

FALL 2010

THE CONNECTION

Trinity College of Florida



OVERWHELMED BY

Joy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joy Fusion

The world talks of petroleum power, wind power, water power, solar power, and nuclear power. There is the power of wealth and the power of knowledge. There is military power, economic power, the power of technology, and political power. There is weakness in achieving the best in life. What really is the essence of power – transformational power.

"...for the Joy of the Lord is your strength."

NEHEMIAH 8:10 NKJV

"These things I have spoken to you, that My Joy may remain in you, and that your Joy may be full." JOHN 15:11 NKJV

Do you see the secret? It is the Joy of the Lord! The Joy of Jesus! So simple, yet undiscovered. This Joy is delight, contentment, and total well-being. It is the balance of forgiveness, hope, and peace mixed together. This recipe is the recipe for POWER!

Fusion is the enormous release of quantities of energy. This power is incredible. When *Spiritual Fusion* occurs, Joy releases unmatched and unseen power within the human soul. This power does not destroy, take away, or limit the holder. It is transformational power. It is power that not only moves but also changes actions, situations, and events. It is Divine Power provided by the Holy Spirit.

Notice what the Joy of the Lord – the Joy of Jesus – does:

IT OPENS WINDOWS! Joy enlightens and opens windows for one to see the landscape of breathtaking potential and possibilities. Sadness and madness do not lift the soul. God's soul lifter is Joy! He allows His child, through His Joy, to have mountain top views. Joy is the gift of God enabling one to see what others cannot see. Joy is the component that opens the view to the Grand Canyon of God-promised opportunities. Blessed are the people who know the "Joyful Sound" (Psalm 89:15 NKJV).

IT OPENS DOORS! Joy is the God-given strength to proceed through the open door of opportunity. It is the supernatural propellant that gives the courage to go when most people's going has gone. The power is there to go. The excitement is there to go. The hope and anticipation are there to go. When that power opens doors, you go! You go as Romans 15:13 states:

"Now may the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

That hope propels you forward because Joy has opened doors for you to go and do. Joyful people are not sitting around doing nothing. They are on the go for the Lord!

In this issue of *The CONNECTION*, may you expand your knowledge and experience of Joy. May it be a journey that overwhelms you in the Joy of knowing Him, our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Let's get going because He is Joy!



Mark T. O'Farrell, D.D., President of Trinity College of Florida

THE CONNECTION

Trinity College of Florida

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Florida's Forgotten Coast
by Keith Martin Johns

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Overwhelmed?

We often think of being overwhelmed in a negative way. Everyone at some point has felt that heavy burden; a feeling of great pressure that squeezes you and makes you want to pop. I can remember an especially overwhelming day. I was up before 6am and into work by 7am. I was trying to get as much accomplished as possible before meetings at 8:30am and 10am. Leaving my last morning appointment, I drove for a lunch meeting to plan an upcoming event only to return for a 2:30pm meeting on campus. Returning phone calls and emails, following up on orders, receiving status updates on projects, writing copy, and arranging interviews with local reporters filled the rest of my afternoon. Then it was off to teach three evening classes, meet with students, grade papers, (grab a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for dinner) and finally return home just before 11pm to check the mail, write some bills, take a hot shower, and climb into bed. Needless to say, I was overwhelmed.

I am quite confident you have had many days like this. The surge of responsibility and length of your 'to do list' can wrap itself many times around your psyche. Piles of paperwork flooding your inbox and personal family issues can suddenly rush at you as quickly as a dam break to a small town. Being overwhelmed can leave you tired, angry, frustrated, and in tears. Shortness of breath, headaches, and the inability to 'turn off' your mind makes finding joy a remote fantasy. Without the balance and stability that God brings to our lives, we can quickly slip away into hopelessness.

However, there are times when being overwhelmed can be positive. Have you ever been to a county fair with a young child (or even an adult) and seen the wonder in their eyes?

The lights, sounds, rides, games, prizes, candy, and treats can leave one overwhelmed. Where to start? What to do first? What game to play? What prize to claim? What treat to eat? With so many questions – so many choices – one is overwhelmed with delight. Once with a group of children, I asked them what they wanted to do first. The answer was simple, "everything!"

How are you overwhelmed? Are the challenges, responsibilities, commitments, and 'to do lists' of your life sucking the joy from your soul? Do you feel lost? Drowning in a sea of details, jobs, and work? God desires you to be overwhelmed by Him. The wonder, awe, and light you see in a child's eyes at the county fair is the same delight He longs to see in your eyes because of Him. In this issue of *The CONNECTION*, we explore the power of joy. Renowned artist and alumnus Keith Martin Johns (2001) says, "Art is the expression of the soul that has been overwhelmed by joy." His proverb is expressed clearly in his art, poetry, and life. Also, we explore the power of joy in the lives of our alumni through service and giving and Dr. Dennis Cox, professor and chair of the Counseling Department at Trinity College of Florida, reminds us how we can rediscover the art of being overwhelmed by joy in our personal lives.

So put your paperwork aside. Place your 'to do list' on hold. Sit back, relax, and get ready to let the joy of the Lord overwhelm your soul.

Learning to be rightly overwhelmed,



Kevin D. O'Farrell, Editor



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Overwhelmed by *Joy*

by Kevin D. O'Farrell

Keith Martin Johns is contagious. Passion and enthusiasm ooze from him as he discusses the splendor, majesty, and glory of God. While, as an artist, he is renowned as a Florida Regionalist; this fourth generation Floridian does not see art as an end in itself but a means to a Person, the Person of God.

Born in Englewood, Florida in 1954, Keith spent his childhood outdoors. The Gulf Coast of Florida is not lacking in offering endless imaginative journeys. His parents were hardworking people. His father was a fisherman and his mother shared a passion for the sea. His early years were, like most young children, formative. Beautiful scenery and breathtaking sunsets filled his mind and childhood with brilliant memories. Today, Keith is a celebrated artist who is proficient in watercolor, acrylics, and oils. With over 300 painting titles and nearly 120 published pieces of art into print, he has spent nearly 30 years building a reputation as one of Florida's preservationists of natural beauty and heritage through the visual arts. However, his passion for art is inferior to his passion for the Great Artist.

