

**CCSJ's AGM Report (2003 - 2004)**

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND POST PRISON SUPPORT**

*Vision Statement: Healing the Effects of Crime in our Communities*

This Standing Committee was formed in June 2003. It comprises nine (9) members and meets monthly. Noting the vast amount of work that is needed to be done we have prioritized our objectives for our first year. We have therefore named three objectives which we have since pursued using various strategies. Our objectives are to:

1. Raise Public Consciousness on Restorative Justice Paradigm and its merits to society
2. Launch a Re-habilitation Programme at the Golden Grove prison, Arouca
3. Establish 'After-Care Services' for ex-inmates as alternatives to crime.

The public education thrust has been pursued through newspaper articles in the secular press and the Catholic News as well as through the electronic media namely, the TCN television programme. We have used both these media to give a succinct description of the RJ paradigm.

A comparative analysis of the RJ model vis a vis Retributive Justice was undertaken in the Catholic News. Further to this during the International Restorative Justice Week (November 17th-21st) we hosted a seminar at the Hilton entitled a *National Conversation on Restorative Justice*. This took place with members of the Judiciary, Prison Administration and the Government Minister responsible for Rehabilitation.

We also intend to approach the Organisers of the RBTT Secondary Schools debate to have Restorative Justice debated as a way of raising consciousness about the model among the youthful population. We are about to begin discussions with a school in South Trinidad to look into the possibility of adopting a Restorative Justice approach at the school as a means of resolving disputes in the school community.

The Walk -Tall Programme was launched in Mid-October, 2003 at Golden Grove prison. It is a two-phase programme. The first is at the prison during the pre-release stage of incarceration. The Programme enjoys the full co-operation of the Prison authorities and has been described by inmates as 'an excellent opportunity for personal growth'.

It is a 40-week programme whose overall aim is to help reduce recidivism, which stands at about 56% in T&T, by fostering attitudinal change and personal hope in participants. A number of professionals have facilitated topics ranging from self-esteem development to childhood pain. As at 24th March **sixty** inmates have benefited from this programme.

Our committee has begun fund-raising for the implementation of Resolution 28 (Synod 2003). We have collected in excess of \$103,000 and are grateful to the individuals and corporate citizens who have contributed thus far. Our aim is to collect \$500,000. This sum will allow us to launch a comprehensive and effective after-care service for inmates as concrete alternatives to crime. This will be facilitated through a Half-Way House Project (the second phase of the WalkTall programme) providing accommodation for 25 ex-prisoners for about one year.

This service will include skills training, counselling, mediation services, job-placement and continued public education. The Community Development Fund has given us a grant of \$148000 towards start-up capital. We await the government's response to our numerous calls and meetings for assistance for running costs, in light of budget promises to set up Half-way Houses.

To date, we continue to search for a site that is suitable for the continued work of rehabilitation. Additionally we have conceptualised 'a model for the Half-way House programme that will AID IN THE DE-INSTITUTIONALISATION PROCESS that is crucial to eliminating prisoner independence on the system for survival. It will consist of 10-15 small dwelling houses each accommodating 2 ex-inmates. There will be a common eating and dining area. WE FEEL THIS IS CRUCIAL as this 'village' style arrangement will facilitate the transition from perhaps years of living in an institution to living outside of an institution.

We call for further financial assistance to aid the projects and undertakings described above. We would like to create a culture of volunteerism that would ultimately facilitate the coming to fruition of our dream of seeing Restorative Justice adopted by society as a means of healing the effects of crime and the brokenness it brings to our community. The journey is long and hard, but rewarding.

**CCSJ's AGM Report (2004 - 2005)**

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND POST PRISON SUPPORT**

It is worth reflecting on the following words uttered in 2000 by our late Pope, John Paul II:

“We are still a long way from the time when our conscience can be certain of having done everything possible to prevent crime and to control it effectively so that it no longer does harm and at the same time, to offer to those who commit crimes a way of redeeming themselves and making a positive return to society. If all those in some way involved in the problem tried to develop this line of thought, perhaps humanity as a whole could take a great step in creating a more serene and peaceful society.”

This remains an important area of CCSJ's work. Fr Matthew D'Hereaux, Chair of this SC and Prison Chaplain, continues to support offenders through e.g. the WALK TALL programme which commenced in 2004. The 40 week programme helps to prepare prisoners for their release in a variety of ways. However, it is still a challenge to support destitute ex-prisoners on their release. We need more robust rehabilitation programmes both within prisons and following the release of prisoners.

