DOF Pioneers Many First Time Achievements for Fisheries

Under her stewardship, a contract has been awarded for the preparation of architectural drawings, construction designs and tender documents for the upgrade and modernization of a fishing complex at Las Cuevas, and another contract for the offshore facilities-jetties and breakwater.

Ms. Jobity also played an integral role with regards the hosting of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/ Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (FAO / WECAFC) biennial meeting in Trinidad and Tobago—a first for our country, and in holding the chairmanship of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum in 2006—again, quite a challenge in terms of winning that chair in the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

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During her long tenure in the public service, Director of Fisheries, Ms. Ann Marie Jobity lead the way for a number of new programmes, innovative policies and draft legislature, and the implementation of a core special unit in Fisheries.

Since beginning her career in 1979 and covering areas such as Tabaquite, Kernaham Trace, Canque, Jagroma and Caigual, (in those days considered “distant” and bush territory), Ms. Jobity’s lists of achievements include:

Establishing an aquaculture extension programme at Bamboo Grove Fish Farm
Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources and the companies at Sea Lots.
Formulation of a draft Act for a new Fisheries Policy.
Implementation of a Fisheries Monitoring and Surveillance Unit (FMSEU).
In this quarter, we’ll be saying goodbye to Ms. Ann Marie Jobity who for the last eight years held the posts of Chairman of the Management and Advisory Committee of the Institute, and Director of Fisheries.

Ms. Jobity will soon be retiring, having spent 29 years in the Public Service assigned to the Fisheries Division. Her farewell address is reproduced in its entirety in this issue since as well as accounting for her tenure, it also describes the development of the Fisheries Division over the years.

We take this opportunity to offer Ms. Jobity an affectionate wish of happiness on her new journey.

One of her final projects for the Institute was guiding us through the procedures for development of a new Strategic Plan for the Institute. It’s been exactly one year since we started work with the Consultants on our new Strategic Plan. It took a bit longer than we had anticipated to finalize. However, in our next issue, we will be able to highlight the salient features of the Plan and the expected way forward. We’ll also give you an update on our work with the Distance Learning Secretariat of the Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education in developing podcasts for the fishing community.

Tullia Ible
Principal
Vision For the Future

In her farewell speech at the recent party held in honor of her retirement, Ms. Jobity spoke of the challenges faced with regards to industrial development in coastal areas and its impact on marine ecosystems. “The policy shift to a more decisive role for the Fisheries Division must ensure that critical fish habitats are preserved and marine ecosystems protected. In addition, fisheries must be sustained for the very survival of our coastal communities.”

A Job Well Done

The CFTDI salutes Ms. Jobity for her many years of dedicated service. It has been a joy and a learning experience for those of us who had the privilege of sharing her journey.

Mr. Simeon Yearwood, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources addresses the guests.

Saxophonist Pedro Lezama serenades the guest of honor.

Second from left, former Ambassador, Mr. Phillip Sealy reviews the program.

All in bronze. Some of the lovely ladies who attended the party pose for a photograph.
DOF’S ACHIEVEMENTS
Cont’d from page 3

Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Tullia Ible keeps the crowd perked up.

Mr. Sid Johnson (left) presents a gift to Ms. Jobity, whilst Mr. Jocelyn Lee Quay (right) joins in congratulating her.

A cross-section of the guests in attendance at the party.

Ms. Michelle Picou Gill speaks on behalf of the Fisheries Division.

A gift from the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA).
Thank you, Madam Chairperson, Good afternoon, Mr. Simeon Yearwood, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources; Commodore Anthony Franklin, Director of the Institute of Marine Affairs and Administrator of the Maritime Institute; Ambassador Phillip Sealy, Former TT representative to the UN; Ms Florita Kentish, FAO Representative; Dr. Doon Ramsaroop, CEO of the Seafood Industry Development Company (SIDC); Members of the CFTDI Management Committee; Fisheries Committee Members, past and present; National Foreign Fishing and Monitoring and Advisory Committee; Colleagues from Ministries; Fisheries Staff, past and present; Ladies and Gentlemen.

An associate related this incident recently. He was attending a retirement party and just as the “soon-to-be retiree” stood up to speak someone shouted from across the floor, “I am glad you are leaving!!” So if any one has this in mind to say, please wait until after the party.

This afternoon I have steeled my heart, because I promised a certain individual that no tears would be shed in saying “so long”. Let me start off by saying that I did not stick to the game plan, which was, after returning to Trinidad from scholarship in 1979, to give to the GORTT five years max, then leave. Here I am twenty nine years after and counting.

