



Seasons

At the **Way of the Cross on 20th March 2008**, Canon Berkley invited us to reflect on the Church seasons. That seemed easy enough. When Canon introduced Bernard Madoff, a new island formed in the South Pacific, the Mighty Chalkdust and a gentleman who was fond of alcohol consumption, we realized that it was time to pay **closer** attention! Here are some of my recollections and thoughts.

Canon introduced his meditation by noting that traditional denominations are sometimes criticized for observing the Lenten season because the type of preparation and the state of expectancy of worshippers during Lent should be evident throughout the year. The ancient Greeks had two words for time. *Chronos* refers to chronological or sequential time and is quantitative in nature. *Kairos* refers to the right or opportune moment a period of time of undetermined length. In a Biblical context, **the time in which God acts** - the appointed time - qualitative in nature.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" **Ecclesiastes 3:1** (KJV). God's Season of creation is ongoing. In the South Pacific as recently as last month we were given proof of that when a powerful underwater volcano erupted and created a new island. The island so recently formed may be subsequently submerged in the ocean in much the same way as rising ocean levels has

caused the Anglican Communion to close churches in Melanesia because it has become unsafe to continue to inhabit those islands. It reflects the nature of God. **Whenever God acts, we are required to trust His actions and His timing.**

The root of the Madoff multi-billion U.S. dollar fraud seems to be the **greed of persons across the world, and across all strata of society.** The investors were all attracted by the fact that the Madoff investments offered high returns. No matter how much they had, they wanted much more. Through these two examples Canon Berkley showed that a season of trusting God to provide, at this time appears to have been outdone by a season of greed and fraud - resulting in widespread disruption of the world's economy.

Canon reminded us that some years ago, the Mighty Chalkdust sang a calypso that identified countries experiencing various societal ills. In his calypso, Chalkdust came to the conclusion that if those nations experienced the **season of Carnival**, they would not have such problems. Canon reversed Chalkdust's conclusion and declared that rather than Carnival, they need Lent! **Trinidad also needs the season of Lent.** We are called to **make judicious use of seasons in our lives.** A gentleman who was a self-proclaimed 'groggist' refrained from consumption of alcohol during the Lenten season and during a

self-imposed pre-Advent season. In doing so, he lived to a ripe old age and presumably did not succumb to any liver related disease because he had the wisdom to refrain from his excesses during two seasons. There is a time appointed by God for all things, **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.** Lent is a Church season in which we are encouraged to focus on our spiritual priorities. Lent is a Season of preparation - through spiritual discipline - for the Easter experience of the resurrected Lord. Without the season of Lent we would not have the opportunity for a grand individual and corporate reflection, self-denial and spiritual exercise. In so doing we pattern Jesus in the wilderness and we build up a spiritual resolve which enables us to face any season we may encounter as we journey along. I came away from that week's Way of the Cross experience with the sense that **I need the season of Lent.** I resolved that, throughout the year, I would ask God's help and the guidance of His Holy Spirit to continue discerning **His** seasons. In addition, I will pay closer attention to the **Church seasons.** During those seasons, **I** will be required to act in faith, in order to draw strength and courage from God for my journey.

Betsy Peterson

THANK YOU, LORD

Happy Birthday Blessings Miriam 11th April 2008.

Upcoming Events

Corporate Communion

April 19th 2009 7:30 a.m. Service

Day of Renewal

May 30th 2009 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Bishop Anstey/Trinity East

Theme: BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD

BEHOLD

On **Saturday 7th February 2009**, the Bishop Anstey High School Hall was filled for the annual All Saints' Church Prayer Breakfast. The theme was **Behold I make all things new** Revelation 21:5. The first speaker was **Deacon Lyris Bailey** of St. Crispin's church. Here are some extracts from her presentation.

Deacon Lystra invited us to imagine a caterpillar in the right hand and a butterfly in the left and secondly to imagine a house in the process of renovation—from neglected to being renovated to renewal. In both scenarios we can see a new creation. Likewise, when we trust Christ with our lives He *will* renew us.

Deacon Lystra, then called on us to consider the first two words of the theme. "**Behold**" - Look, open your

eyes and see. God is drawing our attention. We have to still ourselves, in order to hear what God has to say. "**P**" - God, the Eternal power and Light. It is God alone who brings about change/renewal. He changes our hearts by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Deacon Lystra then referred to instances when Jesus brought newness into the lives of many people. In **Mark 2:1-5**, four friends went all out to make their friend's life more comfortable. Peter's mother-in-law and others were healed by Jesus in **Matthew 8:14-16**. 5000 people were fed by Jesus in **Matthew 14: 15-21** and Bartimaeus received his sight in **Mark 10:46-52**.

How is renewal manifest in our lives? When one is 'fed' by Jesus there is a constant hunger for more of Him. The

time spent reading His words, in prayer and in His presence seem insufficient. He has the answer to the world's issues.

Jesus empowered his disciples with faith, hope and all the gifts of the Spirit to form the Church. When Jesus breathes new life in us, his end product is always a thing of beauty. Thank you Deacon Lystra for the gentle reminder that God made each of us just as He wants us to be and it is for us to accept ourselves.

God is waiting to make new lives out of the remnants of the old. We have to be prepared, however, to leave our old lives behind, **Isaiah 43:18-19**.

I've Found A New Life....

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience that every believer should have so as to know God better, to have and to enjoy the fullness of his Love and Grace. Through this Spiritual journey one can discover the Gifts that Jesus Christ wants to share with those who have decided to walk closer with him and serve him in the way that he deserves.