CCSJ agrees with Prof. Ramesh Deosaran, Criminologist, who stated in his study (2003) that although statistics show that at that time there was 17,000 serious crimes committed in T&T, this figure could be halved if there was a greater focus on rehabilitation. Prof. Deosaran's research shows that more than 60% of our ex-prisoners re-offend. We must assist offenders to turn their lives around. The following report by Fr Matthew D'Hereaux highlight the importance of our work in this area as we attempt to meet the needs of offenders and ex-offenders. Fr Matthew writes:

“The Standing Committee (SC) on ‘Restorative Justice and Post-Prison Support’ has taken on the challenge of working towards actualising Resolution 28 of the 2003 Archdiocesan Synod. The said Resolution mandated the CCSJ to establish a ‘Half-Way House’ for ex-prisoners, hereafter referred to as **The Anthony Pantin Re-Integration Centre**. The establishment of this Centre is of critical national importance in a country besieged by crime and growing helplessness.

CCSJ sees its work as serving our nation through providing ex-offenders and/or repeat offenders alternatives to crime. Hence this SC has given Resolution 28 first priority in the short-term. Notwithstanding this however, it is the vision of our Committee, in the medium to long-term, to use The Anthony Pantin Re-Integration Centre as an administrative base from which to further

the work of public education on Restorative Justice. Furthermore, the programmes of the Centre will be based on the major principles of Restorative Justice - such as mediation and conflict resolution, restoration, reparation and re-settlement. The Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre will be Restorative Justice in action!

The following are the steps we have taken over the past year to assist in the vision of establishing the Centre:

**a) Established a Management Committee comprising 12 members.**

Our management committee comprises 12 committed men and women who are professionals in various fields. The range of experience, backgrounds and competence on the Management Committee has served us in good stead for all our undertakings. This Committee will see to the day to day management as well as to the development of the Centre. It is accountable to CCSJ. The Committee whose Chair is Paula Granado, operates with terms of reference and gathers for regular meetings on a monthly basis. Its members have also attended extraordinary meetings when circumstances warranted such.

**b) Designed a Logo for the Centre**

A logo has been designed for the Centre. The logo represents the signature of the Centre. It symbolises an all-embracing hand being extended to another. The all embracing hand represents that of the community reaching out to the vulnerable exoffender, offering him/her an alternative to a path of crime, violence and destruction. The embrace between the community and ex-offender takes place in a structure resembling a church-building. This represents the Church acting in the role as facilitator of rehabilitation and re-integration.

**c) Determined the MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS of the Centre**

**Vision Statement: *TO RETURN TO SOCIETY PRODUCTIVE, LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS WHO ARE WILLING TO SERVE, FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY.***

**Mission Statement: *THROUGH MENTORING, COUNSELLING, MEDIATION, APPRENTICESHIP, SKILLS TRAINING AND JOB PLACEMENT, THE ANTHONY PANTIN RE-INTEGRATION CENTRE OFFERS EACH CLIENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL, SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL TRANSFORMATION.***

**d) Purchased approximately 8 acres of land in San Rafael area**

Over the past year we encountered difficulties in identifying a piece of land. Those parcels which we deemed 'suitable' were, however, not located in areas that had host communities amenable to housing an ex-prisoner project. The stigmatisation has been real - as is the fear and anxiety over having ex-offenders in neighbourhoods that were considered.

After a long search the Committee was able to recommend to CCSJ the purchase of approx. 8 acres of land for \$350, 0000. We located this 8-acre parcel in the San Rafael area. It is fairly

distant from existing communities. It stands in a vast area between two villages some 10 minutes drive from San Rafael RC Church. CCSJ and the Management Committee are now putting things in place to meet with the community out of civic courtesy. We wish to ensure that the nearby communities understand the vision and urgency of the project. Because the land is not in a populated area there is no electricity or pipe-borne water. However, discussions were held with the Minister of Public Utilities on procuring these basic amenities and assurance was given that this will be done. In the meantime the use of generators is an option for electricity. Furthermore, a river bounds the land in one area, so irrigation is also possible.

**e) Applied for Incorporation**

The CCSJ is in the process of having this SC incorporated as the **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO RE-INTEGRATION FOUNDATION**. This move would assist in attracting funding as well as with the medium to long-terms goals of using the project as a base for advancing the work of Restorative Justice. The Trinidad & Tobago ReIntegration Foundation will be an administrative arm of CCSJ to oversee (1) the management and continuity of the Centre and (2) the expansion of the work of Restorative Justice, with **The Anthony Pantin Re-Integration Centre** as a physical base from which to do so.

**f) Making Linkages with other Social Partners**

Part of the energy of the Committee over the past year has been used not only to attract funds but also to make significant links with other stakeholders in human and social development. It is the vision of the Committee to forge links which would contribute to the development of the project at a minimum cost outlay.

We have made links with architects, contractors, service clubs – Rotary and Lions, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, government programmes such as MUST, NAMDEVCO, YAPA and other NGOs such as ALTA and Families in Action. These have all expressed commitment to the project's development and expressed interest in offering programmes when the Centre is officially opened.

Various individuals who have worked in Human Resource Management at a professional level have also expressed keen interest in contributing to the developmental programmes that would be offered at the Centre as per the *Mission Statement*. Through these links we hope to attract, for example, already established programmes to the Centre such as the Multi-sectoral Training Programme MUST and the Youth apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA). The latter will provide skills training in farm development for clients.

