

SPRING 2012

# THE CONNECTION

Trinity College of Florida



THE POWER OF A

*Gift*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## *The Secret in Giving*

Recently, Harvard researchers conducted a survey on individual spending habits and happiness. One experiment involved tracking individuals' spending habits in the course of one day. In this experiment participants were given \$5 or \$20 to spend on themselves, someone else or donate to charity. The spending had to be accomplished by the end of the day, after which the participants were surveyed regarding their level of happiness. The researchers found that the amount of money the participants were given had no measurable effect on their level of happiness. What impacted their level of happiness was how the money was spent. Participants who spent the money on a gift for someone else or who gave it to charity experienced a significant boost in happiness while those who spent the money on themselves did not.

In their book, *Well Being: The Five Essential Elements*, Tom Rath and Jim Harter state that while material items lose their novelty, individuals can relive memories indefinitely through the act of giving. Giving creates a lasting and rich legacy that is unmatched in personal fulfillment.

The Bible presents a powerful secret too! Read what the apostle Paul wrote in 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-2 NLT:

*"Now I want to tell you, dear friends, what God in His kindness has done for the churches in Macedonia. Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity."*

How is this possible? How does "much trouble, hard times, and deep poverty overflow in rich generosity?" This can't be! But read on:

*"Best of all, they went beyond our highest hopes, for their first action was to dedicate themselves to the Lord."* 2 CORINTHIANS 8:5 NLT

Do you see it? The secret in giving is found in someone else, not in you and what you possess! It is in the Lord! Let me take you further:

*As believers, we are channels. God is the resource!  
As believers, we are stewards. God is the owner of all!*

God channels through us what He gives us. He distributes His resources through people to people; blessing and enriching both and glorifying Himself. He thoroughly enjoys this methodology. He gives to us so that we may give to others. Warren Weirsbe captured this in his definition of ministry:

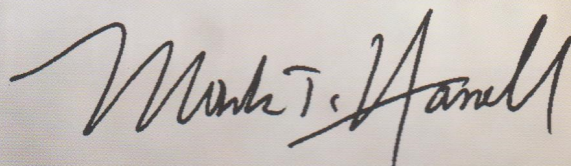
*Ministry takes place when DIVINE RESOURCES  
meet HUMAN NEEDS through LOVING  
CHANNELS for the GLORY OF GOD.*

As you read this issue of *The CONNECTION*, watch how human needs are met through loving channels for the Glory of God! At Trinity College of Florida, this is our passion! This is our calling! The churches in Macedonia discovered it. It is said that they "begged us (Paul and his companions) again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift for the Christians in Jerusalem." 2 CORINTHIANS 8:4 NLT. What a legacy they built that continues today and throughout eternity!

Come and enjoy being a "Loving Channel!" Watch what God is doing! Get ready to be blessed by the PROVIDER of our needs! Give the blessings away. They will become your lasting legacy!

*"Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity."*

E.H. CHAPIN



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



# THE CONNECTION

Trinity College of Florida

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## THE CONNECTION

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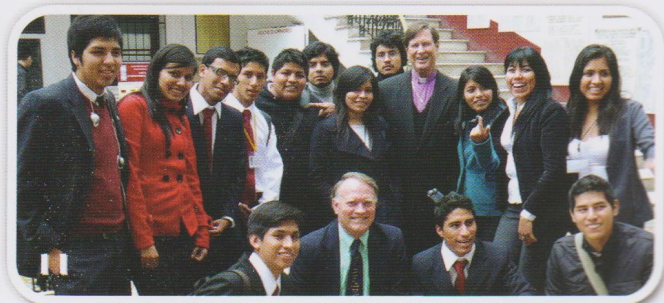
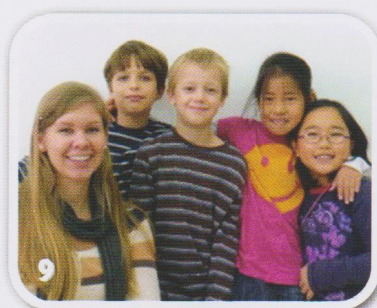
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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## Worth Unwrapping

Don't you love watching children unwrap presents? There is something about the mystery of the gift, the anticipation rooted in the giver, and the excitement of the receiver that makes opening presents so much fun. I enjoy sitting back and seeing the joy ooze out of a child as they discover the special treasure underneath the paper, ribbon and bows. Sometimes, I'm the gift giver but other times I am just a witness to watching someone else give and receive.

Recently, here on the campus of Trinity College of Florida, I was an eye witness to an incredible giving story. I was blessed to watch as our heavenly Father used

so many to give a life transforming gift to one of our students, a young man named Tim Smith. I'll never forget the day I saw Tim receive a new pair of prosthetic legs he desperately needed. Nor will I forget as I watched him meet for the first time two very special friends, Gavin and Leanna Floyd. The Floyds were led by God to give a significant financial gift to Tim to cover the outstanding balance needed to replace his dilapidated prosthetics. Already, Tim's friends, local church, and many at Trinity College of Florida had collected funds to cover a third of the cost of the new legs but a need still existed and I watched in awe as Tim, Gavin and Leanna met for the first time.

The joy and thankfulness on Tim's face has been engraved in my mind. Seeing how appreciative he was caused me to stop and count my blessings. Seeing the love and appreciation in the Floyd's eyes for their part in helping

Tim motivated me to ask myself, "What can I do to bless my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, today?" It was in this moment I realized, in a small way, the delight our heavenly Father experiences when His children do His

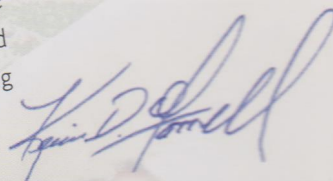
work to glorify His Name and bless others. I hadn't given the large gift and I wasn't the recipient of the new legs but my heart was overflowing with joy, thankfulness and excitement!

In this issue of *The CONNECTION* we explore the power of a gift. As you read through this edition you'll learn of the amazing way God mobilized the Body of

Christ to accomplish something no one person could do. You'll discover a powerful story of friendship and sacrifice in the story of how God provided new prosthetic legs for one of our students, Tim Smith. In *The Last Word*, Tim will share his thoughts on how it felt to be on the receiving end of such an unbelievable gift. Dr. Leanna Floyd will challenge us to find happiness not in material pursuits but in God's Truth in the article entitled, *Where are Your Treasures*. Finally, you'll read stories of how our alumni, students and faculty are giving of themselves to build the Kingdom of God.

