

QEMTT Newsletter

Queen Esther's Ministries Trinidad and Tobago



OUR VISION

"To transform a nation of youths and families by impacting change"

OUR MISSION

"To bring hope in a time where it is much needed, by sharing the love of Chrsit as far and wide as He allows us to reach"



admin@queenesthersministriestt.com



1-868-74 - QEMTT (747-3688)



FCB ACC # 2762372



queenesthersministriestt.com



QEMTT Newsletter

Queen Esther's Ministries Trinidad and Tobago



QEMTT

Founded in 2020 Queen Esther's Ministries Trinidad and Tobago started with a team of 2 directors. Fast track to 4 years later and we have grown to be a team of close to 20 members including volunteers.

When QEMTT was founded by Mrs Ramkissoon, we started off doing just 10 hampers for our first hamper drive, to date we are now doing 100 hampers and more. We have formed relationships with sponsors both locally and internationally allowing us the ability to help a lot more families and children in need

1

TOBAGO HAMPER DRIVE

Our 3rd hamper drive on the island

2

BACK 2 SCHOOL

Our biggest back to school initiative since QEMTT was founded

3

CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Distributed hampers as well as toys and treat bags to kids



Women's Conference

Held in May 2024 for the very first time for 200 women



Feature in Business Express

In December 2024 our president and founder was featured in the Express Business Magazine QEMTT at a fundraising Gala



President & Founder

Message to everyone

Tobago Hamper of Hope

Our Tobago Hamper of Hope distribution was conducted on 3rd to 6th January, 2024

Our hampers were packaged in Trinidad and then transported via boat to the island of Tobago which was then distributed to 18 families in need across various communities.

The hampers were given to single parent households who were struggling to put food on the table. Some of the families included a single mother who was sexually abused and became pregnant with no one to assist and she was struggling to survive giving the increase in cost of living, also included an elderly female living in an unbearable environment with one leg and no one to care for her full time.

Additionally single mothers who were coming out of abusive relationships and trying to make ends meet were provided with a hamper. Every family who received the hampers extended heartfelt gratitude for they said the food came just in time as they had nothing to eat.



“Eighteen (18) families were fortunate enough to received hampers in Tobago valued at 600TT”





Hallmark International
Youth Club USA (HIYC)
present

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024

*Fireside Chat on Unleashing Potential:
Women Leading the Path to Inclusion*



Minette Mponwe
Communications
Manager HIYC / Moderator



Lyzianah Emakoua
Executive Director, HIYC USA
and Gender Expert



Esther Ramkissoon
Founder and President of Queen
Esther's Ministries Trinidad and Tobago



Paula Sweis
Founder / Advisor- SILVERWEISS
International Business Financing and
Consulting Member, UNA USA



Charlene Chekenya
Humanitarian and Founder
of Stand Foundation Trust



Abigail Ndikum
Founder and Executive Director
of the Yale Africa Innovation Symposium

Time: 1PM EST 8 MARCH

Location Live
@Hallmark International Youth Club

In March of 2024 founder/president of QEMTT, Mrs Esther Ramkissoon was invited to sit in and speak in a panel discussion which was hosted by another non profit organisation based in the USA. The panel included several international female speakers who were also thriving in their area of philanthropy and paving the way forward for other females. The fireside chat which was held on International women's day was streamed online via instagram and Facebook. This was not only a great opportunity to share on the success of Queen Esther's Ministries but also a means of allowing more international persons to learn about what we do.

Feeding the Orphans

Partnering to feed the children at Hope Center



In May of 2024 Queen Esther's Ministries Trinidad and Tobago was honoured to be able to partner with a home for children who were abused, neglected and homeless to provide a meal, a drink and a dessert for all the kids.

We spent an average of 100TT on a child providing them with a quality meal, a nice desert and a juice. President and Founder Mrs Esther Ramkissoo accompanied by another one of the directors personally visited the home delivered the meals to the kids and sat and talked with them as well as prayed with all the children.

The opportunity to do this was indeed a blessing as these children and those who are most in need of our love and care.





Easter Hamper of Hope Drive

Since 2022 our president and founder of Queen Esther's Ministries, Mrs Esther Ramkissoon has asked persons instead of getting her a gift for her birthday to give towards QEMTT Easter Hamper of Hope Initiative. Each year single parents look forward to the assistance that they receive from this hamper drive.

