



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 17 September 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monty Credits Mercy of God for Longevity

San Fernando – Two heartfelt songs, 'Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart' and 'Goodness of God,' graced the 100th Thanksgiving and Birthday Celebration for Monteith Saunders, affectionately known as “Monty.”. The Service was held at the St. Paul's Anglican Church in San Fernando on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Mr. Saunders officially turned 100 on September 16.

In his centennial reflection, Mr. Saunders or “Monty” as he is lovingly called, attributed his remarkable longevity to “the mercy of God, and living a contented life despite many hardships, trials, and tribulations.” He expressed pride in overcoming numerous challenges particularly the aftermath of a devastating fire that destroyed his home in January 1959.

“I am proud about the way I have successfully handled and overcome adverse situations which I have encountered all through my life. I am also proud of the way I successfully overcame the challenges of the transition from working in the Railway as a Station Master, to working in the Public Service as an Assistant Shipping Master,” he said.

Mr. Saunders also reminisced about his personal life, sharing how he met his late wife, Cilma Cayenne. “Cilma lived on St. Vincent Street, and I taught her when I was a Monitor at the San Fernando Wesleyan School, which she also attended. We were together from 1948, married in 1950, and remained together until her passing in 1974. We had 10 children, 3 of whom are now deceased, along with 52 grandchildren, 78 great-grandchildren, and 9 great-great-grandchildren, totaling 149 descendants. I also have 2 nephews and 2 great-nephews.”

The celebration was attended by staff from the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, including representatives from the Communications and Division of Ageing Divisions, who joined in extending congratulations to Mr. Saunders on behalf of Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox.

They presented him with a Certificate of Honour and Achievement, along with a birthday cake and a hamper sponsored by Kiss Baking Company Ltd., National Flour Mills, and HADCO Ltd.

To register for the National Centenarian Programme, persons are encouraged to visit the Ministry's website at www.social.gov.tt to complete the online form. For more information, please contact the Division of Ageing at 623-2608, Ext. 2001 to 2009, or 800-OPIC (6742).

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Ms. Crystal Felix Inspector II of the Division of Ageing presents Mr. Monteith with his Certificate of Honor an Achievement.



We are family! – Scores of loved ones join the 100th birthday celebration for Mr. Monteith Saunders at the St. Paul's Anglican Church, in San Fernando.