There's no doubt about it, this issue of *The CONNECTION* is a precious gift worth unwrapping. I hope you're prepared to open your heart and experience the power of a gift!

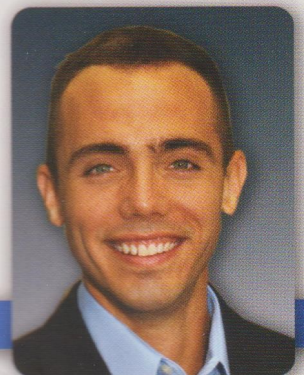
Ready to unwrap it all,



Kevin D. O'Farrell, Editor



Gavin & Leanna Floyd meet a grateful Tim Smith for the first Time.





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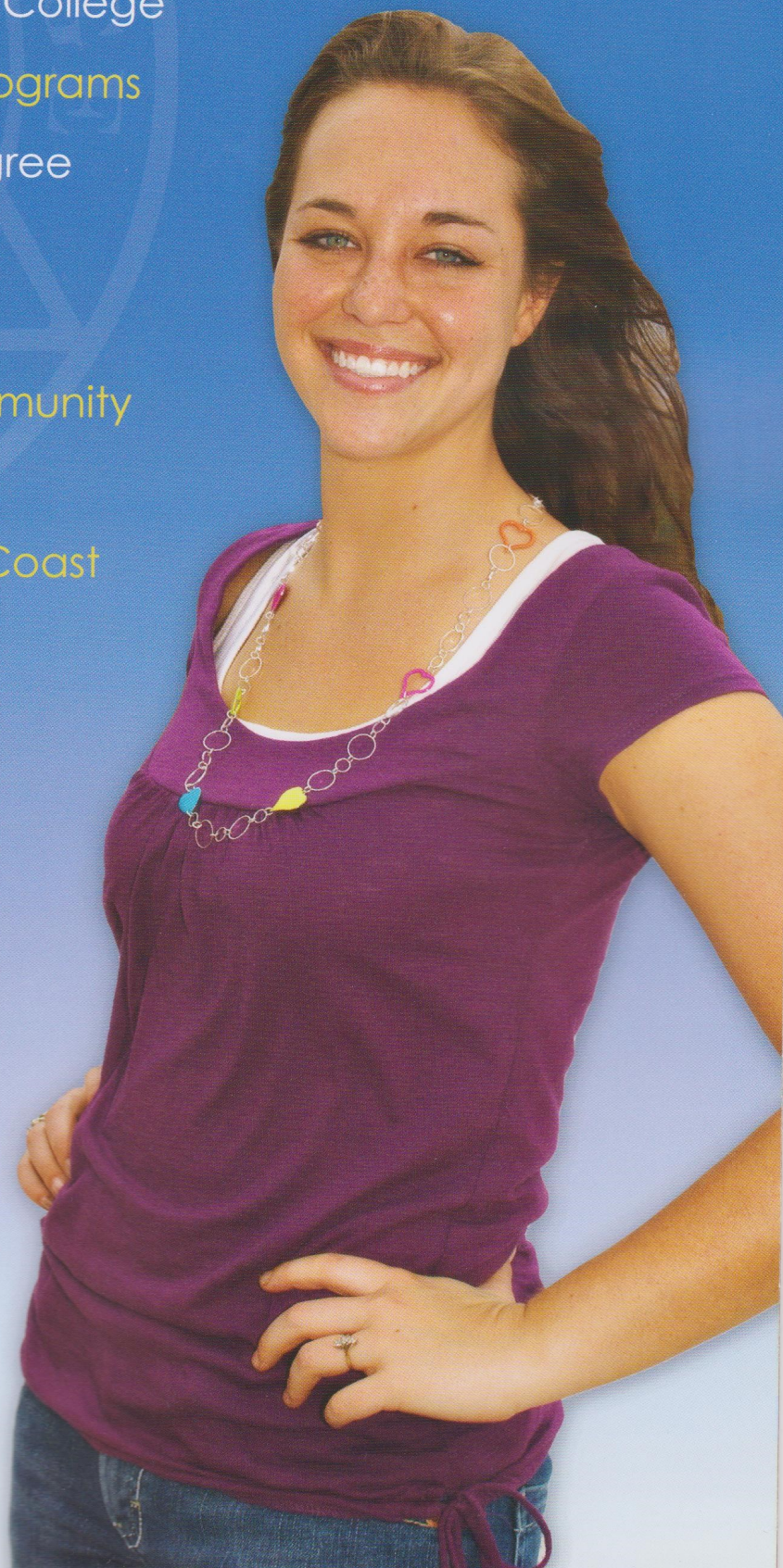


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# Mobilizing the Body to Build a

# BODY

by Kevin D. O'Farrell

When the Body of Christ works together, nothing compares. That truth is best illustrated by the unselfish acts of Tim Smith's brothers and sisters in Christ. Their mission: raise \$31,000 for new prosthetic legs for a college student. This was not an ordinary assignment, but then again, Tim was not an ordinary college student.

## NO ORDINARY YOUNG MAN

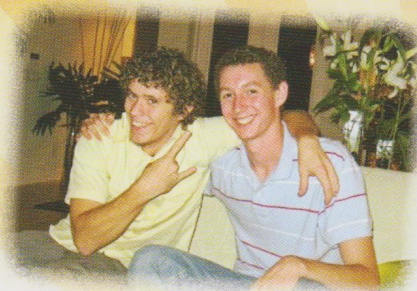
As a young man Tim wrestled with rage, anger, and frustration at what appeared to be a great disability in his life. Tim was born with no lower legs. At times, he felt isolated and different from his peers. "It hurt me deeply to think people were laughing at me and making me feel I couldn't do things. They were making me feel useless because I didn't have any legs. Sometimes I even felt like I wanted to blame God," recounts Tim.

