

THE PRESIDENT'S



Circle

TRINITY COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

Turn Back Time

The COVID-19 Crisis has mandated a different type of thinking, scheduling, and living pattern. It has brought challenge and change. It has generated the unknown, the unclear, and the unwanted. It has pushed everyone to pause, reflect, and contemplate.

As I have journeyed through this ongoing event, I believe the Lord is calling all, both Christian and Non-Christian, Believer and Non-Believer, person of Faith and person of Non-Faith (anyway you want to title the two groups) towards two simple truths: 1.) *What really is the most important in life* and, 2.) *what decision or decisions do I need to make regarding that fact*. Then, this verse appeared on my 'spiritual radar:'

"Therefore repent and **turn back** so that your sins may be wiped out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus who has been appointed for you as the Messiah." Acts 3:19 -20 HCSB

The Lord in His Wisdom is giving time and a schedule change to move us away from all that we have been doing and pursuing in order that we can have TIME to really think about the BIG ISSUES of life and what is after life! It is His mercy that is providing this whether we recognize it or not! This is for Believer and Non-Believer alike!

His children need a *reality check!!* The word *epistrepho*, translated 'turn back' in the HCSB, means "to turn back, to turn around, to revert, to bring back." Read what the Barna organization recently reported regarding the *State of the Church*:

"...Practicing Christians are now a much smaller segment of the entire population. In 2000, 45% of all those sampled qualified as practicing Christians. That share has consistently declined over the last 19 years. Now, just one in four Americans (25%) is a practicing Christian. In essence, **the share of practicing Christians has nearly dropped half since 2000.**"

The depth of the study points out that believers need to 'turn back' to the disciplines of the faith, the essentials that create and maintain intimacy and integrity with the Almighty!

He is calling out to the Non-Believer ... change your ways! Turn around to God, His Word, prayer, and the Church. Turn to Jesus, the Redeemer! Turn Away from the 'nonsense' of this world system. Turn Away from the 'useless and unfilled promises' of the flesh.

And did you notice what will happen if this occurs? (Acts 3:20)

1. Seasons, not just a season, seasons of refreshing will come! *Imagine what that entails!*
2. Jesus will come! *Imagine what that means!* Spiritually and Physically!

It is "Turn Back Time" ... while there is time to do this! This moment will not last!

At the College, we are prioritizing...what really is important to the student and what really matters in fulfilling all that God has called them to do! What is that God wants from us as faculty and staff to be what He wants for His students?

"There is meaning in every journey that is unknown to the traveler." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What is He saying to you? What does He want you to do while there is still time? Now, that is *The Question!* It is “Turn Back Time!”

The Latest Happenings ...

- ✦ **College events** for the month of May have been postponed or cancelled. There continues to be a desire to host the President’s Council on May 29, 2020. It is an advisory group of business, professional, educational, spiritual, and community leaders along with donors and friends of the College.
- ✦ **2020 Commencement** has been moved to Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church of New Port Richey. Dr. John Cortis, alumnus and former President of both Trinity College and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, will be the speaker.
- ✦ **During the COVID-19 Crisis**, work at the College has continued to move forward in mission and vision. The new website has been launched. It is designed for potential students who are searching for a Christian college to attend. Visit www.trinitycollege.edu. Additionally, a refresh of our branding has occurred as well as new and personalized processing of potential students has been initiated. Virtual chapels will be provided throughout the summer.
- ✦ **Staff and faculty** have been working off campus. Those staff members whose work can only be done on campus have continued their schedules on site.
- ✦ **Monies from the CARES Act** have been distributed to the students. Faculty and Student Development are reaching out to each student, encouraging, assessing their needs, and praying with them. All students finished their semester classes online.
- ✦ **Administration** is continuing to review the ongoing challenges that have been placed on universities and colleges. Preparations are underway to handle any immediate changes that confront the College as the new collegiate year approaches.
- ✦ **Gift income is vital during this time.** Fortunately, the College was qualified and able to secure the Payroll Protection Program funding. However, money for operations will be necessary as we approach July and August 2020. Giving can be accomplished online through the new website: www.trinitycollege.edu/donate. *New partnership in prayer support makes all the difference in the world.*

Challenges That Require Your Prayer Support ...

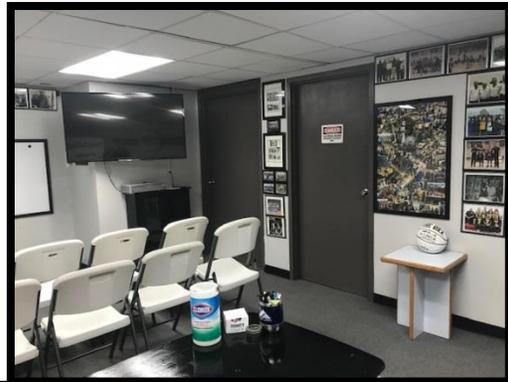
1. **Pray for the Student Body.** As you may have read or heard, students are under all types of stress and decision demands. Almost 50% of graduating high school students are considering attending college part-time or delaying a year (a gap year) to attend. Present students find the new paradigm of teaching and social engagement difficult and challenging.
2. **Pray for Admissions**, their new processing, and meeting the students’ desire to find Trinity as their “home away from home.”
3. **Pray for the faculty and staff** as they move forward in their responsibilities. **Pray for wisdom and understanding. Pray for their “refreshing.”**
4. **Pray for all the donors** who have given. Over 33,000 individual gifts have been given since records have been kept electronically. **Pray for those who have experienced loss** of jobs, income and other difficulties. **Pray for our alumni** who are retired and have limited income. **Pray for the family of Trinity College of Florida!**
5. **Pray that Administration** will make wise decisions in cutting expenses while caring for the facilities as well as ministering effectively to one another.
6. **Pray for new discoveries** of His intervention for Trinity. **Pray for a “deeper gratitude”** to Him for what He has, is, and will be doing!
7. **Pray for His Honor, Goodness, and Glory** to be seen by all in the surrounding community and beyond.

At the time of this writing, over 30 million have applied for unemployment. The unknown and uncertain continue. There is a strong desire to return to some 'normal' life. Now ... this is OUR MOMENT to be the resource of hope. This is YOUR MOMENT to be a tower of salt and light. Let us rise to this challenge and opportunity. It will not come this way again!!

“...I have cared for you since you were born.
Yes, I carried you before you were born.

I will be your God throughout your lifetime—
until your hair is white with age.
I made you, and I will care for you.
I will carry you along...” Isaiah 46:3-4 NLT

From this truth, we work for Him with gladness and joy,



The new athletic room!



Check it out!