Overwhelmed by Faith

Throughout his life, Keith searched for meaning and an understanding of the world in which he found himself. As an artist and entrepreneur, he found early

success in the business world but struggled with an existential approach to finding meaning. As he cried out for meaning and strained for purpose, God began reaching out to Keith. It was during this spiritual journey that he came to faith in Christ. "Suddenly I realized there was a world within, not just a world around," remembers Keith. This profound spiritual awakening created an insatiable hunger 'within.'

After accepting Christ and while living in Clearwater, Florida, Keith had a hunger to read the Word of God and attend church. He found a church in Palm Harbor and began attending. The church's youth pastor began mentoring him. Keith spent hours studying and reading God's Word. As he continued to grow spiritually, so did his desire to grow in wisdom and knowledge. He heard of a local Christian college named Trinity through several students who were also attending the church and decided to explore the possibility of enrolling.

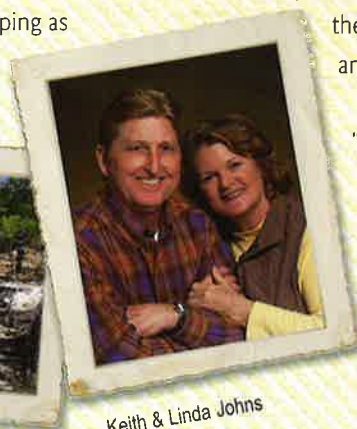
With little to no knowledge of the rigors of college life, Keith sat in the office of then President Barry Banther and asked if a student with little formal education could enroll. Dr. Banther developed a plan to admit Keith while helping him meet the requirements necessary to succeed. "Barry was very gracious to me. Someone who would stop me on campus, ask how I was doing and pray with me," recounts Keith. The challenges of balancing family life and employment while pursuing a college degree prevented Keith from finishing; however, this was not the final chapter of his time at Trinity College of Florida.

Overwhelmed by the Spirit

Years passed and Keith continued growing in his faith and developing as an artist. One day while living in Chiefland, Florida, he received an invitation to an outdoor art show venue in the Trinity area. Being an inaugural event, Keith had a standing policy of waiting until an event had an established reputation before showing. The financial expense associated with attending an outdoor show was costly and inaugural events carried certain financial risks; however, Keith felt a need to attend the Tarpon Springs show. He and his wife Linda packed up his pieces, loaded their trailer, and headed for the show. Once they arrived and began setting up their display, Keith felt within his spirit that God was telling him to reenroll at Trinity College of Florida. Later, he shared this burden with Linda who, unbenounced to him, felt the same strange message when she was setting up the art exhibit. The show was a relative success and Keith and Linda returned home. Through a series of divine events, God provided for Keith to return to Trinity College of Florida. Finally in 2001, Keith graduated with a degree in Biblical Studies. The journey had come full circle.



Keith painting



Keith & Linda Johns

Today, Keith is an active member of his local church, Jasmine Lakes Baptist Church. His passion for missions has taken him on continental journeys to remote villages in Africa, India, China, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Italy, and South America. His travels have enhanced his understanding of God's great compassion and allowed him to find beauty and a deeper appreciation for his own cultural heritage.