After he graduated from high school, Tim began to realize God had a purpose for his life. God's purpose was greater than Tim's trying to prove to everyone he could do the things people with legs could do. Tim began to realize God was the Grand Designer. "God didn't mess up when he created me. It didn't catch Him by surprise. It's not as though he said, 'Whoa! What happened here? He has no legs!' God knew what He was doing when he made me; He had a reason," touts Tim.

At first, he thought he might spend his life in the field of orthopedic medicine and prosthetics, but God had another calling. Tim, originally from New Jersey, enrolled at Trinity College of Florida in the fall of 2008 to pursue a degree in pastoral ministries and found a supportive Christ-centered community. It was in this setting that God would mobilize the Body of Christ to do something only He could accomplish.

## NO ORDINARY FRIEND

It began when Tim's friend and fellow Trinity student, Daniel Rumeau, felt a burden to explore ways to get Tim new legs. Earlier, Tim had led a fundraising effort to collect money from other students to pay for a round-trip ticket for Daniel to visit his mother in New Jersey who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Now, Daniel knew it was his turn to return the effort and reach out to help.



Daniel Rumeau (right) worked to raise funds for Tim's new legs.

Daniel got in contact with *Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics*. After meeting with *Hanger*, it was estimated that Tim's new legs would cost \$31,000. This was a huge sum for anyone to raise, not to mention a massive sum for a struggling college student. While Tim wondered from where the money would come, Daniel went to work organizing others to come to Tim's aid.

Tim's local church, Jasmine Lakes Baptist Church, raised a couple thousand dollars. Trinity College of Florida took an offering from students, faculty, staff and friends towards the cost of the legs. Together, the combined total was over \$10,000 towards the cost of Tim's new legs. But with only a third of the cost covered, they were still well below the needed amount.

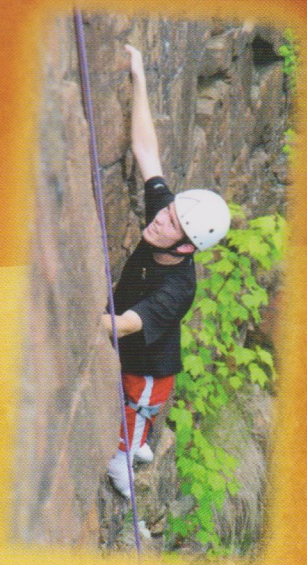
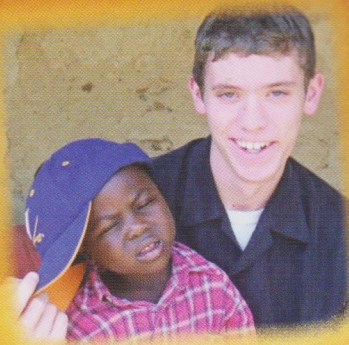
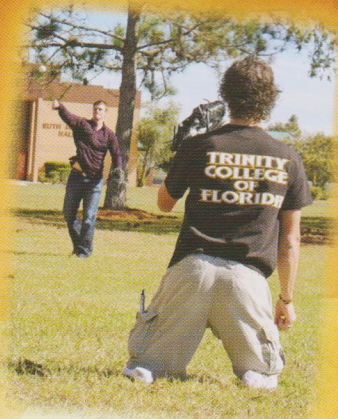
Could they reach their goal? Was the effort "running out of steam?" Would Tim receive the desperately needed new legs? The Body of Christ was certainly active but after announcements, offerings, emails, and phone calls, was anyone listening? Was the Body of Christ paying attention? Or worse, did anyone care? Those involved in the effort knew God was orchestrating events but with time running out and Tim's old prosthetics legs crumbling, even the faithful felt shaken. Yet in this crisis of belief, God was not finished.

## NO ORDINARY GIFT

Word reached Trinity College of Florida that a local couple felt led by the Lord to cover the outstanding funds needed to provide new prosthetic legs for Tim. The outstanding amount needed: \$21,000. Like Daniel

Tim's first time atop the Andes Mountains in Peru, his highest climb ever at the height of 11,000 feet.





left to right: Gavin Floyd & Tim share a laugh as Tim describes his new legs; Gavin Floyd & Tim enjoy an American pastime; Tim on a missions trip; Tim rock climbing in the Adirondack Mountains.

Rumeau, Gavin and Leanna Floyd felt compelled to help provide Tim with new legs. Gavin, the starting pitcher for the Chicago White Sox, was amazed by Tim's story. "We are so encouraged by Tim's example of perseverance. To know that Tim has found Christ in his life and has been able to overcome so many challenges is an inspiration," says Gavin. Since finding Christ in his own life, Gavin with his wife, Leanna, had been praying and asking God to show them how to be a blessing to others.

The generous couple became aware of Tim's story through Leanna's mother, who had heard of the need through Trinity College. Gavin and Leanna were overjoyed to help Tim and believed God had placed them in a unique position to accomplish God's will. "We know that the scriptures teach, 'From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.' We want to be good stewards of God's resources," says Leanna, adding, "God has blessed Gavin and me beyond our wildest dreams. For us there is no greater feeling than giving to someone else, especially when that gift honors God."

When Tim heard the news that all the funding was secured for his new prosthetic legs, he was overwhelmed. Tears, smiles and shouts of joy flowed from him. The magnitude of what had happened was incredible. "I was ecstatic and so in love with God," remembers Tim. The love and providence of God was present in a tangible act and enshrined in a new set of limbs.

## NO ORDINARY GOD

In an amazing chain of events, God used the individual members of the Body of Christ to accomplish something extraordinary. Now Tim Smith has new legs. No one person could have

accomplished this task. No one person could have marshaled all the individual components. No one person had the talent, skills or resources to accomplish what God achieved. What happened in this story was that God used each member of the Body of Christ, under the coordination of His Spirit, to reach a goal for which only He could receive the glory. God had mobilized the Body to build a body.

