

SPRING 2009

THE CONNECTION

Trinity College of Florida

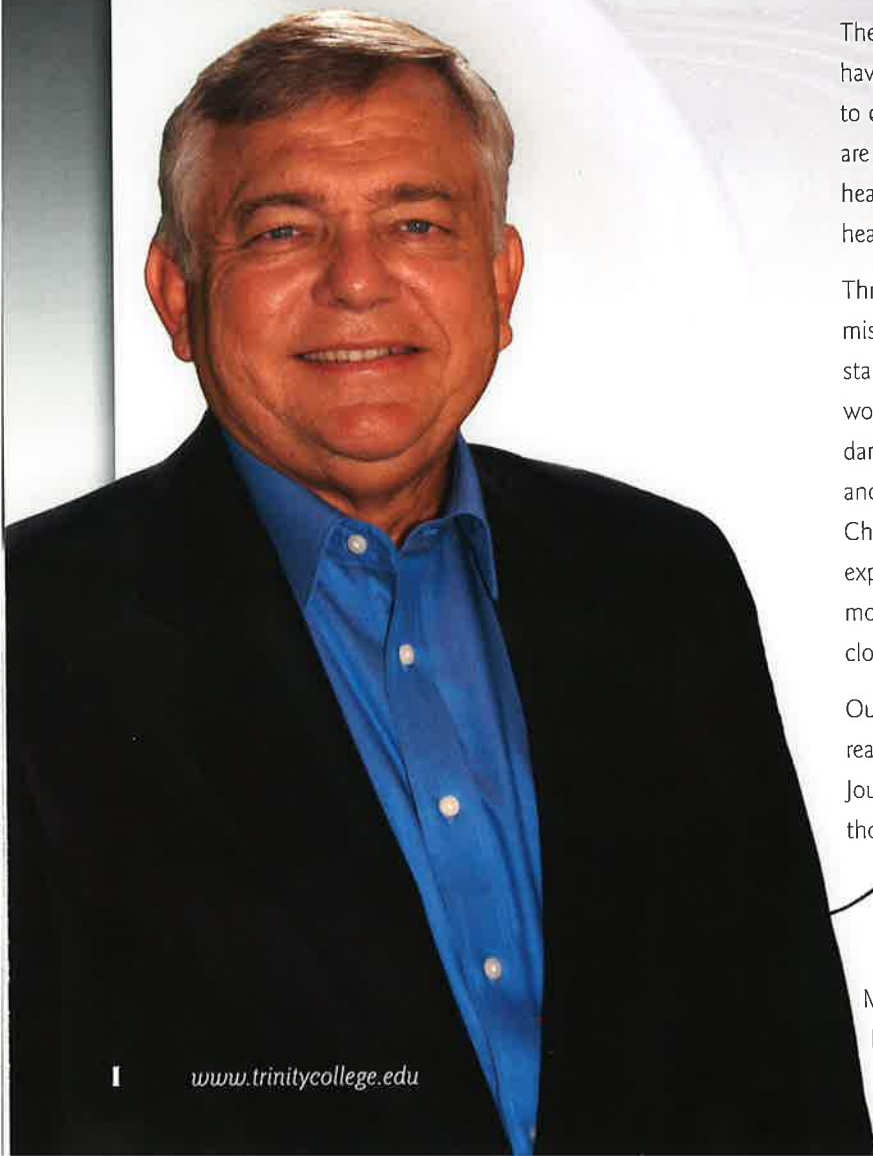


Reaching Out
WHERE FEW DARE

THE FINAL FRONTIER

On September 8, 1966, a new television series debuted on NBC entitled Star Trek. This science fiction thriller chronicled the otherworldly voyages of the crew of the Starship Enterprise. The discovery of uncharted worlds and intergalactic mysteries were on the agenda.

The series creator, Gene Roddenberry, penned the show's now famous opening narration: *Space, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the Starship Enterprise. Its five-year mission: to explore strange new worlds; to seek out new life and new civilizations; to boldly go where no man has gone before.*



Those words captured my imagination and I was glued to every episode. It was thrilling to say the least. As a young man, I was intensely interested in astronomy. Our galaxy and universe fascinated me with its immensity and mystery. Having become a new believer in Christ, I clearly saw God's indescribable power and design in the heavens above. Two scripture passages leaped from the pages at me:

**The heavens declare the glory of God
Psalm 19:1 NKJV**

**He counts the number of stars;
He calls them all by name.
Great is the Lord and mighty in power;
His understanding is infinite.
Psalm 147:4-5 NKJV**

There is another frontier upon which our students and alumni have embarked. At great personal sacrifice, they have journeyed to distant parts of the world. They travel to places where there are hurting people; to locations of suffering, human tragedy, and heartache. They go where God's love must be seen, felt, and heard because the love of Christ compels them.

Through pages written, books published, churches established, mission groups founded, radio programs created, Bible institutes started, and private enterprises initiated, they have spoken by word and deed the wonderful words of Jesus. Light has entered darkness and hope has smashed through despair. Joy, peace, and hope have entered the hearts of men and women for whom Christ has died. Those hearing the Good News have experienced what the Psalmist said, "You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness" (Psalm 30:11 NKJV).

Our alumni and students are sharing the Good News. They are reaching out with words of hope and healing where few dare. Journey with us as you experience the following episodes of those who are exploring the Final Frontier for the souls of men.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark T. O'Farrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "O'Farrell" clearly distinguishable.

Mark T. O'Farrell
President

THE CONNECTION

Trinity College of Florida

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EDITOR'S NOTE

A Dangerous Assignment

The frontline in any battle is a dangerous assignment. The fighting is intense and casualties are inevitable. Courage and stamina are prerequisites for fighting the enemy in close proximity. The challenge of fighting on the frontline is to continually muster the energy and determination to see beyond the present conflict to victory's end. The purpose of conflict is not an end in itself but a struggle required to reach a greater good. The individual on the frontline has a vital mission to accomplish and his success is essential to victory.

