

# THE PRESIDENT'S



# Circle

TRINITY COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

## ***You Are Being Tested***

I have never really enjoyed tests! It matters not if it is a written test, eye test, hearing test, check-up test, blood tests, driving test, psychological test ... tests, tests, and more tests. However, they are part of life. And how you perform on the **spiritual tests** will determine your results and reactions to all other tests in life!

**Mark it down: You who are reading this are being TESTED!**

It may deal with relationships, circumstances of all kinds, emotional challenges, or physical issues, but you are being tested! You may even be in a 'spiritual battle.' The question is: Do you possess the confidence of Job when he was being tested?

*"But He knows the way I take and when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold."* Job 23:10 NIV

As a believer, God permits tests to develop your character. He wants to increase your faith muscles! He wants clearer focus in your life in order for you to have greater passion and enjoyment. He wants you to have a deeper, richer, and fuller understanding of who He is and what He has promised. There are always 'higher God known' reasons why you are experiencing what you are experiencing!

The question remains: **How are you doing?** You may be responding, "Well, not so good. I am weary, worn-out, and terribly irritable. I am jumpy and fearful. I am really having a tough time!" If that is the case, allow me to suggest a few thoughts for you to consider:

1. There are always developing solutions, answers, and sustaining grace occurring behind the scenes. You know God is in charge, loving, and caring, but you do not see it or feel it. However, *you are not without assistance now*. But the focus and attention must be correct and not misdirected. The 'Blame Game' is always in motion and is not the answer. The focus must be God-ward to His *Superintendence* and *Sufficiency*. Tests are always opportunities to get nearer to Jesus. Right Focus with Right Facts equals Right Feelings in the midst of unresolved and unchanged issues.
2. The testing is to prove and demonstrate His strength and provision for and through you. Its main purpose is not to demean you as a person, but to show His worth in meeting your need, hurt, want, or desire. You cannot even generate a solution for the problem. He resources, guides, and blesses and ... **at times ... in His timing ... in a miraculous way!** He may use your giftedness and skills like Bezalel, son of Uri, and Aholiab, son of Ahisamach (Building of Tabernacle) in the Old Testament, but they were energized by Jehovah.
3. A time of testing is always a time for His people to THINK! We have lost the "Art of Linging." We are so in a hurry, rush, and "must do" that we lose what Mary had discovered ... 'lingering at the feet of Jesus' (Luke 10). **Linging allows you to 'listen' and 'learn'** and then you can really 'live!' We live 'hurricane lives' and generate 'hurricane messes!' "Junk and stuff" and "destruction and turmoil" are everywhere! No wonder we do not feel good!!
4. Preparation for fuller, wider, richer, and deeper usefulness is occurring. Reflect on these words: **"All of the Lord's true people will at last be 'presented faultless' before the heavenly throne; but do we thereby conclude that all will be alike in traits of character? No, the**

experiences of this present life affect in our character something which will persist into the Beyond. It may well be that the hardest suffering here is leading to the highest ministry there.” (Sidlow Baxter (Awake My Heart)

Something great is happening to you in problems, pains, disappointments, and troubles. Don't let the whiners, critics, bullies, gossipers, and overall pessimists get to you! **You are on God's Mission!!**

### **The Latest Happenings:**



- ✦ The construction of the new Residence Hall is underway full-speed. The walls are being formed on the ground (see above) to be lifted into place by cranes on August 21 (see press release below). This three-story facility will house 90 students and house parents. All resident students will be on campus when it is completed, bringing our college community closer together. There will be common areas for students to socialize and work on projects together.



- **Sam Thomas, Alumni President**, is working to strengthen our alumni base of participation. Working with **Mr. Steve Hunter**, Assistant to the President for Marketing, a newly formatted alumni e-newsletter has been published. **Dr. Peggy Bragg** continues to keep the alumni *Facebook* current.
- Additional social media contacts have been utilized this summer, reaching out to prospective students. Our new website is designed for searching potential students. It is interactive and conforms to cell phone and iPad searches. Check it out: [www.trinitycollege.edu](http://www.trinitycollege.edu)
- **The College will be 85 years old September 20, 2017! Throughout this next collegiate year, we will be celebrating this significant milestone in the life of the College.**
- **Dr. Timothy Beard, President of Pasco Hernando State College**, will be speaking to the faculty and staff at the 2017 Retreat on Wednesday, August 9. The event will also consist of other presentations, videos, and department breakout sessions to prepare the College community for a new collegiate year.
- Classes will begin the week of August 20. **Convocation** will be August 25, 2017, involving the student body, faculty, staff, and visitors. "Attitude" will be a key theme at the service with this year's emphasis of *Moving Forward*. Exodus 14 and 15 are key chapters that record *moving forward* by the people of Israel against insurmountable obstacles.

### ***Urgent Prayer Requests ...***

- **Pray for the Admissions** team as they work with incoming students for this new year. At the time of this writing, it is anticipated that we will have over seventy new students for the Traditional and Degree Completion programs.
- **Pray for the financial provision** for each student. Individual needs vary, but all need encouragement in this area.
- **Pray for a spiritual flavor** of the campus sensed through Faculty and Staff. Pray that the "beauty of Christ" will be seen and felt in us.
- **Pray for the influence and impact of Trinity College of Florida graduates** upon our culture, community, and church.

I so enjoy Jeremiah 17:7-8 NLT

“But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their **hope** and **confidence**. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”

**These are great promises of *freshness* and *fruit* in life during times of extended “drought!”**

In partnership with you,