This hamper drive not only allows single parents or guardians to benefit from it but also allows for this who are marginalised to be able to access some much needed assistance.

In 2024 Mrs Ramkissoon was please to spend the days leading up to her 32nd Birthday to be

able to give to those less fortunate. Since she, herself was once in need and looked forward to the charitable acts from others to be able to get by Mrs Ramkissoon has started doing hampers through QEMTT to assist those who are considered vulnerable in society.

We at QEMTT understand that these times are difficult and that doing hampers only at Christmas time simply isn't enough. Our NGO also tries it's best to assist those in need outside of these initiatives as well by reaching out to sponsors and partners who are willing to assist as we know that there are many who are barely getting by in society.



1st Women's Empowerment Conference

Hosted by QEMTT

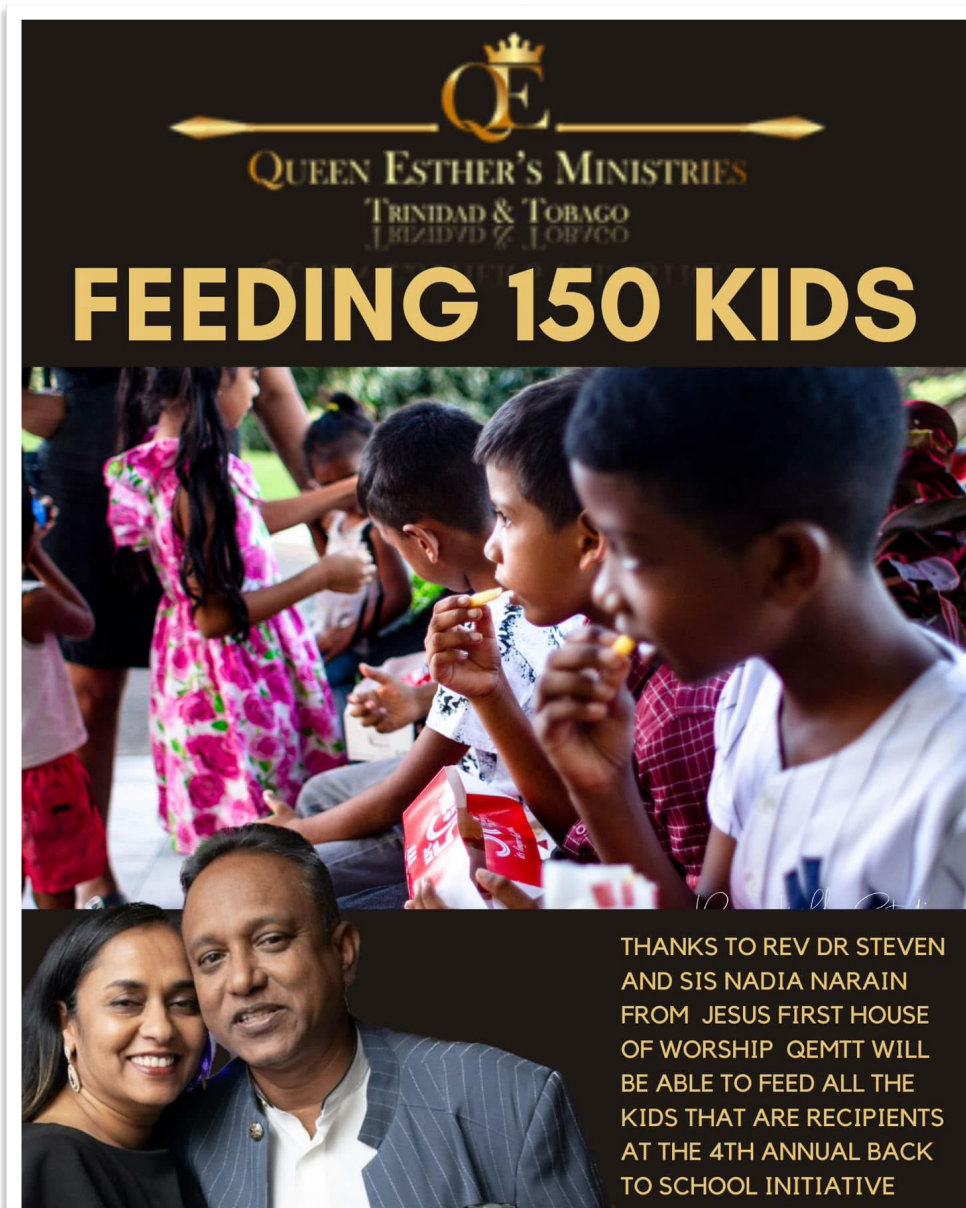


For the very first time QEMTT was able to host our first ever Women's Empowerment conference for women all over Trinidad and Tobago. The purpose of the conference was to empower women to be better and do better in their lives not just for themselves but for their children. The conference was absolutely free and opened to 200 women who received a free meal and had the opportunity to access booths from Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, TTPS and also a medical speaker from the South West Regional Health Authority.



The more we assisted families in crisis the more we saw the need to invest in this conference to help transform the hearts and minds of the women we assist. We believe that if we can assist the women to be transformed that it will trickle down positively impacting the lives of the children in these families and hopefully making a life long impact to transforming communities and preventing children from becoming another statistic. We are hoping to be able to do this once a year and hosting it also for men.

Annual Back to School Initiative 2024



This year in August of 2023, Queen Esther's Ministries was able to bless 150 kids with book bags filled with stationary items as well as a hamper of groceries to allow parents the opportunity to send their kids back to school on a full stomach.

For the second time also we were able to bless each child that was present for the back to school drive with a meal in the form of a box of KFC and a drink which was sponsored by Pastor Steven and Sister Nadia Naraine from Jesus First House of Worship, New York.

This initiative was held at the Lisas Garden Community Centre which was donated for us to use.

We were able to invite the MP for the area Mr. Rudranath Indarsingh who was also accompanied by the counsellor for Savonetta/Point Lisas Mr. Ramchand Rajbal Maraj. The event was hosted by award winning radio personality of the year from w107.1fm Karen Noel with special guest performances by gospel artiste Alyssa Jospeh.