**g. Fund-Raising**

In February 2005 we were able to obtain free consultancy services from an architect. In view of this it is estimated that the entire project would cost TT \$2million. We remain undaunted by this figure and are focused on achieving our goals/ realising our vision. With regards to

funding, we have raised over \$450,000 in the last year through the donations of individuals. We were able to procure an advertisement through TV6 outlining the vision of the project. This advertisement was aired for three months and led to individuals/organisations making donations to CCSJ's fund for this project.

On 25 July 2004 this SC held a concert entitled: *Rays of Hope* to raise funds for the Prison Ministry. The concert was held at Our Lady of Fatima Church Hall, Curepe. In May 2005, we hosted a concert generously organised by the Marionettes Chorale. The concert raised approx. \$24, 000. We are now in the process of printing posters to advertise the project and raise funds. These will be sent to schools and churches as a way not only of raising funds, but also raising awareness that this is a project being undertaken by the Church.

Furthermore, we are about to develop pledge forms. Individuals and Companies will be asked to pledge material or cash toward every building at the Centre. We are also holding talks with two major commercial banks for funding. We hope to host a megaconcert in October towards this venture also.” (End of Fr Matthew's report)

It is important to note that CCSJ was successful in attracting funds from the Ministry of Social Services Delivery to pay for some of the furniture that will be required when the Foundation is established. In terms of operating expenses, we have applied to the Ministry of Social Services Delivery for these costs. We await a positive response. With God's help and our efforts, we will meet our \$2million target.

The Commission seeks to raise awareness of the concept of Restorative Justice (RJ) which is an evolving response to crime that respects the dignity of each person, builds understanding and promotes social harmony through the healing of victims, offenders and communities. Our current system focuses on a retributive model.

RJ is a parallel system that embraces a wide range of human emotions, including healing, compassion, mercy, reconciliation, and mediation as well as the imposition of an appropriate sanction for criminal activity. RJ, therefore does not only focus on punishment, but rather asks: 'How do we restore the well being of the victim, the community and the offender?' It is a more holistic approach to a complex social phenomenon.

The Final Report of the Cabinet Task Force on Prison Reform and Transformation (2002) recommends that an RJ approach be adopted. The report states:

"The Committee agreed to the adoption of the Restorative Justice Philosophy as the ideal concept to guide penal policy and practice in Trinidad and Tobago. This approach is considered ideal as it actively incorporates and integrates all stakeholders including the community, victims of crime, corporate society and penal agencies in the fight against crime and in the various strategies and initiatives implemented for the effective management of the offender within and without the prison population. It cannot be over-emphasised that the Philosophy is a highly integrated, proactive participative and flexible approach to crime management. In essence, it (the

report) provides a framework for the adoption of the Restorative Justice Philosophy. The transformation strategy for the Prison System in our view requires a new, more dynamic integrative structure of penal management."

The task force summarized three general principles of RJ as follows:

- Doing justice demands that we work to repair the damage inflicted by the offence and so far as possible restore the victims, offenders and communities.
- Those directly involved and affected by the crime should have the opportunity to participate fully in the restorative justice conference if they so desire.
- The State's role is to preserve a just social order while the community's role is to maintain a just peace.

It is from these principles that the values of encounter, amends, reintegration and inclusion are derived. The RJ model looks significantly different from our current retributive model. The introduction of restorative practices in our criminal justice system presupposes a real effort to combat institutional injustice. By addressing social justice issues we will simultaneously advance social cohesion and promote crime reduction.

We must therefore establish the essential linkages between our criminal justice system and social justice delivery agencies that will work with families and communities. Genuine reintegration of offenders into our society will require a holistic approach to the complex and multi-faceted issues of poverty, adequate opportunities for training and employment, payment of just wages, housing fit for human habitation and family life education. Such an approach will reap significant rewards in the medium to long term.

One advantage of RJ is that it is flexible. It would be remiss of us as a young nation seeking to build institutional structures that support and celebrate harmony amidst our diversity to neglect the possibilities this model offers our society. It can enable us as a people seeking to shape an independent identity to discard the worst of an oppressive, colonial history and to adopt the wisdom and practices of indigenous traditions. RJ also places the victims at the centre of the justice equation whereas at present they are kept on the periphery merely for their utility as witnesses.

Offenders must be encouraged to understand the real human consequences of their actions. RJ places the responsibility for the crime squarely in the hands of those who commit the offence. Awakening a sense of regret may provide the impetus necessary for change in criminal behaviour patterns. What is needed now is a shift in the mindset of all parties.

Every sector of the national community must be open and receptive to other ways of administering justice, which includes: more use of diversions, victim-offender mediation to facilitate healing, community based sentencing, strengthening our families, violence prevention programmes in our schools, an adequate number of guidance officers in secondary schools, police interventions to build capacities that empower youth, RJ conferencing, conflict

management/resolutions, skills training, circles of support for high risk former prisoners such as drug offenders and sexual offenders.