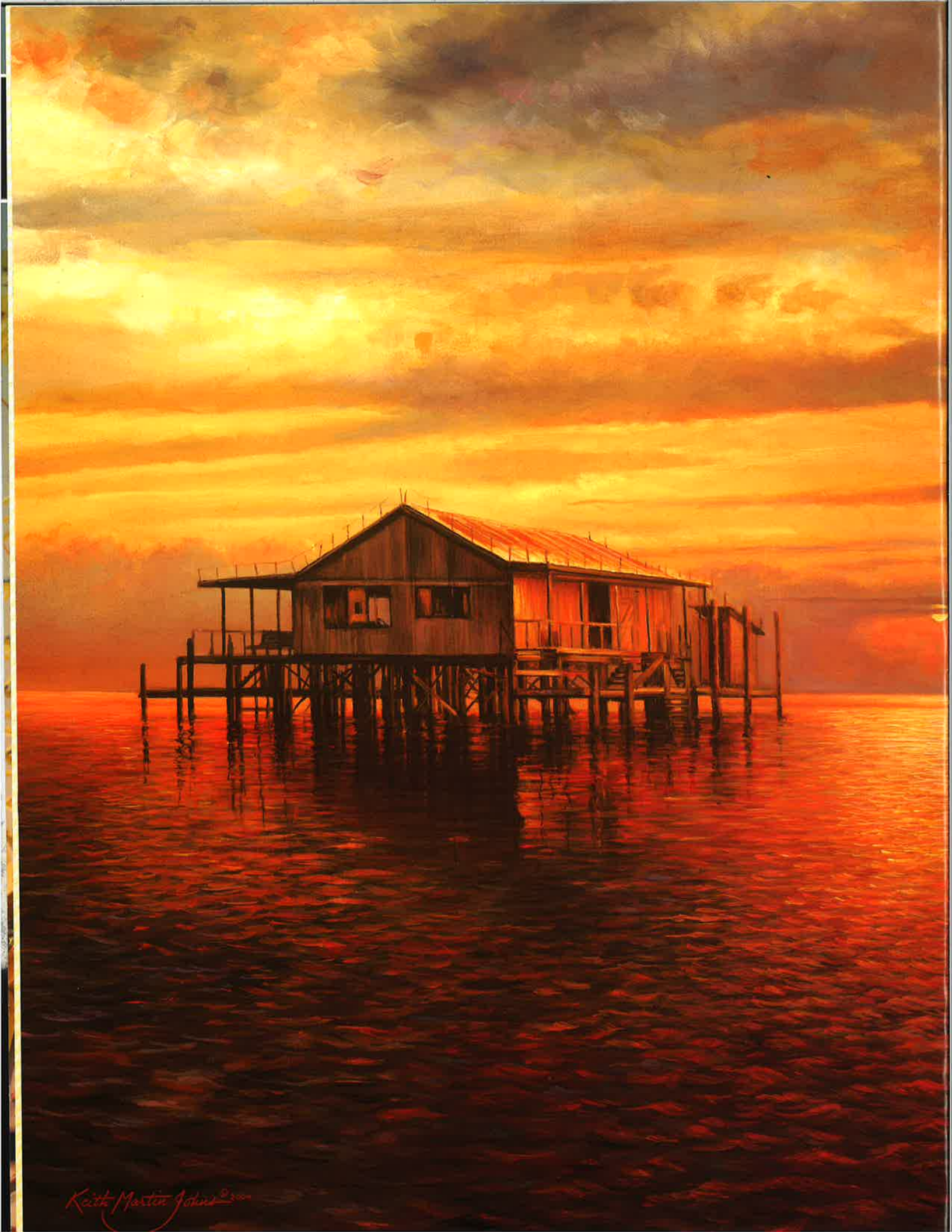
Overwhelmed by Truth

Even now, Keith's hunger for God, which began many years ago, is evident as he sets aside three hours each day to study and digest the Word of God. In his "Think Tank" (as he likes to call his studio and office) Keith paints, writes poetry, develops course curriculum, and ponders the things of God. He is aggressively engaged in reading twenty different books simultaneously and has about half a dozen projects in the works revolving around art and the Christian worldview. Keith has a vision for connecting the Christian world with the arts. He dreams of touring nationally with works on the order of the Grand Masters accompanied by speakers lecturing on Christian theology and apologetics.

Psalm 19 and Romans 1 are Keith's favorite passages of Scripture. He sees in them a powerful understanding of the beauty and power of God. "Art can awaken the slumbering soul," touts Keith. It is the majesty and awe inspiring nature of God to express Himself through His creative and artistic attributes. Each painting Keith creates is given an intentional name and is accompanied by a story which takes the individual through the medium of the visual picture, past the image, and straight to the heart of God.

"Art is the expression of the soul that has been overwhelmed by joy." Keith's own art axiom is no less true of himself. As we sit in his studio discussing his work, he can hardly stay seated, arising from his sofa, almost jumping with excitement. His passion and enthusiasm for the nature of God expressed through art is irresistible. He and Linda's passion for others to know Christ and His glory have led them all over the world and into a ministry of mentoring young men and women. Their legacy continues through the lives of the young people they host in their home, encourage through their words, and pray for daily.

Keith's artwork continues to earn him accolades and followers. Numerous private and corporate collectors count works by Keith Martin Johns among their most valued pieces. From universities to hospitals and government offices to home galleries, unique works by Keith Martin Johns adorn walls, reception halls, and buildings. And while his art fills the halls of society, it is the joy of Christ, which continues to overwhelm his soul.



Keith Martin Jones 2000

Standing Alone

By Keith Martin Johns

The following narrative by Keith Martin Johns is the story accompanying his painting (opposite this page) entitled 'Standing Alone.'

In contrast to the hectic fast-paced lifestyle of today, the one connected to the old stilt home still stands alone. Seasons have passed, yet family memories remain. It is almost as if it were yesterday, but somehow it seems a lifetime ago. Out there, it was as if time stood still. Lazily relaxing from all cares while considering the bigness of life, put one at ease. O the wonder of it all! Every morning the sun introduced the new day and every evening it bowed its head low and set its splendor arrayed colorfully across the heavens spreading its tablecloth of bounty on those below. Its multi-colored hues happily skipped across the top of waves and its flickered highlights mesmerized all who dare cast their gaze upon them. Gulf breezes blew against it but it stood almost as if invincible, even though a few loose boards flapped noisily while the salt spray dashed rhythmically against its pilings. Hot summer days rained heat upon the tin roof, burned bare feet, and weathered the already aging splintered wood.

Today, time has made its way into our busy lives, but this remains unchanged as it has been etched into our memories: sunburned scorched skin, being scantily clothed in swimwear, grilled fish, happy quiet hours, the noisy screeching of seagulls over and against the occasional sound of a boat's motor purring in the distance, hours of fishing, small islands that needed exploration, gulf breezes, the laughter of good times from family and friends from the other stilt homes nearby. That is when life was good, and all was well; in our memories these things still stand alone.

The joys and benefits of this life are given to us by a benevolent God who celebrates and rejoices in splendor and wonder for the heavens declare His glory. They are meant to be enjoyed by us, for God created them for such a reason, but they are ultimately meant to direct our attention and create affections that overflow back to Him in praise. He created all things, and for His pleasure they were created and exist.

Often in life, there are many adversaries that come against us; many woes that assail us. Yet, like the stilt home God has designed us and

equips us to stand, but not alone. He sustains us, under girds us, guards us, and supports us by the firm foundation of faith in His glorious Son; a foundation of strength laid for us before the foundation of the world. Like pilings sunk into the unfathomable mind of God from all eternity, we stand strong against what may come. Our sovereign God displays for us His multi-faced array of attributes, like light through a prism; seen through the colorful trials which He designs for us to create in us the excellencies of His Son, and display the splendor of His glorious light to the world below. So He alone gets the glory, and we simply get the joy; therefore, to us all is well; time simply is standing still since eternity can never be exhausted and our enjoyment in life with God will never end, because He is life eternal.