My first encounter in Fisheries was with the now deceased SFO. Soon thereafter, I was dispatched to the Bamboo Grove fish farm in Valsayn and after a bit of unease I settled in. The job was quite different to what I was accustomed, because I was no longer talking to young people. I was now confronted with labour and in those days, if one stood up for too long in any one place, on that farm, one might go missing. You know what I mean.

I got to know many places in Trinidad during my stay at Bamboo Grove. As you know, for people who live in the west, anywhere passed the P.O.S. lighthouse going east is considered far, so Tabaquite, Kernaham Trace, Canque, Jagroma and Caigual rivers in Plum Mitan, Cumaca, were all distant places and not on the main road, mind you, in the bushes, because that’s where the ponds and teta were. I soon set upon establishing an aquaculture extension programme and many an extension officer from the Ministry as well as fish farmers passed though that farm, on training. In those days exhibitions were a big deal for the Ministry and we always proudly displayed our fish tanks. When I left the farm, the number of fish farmers had grown from 12 to over 1000.

I was recalled to Head Office and this time banished to the Planning Division, now relegated to the post as officer without portfolio. No office space in Fisheries and no assignment. At that time we occupied two offices at St. Clair. Notwithstanding, I always kept busy. A planning officer who sat opposite would ask―Ms. Jobiity what are you doing? Eventually, a certain senior officer took issue and I was assigned to Extension. This had its own challenges, but I do hold rather pleasant memories of liaising with the ladies at NP―Misses Goddard and Hassanali to plan fisherman’s day which NP sponsored annually. It was a highly anticipated event and indeed a big day for Fisheries and fishermen from all the fishing villages; fishing competitions at beaches, cooking competitions on the day and to top it all off, a highly esteemed prize award ceremony at NP in Sea Lots.

T&T/Venezuela fishing agreement was also very popular and the entire Fisheries staff would make the long trek to Cedros once a year. The task invariably fell on my shoulders to hand out the permits. I had the privilege of working with many distinguished leaders from the Defence Force, T&T Coast Guard and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who guided the process of bilateral negotiations with Venezuela, Barbados and Guyana, and I have gained tremendously from interactions with Commodore Franklin, Ambassador Sealy, and Cdr. Kayam Mohammed.

Full Address by the Director of Fisheries on the Occasion of Her Retirement from the Public Service

Cont’d on page 10
CFTDI and the SIDC Team up for Finfish Course

The Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI) recently collaborated with the Seafood Industry Development Company (SIDC) for a training course in Fish Handling, Processing and Preservation Technology, which was well received by participants from various fishing establishments. The intention of this three week course (August 18th 2008 to September 05th 2008) was to impart the knowledge of fishing technology to fisher folk and other interested parties, focusing in particular on, the handling, processing and utilization potential of Mullet and Tilapia as food fish.

The aims of the course were:

- To upgrade the information and skills base of participants in a manner that would allow them to produce safe and wholesome products.
- To provide them with the knowledge that would allow them to reduce post harvest losses in fish.

The course content covered:

- Elements of fish science which considered the physical and chemical components of fish muscle, fish classification—Nomenclature (Binomial), spoilage patterns and quality changes, causes and controls.
- An overview of fish handling principles beginning from the capture aboard vessels to in-plant.
- Quality control procedures—including information which exposed the participants to techniques that allowed for the evaluation of quality in fish and fishery products.
- Standards and specifications for salt curing, drying and smoking of fish and fishery products.
- Packaging and merchandising (including practical exercises) considerations for chilled, frozen, and cured fishery products.

It was expected that at the end of the training course the participants would be in an enhanced position with regards to the utilization of their fishery resource.

In addition to Mullet, a variety of species such as Shark, Sea Trout, Bechine, Cavalli, and Croakers were used. Some back ground information on the key species focused on in the course is as follows:

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• The White Mullet, Mugil curema, family Mugilidae: a common and important food fish in the Caribbean (Carpenter, 2002). It occurs throughout the Western Atlantic and is found in the Eastern Atlantic and Eastern Pacific (Froese and Pauly, 2007).

• Tilapia: the third most important fish in aquaculture after Carps and Salmonids, because of their size, rapid growth, and palatability. A number of tilapiine cichlids are the focus of major aquaculture efforts. In Trinidad & Tobago the red hybrid and the silver Tilapia are available for culture.