We must find ways that will lead to our ultimate goal of keeping people out of prison by dealing with them in the community without simultaneously compromising public safety. The monies we save by keeping citizens out of prison can then be redirected to more productive uses like empowering our youth to live meaningful and worthwhile lives.



**CCSJ's AGM Report (2005 – 2006)**

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND POST PRISON SUPPORT**

CCSJ's concerns about conditions in our prisons have been expressed in the Chair's articles in The Guardian newspapers and in discussion with the Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. John Rougier. The POS prison was originally built to cater for 250 persons. During the earlier part of 2005 there were more than 1,400 persons in that prison (see Chair's article on CCSJ's website entitled: 'Custody, care and justice').

As a result of pressure from a number of concerned groups, including CCSJ, and because of Mr. Rougier's own commitment to promote a Restorative Justice approach to the Criminal Justice System, there are now about 600 prisoners at the POS prison. A large number of prisoners have been moved to the Arouca site. Money has been allocated to install a new sewerage system at Arouca as the current system is inadequate and cannot meet the needs of a larger prison population – even though there is room for many more prisoners at that facility.

The Walk-Talk programme, run by Fr Matthew D'Hereaux, Chair of this SC, is continuing and it is hoped that once the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre/TT Reintegration Foundation is established, CCSJ will be able to assist those prisoners who would have been involved in this programme while in prison and who, on their release from prison, meet the criteria for admission to the Centre.

Fundraising strategies to support the construction of the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre/TT Reintegration Foundation include applications to various funding bodies both in TT and abroad, poster advertisements at parish level, and pledge forms to encourage individuals/firms to donate materials.

A number of meetings have been held to ensure that procedures and processes are put in place to facilitate the construction of the TT Reintegration Foundation. Plans are in train to incorporate the TT Reintegration Foundation. This will facilitate the Commission's work in a variety of ways, for example, in its fund-raising initiatives. CCSJ would like to express its sincere thanks to M. Hamel-Smith & Co. for their generosity in undertaking the necessary legal work pro-bono.

Republic Bank has undertaken to give CCSJ a grant of (TT) \$2 million to be used to defray part of the cost of constructing the TT Reintegration Foundation. \$1m will be granted in 2006 and another \$1m will be granted in 2007. A 'mock' cheque for the sum of \$2m was handed over to the Chair and Fr Matthew D'Hereaux at a Ceremony organised by Republic Bank at Movie Towne on 24 November 2005. On 6th February, the Chair and 3 other members of CCSJ met with Senior members of staff at Republic Bank to discuss issues relating to the Bank's grant of TT \$2m to CCSJ.

**CCSJ's AGM REPORT (2006 – 2007)**

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND POST PRISON SUPPORT**

Fr. Matthew d'Hereaux, along with Fr. Jason Gordon and the Chair of the CCSJ, played a pivotal role in the establishment of a proper system of Capacity Building measures for the construction and maintenance of the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre (APRC).

**Walk Tall Programme – Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre (APRC)**

**1. Site Preparation & Construction Start-up**

The site preparation work for the Anthony Pantin Re-integration Centre is complete. The recommendation by Mr. Michael Patty, Civil Engineer, to raise the land with 10,000 cubic meters of fill was done and construction works on site layout, foundation works, sewerage and drainage will begin on 19th March, 2007. This work is to facilitate the second phase described below.

There has also been a wonderful evolution of the project. The Board of Directors of the TTRF has approved the use of re-conditioned and refurbished 20ft and 40ft containers to be used for the buildings at the APRC. Previously, the APRCentre would have carried a price tag of TT\$8Million. Now the price tag is approximately TT\$4Million. The new approach will allow the Centre to be opened in June, 2007.

The previous conventional approach of mortar, bricks and steel would have brought the completion date to December 2008.

The approach of using containers revolutionizes residential accommodation in this country. Currently, this approach has been used only for offices. It will be the first time these containers will be used for housing. We follow successfully what is being done in other parts of the world to provide low-cost, but user-friendly housing.

This low-cost and time-efficient approach lends support to our philosophy of having this project become a model for ex-inmate Re-integration Centres. It is both achievable and doable for small Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Community Based Organizations (CBO) and Faith Based Organizations (FBO). Put differently, other groups in prison ministry and restorative justice can replicate this, thus providing much needed ex-inmate accommodation.

Fr. d'Hereaux met with the Minister of Public Utilities seeking support for this project. Approval and Governmental commitment have been given for the running of electricity and pipe-born water to the land. The National Social Development Unit under the Directorship of Mr. Anselm de Couteau has been named as the unit of the Ministry responsible for delivering this

commitment. This work is continuing; a contractor has been awarded for the running of the electricity. WASA is in the process of sending in its quotation to the NSDP for approval.

