

President's Report AGM - 2025

Association's Overview:

Our shared values define us more than our differences. And acknowledging those shared values can see us through our challenges today if we have the wisdom to trust in them again.

By - John McCain

We want to congratulate CTC in celebrating sixty (60) years in existence. Let us thrive to work tirelessly with new purpose, together, in seeing a meteoric rise of our Alma Mater.

With an intense focus, our organization, CTC Alumni Association Inc (CTCAAI) subscribes to that notion of benevolence, in making a difference in the lives of many, including current and past students. As a Not-for-Profit Organization, we are committed to provide opportunities for students to pursue their dreams in becoming graduates of CTC, our beloved Alma Mater. This has become one of our perennial goals. Additionally, our organization will continue to provide avenues for past students to mingle and energize ourself with the nostalgic spirit of friendship and comradery, just like the initial days on campus. As we continue to grow in numbers, an increasing number of past students become aware of the organization. We cannot give up hope, that over time, the majority of members will become active participants, owning their membership in the organization as Paid-up Members.

CTCAAI is structured to have a board of directors (all volunteers) which consists of seven officers and other ex-officio members who provide other supporting roles. 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 regardless of geographical location.

Scholarships:

We have been guided and steadfast in our mantra, R2R. Through God's blessings, we have been able to put in practice - our Mantra, Return-To-Reciprocate. This ethos defines our character; and is proudly shared among the board of directors, our STAR Committee and our Membership.

CTCAAI continues to experience the rise in Benevolence in the form of Financial Support for scholarships, Awards, Bursary, etc., as more alums become knowledgeable about the needs on Campus. We are extremely grateful and appreciative to our past students who have continued to donate, or have donated funds to the organization for the Scholarship Program. With great excitement and fervor, we wish to express our gratitude to several current and repeating donors: Marilyn Barnett, Hope Grant, John Lawrence, Hettie Powell, Mary Guy, Liz Smith, Dr. B. Roy Davidson, and Errol Tomlinson.

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

Ms. Hope 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 at her Alma Mater. The beneficiary has to be a past student of Godfrey Stewart High School who will study at CTC.

Ms. Hettie Powell is the benefactor of the Hettie Powell Sports Award (Established - 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 in 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); it recognizes and supports 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 exemplary characteristic throughout life. 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, JSKL, represent John's name and those of his two daughters, Shedonne and Kadia, one of whom 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 (ETSA) identifies a unique financial need of an extraordinary talented student who could have been denied the opportunity to become a teacher.

You can log into our website (ctcalumniinc.org) to learn more about our Scholarship Program.

CTCAAI has also given monetary Awards and Bursaries to help students with some of their financial obligations.

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

We encourage Alums and others to give back with whatever is comfortable, including cash and kind.

R2R is our motto, Return-To-Reciprocate. Please reach out to any board member or STAR Committee if you have questions.

Our email addresses are ctcaai1965@gmail.com; or ctcalumnischolarships@googlegroups.com.

Fundraising:

Our annual fund raiser in June 2025 which was held in South Florida is another success. The inclement weather was no match to the excitement of many alums and friends. Their support, and many who contributed from distance places, reinforces the humanity of helping those in need.

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 Association. Costs include Scholarships, Grants, annual registration fees, communications, mailing, Website hosting related fees, just to name a few.

Without your support it would become impossible to bring such radiant smile on the faces of our students, many of whom expressed acute financial challenges. We appreciate all our members who have been supporting this venture, and we express special thanks to the planning team for managing such a delicate task of fundraising. Thanks to everyone who continue to support our annual events even from a distance. We know you would like to join us; and we are eagerly looking forward to seeing you soon.

Membership:

Membership participation is encouraged in all aspects of the Organization. It is at the engine of our existence. Our new membership director, David Edwards, will appreciate your input and assistance in sharing the good news about the Alumni Association. While we continue to use social media and email to disseminate activities and information, we are still challenged in not seeing greater numbers at AGM. We are looking for alums in different geographical locations to start up Chapters. Please speak with any member of the board if you are interested in serving the Association in leadership role. If you have not yet done so, please search for us and join us on FB Page (Church Teachers College Alumni Association).

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 2025 AGM. As we continue to expand, add new 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 in Jamaica. 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 are no objections by families to mention their passing on our site, please let us know or contact us at the '**Contact Us**' page.

Challenges:

We continue to ask two questions:

What Would You Like To See Your Alma Mater Become?

How Can You Subscribe or Contribute To The Success Of Your Vision?

Without controversy, CTCAAi made and continues to make enormous strides since inception in 2010 and launched in 2011. The tenets of our essence can be found in our Vision and Mission Statements. (see **'About Us'** Page on our website)

It is worth repeating that we recognize and acknowledge that every new idea or effort will only be made better when the challenges are recognized and we collaborate with due diligence as a team; it's the maxim of democracy. Expanding our foothold by building more chapters to reach and share the Vision and Mission 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 will benefit everyone including our Alma Mater. Whatever Alumni Managing Structure is enacted and deployed, it must provide the incubation that fosters our visions for our Alma Mater. Churchites all over the world are blessed with skills that are providing solutions to many issues. We should be able to coalesce with synergy and make our Alma Mater the envy of the world.

Events:

CTCAAi continues to engage our membership, both home and abroad. We must develop a culture of expectations; a culture that harnesses goodwill and active participation. We want an Association that generates successful events; that provides great interactions; provides a platform to reminisce and share the nostalgic days on/off campus; a revival of friendships; the sharing of life stories and the paths of success.

Currently there are events that need our support. Events such as 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 groups that meets in New York annually for Christmas dinner; Batch 9 annual event, and quite likely others unpublished or unknown. Let us support these events and make them unforgettable.

Summary:

We like our motto: **R2R (Return to Reciprocate)**; it may be simple but powerful. I am sure many of us have learned about other individuals who are associated with other educational institutions and have provided assistance to improve, grow, advance or elevate their Alma Mater. We understand our demographics. We also know that countless many have been blessed and immensely successful. It is unimaginable what we could do if we developed the fortitude of reciprocation. I do believe there is an ocean of resources untapped.

Our sincere gratitude to everyone for attending or helping to make this experiment a success. We encourage you to become active or curious in what we are doing for our Alma Mater. We will not be so bold in claiming to have elixir to resolve all the challenges, however, together we strive to learn from both failures and successes, and build a stronger and sustainable Organization.

Let me use this opportunity to acknowledge the passing of so many who were among us; students, alums, faculty and auxiliary. Our prayers of comfort and strength for the bereaved families, Batches and friends.

With hope, I like to repeat this idea. We can set a goal of JAM\$10M dollars dedicated to education at CTC. Students and prospects would have an immediate funding source. So, if one hundred people invested JAM\$10K, we will have approximately JAM\$1.0M. If one thousand people invested \$10K, we could have JAM\$10.0M. If we allow our imagination to be illimitable where \$10K becomes \$20K or \$50K, this could be a great investment as an endowment for student education at CTC.

Let us think it. Let us do it!