The follower of Jesus Christ recognizes the intense battle which rages in the world. Paul writes in Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (NIV)." The spiritual battle which unfolds in the world today is dangerous. Yet, in this danger, brave men and women continue to hear the call to serve God and take the life changing message of Jesus Christ to the frontlines.

This issue of *The CONNECTION* explores the critical role chaplains play in fighting on the frontlines of spiritual warfare. Chaplains serve a unique purpose as they venture into realms few dare to go and work with individuals facing intense personal crisis. Chaplains serve in a variety of assignments, from our armed forces and hospital facilities to correctional centers and rehabilitation homes. These brave men and women confront the results of "the powers of this dark world" and take with them desperately needed hope and comfort.

In *Reaching Out Where Few Dare*, *The CONNECTION* traveled behind the bars of the Brevard County Sheriff's Correctional Facility in Cocoa, Florida to interview Trinity College of Florida alumnus, Bob Leko (2005). Bob serves

as the Lead Chaplain to a prison population of 2,000 inmates and coordinates the ministry programs aimed at providing restored hope and personal value to a hurting population. Later, Bob Loeffler, a longtime Trinity adjunct professor and chaplain, helps us understand the challenges and rewards of serving as a chaplain in American society today.

As *The CONNECTION* worked on this issue, one could not help but be reminded of one alumnus whose life was committed to serving on the frontline, Col.

Charles Massey (1938), who passed away in November 2008. Col.

Massey was a beloved military chaplain for over 30 years in the United States Army. After completing his time in the military, he served Trinity College of Florida as a professor, administrator, and trustee. In

recognition of Col. Massey's contribution to the role of the Chaplaincy, it is fitting to dedicate this issue in his memory. Longtime friend and fellow trustee, Dr. Thomas E. Wade, helps us pay tribute to Col. Massey in our end article, *The Last Word*.

To everyone who serves on the frontlines of spiritual conflict, we recognize your service and sacrifice. Continue to "fight the good fight" and remember our Commander has assured the victory. You are *Reaching Out Where Few Dare*.



Colonel Charles Massey

Kevin D. O'Farrell, Editor

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Reaching Out *Where Few Dare*

by Kevin D. O'Farrell

A typical day at work for Bob Leko is anything but typical. He must pass through a series of control locked doors and correctional officer checkpoints before he descends a winding stairwell which twists around a central control tower. Reaching the bottom, he arrives on the floor where his office is located and walks through windowless tunnels to approach a single gray door with the title: Chaplain's Office. Bob's daily journey to his office is symbolic of his own personal journey in life. Each has its own twists and turns and starts and stops; in the end Bob finds his office and in life discovers his calling.

Reaching... Life

Bob Leko was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and spent much of his early life living in places across the country. As a young boy he traveled with his family and lived in the states of Florida, Mississippi and Oregon before settling in Grand Rapids, the town he called home. After graduating from high school, he spent four years in the military as a member of the United States Navy and was stationed in Hawaii. When his service obligation with the Navy ended, he moved to Florida where his parents had relocated. A new chapter in his life began when he started working as a correctional officer in county and state detention facilities. As time passed, Bob, who was not a Christian, met his future wife, Melody. She was a recent believer and the two were married and moved to Okeechobee, Florida. Bob continued to serve as an officer in several correctional facilities in Belle Glade and South Bay, Florida before God began to do a work in his heart.

Reaching... Faith

Melody became involved in a local church and decided to host a couples' Bible study in their home. "The Bible study was planned for me," remembers Bob. "They all knew about my personality; how I was looking for a confrontation but the group leader was not aggressive and answered my questions. If he didn't know the answer, he would find it or be honest and say the issue was a matter of faith." Within five weeks Bob made a decision to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. Immediately, a change took place in his life. He had been struggling with anger and hate but experienced a new beginning when he accepted Christ. "God knew what I needed. He cleaned all the old stuff out of me," he recounts.

Bob returned to work at the South Bay correctional facility and began sharing with his fellow officers the change Christ had made in his life. Co-workers he once held grudges against were now the ones he would introduce to pastors after work, phone during the week to see how they were doing, and pray for them on a regular basis. During this time, he was privileged to help lead twelve fellow correctional officers to Christ. Bob was a changed life.

Reaching... Training

Later, Bob began to struggle with his current vocation and a deep inner calling. He felt torn between continuing his ministry at the prison and pursuing new ministry opportunities through the church. The pastor who had been disciplining him suggested he consider attending Bible college. Initially, he was not interested in a Christian college and signed up for computer training courses. "I was not into the idea of attending Bible school. It wasn't for me," recalled Bob. Ultimately, he conceded that God was calling him into full time Christian service and began searching for a Bible college in Florida to pursue training. He found Trinity College of Florida on the internet and after receiving an information packet in the mail, enrolled and relocated his family to Port Richey, Florida.

The Brevard County Chaplain Ministry Team (L to R) Theophilus Brown, Trustee Chad Hansen, Dorothy Follet, Theresa Arthur, Chaplain Bob Leko, and Chaplain Dennis Adamson



While studying at Trinity College of Florida, Bob and Melody served as an assistant pastor at The First Baptist Church of Jasmine Lakes where he oversaw the youth ministry. "I had the wonderful opportunity to go to Bible college and be involved in ministry at the same time. School teaches you how to do things intellectually and ministry gives you the reality of dealing with people," he said. While continuing his studies, he also worked on campus as Trinity College of Florida's first security officer. In May 2005 he graduated and began working as a chaplain with the Pasco County, Florida Sheriff's Office. "I told the Lord after I left South Bay that I never wanted to go back to working in a prison. Never say never and remember God has something amazing for you." During his time with the Pasco County, Florida Sheriff's Office, he traveled to Brevard County, Florida for ongoing training and discovered it was in need of a fulltime Chaplain. He explored the opportunity and within a year became the Lead Chaplain; he relocated his family to the east coast of Florida.

