

OBITUARY

Floyd Lucas (16/08/70 – 10/1/09) and Karl Ramjohn (17/05/72 – 10/01/09)

A Personal Note from Kevin Mahabir

Let us take these moments to commiserate over the departure of our dear brethren Floyd Lucas and Karl Ramjohn. January 2009 was a tumultuous month for us all, a surreal weekend of tragedy, and for a lot of us: a lifetime of imagining them still there. Their unfortunate passing occurred after their boat tipped over off the south coast of Trinidad. They were in the middle of a marine sample session very early that morning when the incident occurred. Their Environmental Consultancy firm, Strategic Environmental Services (S.E.S.), was founded on such a courageous notion by the young couple, Floyd Lucas and Carol Ramjohn. With little Fern part of the family, with Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) degrees still being pursued, with various trials of life to learn from, these heroes took the seminal step to establish S.E.S. and produce international calibre work.

For me, my professional experience with Floyd and Karl opened up personal friendships that are virtually unmatched elsewhere. We came to be together at such a delicate time. I made my bones with them ploughing through swamps, hiking through forests, picking through coastlines, wading through rivers. I define who I am today

by their hands. I won't be exaggerating by saying that they actually constitute an integral part of me. Being good friends and mentors - Floyd and Karl – I believe that a lot of us would share these very thoughts and more about these fine men. An inspiration to us all, and very good teachers, it is unfortunate to accept that we will never see them again.

Contrary to physical evidence, these gentlemen didn't go under. We will persist with Karl's quip that someone should have developed the standard fish, of precise dimensions, so that we won't have to do all this sampling, this weighing, these measurements, these diversity accounts... I will persist in discovering the intricacies of the environment, of business, and of friendships as Floyd had inspired me to. We will persist in our relationships with their families, as we have lived together, cooked, worked, smiled and played with Fern Gemma Lucas together.

To Floyd, Karl, Carol, Fern, Ryan and Captain Cyril Adolphus - without whom Ryan may not have made it back to us - our love goes out to you and your wonderful families.