I have been asked to share my experience of Baptism in the Holy Spirit and responded positively, because I know that my "New Life in the Spirit" has begun and sharing my spiritual moment with my sisters and brother in Christ would please the Holy Spirit.

True, everybody's experience is different. I would talk about mine not only to share with my Christian family but to encourage other believers to take the journey some day.

This Journey is one where you take as much heavy baggage and all sorts of stuff that burdens you and leave at the bottom of the Cross on Calvary Hill,

and at the end of the road though you may not be carrying any bags you would be filled with all the Good Stuff that you need—Joy, Peace, Love, Happiness and much more of God's Blessings and His Holy Gifts.

On 17th March, 2009 something phenomenal happened. Due to building renovations the Catholic congregation of St. Patrick R.C. Church was allowed to conduct their Lenten Mass in All Saints' Anglican Church. As the two religious bodies assembled together, to worship one God under one roof, I felt the Mighty Power and the Amazing Grace of our Lord. On the day of Pentecost (Act 2:1-2) the Holy Spirit came upon the gathering of believers and touched every person present, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and started talking in tongues. Similarly on this Day for the participants, Baptism in the Holy Spirit took place and the Holy Spirit with His power filled and touched every one present.

Final preparation for Baptism began after a short break with Praise and

Worship and then into Quiet Meditation. In the silence I felt God's presence and peace and I had his joy. I continued to meditate so that I would be at my best to receive the Holy Spirit of our Lord. My Baptism moment had arrived. I was taken to my Baptism Station by an Angel. There, I met the Prophet, the Intercessor and some one to write the message of the Holy Spirit.

I was anointed and soon Baptized in the Holy Spirit. I was in the presence of God. I was filled with an inner Peace and Joy and as my Gifts were revealed to me I became even happier especially when I heard what my gifts were.

As I continue my spiritual journey in the "New Life in the Spirit" with Christ I can better serve him. I can be a true witness of the Lord and bear much fruit for his vineyard, the kind of fruit that endures and at the same time bring Honour and Glory to his Name through the Power of the Holy Spirit in me. I Thank the Lord for this opportunity. Bless Jesus.

Lynette Joseph

God Is Still Speaking

Canon Berkley officiated at the annual Prayer Breakfast and suggested to us that the Prayer Breakfast was another occasion for renewal of our relationship with God and the foundation upon which we are set. He reminded us that if we submit to God and listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God will speak to us. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Canon reminded us that this was an occasion to **put on the armour** (Ephesians 6:10-17), or an opportunity to **refit** it if it is battered in any way, or to **retool**, to **recommit** to God's will and way and the fulfillment of His vision. We

are comforted by the knowledge that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble..." **Psalm 46:1-4, 6 B.C.P. p.527.**

In the **Saints Alive** of January 2009 Canon introduced us to the story of some pelicans. They are large birds with a large pouch under the beak, physically adapted to fishing. The pelicans positioned themselves at a Fish Depot and they were no longer required to fish but could eat the scraps that the Fishermen threw away at the Fish Depot. Over time it became expedient to process the fish waste rather than throw it into the sea.

The pelicans did not adapt to this change, however. They made no attempt to fish but remained at the Depot getting thinner and thinner.

Eventually, to prevent the entire flock from dying, other pelicans were introduced into that Depot area to remind the pelicans how to be pelicans—to renew the art of fishing in those pelicans who had become so comfortable that they had left their basic mandate. We therefore, have to take note of what is old, obsolete and passing away in order to appreciate what needs to be renewed.

STOCK UP

Business persons within the RED ZONES have been advised to STOCK UP well before the 5th Summit of the Americas, because during that weekend they will not be able to take delivery of goods.

Many of us do not live or work within any of the zones but it would be advisable for

us all to use the Summit weekend to conduct a DRY RUN to ensure that we are prepared for any eventuality. Let us STOCK UP, and remain at home.

Attached to this newsletter is a checklist of Emergency Supplies. Utilize it in addition to the information provided in the

Prayer Partner of November 2008 and January 2009. Please keep your checklist in a safe place where it is easily accessible. Note the date you purchase items so that you will be mindful of the expiry dates. Make copies of the checklist and give to friends and relatives.

5th SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Psalm 72:12 For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

Heavenly Father, we praise You, for your loving kindness and mercies. We thank you for being the Source of our daily care and provision. We come together in Your presence to seek Your guidance for all the leaders of the nations of this hemisphere.

Speak into the hearts of all our leaders and their advisors, dear God, that they might find solutions to overcome all problems caused by ethnicity, colour and creed; of injustice, corruption, lawlessness, broken homes, family disputes and confrontation, which beset all nations. We pray that the decisions made

make a real and positive difference to lives of people in this region. Empower all those working towards social justice with wisdom and understanding.

We pray that Your Holy Spirit will unite member states, that their leaders may respond to the needs of all people with integrity and justice; and, that they be enlightened on how to arrive at consensus on human prosperity, energy security, climate change and sustainable development.

Grant persons serving in the armed forces and protective services, wisdom and understanding, to act responsibly and to treat with people fairly, prior to, during and after the Summit. At this time, sustain all persons working in all

support services. Release the power of Your Holy Spirit and fill all hearts in all societies with your love. May there be persons in every country represented at this Summit, who are willing to be agents of Godly change in their communities.

We ask that Your will be done in Trinidad & Tobago and throughout all the countries of this hemisphere whether or participating in the Fifth Summit of the Americas or not. This we pray, in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour and through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Isaiah 43:19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.