Reaching... Service

Serving as a Chaplain in a correctional facility presents unique challenges. Safety and health are constant concerns, but the rewards are worth the risks. "It's amazing. I can go down to see a guy who just arrived and be able to tell him about Jesus and he is going to have a higher chance of responding to the gospel than that same guy out on the street," argues Bob.

Incarceration affects the way individuals see themselves. Bob has witnessed the reality imprisonment conveys to individuals, "I find that in the world outside of jail, we can ignore our sin; we can ignore our state and blow it off; but when you come to jail, you don't have to show someone they have a problem. They come to terms with the reality that they have a problem. So sharing the gospel with them produces a huge response."

As the Lead Chaplain for the Brevard County, Florida Correctional Facility, Bob oversees the direction of the entire ministry program. He is responsible for the counseling of inmates and staff, coordination of the full and part time Chaplain staff, recruitment and training of volunteers, maintaining and developing financial support, acting as a liaison to the faith based community, and providing Chaplain services to the Sheriff's Department outside the jail. In 2008, the Brevard County Chaplain's Office conducted 601 worship services with 6,132 in attendance; 1,900 Bible studies with 19,128 in attendance; counseled 3,586 inmates; distributed

1,487 Bible courses; coordinated the service of 2,898 volunteers, and witnessed 318 first time decisions for Christ and 898 recommitments. When reviewing the statistics, Bob says with a smile, "When it comes to evangelism; when it comes to discipleship, there is no better place to be."

Reaching... Back

As Bob reflects on his present ministry, he still holds strong affection for Trinity College of Florida, "Trinity gave me the nuts and bolts of how to deal with the Bible. It taught me how to be accurate in what you teach people." It's because of his accurate teaching that men in the Brevard County Correction Facility are receiving hope in one of the loneliest and scariest places they will enter. Bob is taking the message of Jesus Christ to open hearts and minds and to the reality of forgiveness and redemption.

"Trinity really equipped me. It gave me a good foundation in the Bible and in practical ministry. I had great professors who weren't just teachers; they were in the field. They were able to share from their experience not just their education," he remembers. It was the holistic education he received at Trinity College of Florida which challenged and built Bob's intellectual understanding and practical working of God's Truth to humanity.

When asked to summarize his experience at Trinity College of Florida, Bob uses two words: stretching and awesome, "It will stretch you but it's an awesome experience. I learned so much about God's glory and about who I am in Christ. It was a good experience for me; in fact, I miss it. It's unique, man." Bob's daily ministry experience is one few will encounter. It is an experience filled with risk and hope, as well as, an experience of personal reflection and redemption. It is an experience in reaching out where few dare.



A Frontline Call

By Bob Loeffler with Kevin D. O'Farrell

From truckers and inmates to military personnel and hospital patients, Chaplains are on the frontlines of ministering to individuals and families who desperately need comfort and hope. A chaplain usually ministers to a population or group outside the conventional church.

Typically, the population is in a state of continual change with fluid membership. The transient nature of the group presents a set of unique challenges and exciting rewards.

THE CHALLENGES

In many private and public organizations, Chaplains are often called to minister to a diverse group of religious expressions outside of the Judeo-Christian faith. Those religious affinities range from Islam, Buddhism, and Jehovah's Witness to humanism, new age and the occult. While Chaplains do not have to teach or accept the belief systems of other faiths, they must be respectful of those of other religious persuasions. Chaplains are prevented from denigrating individuals' faith choices or proselytizing but they can explore opportunities to share the Gospel message. This presents the Chaplain with the challenge of skillfully navigating between personal conviction and meeting a felt human need.

Due to the ever-changing populations to which Chaplains serve, the time spent with individuals in counseling varies. A particular counseling session can last a few words to an extended session. The goal of many Chaplains is to connect the individual in need to a church or para-church ministry which can later offer long-term care and counseling. Much of the work done in chaplain ministries is foundational. The ongoing ministry to the individual needs continues beyond their time in a specific location.

Chaplains who receive support from the administration of the organization in which they serve will witness increased success. Often competing interests flood an administrator's desk. Budgetary, legal, and logistical constraints can overwhelm directors and lead to the Chaplain being viewed as a nuisance rather than an asset.

Funding the Chaplain ministry can also be challenging. Chaplains who are funded by the organization in which they serve may have to abide by constricting policies and regulations and will need to be more creative in presenting the Gospel. The paperwork alone associated with prison and government Chaplaincy can be overwhelming and easily reduce the amount of quality time required to adequately minister to individuals. Those Chaplains who volunteer and are not paid by an organization will need to find like-minded partners who share the vision for the ministry and can aid in financial support. The advantage of the volunteer Chaplain is the increased freedom to present and promote the Gospel.

The mixed blessing of serving as a Chaplain is the receptivity to the Gospel at the most difficult periods of life. Whether it is a hospital chaplain dealing with a terminally ill patient or the death of a loved one, or a military chaplain ministering with those who are being deployed to war and possible death, or a prison chaplain working with inmates who have committed horrendous crimes, Chaplains are faced with serving people in times of great personal crisis. Yet at the same time, these moments of reality create hearts which are soft to the hope and transforming message of Jesus Christ.