## **2. Outline Approval**

Outline approval has been received from the Division of Town & Country Planning. The Drainage Division of the Ministry of Works has given approval to our comprehensive drainage plan. Drainage works are being supervised by the Project Consultant team and a contractor.

## **3. Project Management**

A Project Consultant Team, has been developed. It comprises:

- Mr. Nigel Aqui – Project Manager
- Mr. Albert Pantin – Quantity Surveyor
- Mrs. Rudelyn Du Four Roberts – Architect
- Mr. Clifford Murray – Civil Engineer
- Mr. Paul Lee Lum – Technical Advisor

This team meets twice monthly with representatives of the Management Committee, namely, Fr. Matthew d'Hereaux and Sr. Mary Anthony. These representatives are expected to report to the CCSJ, TTRF Board of Directors as well as back to the Management Committee on the progress of the project. Contractors have been assessed for the project and necessary quotations have been tendered. The contract will be awarded to begin work by the 19th March, 2007.

## **4. On-going Financing**

Ten energy-sector companies have been approached for additional funding. Negotiations have been on-going. These companies will add TT\$2Million to Republic Bank's donation of TT\$2Million in order to meet the total project cost.

Details of project cost have been sent in to the companies for a final decision. Arising from the launch of the TTRFoundation, other companies are also giving the project serious consideration.

At the Board of Directors Meeting on 26th March, 2007 a financial report will be tabled. This report will hopefully feature the energy sector donation. Three members of the Board of Directors will meet with Ministers Anthony Roberts and Fitzgerald Hinds to negotiate a government subvention for recurrent expenditure.

## **5. Launch of the Trinidad & Tobago Re-integration Foundation**

On February 1st the Trinidad & Tobago Re-integration Foundation was launched at MovieTowne under the Patronage of Prof. George Maxwell Richards, the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Feature speaker was Mr. Kevin Wallen, Director of the SET (Students Expressing Truth) Programme. He conducts a successful prisoner rehabilitation programme i.e. SET in his native Jamaica. It is hoped that collaboration be followed up between the SET and WalkTALL programmes.

At the launch His Grace, Edward Gilbert, Archbishop of Port-of-Spain handed over to the President of the Republic the pennant of the Foundation symbolizing the service that the Church is prepared to offer the national community in the area of restorative justice.

#### **6. Opening of the Anthony Pantin Re-integration Centre**

It is envisioned that the Centre will open its doors on 9th June, 2007 with an official ceremony. To this end, work is being done assiduously for the Programme development component of the project. This consists of: Mentoring, Counselling, Apprenticeship & Job Placement, Family and Community Mediation and Skills /Literacy Training.

Beginning September 2006 a programme development team of 10 specialists/professionals have been meeting monthly to develop a Manual for operationalising at the APCentre. Timelines have been put in place; interviews for staffing will begin in April, 2007. We have also developed a comprehensive communication plan awaiting Board of Director approval for rolling out. This will sensitize the public of the need for volunteerism and financial support of the work at the Centre.

**CCSJ's AGM REPORT (2007 – 2008)**

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND POST PRISON SUPPORT**

The CCSJ continues to support the work of the Trinidad and Tobago Reintegration Foundation. Although both the CCSJ and TTRF are Companies in their own right, the CCSJ owns the land on which the facility is being built and this Project was initiated by the CCSJ. The TTRF was established as a separate entity from the CCSJ to look after the work of the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre (APRC). To ensure that the CCSJ maintains a lead on this Project, Mr. Eldon Warner, a member of the CCSJ's Management Committee, is the Chair of TTRF. Mr. Clive Belgrave, the CCSJ's Vice-Chair is a member of the TTRF's Board of Directors.

The Vision Statement of TTRF is:

To return to society productive and law-abiding citizens who are willing to serve their family, community and country.

TTRF's Mission Statement is:

Through mentoring, counselling, mediation, skills training and apprenticeship and job placement the APRC offers each client opportunities for spiritual, social and intellectual transformation.

The TTRF Board is responsible for the construction of the APRC. On completion of this the facility, the TTRF Board will seek to ensure that the Centre is developed, staffed and operated efficiently.

The Board is also responsible for the 'Walk Tall' Programme at Golden Grove Prison. Inter alia, this programme helps to prepare inmates for their release. The Programme was a CCSJ initiative – under the direction of Fr Matthew d'Hereaux who was Prison Chaplain until his departure for Rome to pursue further studies. Fr Robert Christo, a TTRF Board member undertook responsibility for this Programme on Fr Matthew's departure.

Located on the site are 'cottages' – converted from 20-ft. and 40-ft. containers, an administration building, a Chapel and all-purpose area. During 2008, work continued to raise funds to complete the APRC. Certain remedial works were carried out on the site during the year e.g. infrastructure and drainage. Mr. Rawle Mitchell, Architect/Construction Engineer, who volunteered his services as Project Manager in 2007, is playing a major role in taking the Project forward. Plans are in train to raise further funds to complete the facility.