This year's back to school initiative cost a little in excess of 150,000TT which was donated by various local and international sponsors who we are hoping will continue to partner with us to make a difference here in Trinidad and Tobago. Families and children from communities all across Trinidad attended the back to school drive which took place in the form of a service for the children and families. We were also honoured to have several of our sponsors in attendance as they were able to witness first hand where their investments are going and see the smiles of joy upon the faces of the children as they received a new book bag for heading back to school in August 2024.





Featured in Express Business Magazine

Queen Esther's Ministries Trinidad and Tobago

Page 8 | **ExpressBusiness** Wednesday, December 18, 2024

FUNDRAISERS

Esther Ramkissoon gets hampers ready for distribution by Queen Esther's Ministries Trinidad and Tobago, the organisation she founded.

Queen Esther Ministries transforms struggles into support

by Melisa Maynard

melisa.maynard@trinidadexpress.com

BE considerate of each other this Christmas.

That is the message from the founder of a charitable organisation that assists families in need.

And while Christmas is usually described as the season of giving, for Esther Ramkissoon giving to those in need is not only during this season but throughout the year.

Having to overcome a tough and challenging background, Ramkissoon used her experience to propel her to start a non-governmental organisation (NGO) named Queen Esther's Ministries Trinidad and Tobago, which supports families in need.

Ramkissoon was quick to explain that the NGO was not named after her but instead inspired by Esther in the Bible.

"The story of Esther is the one when she went before the king to get favour and when she found favour she was able to extend the favour she got onto the people so that is the gist behind it. I go to the company, I go to the sponsors and when I get the favour, they bless me because of my vision with the NGO, I am able to now extend it to other people."

Explaining further how the idea of the NGO came about, she said, "What inspired me was how I grew up. I grew in an abusive home; mom was a single parent of 11 children and my dad growing up he was very abusive

to her. He used to beat her, he had other women and other children."

Who feels it know it

Growing up with very little, Ramkissoon said her family relied heavily on charity to survive. Being the last of 11 children, she recalled her family living in small structure with dirt inside, before her mother was able to build a board house. But then tragedy struck the already struggling family when their home was destroyed by fire.