THE REWARDS

One of the powerful rewards of serving as a Chaplain is having the opportunity to present the gospel to a receptive audience. Chaplains do not have to look for opportunities for significant ministry; they are right before them. Chaplains are afforded the ability to speak bluntly concerning individuals' spiritual needs. There is no need for pretense.

It is a joy to help individuals realize there is a God who loves them more than they can imagine and who desires to be a part of their lives. Chaplains can witness how the downtrodden in society realize Jesus has paid for their sins and saved them from judgment. It is amazing to see transformed lives as they begin to grow in their relationship and walk with Jesus Christ.

Chaplains are faced with serving people in times of great personal crisis.

A Chaplain's greatest joy is to see an individual who has lived a difficult life respond to the gospel and experience a tremendous transformation. Inmates in a prison system can look anyone in the eye and tell them that if God can save and change a life like theirs, then He can save and change anyone. Inmates understand judgment better than most people. They can be powerful witnesses to their fellow inmates both in word and deed. Encountering a former inmate outside prison who is now walking with the Lord is a gratifying experience. Hearing how they are involved in a local church and living reasonable, sober lives gives the Chaplain a profound sense of impact and personal self-worth.



Bob Loeffler is an Adjunct Professor in the TrinityQuest Program at Trinity College of Florida. He is a former pastor and now serves as a Chaplain with Good News Jail and Prison Ministry.



THE CALL

Trinity College of Florida has been involved in training and equipping young men and women to serve as Chaplains around the world. Several students at the College have been involved in Chaplaincy ministries as part of their Christian Service. This practical exposure to real ministry only enhances students' understanding and compassion for men and women in desperate need of Jesus Christ.

The call of a Chaplain is a unique and exciting ministry. Each day presents a set of challenges and rewards. There is nothing more important than seeing the transformation of lives. A Chaplain can be the deciding factor in helping individuals realize their spiritual need and the motivation needed to live a life of honor and sacrifice. The Chaplaincy is a call to reach out in hope and comfort; it is a call to the frontlines of ministry.



IT'S ABOUT LEADERSHIP

On October 4, 2008 over sixty high school students and youth leaders traveled to the campus of Trinity College of Florida for the inaugural Tampa Bay Student Leadership Conference: *Transform*. The students participated in general sessions and workshops designed for practical, real-world leadership application. The conference was structured to improve the leadership skills of both students and leaders.

Melisa Arroyo, a business technology teacher and FCA sponsor at a local area high school, brought her student leaders to the conference and was impressed with the program. "I received great refreshers on information that we need as leaders. In addition, I was really refreshed to hear what my students said about the training. I had the privilege of driving my group home after the meeting and took some time to ask them what was impressed on their hearts. They all had gained new insight and were incredibly excited about what they had learned," said Melisa.

In addition to the program, current Trinity College of Florida students volunteered as facilitators who led groups of 15-20 students in discussion and personal

discovery. The students at Trinity made a positive impact on those in attendance. "The conference has made me more aware of how my attitude really directs my actions and the way people interact with me. If I want a positive outcome, I need a positive attitude," commented a student attendee.

The Tampa Bay Student Leadership Conference is a new partnership with Teen Life Associates, a turnkey youth conference organization which has developed youth conferences for organizations such as IBM and PepsiCo.

For more information on
the Tampa Bay Student
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A TALE OF TWO THEORIES

By Thomas E. Woodward, Ph.D.

When British novelist Charles Dickens penned the now-famous words, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," in 1859 as the first sentence of *A Tale of Two Cities*, he had no idea he was making literary history. These famous words capture the paradox of France on the eve of the French Revolution. The aristocracy flaunted their hyper-luxurious living (the best of times) in the face of those who slid ever deeper into desperate poverty (the worst of times).

The "best of times – worst of times" contrast is the perfect description of another powerful paradox which faces us this year. At the very moment of the ultimate celebration of the theory of evolution – the Charles Darwin Bicentennial Year of 2009 – Darwin's aging theory seems to be unraveling with increasing speed in the face of hostile scientific evidence. In short, Darwinian evolution is now tottering on the brink of a dramatic, humiliating collapse. In terms of the earthquakes that mark the crazy history of modern science, this would be the "big one."

THE BEST OF TIMES

For exuberant fans of Charles Darwin, 2009 is the "best of times" since their hero turns 200. By an odd quirk of history, Darwin shares the exact same birth date with Abraham Lincoln: February 12, 1809. Darwin promoters are making much of this connection between these two titans of history.

One American, Robert Stephens, has gloated that Darwin is the greater of the two arguing, "Lincoln emancipated the slaves, while Darwin emancipated the mind." He added that Darwin freed science from the grip of its old superstition of a Creator who was responsible for life and humanity. For example, former Oxford professor Richard Dawkins confessed that evolutionary theory freed him from the anxiety that

*"It was
the best
of times;
it was the
worst of
times."*

nature might contain the telltale pointers to God. Said Dawkins, "Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist."

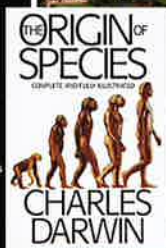
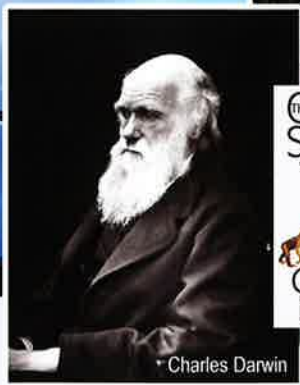
For such enthusiasts, the Darwin-party doesn't die away in February. Rather, the "best of times" rolls on at full blast until November 24, when his famous book *On the Origin of Species*, which launched the modern theory of evolution, reaches a major milestone: its 150th anniversary.