<sup>12</sup> *The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.*

<sup>14</sup> *Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

<sup>15</sup> *If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.*

<sup>16</sup> *And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.*

<sup>17</sup> *If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?*

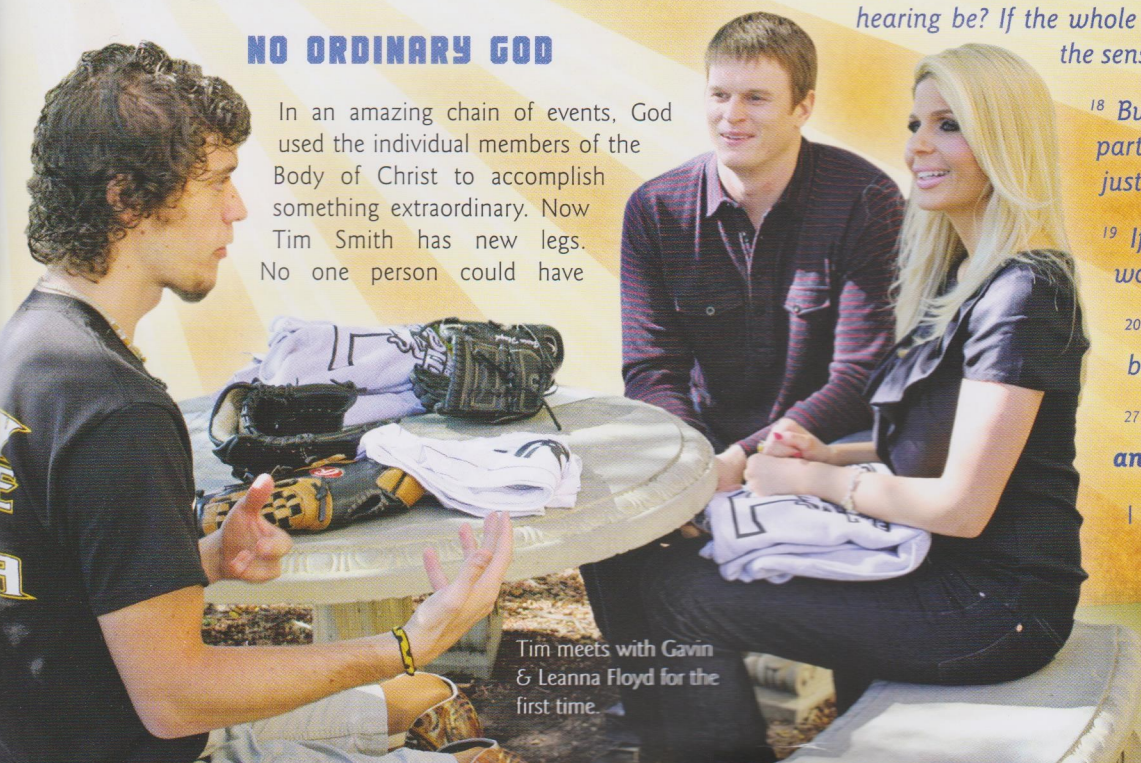
<sup>18</sup> *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*

<sup>19</sup> *If they were all one part, where would the body be?*

<sup>20</sup> *As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

<sup>27</sup> *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

I CORINTHIANS 12 NIV



Tim meets with Gavin & Leanna Floyd for the first time.



# Where are your Treasures?

by Dr. Leanna Floyd



How many of us have said, "If I win the lottery, my problems are gone! I can pay my bills, buy a new car and house, and pay off my student loans. I would be so happy!" Many of us are geared toward future-oriented thinking: focusing on how great things will be when we achieve certain goals. But by always living in the future, we are guilty of missing the greatness associated with living in the present and learning to be content in our situation.

## *A God-Shaped Void*

Because my husband is a professional athlete, I have had the opportunity to meet and interact with a lot of individuals who are "rich" by most standards; however, some of those individuals are unhappy. At first I had a difficult time understanding this; but as I inquired more, I discovered there was a God-shaped void in their lives and the material things of this world only brought them temporal happiness, not a stable and enduring feeling of contentment or joy. These shocking findings led me to delve into the topic of happiness and to ask the questions: "What is happiness and how is it obtained?"

Scholars have offered a wide range of ideas regarding happiness. They include Donald Latumahina's idea that happiness is a decision one makes and Mohandas Gandhi's belief that happiness is the direct result of the tranquility created when an individual's thoughts, words, and actions are in harmony. For a working definition, let's agree that happiness is more or less a state of well-being and contentment that is pleasurable in nature. Generally speaking, happiness is a state of being most of us strive to achieve. Some believe wealth, fame, and success will bring happiness. However, there is a significant number of people who have the aforementioned things and are not happy.

Whether you are watching television, reading a magazine, or driving down the road, one is bombarded with images of shiny new cars, models draped in diamonds, and large mansions with gorgeous lawns. The people in these advertisements are always smiling, laughing, and enjoying life thus fooling us into thinking that to be "happy" like them we too must have these "things." Those material possessions are considered treasures by earthly standards.

## *Biblical Truth*

Unlike the world's view of acquiring tangible items or the idea that wealth makes one happy, the Bible tells us "richness" is not the amount of money we have but rather what we do with our resources. God's Word instructs us to, *"Use [our] money to do good. [We] should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this [we] will be storing up [our] treasure as a good foundation for the future so that [we] may experience true life"* 1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19, NLT. LUKE 6:38 NLT implores us to *"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full...running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."*



## *Giving vs. Keeping*

Given the state of our economy and the personal finances of many, some may be hesitant to give of their time, money, or resources to others. With such conditions, individuals tend to use various aversive coping strategies to justify why Biblical principles of giving do not apply to their circumstances. When people hold conflicting beliefs, they experience a feeling of psychological discomfort. For instance, if one believes they should tithe their income but simultaneously feels giving away their money will cause financial hardship, the two conflicting beliefs collide, resulting in feelings of uneasiness and discomfort. This dissonance will adversely affect their emotional and psychological well-being.

Some psychological theorists, particularly those who practice cognitive-behavioral techniques, believe an individual's thoughts directly influence one's feelings, which influence actions. For instance, if one lives in fear of "not having enough," then, most likely, their behavioral response will be to conserve or hoard. It is crucial to avoid this pitfall by identifying these thoughts and replacing them with Biblical Truth.

When one engages in giving activities such as volunteering time, effort, and treasure, then the behaviors related to giving can positively affect negative or conservatory thinking and subsequently enhance one's psychological and emotional well-being.