There were nine participants, two were employees of the SIDC, two were members of the Point Coco Agricultural Association, one a member of the Blanchisseuse Fishing Community, and four were from the Claxton Bay Fishing Association.

The participants from Claxton Bay belong to a unique fishery which is being fed from the mudflats in the area that are a breeding ground for the Mullet and other marine species. As a consequence, their fishery is highly specialized and therefore one would find that Mullet processing takes place in this area only. They were quite enthusiastic about the training course, as they felt that the additional knowledge gained from the course would provide them with a great opportunity to improve what already seemed to be a potential niche market for this specie of fish. However, they were very concerned about possible plans to remove the mudflats to build an industrial centre and steel mill, and particularly the impact it would have on a budding fishery industry.

The students from the Point Coco Agricultural Association also showed keen interest since they were becoming involved in the rearing and handling of Tilapia, and were therefore considering the possibilities of its use as a food resource.

The Institute takes this opportunity to thank the Claxton Bay Fishing Association which supplied all the Mullet and Tilapia for the practical sessions of the course. At the end of the course the students were all given samples of products to take back to their communities as proof of another successful training series at the CFTDI.
Managing a Marine Fire

A critical plan of action to follow in times of this dangerous and life threatening situation, from fire fighting expert and lecturer at CFTDI, Denis Jones

The coordination and control of a marine fire first takes place on the bridge (an area or room from which the ship can be commanded) and the master (captain or commander) will be in charge of the entire incident.

The information which the master requires from crew members are:

- The time at which the fire alarm was given
- The position and nature of the fire
- Confirmation that fire parties are at their assembly points and that the fireman’s outfits are available
- Confirmation that the fire main is pressurized
- Report on initial attempts to extinguish the fire using portable extinguishers
- Report on persons present or trapped in compartments or unaccounted for
- Report on effect of fire on services e.g. lighting

A listing of the communication methods that is available and includes:

- Telephones
- Loud trailers
- Direct speech, e.g. bridge to machinery control room
- Radio telephone, hand-held radios
- Messengers

Method of damage control and the containment of the fire.

- Bridge-operated closing of watertight doors and release of fire doors to their shut position
- Stopping of ventilation fans and closing of dampers on tunnel and other places
- Closing of all window and other places
- Closing of all windows and portholes in accommodation, galley and other spaces
- Turning ship to give best position relative to wind direction for fighting the fire
- Cooling boundary bulkheads
- Using fire blankets as necessary
- Maintaining fire-watch after fire is extinguished

The information which will be available on the bridge:

- Arrangement drawings, in a convenient size, of ship engine-room and accommodation
- Details of accesses and escapes from the different zones of the ship
- Details of fire-extinguishing equipment, both fixed and portable for the entire ship, including storage position of refills
- Stability information
- Details of survival equipment and where it is stored
- Stowage plans
- Information on dangerous ponds
Managing a Marine Fire

A critical plan of action to follow in times of this dangerous and life threatening situation, from fire fighting expert and lecturer at CFTDI, Denis Jones

The stability of the ship is monitored and controlled:

- Calculating the change in GM (metacentric height) caused by the weight of the extinguishing water and its free surface effect
- Arranging pumping or draining of fire fighting water from affected spaces, including cutting holes in ship’s side
- For cargo fires, calculating the effect of having to move cargo to attack a fire
- Assessing the effect of any damage which causes spaces to be flooded by seawater
- Considering possibilities of moving vessel to shallow water or even allowing it to ground

The organization of fire parties:

- How each fire party is identified
- How each member of a fire party is identified
- What the safeguards are for keeping in contact with each person and knowing his position

The duties of each fire party, including:

- The reconnaissance team, equipped with portable fire extinguisher
- The fire-hose team
- The help, search and first-aid team
- The technical team for checking lifts, closing fire dampers, controlling ventilation fans and fuel shut-off valves, starting emergency generator and emergency fire pump and for refilling used extinguishers as required and preparing for gas flooding

REFERENCES:


I was then promoted to SFO and was in charge of infrastructure and once again the job spec changed, now liaising with the Ministry’s engineers, contractors and hardware, a very steep learning curve. Nevertheless, I closely observed my then boss, who had the overall responsibility to see that the centers were built on time and within budget. This portfolio was very enjoyable, because one still had the time to pursue activities in which one had a particular interest.