The Year 2009 is shaping up as the ultimate Darwin-gala; universities, museums and TV networks around the world have scheduled hundreds of celebrations. Darwin's genius will be highlighted, along with the "triumph" of his all-encompassing theory of evolution. Evolutionists, who love to repeat that their favored theory is "overwhelmingly proven by scientific facts," are also eager to seize the opportunity to bash and trash their most feared threat: the competitor theory of intelligent design (ID).

Darwinists have used dozens of books, and hundreds of articles and media appearances to retell and badly distort the story of their clash with intelligent design. This debate is shaping up increasingly as a momentous clash between Goliath (neo-Darwinism) and the upstart David (ID theory).

This raises the question: How healthy is Darwin's theory as it celebrates its sesquicentennial? Darwin's theory is built on the power of natural selection – the survival of the fittest – but is it fit to survive? Is ID theory making inroads?

One part of the theory seems solid. Darwinian processes (natural selection acting on genetic variations and mutations) seem to work at the level of microevolution. By that, we mean that God built into nature



Darwin's home

a weeding-out process which leads to the fine-tuning or minor tweaking of bodies and systems of animals and plants. This part of evolutionary theory isn't controversial; even the strongest biblical literalists would see some validity here. The real issue is macroevolution: the development of all living things from simple one-celled ancestors; driven by purely unintelligent processes in nature.

THE WORST OF TIMES

It is right at this point that we see increasingly ominous signs as to whether Darwinian theory will survive much longer. Let me cite five quick reasons.

First, leading scientists who are not affiliated with ID theory are admitting that Darwin's theory may explain the "survival of the fittest" but not the "arrival of the fittest." A group that I describe as the OOF scientists in *Darwin Strikes Back* (OOF comes from the MIT Press book they published, *Origination of Organismal Form*) are making even greater waves now. Sixteen of these rebel scientists, known as the *Altenberg 16*, came together to look for a new theory that adequately explains the origins of new body forms. These are evolutionists in the broad sense, but they have made no secret that Darwin's mechanism has struck out after 150 years of testing.

Second, Darwinists are showing a bizarre dogmatism nowadays and have rejected the very vigorous commitment to free speech which Darwin advocated in the *Origin*. In his introduction he said, "I am well aware that scarcely a single point is discussed in this volume on which facts cannot be adduced, often apparently leading to conclusions directly opposite to those at which I have arrived. A fair result can be obtained only by fully stating and balancing the facts and arguments on both sides of each question, and this cannot possibly be done here." Here is a delicious modern irony: On the year of the Bicentennial, Darwin's disciples have become ferociously anti-Darwinian. They oppose the open presentation of "facts ...leading to conclusions opposite" to Darwin's conclusions.

Third, Darwin's favourite picture of "common ancestry" – the single tree of life which unites all life into one grand family tree – is coming under heavy assault from scholars within the Darwinian tent. Some have admitted that the tree must be "quietly laid to rest" as new strange complexities appear from the study of DNA patterns.

Fourth, scientists who plumb the depths of cellular complexity are shaking their heads increasingly at the reality they're finding. This new world of nano-technology defies any plausible "step-by-tiny-step" scenario of evolution. A new book by biochemist Fazale Rana, *The Cell's Design*, makes these discoveries accessible to the lay reader. Rana concludes, "When I contemplate these amazing systems inside the cell, I can't help but wonder if Darwin would have advanced his theory of evolution if he knew then what we know now about biochemistry."

Fifth, over a dozen laboratory research projects are under way around the U.S. and several foreign countries; amazing results which validate design theory are already pouring in. I told the story of the experiments by Dr. Ralph Seelke, tweaking the DNA of billions of *E. coli* bacteria in his lab at the University of Wisconsin. I told of Dr. Seelke's work in *Darwin Strikes Back* and shared his discovery of how wimpy evolutionary processes are proved to be when they are put to the test.

THE TIME OF OPPORTUNITY

For Darwin's theory and his legacy, the Year 2009 is truly a tale of not one theory but of two competing theories. For Darwin, this is the best of times (in terms of exuberant celebration) and it is the worst of times (in the steady unravelling of his macroevolutionary theory). How shall Christians respond? I suggest individuals and churches carve out time in their 2009 schedule to study this issue diligently and to present (from a biblical perspective) the fascinating story of Charles Darwin and his theory. Strive to balance both his good points and his theory's massive problems. (See our special webpage at www.trinitycollege.edu for this balanced tally.) Use this occasion to present the case for intelligent design through the two fantastic documentaries produced by Illustra Media: *Unlocking the Mystery of Life* and *The Privileged Planet*.

Here is a window of opportunity too big and rich to pass up. Share the "tale of two theories" and buy up this opportunity to share the good news of a Creator who made us for a marvelous, infinite purpose – to know Him in an intimate relationship; truly the best of times that go on forever.



Thomas E. Woodward is a Research Professor and Chair of Bible/Theology Division at Trinity College of Florida. He is the Executive Director of the C.S. Lewis Society and is author of the award-winning book, *Doubts about Darwin*.



Taking the JOURNEY



Over 110 students and leaders made the journey to attend the fall 2008 campus preview at Trinity College of Florida. The two and a half day event took place on November 6th through 8th. The theme of the preview weekend was Journey. Prospective and current students were challenged to remain committed to Christ while traveling their unique life path. Trinity campus preview weekends are designed for students to explore the academic, spiritual and student life at Trinity College of Florida. "Our goal is that students will know if they want to come to Trinity College or not," says Mark Sawyer, Director for Admissions, "We try to give students a sense of what a year of college life at Trinity is like in one jammed packed weekend." Prospective students can attend classes and chapel, take a tour of the campus, meet with professors, staff, and current students, attend the Homecoming Basketball game, and stay in a residence hall.

