

BEAUTIFUL FEET

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The Newsletter of the Women's Ministry of the Port of Spain Church of Christ

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" - Isaiah 52:7



Leadership— A Gift Not To Be Returned

By Lou-Ann Jordan

CHIT CHAT

Issue No. 01

I rushed from work to meet with Kirtia Arthur at her home. I was very excited because when the idea to do stories featuring different sisters came about, Kirtia was the first person that came to mind. I have watched Kirtia quietly, admiring the fact that after having decided to step "aside" from leadership, she has continued to serve unreservedly. Her story I believed should be shared, and there I was on my way to get the story. I arrived on time and as in the past I was welcomed warmly, and treated with great hospitality. In fact, I felt so much at home that I and two other sisters, both of whom I met there, riffled through the cupboards. All the while Kirtia, smiling looked on, and offered suggestions in terms of possibilities for a quick meal. After some playful banter, the sisters left and Kirtia and I relocated to the porch where a gentle breeze blew away the day's stress and relaxed, we eased into the interview:

LJ: How many years did you serve in leadership?

KA: I've been a Christian for 22 years and I've served for most of that 22 years. Maybe six months into being a Christian. I have been in and out at various periods but never for any significant amount of time. So it's at least 21 of the 22 years.

LJ: Okay. Is it something you wanted to do or were you approached?

KA: Both. I wanted to and then I was approached. Someone pointed out that I might have some leadership qualities that are sound and so that prompted me.

LJ: Initially, what was your aim going into leadership and did it change over the years?

KA: I had been told it was a talent and we know the parable of the talents, so I felt inspired. I believed it was about giving my best to God and having big dreams, to glorify Him continually. So my heart was if this is a gift that He's given me then let me use it. Also, there was something about helping people become disciples and serving, supporting, making people feel valued that started to give me more drive. Over the years, as I read my skills developed, my ability to lead. I'd like to interchange lead with serve.

LJ: Having spent so much time in leadership what was it that prompted you to step down, or lighten your load. Actually, how would you term it? Is it stepping down or lightening your load?

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KA: I stepped aside. I don't think I stepped down. Emotional intelligence helped me to determine that though busy, I was less and less effective. I felt like it shouldn't get to the point where I felt at the ring of the phone another problem. I think like a sling shot, sometimes you have to pull back in order to hit your target and I started to go to God with that. Of course there was the concern of how I'd be viewed, what conclusions would be drawn. You do go through that but you embrace and fight for the humility. The thing is because I'm not "leading" it doesn't mean my talent has gone away. Leadership isn't an endorsement from men it's a gift from God. So, whether you have a title or not if that's your heart and you see it as a talent God has given you, you do it. It doesn't mean you have to speak from the pulpit, or address a large crowd. You're not less of a leader because you don't do those things.

LJ: The reason why I wanted to interview you was I've looked on admiring the fact that although you may not have the title leader, I've seen you busy organising various things and it's been encouraging. The reason being, often there is a sense of "ah dress back" when people step aside, I'm using your term, from leadership. Based on all you've shared I'm understanding that because

you view leadership as a gift given by God and not a title handed over by men, there was no giving back, yes?

KA: Yeah, I have an obligation. We know what happens when you don't multiply your talent, and I don't want to be caught in that situation. Why would I not do it, why would I not serve or encourage someone, especially as I was encouraged and served? I think it's about being so grateful that you don't forget you deserve nothing.

Chatting with Kirtia was refreshing. She was very candid, which is something I appreciated. She taught me something too. She taught me that there's no such thing as "dressing back" when God has given you a talent. Yes, we may choose to lessen or dim our "visibility"; however, our hearts should be to continue to employ use of God's gifts to His glory.

Chit Chat is a special feature of Beautiful Feet showcasing a particular topic or person of interest bi-annually.