



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Corporate Communications Division

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Sunday, 25th December, 2011

**MESSAGE OF DR THE HONOURABLE TIM GOPEESINGH,
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ON THE OCCASION
OF CHRISTMAS, 2011**

Good day.

I hope that this Christmas morning has found each and every single person in our beautiful Trinidad and Tobago, and indeed, the world, in good health, happy spirits and love for our fellow humans.

There is a special magic about Christmas, when children and adults alike all renew their sense of wonder as we reflect on the birth of the One for whom this great holiday is named in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

For some, Jesus Christ was great philosopher and teacher; to many others, he is the Saviour of Mankind.

The universal truth of his amazing existence, however, is that this great Man lived a life of miracles, coming to Earth as a humble, helpless babe and changing the world and human nature forever with his actions of love, charity, compassion, kindness, equality of treatment and justice for all.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth and life, by sharing gifts and engaging in merriment with our near and dear ones, let us never forget that He is the real reason why we celebrate this blessed, happy season.

Just like the Wise Men and shepherds of that first Christmas who followed the light of that higher star in the hopes of finding this Saviour, the citizens of our beautiful country have always aspired to follow the light of goodness and promise of betterment.

Our history of unity, peace and harmony in our rich diversity have ensured that as we followed that star of hope in all our years as a people, we may have lost

our footing at times but, with the trust and help of God, we have never lost our way, which is why our country still stands tall and proud as an example of a great democracy.

Let us make a collective Christmas pledge this year to continue following that star of hope, firm in the knowledge that once we have our faith in our great destiny, like those Wise Men who found the Saviour, we too, will find our ultimate promise as a people and a country.

Today, and for the rest of the holiday season, as we rejoice in the company of our loved ones, I urge all to remember that for some of our fellow Trinidadians and Tobagonians, this will not be as happy a Christmas as it should be.

Many are victims of poverty, abuse and other societal ills, and for them, we should say a special prayer, as well as make a concerted effort to make their lives better in the best way we can, especially for the children.

Christmas means so much to the world because of one special Child and this season therefore serves as a keen reminder that all children are special, all children are precious gifts from God, gifts beyond price that mean more than any presents money can buy.

In their love and laughter, in our hopes for their future lies the true meaning of Christmas and the true promise of our nationhood.

In this season of merriment and feasting, I also want to urge that each and every one of you pay very careful attention to your safety and that of others around you.

Be very careful on the roads, do not drink and drive and please ensure your children are always well supervised and that they know they are your most prized blessings from God who should always benefit from your unwavering and unconditional love, caring, guidance and firm, productive discipline.

And so, in spirit of gratitude and joy for the blessings we've received over the past year and looking forward to all that we hope to achieve together as a people and a country in the years ahead, I want to wish you a very Merry, Blessed Christmas and a very safe, happy, holiday season.

May God's richest blessings continue to fall on one and all.

Thank you,

Best Regards,

For further information please contact the Ministry's Communications Division at 628-1581.