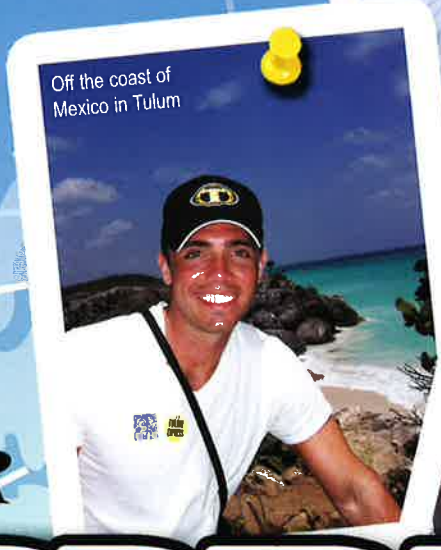
In addition to the preview experience, students receive the opportunity to share in the homecoming activities taking place on campus. In November a 400-person outdoor tent was erected to host the College's semi-annual barbeque. Dining Services Director, Steve Phillips, treated current and prospective students to southern baby back ribs, mac 'n' cheese and churros while everyone participated in the family style weekend. On Friday evening, the College community gathered at The MAC to enjoy a catered meal from Chick-fil-A and cheer the men's basketball team to a 78-53 victory over the Word of Life Bible Institute. On Saturday prospective students closed out the weekend with a day of thrills at the Busch Gardens Tampa Bay Adventure Park.

Campus preview weekends occur twice annually with the College hosting one preview during each semester; fall and spring. For more information about attending a Trinity College of Florida campus preview, contact the Office of Admissions at 1-800-388-0869 or admissions@trinitycollege.edu or online at www.trinitycollege.edu





At Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida

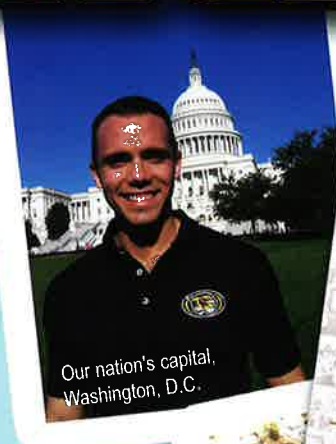


Off the coast of Mexico in Tulum

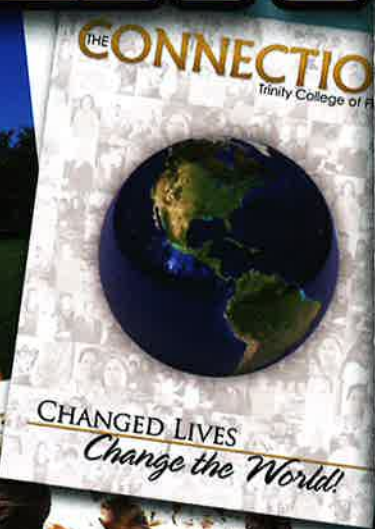


In front of a Goju-No-To in Nara, Japan

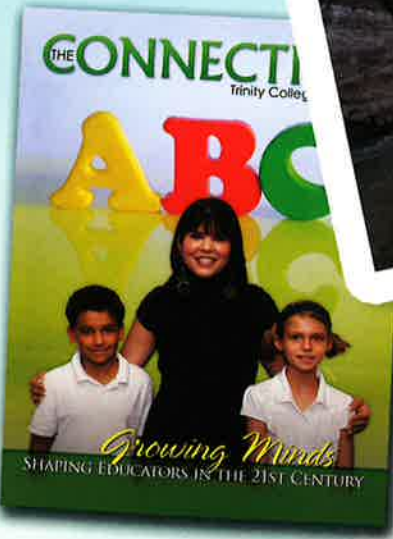
WHERE WILL YOU TAKE YOUR **TIGER PRIDE?**



Our nation's capital, Washington, D.C.



In Mt. Zion National Park in Southern Utah



We know the fans, students and alumni of Trinity College of Florida are all over the world and we at *The CONNECTION* Magazine want to see where you'll take your **Tiger Pride**. All you have to do is wear your favorite Trinity College of Florida shirt, hoodie, or baseball cap or grab a copy of *The CONNECTION* Magazine and have someone snap your picture. Send us the picture via email (kofarrell@trinitycollege.edu) with your name and the location of where you took your **Tiger Pride** and we'll print it in an upcoming issue of *The CONNECTION*! It's that simple!

We know our fans, students and alumni are all over the world working and serving in unique and famous places. Whether it's the steps of a capitol, the center of a historic urban city, or a remote jungle, you can take your **Tiger Pride** anywhere. So get your camera and show us where you will take your **Tiger Pride**!





Alumni

A Chaplain Can Go WHERE A CHURCH CANNOT

A Survival Guide in my Dad's Navy mementos from 1936 gives four suggestions for trying times:

- (1) Quote to yourself Scriptures you can recall from memory
- (2) Sing hymns you can recall from memory
- (3) Pray unto the Lord
- (4) Thank God for the promise of eternal life.

These were approved military guidelines used by chaplains for many years in times of war and conflict. Today, our chaplains in the military, prisons and other services need the wisdom to speak the truth that will open hearts and minds.

A unique opportunity resides in the title of chaplain. A classmate of mine, Dr. Bob Reaves (1965), has served in the chaplain's office of the Osceola County Sheriff's Department since 1981. Only the Lord knows the number of inmates and office staff who have been touched by his testimony and teaching. Now reaching retirement, Bob still teaches fourteen new volunteer chaplains. He said, "A chaplain can go where the church cannot."

As I travel and connect with many of our alumni, it is my joy to see God work in their lives and service. Recently, a group of alumni met in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the home of George and Jeannette Wiggin (1964) for reunion and fellowship. It was great to reconnect after many years and reminds us to make the time to join with those who reserve a special place in their hearts for Trinity College of Florida.