No one was meant to stand alone. We are connected to others through families and other social communities. But while that is true in the physical realm, at the same time, we are separated and alone from God because of our sin. Christ alone has paid the price of redemption to set free those who by faith in Him would trust His finished work on the cross. He alone has satisfied the wrath of a holy God. God Himself sent His Son to be the punishment for sin for sinners so that they never need stand alone and away from His glorious presence. This life is but the beginning to a greater end when it is found through a personal relationship with the One who is alone both the beginning and the end. Through Christ and the redemption offered through the cross, we have restoration and are united to God in an eternal fellowship so for all eternity we will never have to stand alone.

When we have this hope and assurance, even in our old age, the splendor and glory of God in Christ will shine in our hearts, and the light of heaven will remind us each day of His glorious beauty; that we do not stand alone.

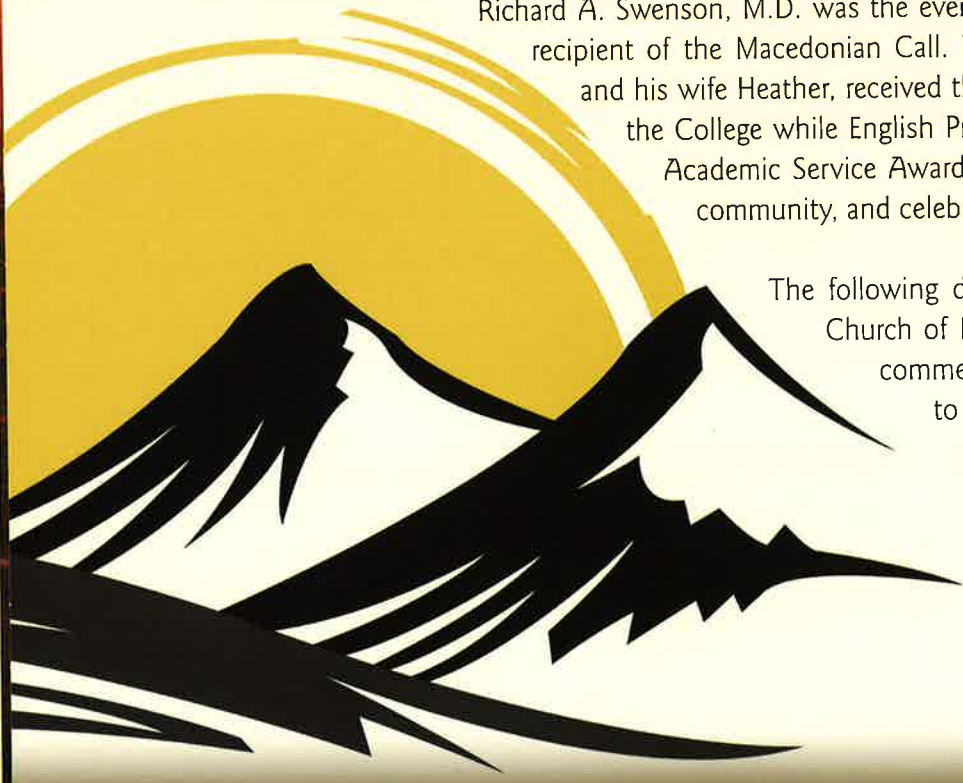


Keith Martin Johns (2001) is renowned as a Florida Regionalist and celebrated as one of Florida's preservationists of natural beauty and heritage through the visual arts. To view more of Keith's work, visit www.keithmartinjohns.com



Rising TO THE CHALLENGE

Supporters, friends, and alumni of Trinity College of Florida gathered on Friday, May 7, 2010 at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida for the College's annual fundraising banquet. This year's theme was: Rising to the Challenge. Richard A. Swenson, M.D. was the evening's riveting keynote speaker and was the 2010 recipient of the Macedonian Call. World-renowned eye surgeon, Dr. James P. Gills and his wife Heather, received the Prokope Award for their outstanding service to the College while English Professor Dr. Greg Strayer received the 2010 Wade Academic Service Award. The evening was a special time of connection, community, and celebration.



The following day over 400 guests gathered at the First Baptist Church of New Port Richey, Florida to witness the College's commencement exercises. The graduates were challenged to put their faith into action as they enter the workforce and ministry. Dr. Swenson, physician-futurist, best-selling author, and award-winning educator, delivered the commencement address. Family, friends, students, faculty, and staff joined in celebrating the achievements of the class of 2010 and welcomed them as the newest members of the Trinity College of Florida alumni community.

2009-2010



OUR 2010 *Banquet & Graduates*



Starting from the top, left to right by row: Dr. Swenson challenges the class of 2010 to make their faith real; Esther Peterson and Renee Mendoza; Quest graduates are ready to receive their diplomas; Alumni and friends connect before the evening begins; Graduate Mandy Cregghan and family celebrate; Alejandro Escalante and Frank Gil pose for a picture; Graduation is about to begin!; Student volunteers help to make the evening enjoyable.

For His Name & His Glory

by Daniel Rumeau



Trinity students ministering in Peru

I could not believe my eyes. There in front of me was an advertisement of a scantily clad woman hanging next to a poster featuring an image of Jesus Christ. The Savior of the world was the very reason why I and my teammates were in Peru and here a picture of Christ was haphazardly hung beside a marketing poster designed to tantalize the eyes. It was in this local shop in the Majes River valley of southern Peru where I realized the native culture's lip service to Christ but lack of transformation. It was the polarizing nature of these images that would prove to define the culture of this community. There was an evident disconnect between the Holy God to which the Peruvians expressed their devotion and the heart expression of their culture. Even the native youth expressed an attachment to the Christian faith claiming, "The Bible and Jesus Christ are just a part of who we are. It is our culture." Yet, the transforming Truth of Christ had yet to make a total change. It was a Peruvian disconnect.

