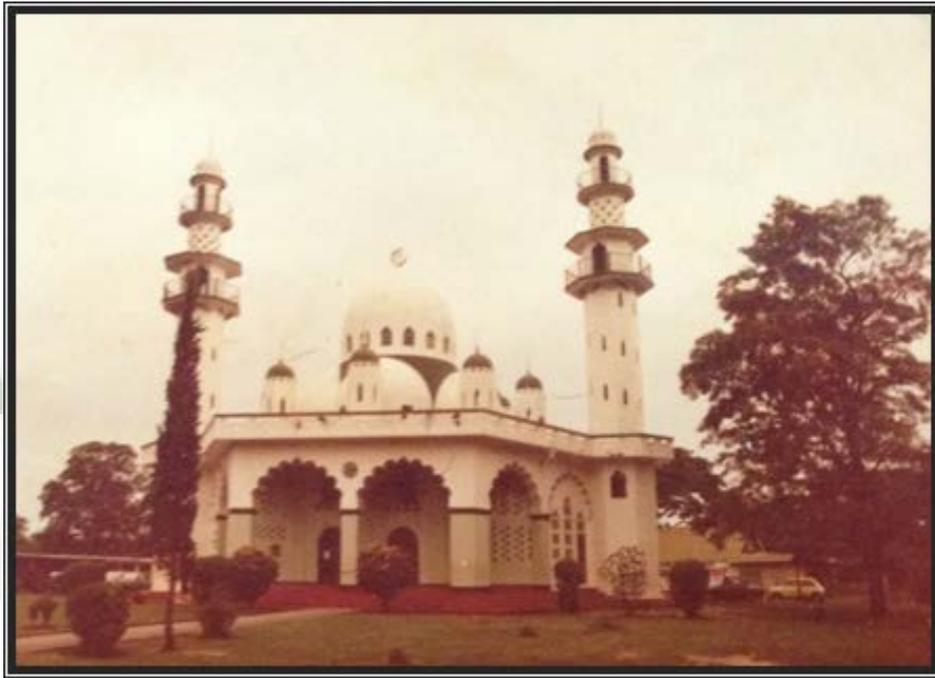


# T. M. L. PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST. JOSEPH

## *AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT (TO DATE)*

Referred to as '*The Magnificent Three*', **T.M.L Primary School, St Joseph** (formerly known as **St. Joseph T. M. L. Primary School**), a Government-assisted, denominational school, is located on the compound of the **Trinidad Muslim League Inc. (T.M.L.)** at Valsayn Trace, Eastern Main Road, **St Joseph**, just south of '*The Magnificent One*' - the *Jinnah Memorial Mosque* - a popular landmark in Trinidad.



**THE SCHOOL JUST SOUTH OF THE JINNAH MEMORIAL MOSQUE - THE  
"MAGNIFICENT ONE"**

The idea of establishing a primary school on the compound was conceived at a banquet held in honour of the then *Minister of Education and Social Services, Mr. Roy A. Joseph*. He had suggested that the *Mosque Hall*, an **open shed** which