In July 2001, I took over the reins as DOF and having a relatively short time ahead, set upon achieving specific goals, which I am happy to report have all been met.

My first concern, having inherited this issue was to ensure that our national fishing interests, for our relatively small longline fleet were secured on the international front. That we were not disadvantaged by the presence of a sizeable transshipment fleet at Sea Lots, having regard to the threat of trade sanctions, from the international regulatory body. In the absence of relevant legislation, it was therefore necessary to have some type of monitoring system in place. And so the idea of an MOU between the Ministry and the Companies at Sea Lots was borne. The legal officers past and present of the Ministry, Pamela Forde and Natasha, as well as senior staff were instrumental in fine-tuning this MOU. Work is still required in terms of improving its effective implementation.

Added to that, Trinidad and Tobago won the respect of the international tuna regulatory body and we earned the distinction of having challenged that body with respect to our historical statistics, based on which our swordfish quota was increased from 42 tonnes. That figure now stands at 125 tonnes. Many other countries have followed in our footsteps in terms of requesting a review of their statistics for a greater quota allocation.

There was need for a proper fisheries policy which was executed through a consultancy and subsequently collectively fine-tuned. The legislation needed to be updated which was again executed through a consultancy. We now have a draft Act which I sincerely hope would find its place onto the Minster’s 2009 legislative agenda. Legislation is of little consequence without implementation and therefore an FMSEU was established and a vessel acquired for at sea patrols. I remember a certain gentleman declaring when I first broached the subject of a surveillance unit—“Ms. Jobity wants to lock up fishermen”. The officers of this Unit are highly trained and have attained the ranks of Special Reserve Inspectors and Corporals. I hope you continue to grow from strength to strength and you finally receive your full staff complement of twenty.

There was need to take a serious look at infrastructure and to streamline the upgrade and modernization of facilities and so a process was followed through. Sites were identified through a consultancy, as designated landing sites for major infrastructural works while others proposed as home ports for more minimal/basic upgrade. This stage was followed by the selection of one of these proposed designated sites and preparation of architectural conceptual designs.

The following year we awarded a contract for the preparation of architectural drawings, construction designs and tender documents. You may have noticed some 3D pictures on the left wall as you entered, representing what is envisioned for Las Cuevas. I anxiously await my invitation to the opening of this new modernized fishing complex in 2010. A contract has also been awarded this year for the offshore facilities—jetties and breakwater.

My one regret with regard to infrastructure was that the Division was unable during my tenure to secure its own accommodation so that we could all be housed under one roof.
“My Division, which is the Training Department, was a good chance to showcase my abilities since it involved interaction with the customers and providing support for both students and the teaching staff”

The last year has been a very rewarding journey for me as I made my return to the Trinidad and Tobago job market. I was assigned to the Caribbean Fisheries Training & Development Institute in Chaguaramas, which to be honest, I knew very little about. From the very first day, I was in a company workshop and this afforded me an opportunity to meet the entire staff.

My Division, which is the Training Department, was a good chance to showcase my abilities since it involved interaction with the customers and providing all the administrative support for both students and the teaching staff. In this department being an organized, efficient and level-headed individual comes in good use with such a fast paced and challenging job. It is the kind of environment in which it is easy to learn and one is encouraged by the stellar example set by its leaders.

I look forward to what the future presents at CFTDI in its attempts to expand and improve on what foundation has been established already as a premier training facility. I already expect my second year of employment here to be rewarding and cannot wait to see what personal growth I can achieve within the CFTDI family.
I am very pleased to write about my working experience as an OJT Registration Clerk Trainee for The Caribbean Fisheries Training & Development Institute’s Training Department.

I started working at the Institute in September 2007 and it was a major step forward for me because I had never heard of the Institute and this was my first job.

I was greeted with beautiful smiles by some of the employees at the Institute on my first day, but meeting the Principal Ms. Ible and Vice Principal Mrs. Gower de Chabert was an honor. They both are different from each other but they are both intellectually beautiful ladies, whom I admire for holding their positions as women bosses.

I was then introduced to Mr. Nigel Wint, my supervisor who taught me every thing from data Entry, which was my position at the Institute before Registration Clerk, to assisting members of the staff in a corporate setting, scheduling appointments for work related activities, keeping pertinent files organized to help the regular flow of operations of the Institute, typing business letters, taking calls and invoicing. I can go on and on about the things I’ve learnt from him.