"We were literally homeless we spent the first night on the road.... and then everything from there when our home burn down we didn't have anything. So, everything we wore, everything we eat was basically what people gave to us, so it was charity that got us through," she recounted.

As a result of financial woes, Ramkissoon shared that she was unable to finish school. This, however, did not remain her fate as she took herself back to school doing two OXIC subjects at a time before studying accounting. She said "from the age of 15 I started working and would work and do evening classes."

She emphasised that all these experiences are "what birthed the NGO in my heart. When I was in a place to start it, I started it with me and two other directors. We didn't have any volunteers, I didn't even know how to go about getting sponsors and today some of the biggest companies

in Trinidad and Tobago are faithful sponsors to the NGO," adding that several international companies also support the NGO.

She said the organisation started during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. "The first set of hampers we did was for families affected by Covid. Each hamper was a \$1,000 in value and we did just ten hampers. Moreover, she said, her biggest initiative under the NGO is the back-to-school drive supporting 100 children to be equipped for school. These included all stationery items needed for school, bookbags and a food hamper.

"So, today we continue it but we added to it so we now give every child who attends the back to school drive a meal which is sponsored by an international sponsor and they get the bookbag with all the stationery items and the families still get the hamper of groceries and we do it like a red-carpet event for the children," she explained.

Noting her gratitude to all sponsors and partners, she said they are invited to the event as transparency is key to the organisation.

Apart from sponsorship, Ramkissoon said fundraisers are also a means to generating additional funds to support the NGO's initiatives.

According to Ramkissoon, a number of people from varying age groups volunteer with the NGO but the majority of her volunteers are young people and

university students.

In order to receive assistance, she said, an application is posted on its social media pages with application remaining open for a month.

"During that time persons who see it online or know of people that are in need, they could give them the number and they can WhatsApp or call the number and the administrative assistant will call them back and get all their information."

According to Ramkissoon, a means test with detailed questions help to ensure that persons genuinely in need get the organisation's assistance.

200 applications received

She noted that the target was to assist 100 persons this Christmas but application exceeded the 200 therefore sifting through to assist those more in need becomes vital.

"So, we try to prioritise single parents with multiple children and then it may have a single parent who is unemployed and we will give them priority," she said, adding then others are accommodated.

"We have our seasonal drive which we will do every year for Easter, Back-to-School and for Christmas. Those are the three biggest drives but then in between we have families who apply and we help them. Those are the times all through the year, we won't advertise it, but we will help families if they reach out to us and they are in need," said Ramkissoon.

Described as a nobody before, Ramkissoon said she is grateful to God for blessings her that she can now be a blessing to many. "I am amazed and humbled at how blessed I am to be a blessing to others," she said.

What is important for Ramkissoon is ensuring that the hampers given have items that will go a long way, therefore giving a family of four five pounds of flour that will run out in a week's time is not effective. Hence, she makes a greater effort to provide larger food items that has some longevity. She noted that the hamper drive caters to families across the Trinidad and also in Tobago.

On December 24, the NGO will host its annual Christmas hamper drive and treat to assist 100 families. "We allow the families who are coming to collect the hamper to bring the kids to the treat...the treat is open to other children," she said.

She added applications are closed for this year. The 32-year-old wife and mother of one believes that order and structure in running her NGO is critical but more than that she pointed out the importance of not branding items given to families. She underscored that because she came from a difficult past of not having and being bullied in school because she was a recipient of charity, the back-to-school programme is the nearest to her heart.

Anyone wishing to partner or be sponsor at Queen Esther's Ministries can contact 747-3688.

Express Business Magazine

Hosted by Mary Schreiber Swenson PhD



This year, founder and president Mrs Esther Ramkissoon was featured not only in the express business magazine but also on the programme IN DEPTH with DK ROSTANT.

The newspaper article however was published in the Express Business Magazine on 18th December 2024. The article was published by award winning Financial Literacy Journalist, Melissa Maynard. While the article spoke in depth of the struggles Mrs. Ramkissoon faced as a young person growing up it also highlighted her hard work and dedication through the legally registered non profit organisation, Queen Esther's Ministries Trinidad and Tobago. Throughout 2024 Mrs Ramkissoon would have also shared on various radio programmes such as Sky 99.5fm, w107.1fm as well as 99.1fm



Annual Christmas Treat & Hamper of Hope

Held at Rush BBQ & Grill San Fernando



Our Annual Christmas treat catered for 300 kids ages 2-12 to receive a gift wrapped toy and a treat bag, children from communities such as; San Fernando, Point Fortin, Debe, San Juan, Port of Spain, Chaguanas, Couva,, Sangre Grande and much more benefitted as the families who received hampers were also given the opportunity to bring their kids to be part of the treat and share in the joy of the season.

