

President's Report – 2024 AGM

Association's Overview:

'Success is short lived; failure is complicated' – anonymous

CTC Alumni Association Inc (CTCAAI) continues to make a difference in the lives of many including current and past students. We operate as a Not-for-Profit Organization. Aspiring to provide opportunities for students to realize their dreams in becoming a graduate of CTC, is one of our perennial goals. Of equal importance, is to provide an avenue for past students of our Alma Mater to rekindle the nostalgic spirit, once experienced on campus. We have been growing in numbers. An increasing number of past students are learning about the organization. It is my expectation that, over time, the majority of members will become active participants, owning their membership in the organization as Paid-up Members.

Scholarships:

CTCAAI is exceptionally delighted and honored in giving over Fourteen Grants and Nine Scholarships in an amount totaling just over US\$6000.00.

CTCAAI continues to attract and solicit Benevolence in the form of Financial Support for scholarships, Awards, Bursary, etc.. We are extremely grateful and appreciative to our past students who have donated funds to the organization for scholarships. We wish to express our gratitude to several current and repeating donors: Marilyn Barnett, Hope Grant, John Lawrence, Hettie Powell, Mary Guy, Liz Smith, B. Roy Davidson, and Errol Tomlinson.

Ms. Barnett is the Benefactor of Kerr Jarret Gift of Hope (KJGH) Scholarship. We are excited about this 'Gifting' and recognize that this is a sacrifice made out of love to her Alma Mater and a deserving student who will certainly accept it with the true spirit of paying forward. The scholarship is intended for a student of Early Childhood Education and living on K.J. Hall.

Ms. Grant is the Benefactor of The Mary Stewart Bright Futures Scholarship (MSBF). We are elated that Hope was so kind in bearing this gift of love that will benefit a deserving student and her Alma Mater. The beneficiary has to be a past student of Godfrey Stewart High School who will study at CTC.

MS. Powell is the benefactor of the Hettie Powell Sports Award (estab. January 2016, doubled in 2023). Hettie was inspired by the mother of a young basketball player requiring financial assistance to attend College. One Award is intended to support current or prospective students who demonstrate sports talent and wish to pursue a teacher training diploma /degree at Church Teachers' College, Mandeville, Jamaica. The second award is supporting a student from Hanover who is in financial needs.

Ms. Liz Smith - Ken Thaxter Leadership Award (established March 2015 by CTCAAI and adopted and funded by Liz as of 2023); to recognize and support a third year CTC student who has demonstrated strong leadership skills during his /her first two years at the College. It is anticipated that the recipient will continue this behavior in perpetuity. The Award was so named after the Reverend Dr. Kenneth Thaxter who served Church Teachers' College (CTC) as principal and lecturer for more than thirty-one years.

Ms. Mary Guy - Trisha Guy Award (estab. October 2023) donated by Mary Guy to support a current or prospective CTC student who has demonstrated a unique financial need that may continue throughout the College life. The Award was so named after Mary's daughter, Trisha, who went on to higher service in 2023.

Mr. John Lawrence - JSKL Scholarship for Mathematics/Science (estab. January 2024) donated by John Lawrence to support the interest and development of Mathematics and Science students. The initials represent John's named and those of his two daughters, one who pursued Mathematics /Statistics to eventually become an Actuary.

Dr. B. Roy Davidson - The Carol, Clinton, Kathleen Muschett Humanities Award (MHA) is so named after members of the Muschett family inspired by daughter Carol. Caretaker and proposer of the Award is B. Roy Davidson, past student of Church Teachers' College (CTC) and member of the Church Teachers' College Alumni Association Inc. (CTCAAi).

Mr. Errol Tomlinson - Errol Tomlinson Special Award identifies a unique financial need of an extraordinary talented student who could have been denied the opportunity to become a teacher.

