

## LEGACIES

Do some of us realize that before we are born our destinies can be - are pre determined? The very nature of our DNA can determine our destinies and how it is nurtured and the social influences that will impact on who we are, and who we are destined to become in life.

My blog today is dedicated to Carissa Messado – she is the wife of my first cousin Gary. Carissa and I had a wonderful discussion about nation building, she was congratulating me on a few poignant points I contributed to a Gleaner Forum. She said that she admired my courage to speak out and was supportive of the points that I made. I shared a healthy laugh with her and said “that is in the DNA my Love we Fitz Ritson’s are not afraid to speak out - no matter what, we believe in this country”

I shared with Carissa the long line of lineage from my great grandfather William Fitz Ritson right down through to my grandfather Donald, Carissa’s mother in law Jennifer and not forgetting my dearly departed father Paul (whom I quietly grieved his passing last week of forty years now) of the role that the Fitz Ritson Family has played in nation building through community service in church, scouting, politics, education and other meaningful charities – not necessarily to seek accolades but to make a meaningful difference to this country of ours.

Legacies are important and sometimes our destinies become pre determined and unknowingly the hand of Fate puts us with partners who enrich those legacies that are to be continued through the generations to come.

Carissa is a quiet, but purposeful young woman who has a strong love for God. Carissa speaks through her actions and she works assiduously in outreach programmes with Gary through their Church community to bring hope to persons who may be considered disingenuous – but through her faith feels that she can bring hope to these people and help them to turn around their lives. I told Carissa that it was not by chance that she is a part of this family, but it is destiny - to continue with the Fitz Ritson blood line of nation building and told her what an important role she will be playing through her ministry in the years to come. I know wherever William Fitz Ritson is he is smiling!

Having spoken to Carissa I chuckled to myself as I reflected that the legacy continues also as I have Errol in my life who is the consummate to nation building. One will never meet his second who believes in this country and makes sacrifices every day for the betterment of others. He has also been a blessing in our family. His passion reminds me so much of my late father Paul – when he believed in something there was no turning back and the execution always had to be above board – no compromises there!

Legacies are so important – it is the blueprint of our destiny – it defines who we are and I pray that I will continue to see the chapter unfold, as I know there is a guiding hand above ensuring that the Fitz Ritson Legacy through the generations to come will continue to uphold as the very nature of our being is that no matter what our station in life is - we give back to this Country.