## *A Giving High*

Researchers have studied the impact of giving on an individual's physical and emotional states. Studies have shown the act of giving literally has a physical benefit by causing a reduction in the production

of stress hormones, such as cortisol. Researchers believe if one engages in various helping activities such as volunteering time, one is less likely to focus on stressors and is able to switch their attention to the happiness and joy that comes from helping others. As a result, individuals are less likely to be stressed.



Social change advocate Allan Luks examined the physical effects of helping others. He found individuals who regularly volunteered and helped others experienced the same health benefits of people who regularly engaged in vigorous exercise or reflective meditation. Luks concluded, positive social contact with others released endorphins which resulted in a less agitated and stressful condition in the giver.

## *Getting Practical*

Clearly, there are many benefits to participating in altruist acts. Not only does the recipient earn benefits but the giver also enjoys benefits. In giving to others, you are in reality blessing yourself. There are many practical ways to give back and volunteer. For example:

- **share your knowledge and expertise with others at a local school or church,**
- **donate used clothes and various household items to local agencies such as Goodwill or the Salvation Army,**
- **contact your local hospice and volunteer to help care for others in need,**
- **visit nursing and retirement homes to offer companionship, or**
- **donate goods to local food pantries.**

There is a plethora of things one can do to give. The Bible instructs us to give with a spirit of generosity. By doing so, this will determine the type and degree of blessing we receive in this life and life to come.

So, what is happiness and how is it obtained? The world tries to fool us that we are rich and happy based on the quantity and quality of the material things we have here on Earth. The Bible tells us that we are rich and well to do when we store up our treasures in heaven which brings us genuine happiness and joy.

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**Leanna Floyd** holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Florida School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University. She is the wife of Chicago White Sox's starting pitcher, **Gavin Floyd**, and the proud mother to one-year-old son, **Jax Stone**.





# SPANISH LESSONS

by Julianna Anderson

"Spain? God, are you sure?" I felt like I was having a hard time understanding God, even though He seemed to speak so clearly. I didn't feel called to Spain or even to Europe for that matter. Confused at the direction God seemed to be leading, I still moved forward to become a short term missionary to Spain.

## Many Questions

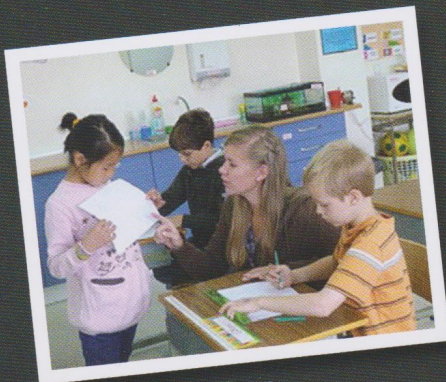
Thirteen months after questioning God, I arrived in Spain. I thought, "What have I gotten myself into?" The thought of spending the next four months by myself in Spain both excited and terrified me. What if I turned out to be a horrible teacher? What if I couldn't learn the language? What if I hated living in Spain? The "what ifs" crowded my head while fear took over my heart and tears filled my eyes.

Then came the whisper, "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" and the Whisperer silenced my fears. I felt ashamed at my thoughts. Who was I to doubt my God, who is greater than I can even imagine? Surely God led me to Spain and surely He would provide.

## A Student Teacher

After a few short days, God began to open my eyes and heart and I quickly fell in love with the people and their culture. I began to see the deepness of their need for the gospel. My primary purpose in going to Spain was to fulfill my student-teaching requirements as an elementary education major at Trinity College of Florida.

God provided an amazing school for me to teach at in Madrid, Spain called the Evangelical Christian Academy. I was placed in a small third grade classroom with only four students. With the Evangelical Christian Academy being a missionary school, I was surprised to discover my



Student teaching in Spain.

class consisted of just one American missionary child, one Spaniard, and two Koreans.

On the first day of classes, I discovered one of my sweet Korean students did not speak English. I thought, "God, my education classes didn't cover this!" I wondered why had God placed me in such a small classroom? Then one day I discovered this precious Korean student, who spoke no more than a few rehearsed English phrases, would not have been accepted into the school had it not been for an additional student-teacher in the classroom. Furthermore, it just so happened that this girl came from a non-Christian family. This was an opportunity God had dropped into my lap! For four months, I was able to teach my students the gospel in Bible class, to sit at recess and share my faith with all the elementary students and to encourage those students who were believers.

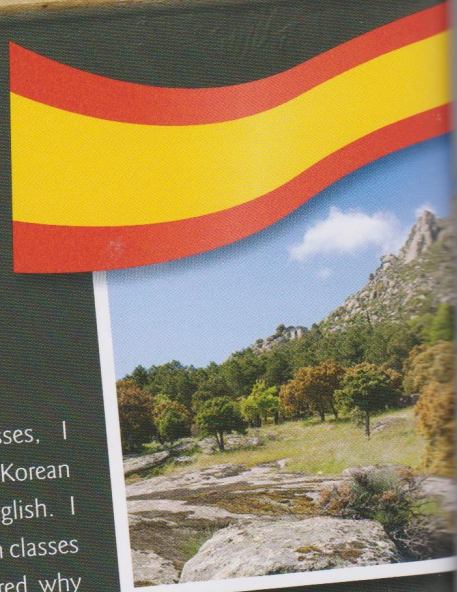
## Expanding Mission

God also allowed me to become involved in the lives of the local middle and high school students. The principal let me lead a few after school clubs including volleyball and ultimate frisbee. I cherished these moments with the older

students because it gave me the opportunity to pour myself into their lives. Some of the students were boarding at the school and had to live away from their families. Some of them came from non-Christian families and some were first generation believers. Even with God giving me so many opportunities to serve within the school, I longed to reach out to the surrounding community and do more.



Julianna with new friends.







The Bible says to “*delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.*” PSALMS 37:4 Well, that is exactly what happened. I wanted to do more, but saw no opportunities to do so. I began to get discouraged in my work. Even though I trusted God to show me where and how I could serve, I began to get impatient. In the process of waiting, God taught me to rejoice in all things and be content with where He had me.

Once I learned the lesson of contentment in Christ, God showered me with opportunities over the course of a few weeks. I was able to help with English camps, youth retreats and other evangelistic outreaches with the missionaries and churches in the area. God also opened my eyes to see the huge opportunity that had been right outside my door.