The culture and religion of Aplao, Peru and its surrounding towns were unique, even in comparison to other areas in the country. The most common question we were asked by the local people was, "How do you like our valley?" We learned quickly that they took pride in their valley and the history of it, often to the extent of idolizing it. This gave us an opportunity to express how beautiful their valley was; however, it also allowed us to remind them that its beauty paled in comparison to the majestic God who created it all. Evidence of the Catholic tradition was present throughout the land. Schools, hospitals, local businesses, and mountain shrines had images associated with the Christian faith. The extent to which this tradition was present in their culture was astonishing. The majority of the people readily embraced Catholic customs without ever knowing the God who was behind the artistic impressions. Many of the people could not connect their valley and tradition to the glorious God who created them to worship Him.



Beginning Fears

As we prepared for our twenty-one day mission trip to Aplao, Peru, our team spent many hours in prayer and fasting to ready our hearts. On the night we left from the College's campus, we sat down as a team to read several passages of Scripture and pray together to reflect on the purpose of our trip to Peru. Each passage we read centered on the same theme: Our Glorious King works "for the sake of His Name and His Glory."

Now in Peru, reflecting on that moment, the Lord worked in my heart. My gauge for success depended on how much the team could accomplish. As ministry opportunities developed in Peru, I took responsibility to keep the team focused and disciplined. My fear was we would lose passion. I did not want the end result of our trip to be a 'Peruvian vacation' accomplishing little for the Kingdom of God. Whether I said it with my lips or not, my heart had little trust in God's plan during those times of doubt. But through the course of the journey, I realized His Name and His Glory was the ultimate goal. Christ humbled me and showed through amazing ways that

He was working.

Amazing Ways

Our team ministered the gospel at schools, the hospital, and in the plazas through Scripture, music, and drama. The days we spent ministering in the hospitals may have seemed unstructured in man's eyes but God arranged divine appointments which met His plan for our trip. While visiting patients and ministering to nurses and doctors, we were able to extend the love of Christ. It was through these visits that God opened unique ministry opportunities.



Clockwise from top left: Preparing for a day of ministry in the valley; Peruvian river and mountains; House church in Peru; The team sharing and eating together; The local housing for poor families.



Our team regularly had dinner together; we used this time to share our experiences throughout the day. After working with an impoverished family, we shared and reflected on the day's events. Not only did this family face economic hardship but also several members had been diagnosed with tuberculosis. The team was profoundly impacted by this family. As we discussed our service to this family, many of the team members were in tears. We struggled to express how we felt after ministering to the family. We certainly knew that God had ordained this opportunity and we longed to serve more families like this one. Words seemed inadequate to express the compassion we felt for families like those who faced such physical and financial obstacles. We later learned from a local believer that the family was progressing in their tuberculosis treatments. Our hearts were laid bare in regards to the injustice of our world expressed in this family.

The greatest evidence of God's hand moving in the valley was with the local believers. We met many of them in rather random ways, whether eating ice cream or in the plaza after an outreach event. What seemed random to us was God's divine appointment. Many of these local believers became part of our team and filled our hearts with joy as we saw their passion for God and a Christ-centered vision for the community. Their love for people and their Savior was the connection the valley desperately needed. Even now I cannot help but be filled with overwhelming joy when reflecting on these believers. From hospital visits to serving the poor to drama presentations, these episodes left me with no doubt that nothing on our trip caught God by surprise. He knew all that would happen and He ordained it to happen for the sake of His Name and His Glory.

Higher Truths

As the memories of our experience in the Majes River valley of southern Peru fade into the past, our hearts continually long to speak about the amazing work of our great God amongst the Peruvians. Words and pictures can never do justice to the actual experience we had in Peru. Our team realized that God, as He often does, was doing a work through us and in us. The Lord declares, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways." The Lord's ways and thoughts are indescribable – no matter how badly we would love to fully understand them.

His Name and His Glory should be our passion. His plan is better. His ways are higher. His love is fuller. His joy is richer. While many in the Majes River valley are still left with a troubling disconnect, we know God is not finished. His transforming power is still working. He is moving even when we are not present. Christ changes culture because He changes lives. Even in our own lives, we struggle for control and discipline, thinking our ways are better and our plan is smarter. How foolish we are. Christ's redemptive work in Peru and in the lives of men and women all over the world is ongoing. Christ will make the ultimate connection for His Name and His Glory.



Daniel Rumeau was one of sixteen students and faculty from Trinity College of Florida who spent twenty-one days on a mission trip to Aplao, Peru in May 2010. Daniel is a junior at Trinity College of Florida majoring in Counseling.

Notables

NEW PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM ADDED



During its May 2010 meeting, the Trinity College of Florida Board of Trustees voted to approve the addition of a new psychology major. The new major will be available for students beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year. The psychology major will provide foundational preparation in psychological theory and practice from a Christian perspective. The major is designed for those who intend further graduate study in psychology and those who wish to use psychology as a way of entering into various professions such as secondary education in the state of Florida, social work, human resources and related fields.

Students successfully completing the psychology program will demonstrate:

1. A basic understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
2. The ability to understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.
3. The ability to weigh evidence, act ethically, and integrate Christian values with psychology as a discipline.

Dr. Elizabeth Earle-Warfel has been appointed as Assistant Professor of Psychology to provide academic support to the new program. Dr. Warfel completed her undergraduate work at the King's College in New York. She holds a Master of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Philosophy from Saybrook Graduate School and Research Center, a regionally accredited institution in San Francisco, CA.



Earle-Warfel, Dr. Elizabeth

According to the 2009-2010 *Almanac Issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the top five fields of study according to the number of degrees awarded in 2006-2007 were:

- Business (327,531)
- Social Science: History (164,183)
- Education (105,641)
- Health Professionals (101,810)
- **Psychology (90,039)**

The addition of the psychology program at Trinity College of Florida will allow students to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a dynamic market while receiving their education at a nationally recognized higher education institution.

COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE



In January 2010 the College's new website went live. The new website gives the College a fresh aesthetic overhaul and better organizes its content. Online application and e-commerce components were added to complete the project. These changes will

provide users with an improved browsing experience and allow the College to more effectively share its message. Visit our new website at www.trinitycollege.edu.