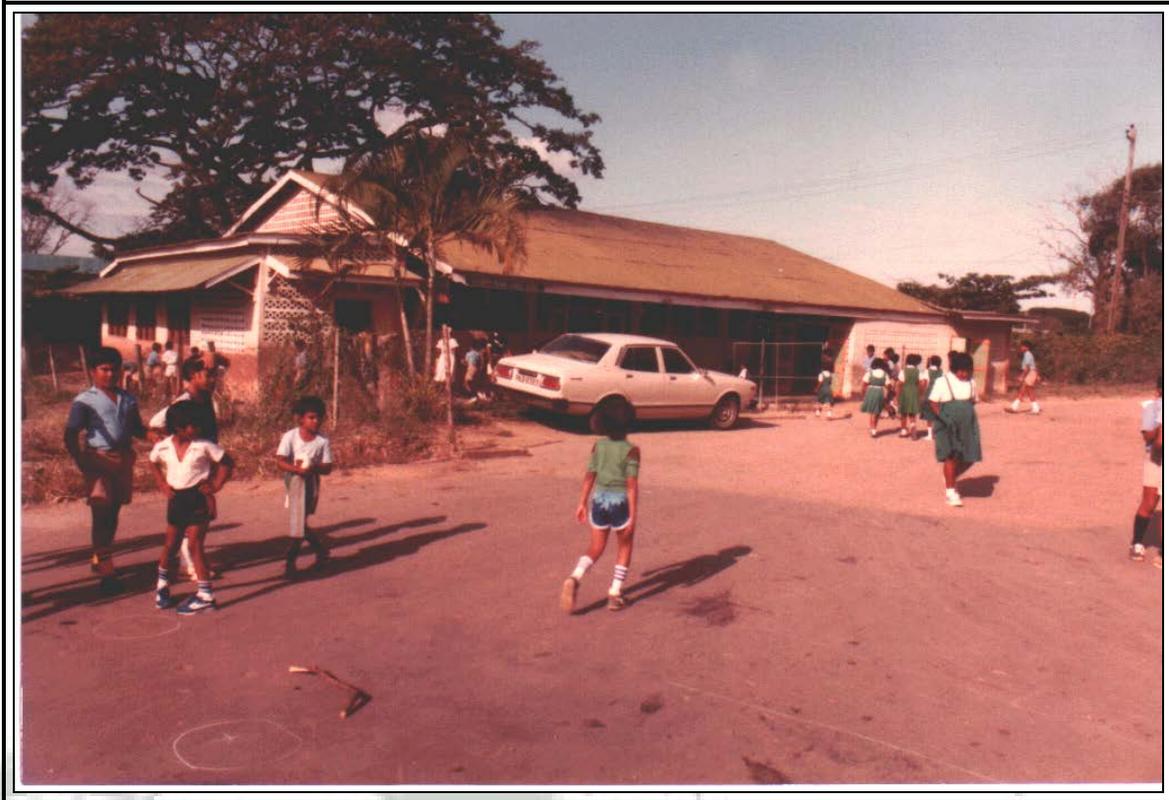
was used for meetings, functions and other social gatherings *be converted to a hall befitting a primary school* in order to meet the demand for primary school places in the St. George East Education Division – two schools were destroyed by fire in quick succession, resulting in an acute shortage of primary school places. With his help and encouragement, **and** the efforts of the *T. M. L. Ladies Association*, **ST. JOSEPH T. M. L. PRIMARY SCHOOL** – nicknamed '**The Cow Shed**' in those days for its architecture – was "**Born out of Fire**" on **Monday, 29th. April, 1957.**

That day, the school opened its doors in modest and humble circumstances with an enrollment of **eighty-three (83) pupils** and a **Teaching Staff of five (5)** under the administration of **its founding and only Head-Teacher (Principal), Mr. Murtuza Baksh** (deceased). The first student registered was Kayum Mohammed; he later served as teacher and vice principal at the school. By yearend, the pupil enrollment had risen to one hundred and seventy-eight (178). Mr. Baksh's outstanding, leadership qualities, as well as, his vibrant, efficient and dedicated Teaching-Staff fashioned St. Joseph T. M. L. Primary School into the most prestigious and sought-after school in the East- West Corridor, if not in the whole island. Children from *various parts of the country and around the world* have attended, and **continue** to attend the school.

In the course of the school's existence, the *Mantle of Leadership* has since been passed on to Mr. Mazac Shaama (1974, deceased), Mr. Hamra-ul Asad Muradali (1980, deceased), Mr. Shamshad Ali (1990), Mr. Farouk Khan (1999) and Mr. Jameel Hosein (2008), the present principal.

Despite the **appalling, physical conditions, limited facilities** and **over-crowding** under which the school functioned at that time, it **produced consistent, excellent results**, in all facets of endeavours, both secular and religious. T.M.L Primary School, St Joseph has produced, and persists in producing **all-round students** - who are making valuable contributions to society