Our annual fundraiser banquet will bring many alumni together. Mark your calendars for May 8, 2009 and make time to reconnect with friends, faculty and staff. Don't miss the opportunity to send your dues and news. Your gifts help to continue the important mission of training and equipping men and women for service at Trinity College of Florida. Join in prayer and care for the staff, faculty and students of Trinity today!

Les

Les Harris (1964)
Alumni Association President



1950s



JACK AND LIN (COKER) (1953) MCCURRY
Jack and Lin recently celebrated 55 years of marriage.
549 Cameo Drive, Lakeland, FL 33803
jack.mccurry@verizon.net



IVAN (1958) AND DORIS (SHAMBLEN, 1955) SCHOEN
Ivan and Doris recently returned from a trip to Paramaribo, Suriname where they were involved in translating the Bible into the native languages.
249 Doris Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028
dischoen@maverickbbs.com

1960s

ALICE WHEELER (ATTD. 1960)

Alice has been working in Thailand, Miramar and Bangladesh with sexually exploited young girls and teaching ESL.
1414 NW 39th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32605
asherman24@aol.com

1970s

CLARENCE (1974) AND MARJORIE (1975) BAINBRIDGE

Clarence serves as a local area pastor. He and Marjorie are retired AIM Missionaries.
1008 Stam Place Apt. 52, Minneola, FL 34715
bainbridgecm1953@msn.com

R.S. HARRELL (ATTD. 1974)

Roy Scott is beginning his 19th year as pastor of Ojai Baptist Church in Ojai, CA.
11642 N. Ventura Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023
rsharrell@roadrunner.com

1980s

TENNYSON (1981) AND DEANA (ROBERTS, 1980) CASON



Tennyson has taught at West Florida Christian School in Sarasota, FL for the last 15 years. Deana is a CNA/HHA. Both are active members of First Baptist Church of Osprey, 4 Washington Avenue, Osprey, FL 34229
tcason3@yahoo.com

UPDATES



1990s



JAMES (1991) AND LORRAINE (SKELLY, 1993) YORK

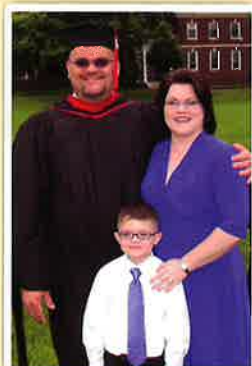
James and Lorraine continue to work in England reaching the un-churched through Operation Mobilization. 520 Whitton Avenue West, Greenford, UB6 0EG
yorks.jl@googlemail.com

KEITH (1995) AND DEBBIE JONES

Keith is serving as a pastor in Missouri where his church is in the process of constructing a new sanctuary this summer. 24673 D Highway, Norborne, MO 64668

2000s

ANDREW AND SERA (WINKLES) LUCAS (2000)



Andrew and Sera are currently involved in planting Parkway Community Church in Fenton, MI. Andrew also serves as the President of the Michigan Baptist Pastors' Conference and Moderator of the Genesee Baptist Association. Sera is the Cooperative Missions Ministry Secretary for the Michigan Baptist Convention. In May 2008, Andrew (pictured with Sera and son, Josiah) graduated from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. 2920 Georgetown

Parkway, Fenton, MI 48430 pastorandrew@parkwaycc.net



RYAN (2001) AND ANNA (2002) ROUSE

Ryan is finishing a Master of Divinity Degree from Luther Rice Seminary and serves as the Student Pastor at Kathleen Baptist Church in Lakeland, FL. Anna is also actively involved in working with the church youth ministry.

110 Victoria Manor Loop Apt. 303, Lakeland, FL 33805 rrouse2@juno.com

DANIEL (2004) AND SARAH (PORTER, 2005) MANNING



Daniel and Sarah are happy to announce that Nicholas Daniel Manning was born on October 8, 2008, weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces and 20.5 inches. The family is doing well and living in New Port Richey, FL. 5013 Larch Lane, New Port Richey, FL 34653 pkpopcorn@yahoo.com



DAVID AND PAMELA KNAPP (2006)

David & Pamela celebrated the birth of their third child, Lidia Sofia Knapp. Lidia was born on October 16, 2008 at Hospital Clinica Biblica in San Jose, Costa Rica. Apartado Postal 119-4023, Playa Jaco, Puntarenas, Costa Rica, Central America knapps97@yahoo.com

Memorial Giving

E. C. Bragg

Dr. Peggy A. Bragg
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rinehuls
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence E. Wiegman

Norman J. Groves

Mrs. Marie C. Groves

Mike Lentz

Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Saling

Charles Massey

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Adcox
Mrs. Ola V. Alderman
Mr. B. Wallace Blount
Dr. and Mrs. Allen S. Boyd
Mr. J. Dean Brock
Mr. Joseph K. Daugherty
Mrs. Marie Gregorio
Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Logan
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Massey
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Osborne Jr.

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Mr. and Mrs. Philip T. Sealund
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Mr. and Mrs. David R. Skinner
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Vince Shaffer

Ms. Isabel Shaffer
Ms. Judy Shaffer

Sid Williams

Dr. and Mrs. Richard Williams

William Touchton, III

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Touchton



You Can't Out Give God

by Dr. Charlie Martin

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38 NIV

*A*s a pastor, I know the inside "scoop" about this great promise. It is with great confidence that I can testify: you absolutely cannot out give God. When you give to God to help with His work at Trinity College of Florida or to your local church, it does not go unnoticed in Heaven. God meant it when He gave us the promise in Ecclesiastes 11:1, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days."

