

Today, the **Associated Gospel Assemblies** pays tribute and gives honour to **Dr. Alfred Sangster, O.J., Ph.D., J.P., C.D.**, for wise and exemplary leadership of **Merl Grove High School** for the past forty-eight (48) years.

The visit to your home in 1961 by Stanley and Albert Karram was to have you embrace and be part of the larger framework of our denominational engagement in the nation. We deeply admire your humility to pay regard to, and accept from a relatively unknown and recently chartered small indigenous church grouping, an invitation to lead our school, Merl Grove, when you knew very well that your academic credentials and track record at the time would open all kinds of doors to elegant and exotic service--and you could just as easily have passed this one by. But instead, you said YES! and served during the tenures of Executive Board Chairmen Pastors Henry White, Albert Karram, Curtis Cole, Dennis Brown, Peter Garth, and Carlton Dennis--every denominational leader since the inking of the 29th Act of Vestment by Parliament in 1959 which brought about the formalization of our group.

We preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we preach that gospel through our words and our works, our sermons and our safety concerns, our closed-door warnings and our open-hearted welcomes, our tenacious hold to eternal principles and our teary-eyed humility in the face of our own failure or that of others. We bear witness of Christ in our nation as we give hope to girls who have been robbed of hope, help to parents who have lost all other help, a bright future for those who as the Karram mission intended, come to know Christ in their sojourn through the halls of learning at Merl Grove, a church school, an AGA school. Yes we keep on preaching, through our evangelists and our managers, our churches and our schools, our Executive Board Chairmen and our school Board Chairmen. Dr. Alfred Sangster, you have been one of our best preachers!

We note the care and detail with which you personally attended the aesthetic matters of the campus. The grounds were made into a showpiece with your own hands delicately depositing into the eagerly awaiting soil, the trees and plants brought from your own home and nurseries to beautify the now 10-acre property.

We celebrate your deep commitment, insightful visioning, vantage point management, faithful tenure, beautifying hands, and alternative preaching.

We deeply thank you, and add to your long list of achievements and distinguished honours, a most fitting phrase: **Father of Merl Grove.**

May the blessing of our Lord be with you and your family!