



African Methodist Episcopal, Anglican, Ethiopian Orthodox, Methodist, Moravian,
Presbyterian,
Roman Catholic, Salvation Army

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Secretariat: Hayes Court, Hayes Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago`

A Message of Hope for the Nation.

The Christian Council of Trinidad and Tobago (CCTT), was incorporated by an act of Parliament in 1977. The CCTT has been working to foster ecumenical dialogue and cooperation between its members since its inception, fostering the goal of being one body in Christ. Our member Churches thus far consist of the Roman Catholic Church, The Anglican Church, The Presbyterian Church, The Ethiopian Orthodox Tawahedo Church, The African Methodist Episcopalian Church, The Methodist Church, The Salvation Army and The Moravian Church all within the jurisdiction of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. It is within this spirit of ecumenical cooperation and through bonds of brotherly and sisterly love, we the members of the CCTT have decided to put forward a ‘Message of Hope for our Nation’ at this critical juncture.

The message of Hope for the Nation comes from Holy Scripture as found in Psalm 31:24. It admonishes us to “Be strong, and let our heart take courage, all of us who wait on the Lord” (New Revised Standard Version). This is a psalm of deliverance and thanksgiving on an individual level and ending with verse 24 on a community level as well. Yes, sisters and brothers in this time of uncertainty, we MUST or rather we NEED to stay focused on our God. Be brave amidst the perilous time which has befallen us and by extension the world in which we live re: the outbreak of the novel COVID 19 virus. For we face a common enemy to our existence as humanity, as countries, as communities, and as individuals. Yet, be steadfast we declare to you, all who wait on the Lord, for it is the Lord who will deliver us from this present peril.

The Message of Hope for our nation in the second instance comes to us in the form of an admonition. The Scriptures remind us in Romans chapter 13:1-6 to submit ourselves to those appointed to exercise lawful jurisdiction over us. It encourages us as a people or for that matter a nation to heed the instructions of those in authority. Not just heeding, but being deliberate to obey each and every instruction that has been given during this very critical time in our existence. It speaks to us about submitting to them, for they are to keep watch over us.

Yes, they have a mandate to watch over us as a people. Therefore, it is important that we heed the protocols and directives from our leaders, institutions and agencies that continue to give advice, warnings and information. For, if our leaders fail to look after us, they will be held accountable to God.

Third, the Message of Hope for the nation is a message that is rooted in Jesus Christ, found in Luke 18: 35-4. Which states that as Jesus Christ was on his way to Jericho a blind man shouted to Jesus to save him; even when others told him to stay quiet, he shouted “Jesus, Son of David, Have mercy on me!” This, sisters and brothers, tells us that we need to pray as we have never prayed before. We need to call on our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to heal our land, and the nations of the world. We need to collectively bind together in prayer for the removal of this virus, which is steering our nation and the rest of the world into an era of great fear. We need to pray and seek our God in this time of trial, like the blind man who called on Jesus, for God will answer our prayers.

Finally, sisters and brothers of our nation this is a time of unprecedented trial and testing. Let us, as people of God, heed the words of Psalm 31:24; take courage, and be strong. Let us remember to obey our leaders with the advice and protocols, and let us remember to call upon our God, in this time of great upheaval, as people of God. For this is our message, a message of ‘Hope for our Nation’.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Christian Council of Trinidad and Tobago (CCTT).