



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO TRIP REPORT

by Horace Bennett, Gary G. Hoag, Lea Peguero, and John Roomes



TRIP VERSE

2 Corinthians 1:24

Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.



TRIP AIMS

1. Talk with influencers to identify national CCEFA accreditation team members.
2. Teach on accountability with CCEFA standards to raise awareness for accreditation.
3. Tailor stewardship message to youth with Stations and congregations with sermons.

Gary G. Hoag (GTP President & CEO) flew from the USA and Lea Peguero (GTP Spanish Initiatives Manager and Regional Trainer for the Caribbean) came from the Dominican Republic to Jamaica and meet up with Horace Bennett (GTP Country Coordinator for Jamaica, and Vice Chair of the Jamaican Evangelical Alliance or JEA) and John Roomes (GTP Regional Facilitator for the Caribbean). After service there, we all flew from Kingston to Trinidad & Tobago to pursue 3 aims in Port of Spain and Scarborough (at left). This first GTP trip to Trinidad & Tobago spread the vision and standards of CCEFA (Caribbean Council for Ethical and Financial Accountability). GTP hosted "Stewardship with Generosity and Trust for Sustainable Church Development" events in Scarborough, Tobago with 32 stewards (top photo) and in Port of Spain, Trinidad with 14 stewards (bottom photo).

AIM #1 – TALK WITH INFLUENCERS TO IDENTIFY NATIONAL CCEFA ACCREDITATION TEAM MEMBERS.

We report 3 fruits. **Fruit #1: Team.** GTP Country Coordinator for Trinidad & Tobago, Bickram Singh (pictured with John, Gary, and Horace at right), serves as VP of the Trinidad & Tobago Council of Evangelical Churches and as a Director of the International Christian Chamber of Commerce Trinidad Chapter. He hosted the events, ran point for the GTP and CCEFA team, and will extend this vision in his country and to Suriname and French Guiana. *Praise God for his service and team spirit.* **Fruit #2: Tobago.** God raised up stewards eager to bring accountability, to grow generosity, and to foster sustainability by joining the CCEFA movement on this island. After our event with 32 people, some reported a willingness to give (4), pray (4), volunteer (7), serve as accreditors (2), serve as a CCEFA board member (1), and have their church or ministry pursue accreditation (2). Korisha Sinanan works as Project Director for Family Life Tobago to deliver moral and values education in all the high schools in partnership with the Tobago House of Assembly (see her in the middle of the second photo). She affirmed the standards and will get accredited, saying, "We want to make Tobago an example for the region. As an advocate for the youth I want to make sure that we set an example for the next generation." *Praise God for this response.* **Fruit #3: Trinidad.** While we had only 14 people at this event (pictured in third photo at right and bottom photo). They showed deep commitment to give (2), pray (6), volunteer (3), and have their church or ministry pursue accreditation (1). *Praise God for this response.*



GTP and CCEFA have made a difference in my life by teaching me godly principles and standards. They can contribute to the future of churches in the Caribbean by sharing the same message with more individuals which will in turn will be imparted to others.

*- Kwayne Jack
Faith Miracle Worship Center (Tobago)*

The CCEFA standards and accreditation will help equip me and my ministry have greater impact. . . I hope it will revolutionize the perspective and power of the church for generations today and those to come.

*- Jamie Aleong-Charles
Holy Spirit Empowerment Church (Trinidad)*

AIM #2 - TEACH ON ACCOUNTABILITY WITH CCEFA STANDARDS TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR ACCREDITATION.