## Locked Out

On the first night on my own, after going for a walk around the town, I locked myself out of my apartment. I still had the keys in my hand but the door would not open. With no nearby missionaries, I played charades with my neighbor to communicate I needed help. I felt like a failure of a missionary for not being able to open my own front door.

“God, what are you doing to me?” I thought. Three hours and seven people later, the door was dismantled and I spent the night with the door propped shut with a mop handle. Little did I know that night would turn out to be one of the biggest blessings of my time in Spain.

On that crazy night, I spent two hours talking with my landlady. She realized I wanted (and needed) to learn Spanish and offered me lessons in exchange for English lessons for her daughter. I was at her house twice a week for lessons. God finally allowed me to see His big picture.



Their family adopted me as their own and through that relationship God allowed me the privilege and honor of being the first person to share the Gospel with this family. Though I never got to personally lead them to Christ, my prayer is that God continues to work in their lives and bring others to witness to them.

## My Home

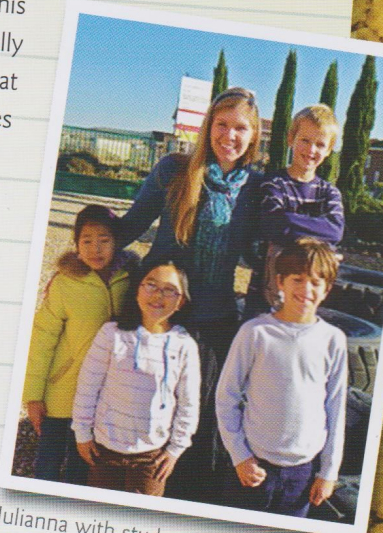
Now, I’ve never been a big fan of saying goodbye, but leaving Spain was one of the hardest goodbyes I have ever had to say. Just when I began to feel at “home,” it was time to leave. I struggled with being in the U.S. for a while and wanted to be back in Spain.

It was during this time that I was reading a book by Katie Davis in which she seemed to speak the very words I struggled to formulate. In her book, Davis concludes we are created with a desire for home that can only be found in heaven with Christ. As believers, until we reach our heavenly home, we’ll never find that genuine rest for which we long.

My journey in Spain changed my life. While I thought I was simply going to Spain to student-teach, God had me there for so much more. He has given me a new perspective on missions, on what it means to truly be content in the Lord, and on God’s bigger picture for my life. God taught me to serve where I am, to rejoice in all things, to never doubt His will, and to realize this world is not my home. He gave me a very powerful set of Spanish lessons.



Julianna with her class in Spain.



Julianna with students from ECA.

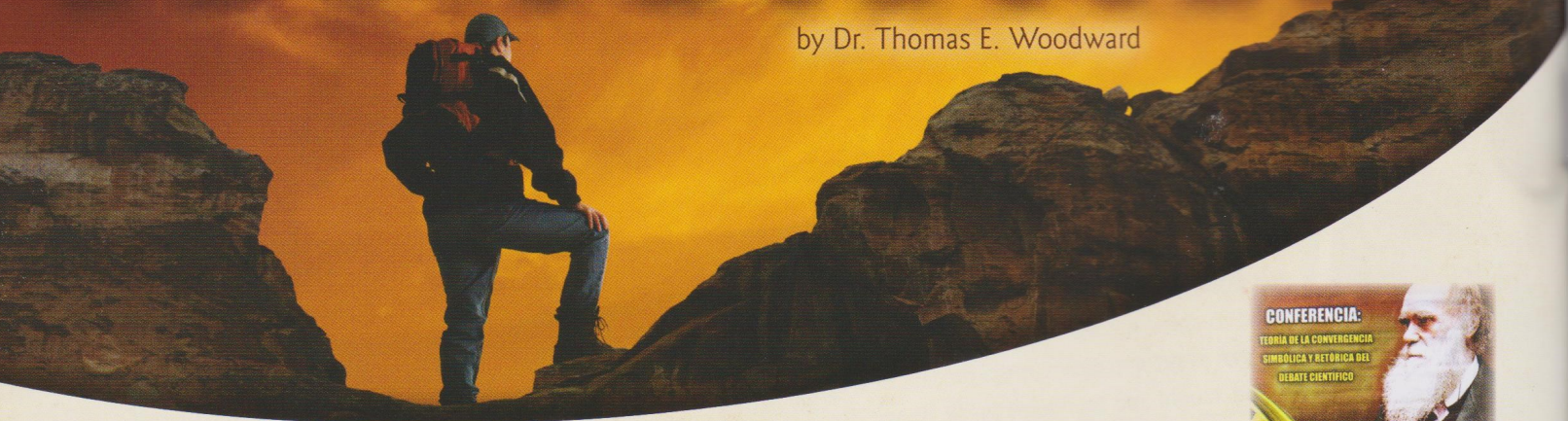
**Julianna Anderson** is a senior at Trinity College of Florida majoring in elementary education. She recently spent four months student-teaching in Madrid, Spain.





# NEW FRONTIERS

by Dr. Thomas E. Woodward



"Man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind." This declaration comes from the late Harvard scientist, George Gaylord Simpson, in his influential book, *The Meaning of Evolution*.

Simpson's claim still largely rules the thinking of the world's great universities. This became painfully clear to me as I spoke in recent years at three of the Ivy League universities—Dartmouth, Yale, and my own alma mater, Princeton.

Yes, huge cracks are appearing in this wall of Darwinian dogma, thanks in part to exciting finds in the fossil record and discoveries in DNA (see *The Mysterious Epigenome: What Lies Beyond DNA*). Yet, as soon as scientific cracks appear, they are busily papered over by hopeful rhetoric. The media and the scientific priesthood work together to insure that students today are still largely clueless of evidence hostile to Darwinism, whether in the U.S., Latin America, Europe or Asia.

This is a key factor with which to reckon as we pursue ministry locally and globally. Public school teachers and college professors keep implanting Darwinist lenses in the eyes of rising students. Man (and all nature), as viewed through these Darwin-colored lenses, is nothing but the product of a blind, automatic, unintelligent process embedded in the fabric of the cosmos. "Purpose" is something we create for ourselves; it comes from no higher source.

