

## STAR Committee Report 2023 AGM

It is another year again and reason and time for another AGM of our esteemed Alumni Association.

Firstly, we all have a lot to be thankful for as we made it through the COVID-19 pandemic a situation that none of us thought we would ever live to see in our lifetime. It affected us in every facet of our lives but in the midst of it all and for no reason except His love and grace God brought us through to see another year, another AGM, another Alumni picnic. My personal thank you to our Batchmates and friends in Florida who in fine CTC fashion engineered and pulled off a successful picnic on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I had the privilege to attend and I observed the CTC spirit in full style. We must be thankful to them and I for one am very proud to be affiliated with them. Thanks for the people you were able to rope in-family, friends, supporters.

Those who were not able to make it, we thought of you, we love you and we know your spirit was there, so you were not marked absent. Thanks Pam, Michael, ET, Barry, Ale, Eulalee and Hepburn to name a few. Just an aside, Barry, you still owe me some mangoes, mih nuh get none!!

What does the picnic have to do with a STAR Committee Report? The picnic is the fundraising arm of the CTCAAi and the STAR Committee benefits in that funds are raised to assist us in providing grants, scholarships and awards to assist students at CTC who have financial needs and apply for this assistance. The funds are disbursed according to the needs. As we all know sometimes all someone needs is a push start or a "jump" depending on where that one is in his or her journey towards "better".

The STAR Committee, to a large extent relies on the picnic funds, but I must also add that there are scholarships that are available through individual donations and are named according to the donor's wishes and the Committee's sanctioning. Yes, we do those 'business end' planning, which keeps us 'upfront', legal and professional about what we do. Then there is integrity and honesty in our dealing for the alumni. After all, a true Churchite would not have it any other way. Thank you, Liz Smith for your work in this area.

We have the KTLA – Ken Thaxter Leadership Scholarship, The Mathematics award, KJGH Scholarship to name a few and more recently the Muschett Humanities Award. The Muschett award at this time will be for \$500 given per year for four years. Each award has a story or explanation behind it, some so simple, but all, so important. That is part of the CTC DNA that we are simple but powerful in our giving to be of help in the world family. Father Bishop Murray would be proud of our endeavors.

The Muschett award is the latest to be added to our list of giveaways. So this past year we were also able to give the KJGH Scholarship and the Muschett Scholarship. Most of our awards are at or about \$500 per year. I would like to go out on a limb and ask that each of us consider giving to the STAR Committee to help the coffers grow. If all you can afford is the widow's mite then that is acceptable- think how many were in the very first batch of students to attend CTC, think how many have walked through its esteemed halls since then and finally, think how many have registered this year. See, likkle, likkle, nuff, nuff!

Now let me invite you to attend the picnic next year, God willing, especially if you live in Florida, Georgia or other nearby states 'jus come show yuh face man' bring someone with you, old foot, young foot' but

most importantly come, I promise you even for a day you will feel the CTC spirit and you will get to lively up yuh self. You will remember just the way we were (at college). That just happened to me!

Finally, on behalf of the STAR Committee I thank everyone for their support and I invite you to invite others to be apart of the Alumni Association. We are important, you are very important and we are so blessed to be a part of the CTC family and the association. Let us keep each other in prayer that by being blessed we can bless the less fortunate just starting out. Let's remember to pray for health and healing for each other, that their needs may be met for His glory and that God in all His wondrous glory and with mercy will have mercy on them and grant their requests as we go in peace, to love and serve Him.

Blessings ALL. Stay well.

Marilyn Barnett

Chairperson,

STAR Committee

Church Teachers' College Alumni Association.