We report 6 fruits. **Fruit #1: Scripture.** Gary shared how Ezra and Nehemiah rebuilt the people of God with standards and by engaging the officials, Levites, and priests. Likewise, he called accountants, lawyers, pastors, ministry workers, and professionals to agree to follow standards together to rebuild God's church in the region. *Praise God both groups showed they resonated with this vision in the sharing time (see top photo at right).* **Fruit #2: Story.** John told the story of how peer accountability came to the Caribbean and how GTP program work started in Belize in 2022, spread to Jamaica and Cayman Islands in 2023, and about the launch event in Jamaica only days before. He invited the groups to join the story. *Praise God both groups listened and interacted to John and Horace with interest (see second photo at right).* **Fruit #3: Standards.** Horace shared that, like Bickram, he served as VP of the Jamaica Evangelical Alliance. He outlined the process the committee took to read the standards of peer accountability groups around the world before contextualizing the CCEFA standards for the region. *Praise God they appreciated both the process and the product!*



Fruit #4: Stations. Lea, John, and Horace shared Stations of Generosity as a tool for growing giving in the ecosystem of trust and accountability that standards creates (see photos bottom left). *Praise God the groups loved it and plan to share it with others.* **Fruit #5: Steps.** Gary concluded sharing the 4-step model Jesus used to make disciples: (1) I do, you watch. (2) I do, you help. (3) You do, I help. (4) You do, I watch. *Praise God they grasped its value for multiplying faithful and generous stewards.* **Fruit #6: Survey.** Lea concluded the sessions pointing people to GTP resources and a survey to get comments. *Praise God 95% of people affirmed the standards.*



This will raise our standards, bring credibility, and build the kingdom of God. Thanks for bringing this to us, timely intervention.

*- Michael Williams (Tobago)
Lambeau Church of God*

This propels me to be accountable to the laws of the land (Caesar) and to God.

*- Roger Porther (Trinidad)
Evangelical Steward*

AIM #3 - TAILOR STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE TO YOUTH WITH STATIONS OF GENEROSITY AND CONGREGATIONS WITH SERMONS.

We report 4 fruits. **Fruit #1. Doubles.** Trinidad has a famous street food: Doubles. Imagine two pieces of fried dough called bara, filled with curry channa (chickpeas) and topped with chutneys and hot pepper sauce. It's tasty. Gary, supported by Lea, preached on "Understand the Loaves" or Doubles from Mark 6:45-52 (Jesus walking on the water) and Mark 6:30-44 (Feeding of the 5,000) at Church on the Way at the invitation of Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Desmond Austin. John, supported by Horace, spoke at St. Augustine Evangelical Bible Church from 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2 on "Reconciling All Men to God" invited by Rev. Francis Warner (top photo below. *Praise God for this double duty.* **Fruit #2. Deep.** Rev. Dr. Austin also serves as President of the Trinidad & Tobago Council of Evangelical Churches and as President of the Evangelical Association of the Caribbean (EAC). He and Gary had a deep talk about the issues and opportunities facing the church in the region (see bottom photo below). Desmond stressed the need for "synergy" among churches and ministries, urging them to unite to address pressing social and spiritual issues more effectively. He said that standards at this time could strengthen their collective impact and witness and also strengthen discipleship. *Praise God for the timeliness of this movement.*



Fruit #3. Deliverance. On Sunday afternoon, Bickram collected Gary, Horace, John, and Lea to go facilitate Stations of Generosity at Thy Will Ministries Church. We never made it to the church. What happened next, we will never forget. Driving about 35 MPH, we came around a bend and a black car was headed right for us on the wrong side of the road and hit us head on. Immediately a woman in red appeared from nowhere directing traffic and offering to help. She said she was our guardian angel, sent by God to help us. We were all taken by ambulance to the hospital for tests, x-rays, and treatment. *Praise God, we are all alive. Pray for our recovery. We have cuts, bruises, and soreness but have determined to continue our mission. Pray for safe travel to Guyana tomorrow.*

We had a great time with the GTP team and I fit right in with John, Horace, Gary and Lea. The biblical teaching, the training on Stations of Generosity, the fellowship, and their love for our people and our food were all great. I am glad to be part of this wonderful team.

- Bickram Singh, VP of the Trinidad & Tobago Council of Evangelical Churches, GTP Country Coordinator for Trinidad & Tobago, and Senior Pastor of Trincity Family Church