**CCSJ's AGM REPORT (2008 – 2009)**

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND POST PRISON SUPPORT**

Although TTRF/APRC is a limited liability Company in its own right and has its own Board of Directors, CCSJ's work is inextricably linked to that of TTRF/APRC. Initially this was a CCSJ initiative and the land that is being used to establish the facility is owned by CCSJ. CCSJ continues to play a major role in seeking to complete the facility. The following is a report from the Chair of TTRF, Mr. Clive Belgrave, who is also CCSJ's Vice-Chair:

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO REINTEGRATION FOUNDATION REVIEW**

The construction and operation of the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre have continued to be plagued by difficulties both financial and administrative. Construction of the facility had to be halted in June 2009 due to the unavailability of funding and the inability of the selected contractor to meet agreed deadlines. In the wake of this situation and the absence of security personnel, the site was vandalized by intruders with substantial loss of materials. The Board has since agreed to proceed with construction on a phased basis and has secured the pro bono services of a Quality Surveyor, Mr. Francis Ellis, and an Architect, Mr. Raul Poon Kong to assist in this process. A fund raising drive was undertaken and this has succeeded in securing some \$250,000 to enable construction to recommence.

The Board advertised the position of Walk Tall Director and, on the basis of interviews conducted with candidates, selected Mr. David Henri to fill the position on a probationary basis. Mr. Henri's employment was subsequently terminated in December 2009 after a review of his performance. With regard to the Walk Tall Programme at Golden Grove, the prison authorities have introduced a new programme for prisoners into which Walk Tall has been incorporated.

The weekly visits to the prison continue together with ministry to released prisoners. Currently eight (8) ex-prisoners are being assisted to reintegrate into the community and all are employed. In December 2009, the President of the Board, Mr. Eldon Warner, tendered his resignation and Mr. Clive Belgrave was elected to complete the term of office.

**OUTLOOK**

With respect to construction, two new contractors have been identified and quotations submitted for the first phase of the facility have been received and are currently being evaluated. It is anticipated that construction will resume in September 2010. The funding held by the Board, together with funds agreed for the project by the Self Help Programme, will enable this phase to be completed.

Construction is expected to take ten (10) weeks.

With respect to operations, a possible candidate for managing the Centre has been identified and is in the process of being interviewed. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has also signified its willingness to participate in the operation of the facility and to minister to the ex-prisoners selected for rehabilitation. Operational funding is expected to be sourced through United Way Trinidad and Tobago (this has been agreed in principle by UWTT), BPTT and the Ministry of Social Development which has assisted in the construction phase. The new Ministry of Justice has also indicated an interest in the project and discussions with this Ministry are being pursued.

## **APPENDIX VII**

### **CCSJ's AGM REPORT (2009 - 2011)**

#### **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND POST PRISON SUPPORT**

After evaluation of two tenders for the construction of the first phase of the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre, Mr. Sunil Ramdeen was selected as the preferred contractor. The TTRF team responsible for construction arranged site meetings with the contractor to evaluate the project and to determine the way forward. As a consequence of this evaluation a change in the design of the facility was agreed. This change provided for the housing of twenty (20) persons in the first phase of the project instead of the eight (8) persons as originally planned. It also provided for the use of a smaller number of containers than originally projected. Due to unfavourable weather conditions work on the redesigned facility recommenced only in January 2011 and was completed in early may 2011.

In terms of finance, the TTRF has experienced great difficulty in accessing the balance of funding (\$235,000.00) agreed by the National Self Help Commission and has had to source loans in the sum of \$250,000.00 from the Archdiocese to satisfy contractual payments. The sale of some unused containers has also helped in this process and efforts to continue to effect further sale of these items. The TTRF owes the contractor \$300,000.00. A joint fund-raising dinner with the CCSJ was organized in 2010 and another in 2011. This netted some \$90,000 in 2011 and \$50,000.0 in 2011 for the two parties. Other sources of funding are currently being explored.

In operational terms, a Manager for the Centre has been selected after an interview process by Fr. Robert Christo and Mr. Collin Hamilton. The Archdiocese has also reached an agreement with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul whereby the Centre will be leased to the Society which will undertake the responsibility for its operations. This agreement is currently being formally finalized. Members of the Board of the TTRF have been invited to serve on the Committee to be established by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to manage the project.

On 21st May 2011, members of the SVP, the TTRF Board, representatives of the Prison Service/Ministry of Justice and other interested parties met on site to familiarize themselves with the facility and to discuss issues relevant to the Centre's operations. As a consequence of these discussions the Walk Tall Programme has been revitalized. This will ensure a steady inflow of residents to the Centre. At the time of writing, two (2) residents have been admitted and three (3) more are expected to take up residence in August.