Several years ago I was involved in a badly needed building program in my local church. I pleaded with our people to give sacrificially to this cause. A couple who loved the Lord and the church wanted to give but had little left after their bills were paid. Carl and Vetta had been married for over 60 years. Her hands were twisted with arthritis. At the altar call the next Sunday, Vetta came down the aisle to present me her gift to help build the church. With many tears she told me her wedding ring had served its purpose and she could no longer wear it because of the crippling arthritis. She



and Carl had prayed and wanted our church to sell the ring and place the money into the building fund. I was too choked up to speak but shared with our church family what Carl and Vetta had decided. God used their gift to turn the hearts of the people. The funds began to come as never before.

A few weeks later, I met with our deacons. One man told us God had impressed him to give a sacrificial gift, but he had not been willing to do it. Vetta's sacrifice touched his heart and opened his eyes to the promise that you cannot out give God. He had "taken possession" of Vetta's ring and presented it to me on a beautiful gold chain. I was able to place the ring and necklace around her the following Sunday morning and tell the church, "When you cast your bread upon the waters; thou shalt find it after many days."

This is only one true story of the hundreds I could personally share of God's blessings upon his people.

Since my new role as Vice President for Advancement with Trinity College of Florida, I have been calling on those who have given and invested in our school and students. The testimonies have been unending and a blessing to my heart. As an alumnus and financial supporter myself, I have truly been blessed beyond measure. Whether you give cash, check, houses, land, stocks, bonds or a simple piece of jewelry; Trinity can use it and God will bless it. Your gift will help make a difference for the cause of Christ.

The Office of Advancement is able to assist you in answering your questions and guiding you through these financial decisions. Making a gift to Trinity College of Florida can even be accomplished through your estate planner, tax attorney, or local bank. You can make a difference in the lives of students who seek to become 21st century transformational leaders for Christ. Make a difference today!

TRINITY COLLEGE OF FLORIDA
The Office of Advancement

727.376.6911

newday@trinitycollege.edu



Charlie Martin (1967) is Vice President for Advancement at Trinity College of Florida.

THE LAST WORD

The DEAN of Chaplain Ministries

by Thomas E. Wade, Ph.D.



Charles Massey was a farm boy from Perkins, Georgia who finished high school at the age of fifteen and attended Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity College of Florida) in Temple Terrace, Florida. In 1938 he graduated and later was ordained at the age of nineteen. He continued his education at Mercer University and would later earn advanced degrees from Harvard and Indiana Universities.

A Call to Sacrifice

Charles Massey became Colonel Massey by serving in the United States Army for over 30 years. He provided spiritual guidance and comfort as a military Chaplain to our soldiers through several wars, including World War II. As a member of the U.S. Army Chaplain Board in Washington, D.C., he developed plans, programs and training for chaplains worldwide. He was involved in producing television and public relations training films for the Office of Chief of Chaplains and conducted workshops in communication skills and preaching. His contributions were recognized on three separate occasions by receiving the prestigious Legion of Merit Award for Exceptional Meritorious Service. This is one of the highest military awards given for non-combat duty. During his service he traveled to remote corners of the world, walked the halls of the Pentagon, and preached in the National Cathedral.



A Call to Service

Colonel Massey always held a deep and abiding love for his Alma Mater, Trinity College of Florida. After retiring from the military in 1973, he served as a professor, Dean and Trustee at the College. He hosted many of the College's annual banquets and served as the Master of Ceremonies. He was an interim pastor for over a dozen churches in Central Florida and was selected by Tampa Magazine as one of the ten most influential clergymen in the Tampa Bay area. He influenced the lives of thousands through his preaching and Godly service to humanity.

A Call Home

On November 8, 2008, at the age of 89, Charles went to be with the Lord. At his memorial service I offered the following (borrowed) tribute:

*If to be venerated for benevolence,
If to be admired for talents,
If to be esteemed for patriotism,
If to be loved for philanthropy,
Can gratify the human mind,*

*You sir must have the pleasing consolation
To know that you have not lived in vain*
— George Washington

In 1996 my wife, Ann, and I initiated the Charles and Emily Massey Scholarship Fund at Trinity College of Florida as a tribute to this outstanding individual and couple. The fund has enabled many worthy students to attend Trinity College of Florida. In our proposal letter for establishing the fund, my wife wrote, "Dr. Massey is a dedicated scholar of the Bible and an eloquent preacher of the Word, as well as, having a pastor's heart to shepherd the flock. Mrs. Massey is the epitome of a pastor's wife, supporting her husband and loving the people in his flock, as well as, being a very intelligent, educated and talented lady in her own right."

Colonel Charles Massey and his wife, Emily, will be sorely missed, but the legacy they leave behind will last beyond our time and into eternity. Together they served, gave, and lived a life that reached out in love.



Thomas E. Wade serves on the Board of Trustees at Trinity College of Florida. He is an award winning Engineering Professor at the University of South and was a longtime friend of Col. & Mrs. Charles Massey.

JOURNEY09

Trinity College of Florida invites you to take the **JOURNEY** through its Campus Life. High School students are encouraged to visit the academic, spiritual, and student atmosphere at Trinity College of Florida. Stay in a residence hall, check out classes, experience chapel, meet professors, students, and staff, and enjoy a day of thrills at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay Adventure Park! Be part of the **JOURNEY** by exploring the possibilities awaiting you at Trinity College of Florida!

For more information
& registration contact
The Office of Admissions:

1-800-388-0869

admissions@trinitycollege.edu

March 26th

Thursday

Early Check-in (5pm)

March 27th

Friday

Check-in (7 am)

Admissions Open House

Chapel Experience

BBQ Lunch

Trinity 101 Q&A Session

Campus Tours

Homecoming Basketball Game

March 28th

Saturday

Busch Gardens

Tampa Bay Adventure Park



www.trinitycollege.edu



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