CTCAAi is acutely aware of the myriads of financial challenges on campus. We have no doubt that many potentially excellent prospects may have been discouraged from applying to CTC and other tertiary institutions due to the inherited hardships and mountainous cost of post high school education. Thanks to everyone, on and off campus, who help to identify the critical needs.

Thanks to the STAR Committee for the dedication and professionalism being exercised in their deliberations in making this process equitable. Special thanks to Marilyn Barnett (manager) and Liz Smith (document design and development) for their leadership and commitment.

We encourage many others to give back with whatever is comfortable, including cash and kind. You may send an email to Marilyn Barnett at marilynbarne@yahoo.com, or to ctcaai1965@gmail.com.

Fundraising:

We continue to encourage our members to participate in fundraising activities including payment of membership dues. Our board members serve on a voluntary basis. However, there are administrative costs associated with running the Alumni Association. Costs include annual registration fees, communications, mailing, bank fees, Website hosting related fees, just to name a few.

We appreciate all our members who have been supporting this endeavor. I would like to express special thanks to everyone who have continued to work diligently on annual fundraising in South Florida and Jamaica. Thanks to everyone who continues to support our annual events even from a distance.

Membership:

Membership is at the pinnacle of our existence. I know this is addressed by our membership director, Ale Wilson, who has been doing a very good job monitoring the space. Suffice to say that we continue to enjoy enormous interest among past students as we can see a steady growth in the numbers requesting addition to our Facebook site. Today we are over seventeen hundred Alums on our FB platform.

New Website:

Our new Website (www.ctcalumniinc.org) is published and ready for usage by all. The new site was recently reconstructed and include information about the 2024 AGM. As we continue to expand, add content and adjust the navigation, we implore members to use the '**Contact Us**' page and send us your comments. A 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. We are all accustomed to Sunday papers back home and one of the most read sections is learning about others who have passed. We are trying to uniquely replicate this service for our Alums. If you are aware of staff or students who passed and there is no objections by families to mention their passing on our site, please let us know or contact us at the 'Contact Us' page.

Challenges:

What Would You Like To See Your Alma Mater Become?

How Can You Contribute To The Success Of Your Vision?

We recognize and acknowledge that every new idea or effort will only be made better when the challenges are accosted with focus. Our Association is no exception to that philosophy. Despite our infancy, expanding 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, are some of our main challenges. We invite and welcome those among us with varying skill sets that can advance our goals.

Events:

CTCAAi wants to develop a culture of expectations. Among these expectations are successful events that provide great interactions; a platform to reminisce and relive the nostalgic days on/off campus; a revival of friendships; sharing old and new pictures of self and family.

One of such events is the Black & White and Evening of Excellence on campus. 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; another group that meets in Mandeville annually. While some of these events have Batch restrictions, we want to get to the space where we have a global body, open to every past student. CTCAAi offers the structure and vision for such collaboration.

Let us support these events and make them memorable.

CTC60 Celebration is fast approaching and all Churchites should be planning to revisit campus, especially if you have not been back for several years or decades. The Alumni Association plans to be on campus next July during for our reunion activities. We want to see all Batches represented in large numbers. We will provide updates on our site as information becomes available. The reunion dates will be confirmed soon after our 2024 AGM.

Summary:

According to the Good Book, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'.

I like to quote the great, Mayo Angelo. There is no doubt she must have been familiar with the Bible when she declares:

'I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver'.

We have encapsulated this philanthropic purpose in our motto: **R2R (Return to Reciprocate)**. We understand our demographics and we also know that God has been good to most, if not all. There are no mountains out of our reach if, together, we climb with purpose.

Let me use this opportunity to acknowledge the passing of so many who were among us; students, past students, faculty and auxiliary. Our prayers of comfort and strength for the bereaved families can be augmented with the incredible support from others.

Thanks to everyone for reading, listening, attending, or helping in making this a success. Those who could not participate we encourage you to become active or curious in what we are doing for our Alma Mater. We will not lay claim to having the remedy to solve all the challenges, however, we strive to learn from failures and build from successes.