NEW CAMPUS SIGNS SHOW THE WAY

Through the generous contribution of donors, the College received new campus signage. Day or night, these new signs serve to define the College's campus, inform the community of upcoming events and opportunities, and provide a positive first impression to all who visit.



LADY TIGERS VOLLEYBALL TEAM FIFTH IN THE NATION



In November 2009 the Lady Tiger Volleyball team finished their season ranked fifth in the nation (NCAA, Division II) with an impressive 25-5 record.

They finished second in the region with two players (Megan Weas and Jannica Millet) named to the First Team All-Region. Jannica Millet was also named as an All-American. Coach Mark Sawyer was voted the South Region's Coach of the Year and was nominated for National Coach of the Year. The Lady Tigers are expecting a strong 2010 season.

Joys R Us

by Les Harris (1964), Alumni Association President



We cannot avoid the middle of 1 Peter 4:13: "but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding Joy."

In Central Africa the LRA rebels have kidnapped and slaughtered many of the children of national Christians. In February we visited and were asked by the people: "What did Jesus mean when He said, 'Don't be afraid?'" The believers in this war-torn area are "learning to count it all Joy." One of these who is learning the true meaning of Joy is Matthew Koumboki (1982). The truth he learned at Trinity College is helping him to encourage and comfort others who have faced these horrific challenges (two of Matthew's nephews were kidnapped by the LRA).

The majority of us have not suffered like others for the sake of Christ. We "R" the church and we should be labeled "Joys R Us." We must remember the example of our Lord Jesus of whom it is written: "For the Joy set before Him, endured the cross, scorning the shame, is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2)." Jesus' followers who "go forth weeping, bearing precious seed" return with songs of Joy - carrying their sheaves with them (Psalm 126:6).

Trinity College continues to teach that a life of sacrifice produces successful, Joyful returns in spite of tears. Our success is not measured by the size of the church in which we attend or minister. Godly success is measured by our devotion to the Master.

Austin Phillips (1974) writes in this summer's issue of *Heartland International Ministries* published by Fred Kornis (1976): "When we get back to being the church that was instead of attending the church that is, perhaps we shall once again see God do something for man rather than seeing what man can do for God." We "R" the church - wherever we go. We may be displaced, but by God's grace we are not misplaced as we look to the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Many of our alumni are facing challenges and we must uphold each other in prayer. In Matthew 20:22, James and John answered Jesus without counting the cost: "We are able," they said. May our hearts and lives and Joy be based on our faith and the song: "He's Able!" He is merciful and kind to enable us to spread the Joy wherever man is found.

Keep up the good work! Remember to be content: Joyful in whatever your circumstances. Please pray for and support our Alma Mater. Let us renew and refresh one another and spread the Joy!

ALUMNI Home Goings

Alumni

James D. Strickland
(Attended 1947)
August 5, 2009

Wilson E. Smith (1966)
September 7, 2009

Daniel R. Doyle (1968)
December 29, 2009

Billy J. Haslam (1963)
February 26, 2010

Pearl Silas Hodgkin
(Attended 1940)
April 5, 2010

Don W. Olson (1965)
June 4, 2010

Fae Baker Bovard
(Attended 1952)
July 8, 2010

Louise McElhaney (1954)
August 3, 2010

Friends

Joan Cross
Wife of Dr. Gordon Cross
December 19, 2009

2010 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

J. D. Stake, (1967), received the 2010 Alumnus of the Year award on May 7, 2010. He has served for over 40 years in outstanding Christian ministry. Accompanying J. D. Stake to the awards banquet was Dr. O.C. Clark (1962) who was the pastor that mentored J.D. and recommended he attend Trinity College.



CLERMONT ALUMNI GATHERING



Clermont Alumni Gathering, June 25, 2010

On June 25, 2010 several alumni gathered in Clermont, Florida for a time of connection and encouragement. Stay connected with the Alumni Association! Visit www.trinitycollege.edu for information on upcoming Alumni Association events!

FALL ALUMNI PICNIC

October 9, 2010 is the date for the Alumni Association's Friends & Family fall picnic at John B. Chestnut Park, 2200 East Lake Rd., Palm Harbor, FL 34685 (Shelter #9). Join the Alumni Association for FREE hamburgers and hotdogs and be sure to bring a dish to share. To attend, RSVP to Alumni Association Secretary-Treasurer Saralyn Duarte at saralynuarte@yahoo.com





Alumni

1950s



AL (1956) & JANIE (FROMER, attd. 1956) TEDDER

Al is celebrating 61 years in ministry. He has served in four churches and ministered in thirty states and eighteen foreign countries. Currently, he is serving at Northcliffe Baptist Church. Al and Janie are celebrating their 54th wedding anniversary

this year. ajtedder@gmail.com

1960s



ART (1960) & EVY YOHNER (attd. 1958)

Art and Evy currently reside in Bradenton, Florida, where Art is in the care of a local nursing home facility. Art and Evy recently celebrated becoming great-grandparents with the birth of Jesse Jacobs on May 3, 2010. evyohner@aol.com

ROGER (1964) & MOTTRIE (IVIE, 1965) HOGLE

Roger and Mottrie celebrated 46 years of marriage, 44 years as pastor of South Ridge Baptist Church, 38 years as administrator/superintendent of South Ridge Christian Academy, and 31 years as manager/president of the WGOJ (Wonderful Grace of Jesus) radio station. rhogle@suite224.net



GARY (1967) & DIANE BROOKS

Gary celebrates 41 years of continuous service as an ordained minister and missionary to Central America. Currently he is pastor at the Manatee RV Park Community Church, south of Ruskin, FL. Gary preaches and teaches in both English and Spanish. Gary and Diane will celebrate