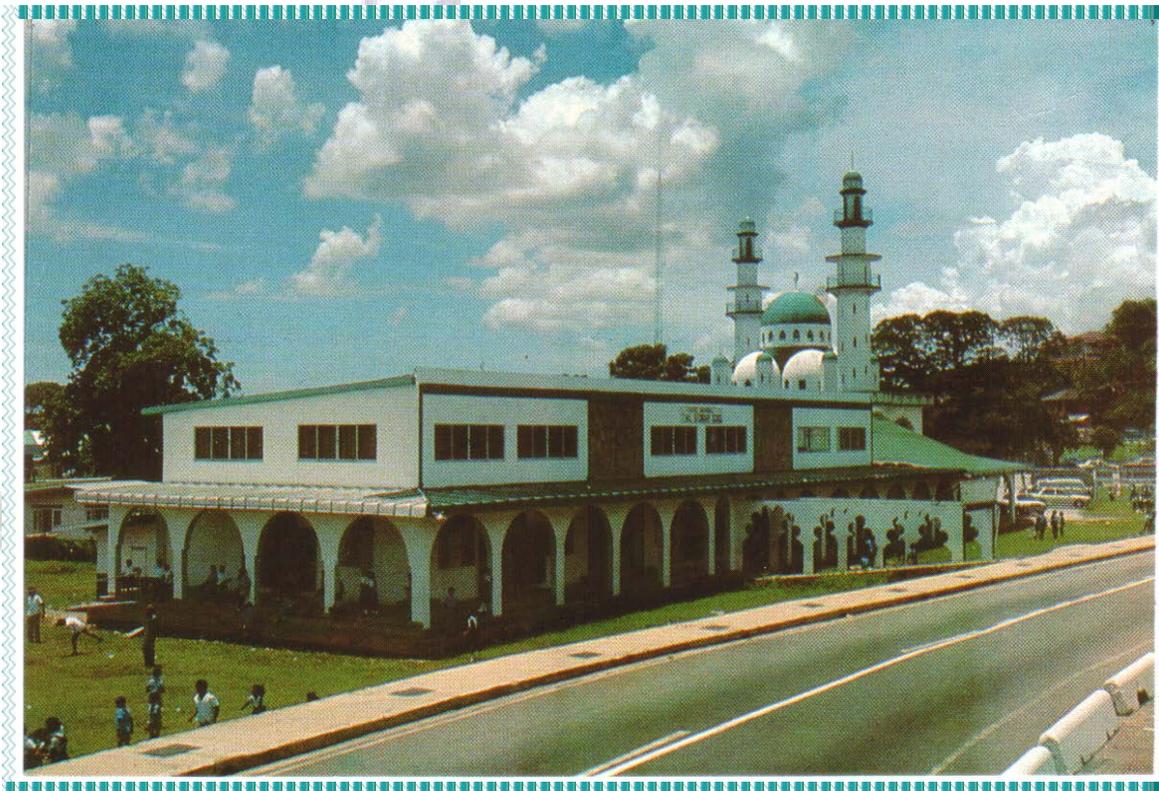
- by encouraging participation in various extra-curricular activities such as Red Cross, Girl Guides, Brownies, Cub Scouts, 4-H Club, School Gardening, Literary Arts, Choir-singing and Sports.



### THE OLD SCHOOL - A. K. S. "THE COW SHED"

Horrified at the conditions – dark and cramped with poor ventilation, and smelly toilets that literally ran the teachers and pupils from the school - which existed when he assumed office as Principal 1 on Monday, 8th. September, 1980, **Mr. Hamra-ul Asad Muradali** who coined the school's Motto: "***There Is No Limit to Success***", spearheaded the drive to transform the dream of the erection of a new school to a reality. Construction of the new, school-building began shortly after the school had closed for the July-August Vacation in 1982. **Not one (1) day of school was disrupted during the entire period of construction;** the school was temporarily facilitated a few meters just east of the school site at 'The

*Magnificent Two'* - the newly erected *T. M. L. Headquarters* - from *Monday, September 6, 1982 to Friday, April 13, 1984*. The Infant Department was accommodated in a temporary annex funded by the *Ministry of Education*. In December 1983, the Project Manager presented the *T. M. L. Council* with a Certificate of Completion (save for the erection of arches on the Top Floor) for *St. Joseph T. M. L. Primary School*. The school returned to the ***new school-building*** on ***Monday, 30th. April, 1984***, to commence Term I of its new Academic Year.



**THE SCHOOL HOUSED AT THE T. M. L. HEADQUARTERS - "THE MAGNIFICENT TWO" DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING**



### THE NEW SCHOOL - "THE MAGNIFICENT THREE"

At a very impressive function held on **Thursday, 24th. May, 1984**, at **2:00 P.M.** in the newly constructed school-building [built for a pupil-capacity of four hundred and fifty (450)], *St. Joseph T. M. L. Primary School*, with a *pupil enrollment of five hundred and twenty (520)*, and a *Teaching-Staff of Twenty (20)*, under the leadership of *Mr. Hamra-ul Asad Muradali*, was **officially opened**. The *Honourable Mr. Overand R. Padmore*, Minister of Education and Culture, *Mr. Clive. Boreley*, Director of Schools Supervision, *representatives of the T. M. L. Inc. and its School Board*, *Mr. Sookdeo Ragoonanan (SS 1, Ag.)* and other *Schools Supervisors* from the *St. George East Education Division*, and *Justice Noor Hassanali* (Second President of Trinidad and Tobago, deceased) were among the officials who attended the formal opening ceremony. **Friday, 25th. May, 1986** was declared a **Principal's Holiday** to commemorate that historic occasion.