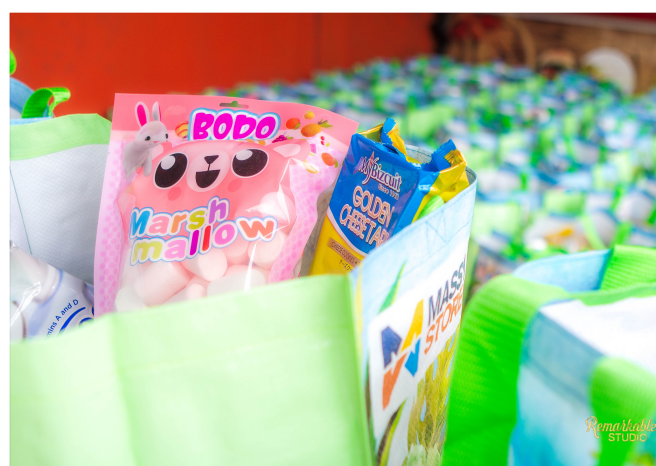


Annual Christmas Treat & Hamper of Hope

Held at Rush BBQ & Grill San Fernando

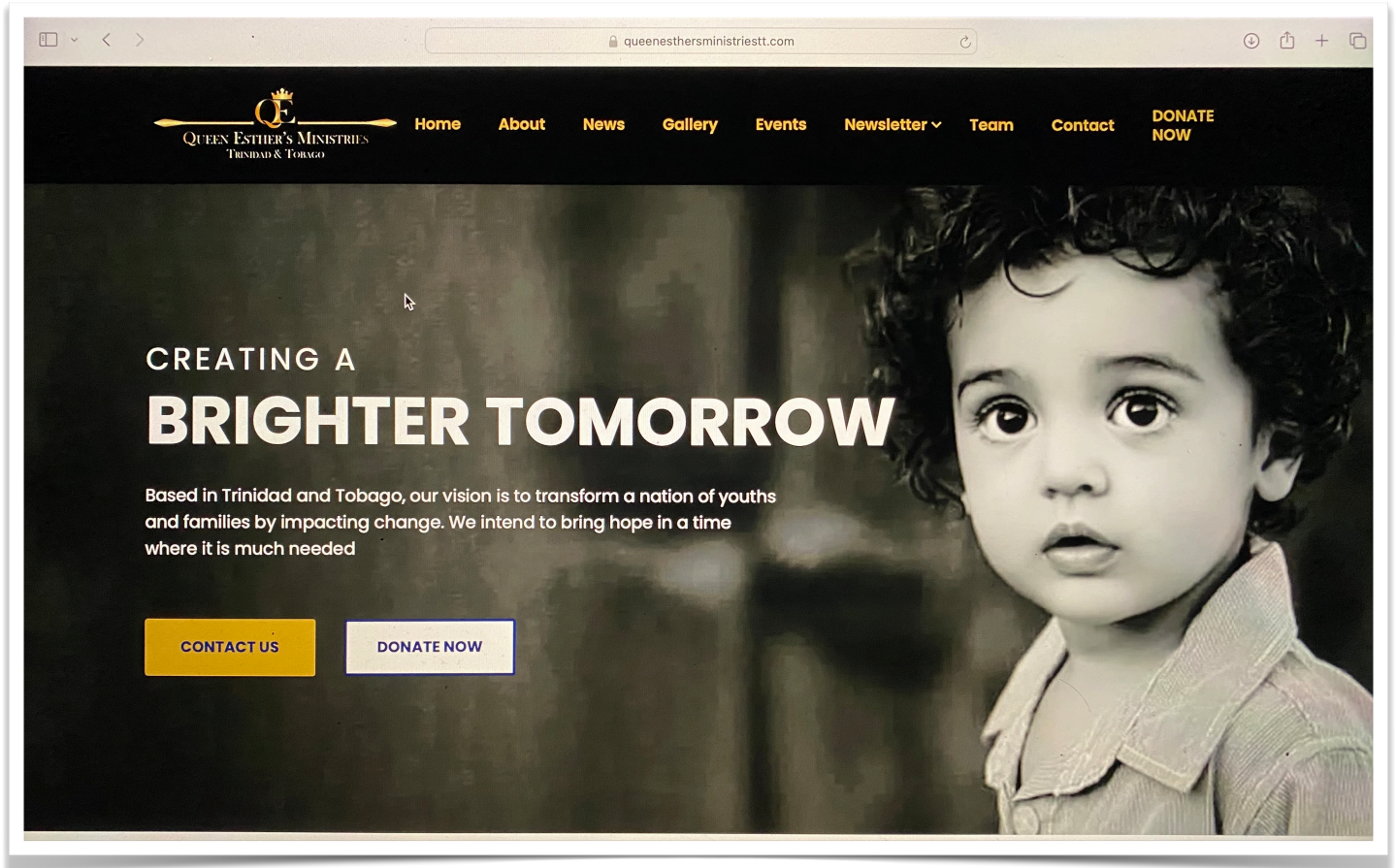


Based on funds raised and due to the fact that we were not able to do any fundraisers this year, QEMTT was able to do 75 hampers for Christmas valued at 600TT as well as 300 snack bags and 300 age appropriate toys for children in need across Trinidad and Tobago. Thanks to all partners both locally and internationally this was possible. The hampers benefitted families who children were sexually abused, single parents and even grandparents who have guardianship of multiple grandkids.



The Launch of QEMTT Website

queenesthersministriestt.com



The year 2024 brought with it growth for QEMTT as we were able to successfully launch our website and allow persons the opportunity to donate to us directly through our website using Wipay. Our website highlights all our past initiatives as well as gives a detail insight into our upcoming initiatives and allows persons to also contact us directly via email.

Additionally, all of our sponsors have the opportunity to be featured on our website as an incentive for donating towards our causes. With the website up and running we are hoping to reach more of the general population as well as have more of the private sector/companies partner with us to make a difference.

Our website also allows for person to get to know more about our directors and connect with our founder/president directly should they have any questions or require further information concerning Queen Esther's Ministries.

Persons can also donate through our banking account using the following info:

Bank:	First Citizens Bank
Account Name:	Queen Esther's Ministries Trinidad & Tobago
Account Number:	2762372
Account Type:	Cheqing
Branch:	Marabella

A message from our president and founder

Mrs Esther Ramkissoon