I have clearly recognized from interaction and observation with staff members that at the end of the day they all make sure and do what needs to be done in order to keep a high standard at the Institute.

I’ve gained good and bad knowledge from every one in the Institute but I love my job. I feel very confident in my capacity even if others think of me as too young. ■
CFTDI Graduate Gains Position at Leading Offshore Services Company

After graduating from the CFTDI’s Coastal Navigation course, Ian Sookram quickly secured an attractive post as 3rd Mate at Hornbeck Offshore Services, a leading provider of offshore supply vessels in the Gulf of Mexico, and ocean going tugs and tanks in North Eastern United States and Puerto Rico.

Even though he knew nothing about navigation prior to doing the course, it piqued his interest in the Marine Industry. He followed up soon after by also completing the Global Maritime Distress Safety Systems (GMDSS) course, his ticket to landing the job at Hornbeck.

Sookram conveyed to us his appreciation for the course and the Institute. “I would like the Institute to know that without that particular course, I would not have been in a position as I am today. I have found that since I have done this course, other courses which pertain to navigation have become much easier for me.

My course instructor, Mr. Ramnath, was very professional in carrying out his duties to ensure that we had no failures in our class. In my entire life, he was on of the best professors I ever had, with regards to his skills, patience, professionalism, efficiency and optimism for his class.

This course is a great asset to the Marine Industry. To learn about Coastal Navigation is very gratifying for someone who has interests in this field.

I want to thank Mr. Ramnath for sharing his professional knowledge as a Master. It has assisted me towards beginning a successful career in the Marine Industry. I would also like to thank the Institute for providing this programme for people like myself who would like to further their interests in this area.”

Congrats to Ian. He proves that self effort is rewarded by success.

Ministry of Education Lauds Fish Technology Training Course

“As Curriculum Officer, I see the objectives of the course being materialized in the classroom, which is to assist students with the School Based Assessment (SBA) and technology pertaining to fish handling and training being included in the form 1-3 Technology Education Syllabus. There is on stream, a new programme called Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) in secondary schools. The course that your Institute is offering can help greatly in Food Preparation, Aquaculture and Ornamental Fish Breeding.

The Ministry of Education appreciates your effort in assisting in its education vision of life long learning and education for all.

We look forward to your support.”

Mrs. Sandra Nurse, Curriculum Officer, Ministry of Education
DOF’s Speech -Cont’d from page 10

In 2005, this country hosted the FAO WECAFC biennial meeting which was a first for Trinidad and Tobago and we also held the chairmanship of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum in 2006, which is no easy task in terms of winning that chair in CARICOM.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as stakeholders of the fisheries sector we are cognizant of the important role of fisheries in national development. We are aware that the sector in the 21st century is confronted with many challenges, not the least of which is industrial development in coastal areas and its impact on marine ecosystems. The policy shift to a more decisive role for the Fisheries Division must ensure that critical fish habitats are preserved and marine ecosystems protected.

In addition, fisheries must be sustained for the very survival of our coastal communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, staff of Fisheries, I am amongst those fortunate, for whom the job constituted an enjoyment. Every day posed a different challenge and I was never bored or unmotivated. Most of my senior staff (4 in all) left for greener pastures soon thereafter assuming the job as Director. Over the years, I have never been fortunate to have had a Deputy for any extended period of time, to whom work could be delegated. When I did have one for a very short time, I sat at my desk and said out loud, “Lord, I thank you!”

I have watched supervisees overnight become supervisors and in some quarters there were convulsions. I have witnessed the transformation of relatively junior, insecure staff, to confidant dependable, senior supervising officers in whom the Division can now be entrusted.

I wish to express my thanks to the Ministers of Agriculture, and Permanent Secretaries, past and present for supporting our programmes, for affording me the opportunity over the years to represent my country, nationally and internationally. I have always understood this to be a privilege and have never foolishly believed that it was my right. I wish to thank the FAO for their support during my tenure and the CRFM for the assistance provide to the Division. I owe a debt of gratitude to my colleagues in this Ministry and other sister agencies MSD, TTCG, IMA, UWI, EMA for their support and willingness to share and advise.

I give my thanks to Fisheries committee members, both past and present; the MAC, Foreign Fishing and CFTDI Management Committee, for their support of the work of the Division, the latter of the CFTDI.