A daily programme of activities for the residents has been developed and this will be subject to constant review to ensure its effectiveness. Included in the programme is the upkeep and enhancement of the physical infrastructure, landscaping of the grounds and the planting of short-term crops which can be monetized to support the Centre's operations and to provide a source of personal income/saving for the residents prior to their leaving the facility. Technical assistance is being sought in this regard.

It is anticipated that visits to the Centre by major donors will be organized on an individual basis prior to the formal opening which, given weather conditions in San Raphael, is likely to take place in the 2012 dry season.

## APPENDIX VIII

### CCSJ's AGM REPORT (2011 - 2012)

#### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: Reintegration Centre (TTRF/APRC)

Phase 1 of the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre for former prisoners was completed in the June 2011. This facility has been long overdue. This Project was initiated by CCSJ and although it was handed over, first to Trinidad and Tobago Reintegration Foundation, and now to the Society of St Vincent de Paul, CCSJ continues to work closely with SVP's Honorary Secretary, who is also CCSJ's Vice-Chair, to ensure that this Ministry gets off the ground. Indeed, CCSJ's fundraising efforts are related to APRC. While we believe that those who commit crimes should be held accountable, we have a duty to support their rehabilitation so that they can return to society and live productive lives.

Blessed John Paul II's words spur us on. He said: "Not to promote the interests of prisoners would be to make imprisonment a mere act of vengeance on the part of society...For all to play their part in building the common good they must work, in the measure of their competence, to ensure that prisoners have the means to redeem themselves, both as individuals and in their relations to society" (2000). We have a duty to play our part in the rehabilitation of prisoners and those who leave prison. Our recidivism (re-offending) rate in TT is about 55%. The challenge is to adopt a Restorative Justice approach that will help us to "re-weave a broader social fabric of respect for life, civility, responsibility, and reconciliation." (US Bishops' document: *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice* (2000).

CCSJ and TTRF are aware that to build a culture of life, Catholics must also develop programmes to assist the victims of crime and their families, as well as the families of the perpetrators of crime. To build the Civilization of Love we must embrace all God's children.

A Manager was appointed and APRC opened its door to receive former prisoners from September 2011. By October there were 7 former prisoners at APRC. TTRF is seeking to partner with groups such as ALTA – the Adult Literacy Team, to assist its work. In June 2011 CCSJ held its annual Fundraising Dinner at Skippers' Restaurant at the Yacht Club, Bayshore. Half of the profits were given to TTRF to assist with the completion of the facility. The other half was used to pay the 10 Monitors of CCSJ's Values and Virtues Formation Programme.

In 2011 a meeting was held with Archbishop Gilbert, CCSJ's Chair and Vice-Chair who is also the Honorary Secretary of SVP and Chair of TTRF. It was agreed, in principle, that SVP will take responsibility for the day to day running of APRC and that members of TTRF Board will be invited to join a Team to be established by SVP to oversee the work of APRC. SVP's

Management Team agreed to the proposal. However, the official “handing over” of responsibility for APRC is still to be effected. TTRF is also seeking to pay its debt to the Contractor for materials purchased. If monies promised by the Self-Help Commission are released, this will go some way to relieving TTRF of its debt. Attempts are being made to secure the funds.

At the meeting with Archbishop Gilbert, it was also agreed that the land on which the facility is built, and which belongs to CCSJ, will be transferred to the Archdiocese and then leased to SVP. The transfer is still to be effected. The Property Department in the Chancery is dealing with this issue. Relevant forms for WASA were completed and it is hoped that the Archdiocese’s Attorneys will be able to effect the transfer in the near future.

Members of TTRF were invited to join the SVP Committee that was formed to oversee the work of APRC. Colin Hamilton is the Chair of the new Committee. SVP runs APRC and programmes are being developed to facilitate the development of residents and their successful reintegration into society. Most of the residents found employment through the efforts of SVP. In light of this, programmes are run for residents during the evenings – after work, or on weekends. By the end of 2011, plans were in train to develop Agricultural programmes to enhance the skills of residents. Any profits gained from the sale of their produce e.g. fruits and vegetables grown by them at APRC, will provide them with a ‘nest egg’ when they leave the facility.

#### **UPDATE FROM JANUARY– JULY 2012:**

The Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre (APRC) is gradually coming to terms with the reality of providing temporary shelter for former prisoners.

One such reality is that the majority of former prisoners who are coming through the doors of APRC are drug addicts and the facility does not have the expertise to treat such persons. Of the fifteen (15) admissions to date, nine (9) have had to be referred to the Piparo Drug Rehabilitation Centre. Two (2) have transitioned and four (4) are in residence. In order to find acceptable ‘candidates’, the Centre is developing a relationship with Prison Welfare officers who can identify such persons.

The residents have embarked on an agricultural project on an experimental basis. This has proved to be successful and the project will be expanded through the use of greenhouses. It is anticipated that the expanded project will be self-financing and may even turn a profit which will be allocated to the residents and the operational costs of the Centre. The concept of a ‘School of Agriculture’ is also being explored.