In countering this naturalistic and even nihilistic doctrine, it has been my privilege to teach theology, apologetics, and the history of science at Trinity College of Florida since 1988. It has also been my joy to go venture into secular universities to share the many evidences for a designed cosmos—one that's brilliantly crafted by the Triune God who made us for Himself. I'm very grateful for the support of Trinity which has housed and worked closely with our apologetics outreach, The C. S. Lewis Society.

In the face of this daunting challenge, two recent frontier crossings offered wonderful hope in this task. These foreign trips underscored God's awesome power, solid truth, and overflowing grace. One was a ministry tour in Cape Town, South Africa the other was a set of talks in Lima, Peru. Here are glimpses of what happened.

## "UNIVERSITY SHOCKER" IN LIMA, PERU

During the summer of 2011, invitations kept falling into place for me to give talks on "Evidence for Intelligent Design" at five different universities in Lima, Peru. So the last week of August, I found myself being shuttled in a taxi from one

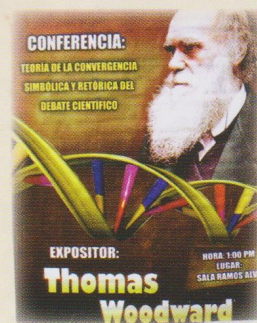
university to another, along with a Christian TV station and a nationally televised seminar entitled, "Darwin or Design: Where Does the Evidence Point?"



One dimension of this trip came as a shock.

Several university talks were set up by a semi-retired medical pioneer in Lima, a former president of Peru's National Academy of Science. Amazingly, he is friendly and warm toward the theory of intelligent design. Besides being a leading intellectual pillar in that country, he is a personal friend of many leading scientists in Peru, including the current presidents of the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Science. At one lecture, these two presidents were lined up to give a formal response to my presentation. I confess to feeling a bit jittery upon hearing of this! I sensed that these professors would be adamantly pro-Darwin, and assumed that I'd receive a very frosty reception—or worse. I felt like an American Daniel walking into a Peruvian lions' den.

What happened in this talk—and indeed each of the five talks—was different from my expectations. Each time the audience listened attentively, and the responses (along with each question) were thoughtful, respectful, and brimming with curiosity and intelligence. Sometimes the questioner felt that he or she was offering a knock-down refutation of some point of my talk, but that gave an opportunity for clarification—and further supporting evidence—to be shared. I survived the lions'



A poster from Dr. Woodward's recent travels advertising an upcoming lecture



Dr. Woodward with students from Peru.



questions, and we were able to distribute nearly five hundred copies, in Spanish, of the brilliant documentary on intelligent design, *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*.

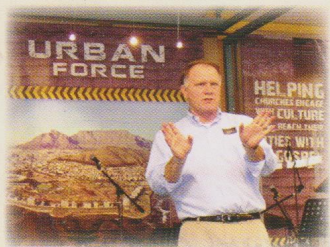


## FOUR DAYS IN CAPE TOWN

Earlier in March of 2011, I found myself

in front of 140 faculty and students who came to a luncheon, titled “Evidence for Design: The Signature of Intelligence.” It was presented in a bowl-shaped auditorium in a central location of the most prestigious campus which was huddled at the foot of Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa. At this presentation, the first of four such talks on Design Evidences, it was clear during the Q&A session that the group was largely skeptical of my point of view. A science professor tried to rebut what I said by claiming that a renowned ID biologist whose research I quoted had been effectively “rubbed” by scientific colleagues. I replied by pointing out the many cogent responses of this scientist to his critics which are widely ignored. An agnostic student named Tom was ready at the first talk, and in subsequent talks, with a feisty objection to what I had just said.

To say that these four talks were exciting, yet also very challenging, would be an understatement. I asked the Lord for guidance, and sought to rely on Him, not my own resources and abilities.



Dr. Woodward shown preaching to pastors in South Africa.

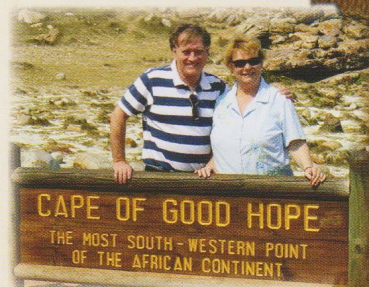
On day two and three, attendance remained strong, and I sensed a pivot in audience attitude—from being strongly skeptical or even hostile to the idea of design,

to being open and genuinely interactive to the material I shared. After each lecture, I was surrounded by a dozen or more students who pelted me with good, hard questions—just the kind I love.

On day four, I finished presenting some of the strongest evidence: discoveries of tiny complex molecular machines within our cells—machines that seemed to have all the hallmarks

of brilliant design. The first question, as usual, was from Tom, the skeptic. What he said was unexpected: “I think we should all be grateful for Dr. Woodward for coming from Florida to Cape Town to present several kinds of solid evidence which seems to me, show a fairly credible case for an intelligent designer. But my question is this: Could not that designer be itself a part of the cosmos, and not some being beyond the cosmos?”

Startled by this response, I thanked Tom for his kind remark, and turned to his good question. I pointed out that the evidence for a “designed universe”—which includes all the fine-tuned laws of nature such as gravity and electromagnetism—pointed to a Creator God who transcends the cosmos, found in Genesis 1:1, not to some mysterious being or “creative force” within the cosmos, which we hear about occasionally in the writings of scientists who are pantheists.



Tom & Normandy Woodward at the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.

As usual, a vigorous small-group discussion followed my lecture, and Tom the “searching skeptic” joined the circle this time. In this group I shared relevant Scripture, along with my own testimony of coming to faith out of agnostic belief during college days. Most importantly, I sensed that day that God was opening doors for truth in the most unexpected of places—even in the university that prides itself as the “Harvard” of Africa.

## THE BOTTOM LINE

While the “Simpson doctrine” is still dominant around the world, I’ve learned two important facts. This dogma is quite vulnerable when fairly critiqued with solid evidence and good reasoning. Second, I see an open door in these discussions to the idea that the Creator has decisively revealed Himself to mankind. We have a ready-made platform from which we can introduce university students to Christ, our Designer—the true Logos who crafted our tiniest threads of DNA, and the vastness and beauty of all creation!