QEMTT was founded on the book of Esther from the Bible. It is my strong conviction that my team and I have been "Called for such a time as this" Esther 4:14. I believe that there are many children and families right here in Trinidad and Tobago who are facing many struggles with providing the basic needs for their families such as food, clothing and shelter. I also believe that those we fail to educate we will eventually incarcerate thus contributing to the increase in the crime rate.

As such I am convinced that our methods of incorporating a spiritual approach with a physical approach is the best way to solving some of the many challenges that children and families are facing. While we are a Faith based organisation we work closely with children and families providing them with the physical resources needed to aid in quality education and a sound family life.

This year on the 22nd July, 2024 QEMTT will be celebrating our 5 year anniversary as a legally registered non profit organisation. While it is our futuristic plan to launch what is known as the "Dream Center" where children can access free after school assistance, we are also hoping to start the process by obtaining an official office space to be known as the base for operating QEMTT.

While we have been successfully operating without an office in times past as we continue to grow there is need for a physical office as we are now assisting a lot more families now in comparison to when we just started off and were only assisting 10 families at a time. Now we have hundreds of applications coming in and the need for an official office is greater now than before in order to be more effective in assisting those in need.

As we enter into 2025 it is my heartfelt encouragement to all to please be mindful of those around you, it could be in your neighbourhood or at work, there are people struggling in need all around us and as the cost of living goes up it is even harder for the average person to survive. Look out for each other and love your neighbour as yourself.

QEMTT Newsletter

We take this Opportunity to thank all of our 2023 Partners



We would also like to extend a special thank you to all our individual sponsors and to acknowledge all our anonymous partners at Queen Esther's Ministries Trinidad and Tobago