46 years of marriage this year. gcdmb@tampabay.rr.com

EDWARD WM. (1968) & JAN (COSBEY, 1966) BRANDT III



Edward is President of E.W. Brandt & Associates, Ltd., an international firm specializing in nonprofit management, 501(c)(3) foundation development and strategic planning. With twenty years in organizational and resource development work, he has served organizations as an executive, consultant, grantor, and

volunteer. He and Jan reside between homes in Washington, D.C. and Williamsburg, VA. edward-brandt@comcast.net

JOHN & MARY JANE (ABBOTT, 1968) AMES

John and Mary Jane recently moved to an assisted living apartment in Ledgeview Living Center Nursing Home. Mary Jane is involved in witnessing to her fellow residents and teaching preschool-kindergarten Sunday school at her local church. John and Mary Jane have two daughters who serve with their husbands as missionaries. They also have eight grandchildren. maryjaneames@oxfordnetworks.net

1970s

TOM & NORMANDY (TAYLOR, 1970) WOODWARD



Normandy is the Project and Events Coordinator for the C.S. Lewis Society. She travels to several conferences with her husband, Dr. Tom Woodward, Research Professor at Trinity College and founder of the C.S. Lewis Society, providing student talks and activities geared to children.

NormandyWoodward@tampabay.rr.com

AUSTIN PHILLIPS (1974)

Austin recently returned from a three-week ministry trip to Nicaragua. He and his wife currently reside in Dothan, Alabama. dralphillips@live.com

1980s

DOUG (1981) & SHEILA (MILES, attd. 1977-79) GREEN



Doug and Sheila reside in Dothan, Alabama where Doug works with Marketplace Chaplains. Based in Plano, TX, Marketplace Chaplains contracts with businesses to provide Chaplains to their workforce. Doug is able to work with people of various professions, believers and non-believers, in the

workplace. He also serves as a bi-vocational pastor at his local church. cheerfuldoug@yahoo.com

JEFF (1985) & MARTHA (DESA, 1984) ALBRIGHT

Jeff and Martha are serving with Bible Center Ministries International on college campuses in the Tampa Bay Florida area. Jeff is the author of *End Times, What's Next?*. jeffmartha4@yahoo.com

MIKE (1987) & SUSAN MILLICAN



On April 1, 2010 Lakeland Bible Church celebrated 20 years with Mike as senior pastor. The church's new preschool, Joyful Hearts, is experiencing strong enrollment. He and Susan reside in Lakeland, FL and celebrate their 37th wedding anniversary this year.

lbcdoulos@aol.com

UPDATES



2000s



RYAN (2001) & ANNA (2002) ROUSE
This year, Ryan Rouse completed his Master of Divinity degree at Luther Rice University. He currently serves as the Student Ministry Pastor at Kathleen Baptist Church in Lakeland, FL. He and Anna celebrated the birth of their daughter, Chloe, on March 24, 2010. rouse2@juno.com



BILLY WHITING (2003)
Billy teaches music at Lee Elementary School in Hillsborough County. He also leads worship at this local church. His band, Unpainted Souls, recently released their second CD entitled: *Life, Sin and Prayer*. billywhiting@gmail.com



ROBERT (2008) & KELLY (KENNEDY, 2009) PERSAUD
Robert and Kelly were married on May 15, 2010 at Iglesia Bautista de Carrollwood. Robert works for Siwel Consulting Inc. in I.T. support for Verizon employees. Kelly works as a nanny. islandaquaboo@yahoo.com

RUSSELL PONDO (2008)

Russell has been involved with the North American Mission Board traveling to Brazil. He has also worked with youth in Alaska and Jacksonville, Florida and ministers to young men in his community's juvenile correction facility. rapondo@verizon.net



DAVID (2009) & BOBBI LIND

David and Bobbie founded Pure Mercy, Inc. which exists to promote the merciful treatment of those who are sexually addicted, including those who have committed sexual offenses. The ministry also works with members of the homeless community who are unable to enter other non-profit programs. David and Bobbie reside in Florida. davidlind@puremercy.org



JOSEPH (2009) & RENEE (CHAUNCEY, 2010) MENDOZA

Joseph is a caseworker for Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services teaching refugee students and counseling families. Renee is a first grade teacher at Moon Lake Elementary School. bornanew1988@msn.com

2010s



JAMES (2010) & HEATHER BLEWETT

James is currently serving as Assistant Pastor at Santa Rosa Beach Community Church in Santa Rosa Beach, FL. His book, *Can I Get Baptized in Fruit Punch*, is scheduled to be released before Christmas 2010. James and Heather have a 15-month old son, Ethan. jamesblewett@hotmail.com

SUE BROWN (2010)

After graduating in May with her degree in Leadership and Ministry, Sue has been pursuing ministry opportunities in Pasco County. She has greatly appreciated the insight and encouragement she has received from Trinity College and is trusting the Lord to open opportunities in the near future. sewandcrs@verizon.net

Where will you take your TIGER PRIDE?

North, South, East, West. Across the country and all over the world fans, students, and alumni are taking their **Tiger Pride** - and so can you! 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 put it in *The CONNECTION*! It's that simple!

Whether it's the steps of a capital, the center of a historic urban city, or a remote jungle, you can take your **Tiger Pride** anywhere. So grab your camera and show us where you'll take your **Tiger Pride**!



Top Row: Mark (2004) & Jessica (2008) Sawyer in Mexico; Liz and Pablo Montanez in Cozumel Mexico; Josh Corrick at a beautiful waterfall in Peru
Middle Row: John Whitehead at the Fountain in St. Peter's Square; Joe Cruz (2010) (center) on the campus of West Point; Esther Peterson (2010) with orphans in Kathmandu, Nepal
Bottom Row: Cheryl Gage (Quick, 1983) at Yellowstone National Park, the Lower Falls; Cheryl Gage (Quick, 1983) at Mt. Rushmore; Bonnie & John Whitehead at the ruins at Ephesus

The *Joy* of Giving

by Charlie Martin

*M*y wife and I have just begun our fourth year of pastoring a small Baptist church in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. I recently saw an old pick-up truck go by with a bumper sticker which read, "I started out with nothing, but thank God, I still have a little left over." What would we do if it were not for the goodness of God? Many things in my life have brought happiness, but as Nehemiah 8:10 says, "For the joy of the Lord is my strength." There is a great sense of joy in giving back to God.