The Ministry of Works has agreed to provide support through infrastructural works such as paving etc. and water lines are currently being laid in the area. This will reduce the dependence on truck-borne water. The leasing of the property to the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is being pursued at Archdiocesan level.

Payment to the contractor and the Archdiocese for the work completed remains outstanding. The National Self-Help Commission has refused to release the final payment of over two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00) pledged to the project. A meeting is being sought with the relevant Minister to seek to have the decision overturned. In the interim, the money raised at CCSJ's Fundraising Dinner at Skippers Restaurant in 2012 is being paid to the contractor while CCSJ's funds which are being held in the Abercrombie Fund at First Citizens Bank are being transferred to the Archdiocese to repay part of a loan from the Archdiocese. These funds were allocated specifically for use by APRC and were being held in this account.

## **APPENDIX IX**

### **CCSJ's AGM REPORT (2012 - 2013)**

#### **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: Reintegration Centre (TTRF/APRC)**

CCSJ continues to work with the Society of St Vincent de Paul, particularly in terms of fund-raising to support the running of the APRC which is located at San Raphael and which aims to rehabilitate former prisoners. TT is in desperate need of such facilities if we are to promote restorative justice, heal society, and return former inmates to society to live as productive citizens. The facility is built on lands land owned by CCSJ. This project was conceived by CCSJ as a response to crime. Former Archbishop Edward Gilbert had turned the sod at San Raphael on 21 February 2006. CCSJ's Chair had stated at the sod-turning ceremony: "56% recidivism rate is too high. The safety and security of our communities demand that we seek to rehabilitate offenders and reintegrate them into society so they can live productive lives".

Fr Matthew d'Hereaux, the then-Chair of CCSJ's Standing Committee on Restorative Justice and Post-Prison Support, had also addressed the audience of approximately 100 people. As Catholic News reported on 26 February 2006, Fr Matthew said:

“ ‘Great is a Church, great is a nation who will painstakingly reach out to the marginalised, despised and rejected. Impoverished is the Church, impoverished is the nation who through the burden of blindness has rejected its very own. Great is the partnership between the Church and the State that pursues a justice that seeks to restore communities and encourage and facilitate reparation and restoration, the damage caused by crime.’ ”

“Fr d'Hereaux issued several warnings, saying if society failed to welcome exoffenders back into the fold, organised crime would. If the State did not put its resources behind reintegration, the drug lords would. He noted that prisoners themselves were clamouring for social, financial and psychological support upon their release from prison.”

Anthony Roberts, the then-Minister of Social Development, had delivered the feature address. As Catholic News reported: “He described the APRC project as remarkable, he said it offered San Rafael and the rest of the community an opportunity to influence a group of citizens to turn from a life of crime to contributing to the development of society...”

“Roberts said research has shown that ex-offenders in Trinidad and Tobago faced several challenges that stemmed from society's non-acceptance. A large section of society ‘Believes that when a person commits a wrong, they must be locked up permanently’, he lamented.

“He said society needed to recognise that prior to committing crimes, the offenders lived within the community and, as such, society must take some responsibility for their behaviour. He added that society should consider the mitigating circumstances that might have led someone to a life of crime. It might be a result of neglect, abandonment or lack of leadership in the home, he noted.

“While keeping in step with criminal elements meant adopting sophisticated anticrime measures, the minister raised the need for social interventions in fighting crime. Deviance in the society often stemmed from a breakdown in the moral fibre of the family, he said, and called for the rebuilding of the family unit.

He added that the Church also played a critical role in developing society and should not be passive about it. He said to the families of inmates must recognize their role in assisting them to take their place when they returned to society and not make it difficult for them since this could influence a return to criminal activity.

Roberts said a national parenting programme was under development...”  
(<http://www.catholicnews-tt.net/v2005/archives/0206/sun26/front.htm>)

Archbishop Joseph Harris presided at the inauguration of the facility and visited the facility at the end of 2011.

The Commission maintains an interest in the APRC and works to ensure its success. Clive Belgrave, SVP lead officer on the project, is also CCSJ’s Vice- Chair. The 2 sections of the facility on the site can accommodate 20 persons (10 in each section). Rules have been drawn up – in consultation with staff and residents. Most of the residents at the APRC are employed through the efforts of SVP. In light of this, training programmes are organised on evenings and on weekends.

During 2012 agricultural programmes were developed to enhance the skills of residents and to facilitate the sustainability of the facility. Residents plant certain vegetables there and plans are in train to promote animal husbandry on the land. It is to be noted that many of the persons who seek places at APRC had to be referred to the Drug Rehabilitation Centre at Piparo since APRC is not equipped to meet their needs. The fact that persons are leaving prison as drug addicts means that drugs are available to inmates in TT prison system. This is an issue that has been raised in the media and it is hoped that the Commissioner of Prisons will take appropriate action to deal with it.