This has been a great job. I have had great staff, all the best to you. Not to be found wanting or guilty of the sin of ingratitude. I say without derision and with a straight face, thanks to the GORTT for the gratuity and pension. Thanks to Mr. Griffith from Las Cuevas and other fishermen who at times made fish affordable to me, gratitude to the fishing communities of this country, for giving me the opportunity to serve and to make whatever humble contribution, to the industry and to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. Thanks to the staff for organizing this wonderful event, Clerk IV’s St. Clair and Mohammed, Wendy, Ruth, Reguel and his team. Thanks to Pamela, my secretary who has endured over the years, Nadia and Allys and their teams—we braved many a rough seas down in Erin. Madam meticulous, Michelle, Carl and his beautiful handwriting, the liming crew and chief cook Eustace, staff too numerous to mention, thanks for the many gifts. They are all well appreciated given my new status as pensioner. Thank you all for coming and for sharing this very special occasion with us. Do have a very enjoyable time. Thank you! ■

Office Humor

Best Things to say if Caught Sleeping At Your Desk...

“They told me at the blood bank this might happen.”

“This is just a 15 minute power-nap as described in that time management course you sent me.”

“Whew! Guess I left the top off the White-Out. You probably got here just in time!”

“I wasn’t sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm.”

“I was testing my keyboard for drool resistance.”

“I was doing Yoga exercises to relieve work-related stress.”

“Damn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem.”

“The coffee machine is broken...”

“Someone must’ve put decaf in the wrong pot...”

“... in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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“... in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
Library Corner
Recommended Reading: Books that Stimulate, Educate and Inspire

Developed and refined through 35 years of Coast Guard Auxiliary training courses, this book serves as an introduction to recreational boating’s fundamentals. Written for both beginning and intermediate power boaters alike, it explains the basics of choosing, equipping, and handling a small to midsize powerboat.

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

- Selecting the right boat—whether a 10-foot skiff or a 35-foot cruiser
- Essential equipment, both required and recommended
- Docking and anchoring
- Boat handling and seamanship on coastal and inland waters
- Trailering a boat
- Navigation and the rules of the nautical road
- Using and maintaining marine engines, drive trains, and electronics
- Knots, splices, and line handling
- Marine weather and marine communications

Boating Skills and Seamanship is the ideal study and reference guide for anyone taking a boating license exam or seeking better boating skills and knowledge.

Breaking The Curse is a very entertaining and inspiring chronicle. It is a sometimes funny, sometimes serious, sometimes happy, sometimes sad, sometimes emotional and sometimes trying account of a life. It is an odyssey. It is a story about a destructive and debilitating trait that plagued a family. But one woman, a wise, loving and caring mother, is determined to save her son from the pitfall. She forges a very special relationship between herself and her only son, and sets out to prepare and enlighten her boy. It covers a boy’s journey through adolescence to manhood and reveals his experiences, trials and shortcoming, misdeeds and triumphs. It defines a “Curse” and reveals how a mother’s wisdom, strength, and courage, prepared her son for the cause of “Breaking The Curse”.

As one of the titles in the series “Why Is This Festival Special” by Jillian Powell, this book gives a delightful account of the different ways people around the world celebrate Divali or “The Festival of Lights”. It explores why the event is important and the traditions associated with it. Written in a simple style, it presents a comprehensive view of this celebration—one which has grown to be embraced and enjoyed by our wider local community, and which adds to the richness and diversity of our cultural landscape.
How to Work in Any Environment
(Adapted from the works of televangelist and inspirational author, T.D. Jakes)

1. Don’t expect to be appreciated. Your only expectation should be to get a pay cheque.

2. Don’t come to work to have personal relationships.

3. Don’t allow what you do to affect who you are.

4. Do your job well, but remember your mission—you are responsible to a higher being than yourself for all of your actions.

5. Seek opportunities to change the atmosphere without commenting. Quietness and competence shall be your strength.

6. Don’t let your environment get inside you. You should influence your environment.

7. Stop going to work to be fed. You did not come to receive. You came to give.

8. Increase your capacity to work with different personalities. Remember the Almighty often blesses you through people you don’t even like.

9. Remember where you are does not define where you are going.

10. Keep your eyes on the prize.

11. Get the optimum results with minimum confusion.

12. Be effective without making the environment worse.

13. Don’t be associated with one group or clique. Remember labels limit your usefulness. You were put here on this earth to work with every one and to be labeled by no body.

14. Understand that there is a superior being that prepares you for, and sustains you in times of trouble.

15. Always keep your song near you. Keep a consecrated place in your soul.