach and share the vision of the Association; continue to urge past students to invest in ownership of the organization; develop business relationship with specific businesses, especially those that are owned and/or run by past students. We would like to see a better relationship with the College. One that fosters better communication and partnership.

We invite and welcome alums with varying skill sets that can advance our goals.

**Events:**

CTCAAI wants to continue the development of a culture of expectations. The avenues to realize some of these expectations are contingent upon successful events that provide great interactions; a platform to reminisce and re-live the nostalgic days on/off campus; a revival of friendship; finding roommates that have not been seen or commiserate with since departure from CTC.

Let us identify ourselves with these events including the Black & White and Evening of Excellence on campus when available. Another is the June picnic and Christmas dinner in South Florida. We also learned of the group that meets in New York annually for Christmas dinner; and Batch 9 annual get together. We also hear of other Batches forging renewed relationships. Let us support these events and make them memorable. Let us project this interest with the ultimate goal to make the Alumni Organization stronger and working to advance our Alma Mater.

## Summary:

God has been gracious to many. We live by His mercies. Together, we can climb mountains and discover the depths of the oceans.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support in helping to make this experiment a success. We encourage and invite everyone to become active in what we are doing for our Alma Mater. We will not claim to have the panacea for all the solutions. It is critical that our disposition in serving the organization will be guided by integrity, transparency and accountability.

We like the message embodied in our motto: **R2R (Return to Reciprocate)**. We unite in our empathy and prayers to the families and friends of those who have been taken away from us; many too soon.

We also share in the triumph and successes, and offer our elated congratulations to those who continue to reach higher heights. We applaud and pray for those who venture out to become entrepreneurs.

I like to repeat this idea every year. We can set a goal of JAM\$10M dollars dedicated to education at CTC. Just imagine what it can do.

Students and prospects would have an immediate funding source. If one hundred people **invested** \$10K, we will have approximately JAM\$1.0M. If one thousand people invested \$10K, we could have JAM\$10.0M. Carefully managed, this could be a great investment that provides resources and earnings.

Let us think about it! Let us do it!