The early Christians were excited about helping others. With great joy they met together to fellowship and worship God. Many of them sold possessions and goods (Acts 2:44-47) in order to meet the needs of others. In Acts 4:34-37 there is something about the accumulation of stuff.

We spend years of our lives in the accumulation of things that seem so important at the time. A great deal, a bargain, an investment or something to add to our collection can become a consuming hobby. One day we realize that we have "so much stuff". What are we going to do with it all? We must either build bigger barns to store our stuff or experience the joy of giving to God's work. One of my favorite scriptures is found in I Chronicles 29:9. "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with a perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord; and David the King also rejoiced with great joy."

It's interesting to note that the God who created us, loves us, directs us, has plans for us, and knows all about us, wants us to find the special joy of giving. As I call folks to thank them for their love gifts to Trinity College of Florida, I often hear the reply, "Oh, we would not miss out on the joy we receive when we give to the Lord's work".

Here at Trinity, The Office of Advancement is able to help answer your questions about joining the work at the College. Experiencing the joy of making a gift through Trinity College of Florida is easy and can even be accomplished through your estate planner, tax attorney, or local bank. You can make a difference and spread the joy in the lives of students who seek to become 21st century transformational leaders for Christ. Experience the joy today!

There really is a big difference in the lives of those who have learned the joy of giving. To those of you who share that joy, thank you!

TRINITY COLLEGE OF FLORIDA
The Office of Advancement

727.376.6911

cmartin@trinitycollege.edu



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

THE LAST WORD

Rediscovering Joy

by Dennis Cox, Ph.D.



"Joy is the feeling of grinning inside."

- Melba Colgrove

Joy always feels natural. It comes on easily but only under unusually wonderful circumstances. Like love, joy is something everyone wants but no one can hoard. It must be discovered but looking for it is useless. You don't find it. It finds you. You set the table and it comes for dinner; uninvited and welcome. There are many ways to prepare for joy. All of them have to do with noticing and appreciating the beauty, excitement, or pleasure in a past, present, or future experience.

In the Old Testament, the holidays and festivals were almost always accompanied by celebrations, feasting and reflection. Every year was punctuated by the reminders of God's blessing and provision. For instance, this is how God described The Feast of Booths in Deuteronomy 16:15; *"For seven days you shall keep the feast to the LORD your God at the place that the LORD will choose, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful."*

"Joy is not in things; it is in us."

- Richard Wagner

Joy seems to come to all people sometimes but visits some people more often than others. Why? Because they tend to look for and celebrate the good in whatever they are involved. Celebration is both an expression of and an invitation to joy. The Psalms are filled with expressions of joy and gratitude for everything from who God is to what He does. In Psalm 84:2, the psalmist sings *"My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God."* It is hard to ponder those words for very long without coming dangerously close to the feeling of joy. Worship, whether alone or as part of a church, can and should teach and enable joyful gratitude to God. We can learn to notice beauty and goodness and appreciate the gifts of God and others even when we are suffering.

In the upper room shortly before his arrest, Jesus told his disciples, *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full"* (John 15:9-11). On the eve of his own crucifixion, Jesus spoke of His joy becoming ours. That joy obviously comes from adopting His perspective on suffering, as well as, joy. The beauty, power, and potential of God's plan for and relationship to His children is the backdrop that gives meaning to suffering and joy.

"Joy is increased by spreading it to others."

- Robert Murray McCheyne

Rediscovering joy is very much a matter of reflecting on what we already have. Like happiness and humility, joy cannot be found as a goal unto itself. Joy is a byproduct of a thought life that is outward and upward focused. Joy is not only increased when it is spread to others; it spoils when it is hoarded. If this is true, then setting the table for joy involves inviting others to share in our joy by sharing with them what He has done and is doing. Let me make several suggestions for deepening your sense of joy in life.

- Use holidays and anniversaries to track the blessing of God and others. On your birthday reflect over previous birthdays and review past accomplishments and blessings. On your wedding anniversary take time to discuss previous anniversary celebrations and the important events of the year. Don't let time pass without noticing and reflecting on the larger purpose and patterns in it. I have kept a journal of all 41 of my wedding anniversaries, as well as, the important events of each year. It now takes up eight single spaced pages. Sharon and I review it sometime during each anniversary getaway. It never fails to bring joy.
- Write notes of appreciation to those who have given of themselves to you in some way recently. Be specific about what they did and why you appreciate it. In writing the note you will be reminding yourself that you are loved by God and others.
- In times of loss or disappointment, try to see the larger context. You don't have to see the loss as good; just don't see it as the final summary of your life. While grieving it may take months and even years to realize, but it is a journey to healing.

God's joy is just as much a part of Him as His love and holiness; it comes to us in our relationship to Him.



Dennis Cox is professor and chair of the counseling department at Trinity College of Florida. He holds a M.Div. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a Ph.D. from the University of South Florida.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

excite

CAN YOU FEEL IT?

Trinity College of Florida wants you to catch the excitement on campus! High School students: come and see the academic, spiritual, and student life at Trinity College of Florida. You can stay in a residence hall, check out classes, experience chapel, and meet professors and students! **GET EXCITED** and start exploring the opportunities at Trinity College of Florida!

2 CHANCES

TO CATCH THE EXCITEMENT:

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2010

APRIL 7-8, 2011

Thursday

November 4th/April 7th

Early Check-in (5pm)

Campus Alive

Friday

November 5th/April 8th

Check-in (7:30 am)

Admissions Open House

Trinity 101 Q&A Session

Chapel Experience

Campus Tours

Student Showcase



For more information & registration contact The Office of Admissions:
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