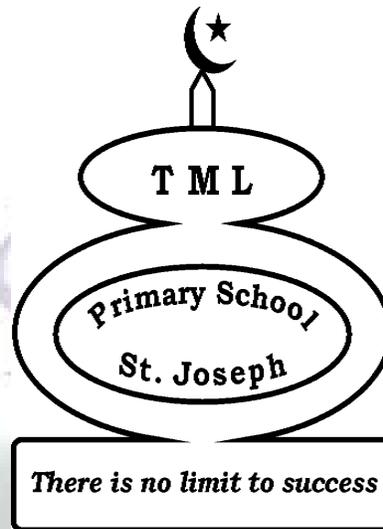
### THE FORMAL OPENING CEREMONY OF ST. JOSEPH T. M. L. PRIMARY SCHOOL

In 1986, the *T. M. L. Council* mandated (via its School Board of Management) that its schools be identified as ***T. M. L. schools by their location***. This was not effected until the early 1990's when the mandate was re-emphasized and implemented. Thus, St. Joseph T. M. L. Primary School adopted its new name, **T. M. L. PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST. JOSEPH.**

During his tenure as Principal 1, ***Mr. Shamshad Ali*** overseered the construction of a *Library* and *Staff-Room* above the Principal's Office and Waiting Room, as well as, the addition of a *new wing to the south of the original structure* in the July-August Vacation of 1998. He also *revived the school garden* which the school was famous for in the 1960's, through the School Garden Competitions it won for approximately four (4) consecutive years.

Some time between 2001 and 2005, ***Mr. Farouk Khan***, the reigning principal, initiated the school's ***LOGO***, *restored the Waiting Room*, converted the existing Staff-Room to a *Computer Room*, annexed the *T. M. L. Sports Complex* to the

southern side of the school, extended and renovated the Southern Wing to facilitate an *Audio-Visual/Staff-Room*, a *Science Laboratory*, an *Art & Craft Room*, *Change Rooms*, a *Sports Room* and *Teachers' Rest Rooms*, and, established the *Biennial Walkathon*.



THE SCHOOL'S LOGO

With **Ms. Fawzia Hassanali** (Acting Primary Principal) at the helm, T. M. L. Primary School, St. Joseph witnessed its **50th. Anniversary of Existence** on **April 29, 2007**. The occasion was marked by a *Commemorative Dinner*, *inter-class Spelling Bees* and *Mental Mathematics competitions*, *Essay*, *Poem* and *Art Compositions*, and the production of a unique **Golden Anniversary Brochure**. The *Biennial Walkathon* held that year, was *dedicated to its achievement - 'Celebrating 50 Years of Service to the Nation'*.



### BI-ANNUAL WALKATHON - 2007

During her reign, Ms. Hassanali also modified the design of the girls' official and Jumu'ah uniforms to the existing ones being worn at present.



## THE PRESENT GIRLS' OFFICIAL UNIFORM

**Mr. Jameel Hosein**, the present principal, has continued with the on-going enhancement and beautification of the school – the *refurbishment of the Computer Room*, the *completion of the Stock Room* that was initiated by **Ms. Fawzia Hassanali** in 2007, *repairs to the class partitions* that she had installed, the *relocation of the water tanks to a safer site* and the *construction of a new cess-pit*.

To date, the school boasts of **twenty-one (21)** classes, a **pupil enrollment of five hundred and twenty-nine (529)**, a **Teaching Staff of twenty-six (26)** - inclusive of specialist teachers, a **Clerical Assistant**, an **Ancillary Staff of four (4)** and **two (2) Security Guards**. Pupils attending the school represent a wide spectrum of socio-economic and religious backgrounds. The school has always tried to assist the less fortunate students as much as possible. Most of the teachers have spent their entire teaching career at this school. At present, the school is involved in a variety of co-curricular activities such as Mini Tennis, Drama, Karate and Volley-ball, among others. T. M. L. Primary School, St. Joseph continues to be very successful in all its academics and extra-curricular activities.

The honour and glory of T. M. L. Primary School, St. Joseph could not be achieved without the dedication, contributions and continued co-operation and of its most valued stakeholders:-

- Allaah, Subhaanahu wa Ta'aala
- The Ministry of Education, Trinidad and Tobago
- The Trinidad Muslim League Inc.
- The T. M. L. School Board of Management
- The Trinidad Muslim League Primary School Parent-Teachers' Association

- Past and Present principals and teachers
- Past and Present parents and pupils
- Past and Present Corporate Sponsors
- Friends and Well-wishers

***May Allaah bless and reward them BETTER.***

Since its establishment in 1957, the school has been a "**blazing trail**" of consistent success and achievement, not only in the honing of academic skills but also in the nurturing of talents of students engaged in sport and cultural events; it is considered to be one of the best effective learning institutions of the country. It continues to serve as a vehicle for transmitting the morals and values which are cherished by society, thereby ensuring the development of the spirit of tolerance and a sense of nationhood, essential foundations on which the nation's democracy must be built. The Ministry of Education is confident that the vision of the school **is** in keeping with its vision for the entire education system.