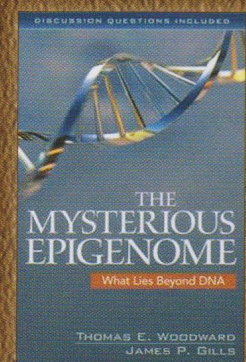
**Thomas E. Woodward** is a research professor at Trinity College of Florida. He is the Executive Director of the C.S. Lewis Society who has authored several books, including his latest with Dr. James Gills entitled: *The Mysterious Epigenome: What Lies Beyond DNA*.



## DNA's Secret Partner: A Different Kind of Frontier

### *The Mysterious Epigenome: What Lies Beyond DNA*

is the latest work by Dr. Thomas E. Woodward (Trinity College of Florida) and Dr. James P Gills (renowned ophthalmologist and founder of St. Luke's Cataract & Laser Institute). Their work explores human health and its connection with a mysterious code that has been found interwoven with our DNA. This second code known as the epigenome, sits atop DNA and carefully directs its activities, like a musical director conducting a performance. Amazingly this code can be reprogrammed by an individual's health habits which include diet, the use of chemical pollutants (especially smoking) and stress management. Scientists were shocked to see these reprogramming changes passed on to the next generation. Drs. Woodward and Gills explore this exciting new area of biology that will give readers a better understanding of their genetic systems and a deeper appreciation for the Creator who put this all into place. For more information or to order a copy, visit [apologetics.org](http://apologetics.org).





# LORD, WHAT WOULD *You Have Me Do?*

by Les Harris

A friend and an alumnus of Trinity, Ken Cummings (1982), said last week that he wanted to "do his givin' while he's livin', so he's knowin' where it's goin'." Ken has been a strong supporter of his Alma Mater and we appreciate him. What a privilege is ours to give as the Lord provides, so that we, whether in life or in memorial, can further the Gospel message through the next generation of students at Trinity College of Florida.

At the January 14, 2012 God-honoring memorial service for our brother, Art Yohner (1960), Evy (1958), Art's wife of 60 years, requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be directed to the Trinity College Art Yohner Mission Scholarship or to the World Team Indian Evangelism Fund. Thank you, Evy, we love you. "Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's," and we must prove ourselves good stewards of what our Lord has committed to our care.

In Acts 3:1-10, the apostle Peter, wanting to respond to a man in need, offered his greatest asset, "then Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!'" (Acts 3:6 NIV). The people praised God.

There are many ways that we as alumni can be a part of continued support for Trinity. Prayer is a graceful giving of time and talent. This same Peter grew in the grace of giving and by the end of his written record, he provides us good advice:

*"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever, Amen"* (2 Peter 3:18). The result is that the knowledge of our Lord Jesus be promoted in Biblical training and carried to the ends of the earth.

The apostle Paul made it clear that "giving of ourselves first to the Lord" sets an example of excellence. 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 is an exposé of graceful growing pains of believers in learning to share in the propagation of the Gospel. Paul interjects in verse 7 (NIV) "just as you excel in everything in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us, see that you also excel in this grace of giving." Dear Lord, what would You have me do? I want to be a graceful giver to help Trinity.

There are many tangible ways to help right away. Monthly expense, scholarship giving and the urgent need for another residence hall are a few suggestions. Please join us in graceful prayer and giving so that the goal and purpose of Trinity may continue to the glory of God!

*Les*

**Les Harris (1964)** is the Alumni Association President for Trinity College of Florida.



## Jean H. Binnion Education Scholarship

Recently the estate of Jean H. Binnion established the Jean H. Binnion Education Scholarship at Trinity College of Florida. This scholarship is awarded to a female education major (GPA 3.0 or higher) who is preparing for a career in Christian education. Recipient preference is given to a female student who plans to use her degree in foreign mission service with a school, missionary children or nationals.

Born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Jean moved to Florida in 1958. As a member of Hope Presbyterian Church, Jean sang in the choir. She worked for the Department of Veteran's Affairs in the Office of Regional Counsel. She loved animals, listened to music and was an avid reader. Over her lifetime, she supported numerous charities and Christian non-profit organizations. Jean loved her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and faithfully followed Him.

Trinity College of Florida is thankful for the generous support of the Jean H. Binnion estate and her desire to create a lasting legacy for students at Trinity. For more information on how you can create a legacy at Trinity College of Florida, contact The Office for Advancement at 727-376-6911 ext. 324 or email us at [bskinner@trinitycollege.edu](mailto:bskinner@trinitycollege.edu).





# Alumni UPDATES



## 1960s



**J. W. LOY, JR. (1961)** J.W. recently celebrated his 90th birthday with family by enjoying a surprise cake and ice cream social. Dr. Loy received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Trinity in 1961. He served on the College's Board of Trustees for 18 years.



**MARION YVONNE RHODES JOHNSON (1962)**

Yvonne is principal of the North Kissimmee Christian School. She has been with the school for 17 years.



**MICHAEL GREGORY (1964)**

Michael recently retired as senior pastor from St. Stephens Baptist Church located in Virginia and has been certified as a transitional interim pastor by the Center for Congregational Health at Wake Forest. [mdegregory@aol.com](mailto:mdegregory@aol.com)

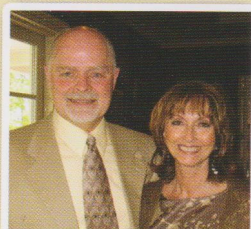
**GREG & DOROTHY (STEPHENSON, 1964) GURBIKIAN**

Greg and Dotty served for nearly 30 years in Ivory Coast as missionaries. While in the field, Greg founded the Bethel Bible Institute and developed its curriculum. Greg has recently authored a book, *The Deity of Jesus Christ in the Old & New Testament*, which explores verses addressing Christ's deity. Dotty works with special education students at Mulrennan Middle School and plans on retiring in June 2012. [dottyandgreg@aol.com](mailto:dottyandgreg@aol.com)

**ROY (1968) & MARGARET (1967) LYTLE**

Roy and Margaret continue to serve the Lord in Suriname as missionaries with World Team. Margaret has recently helped finish the Wayana New Testament Concordance. [roy.lytle@worldteam.org](mailto:roy.lytle@worldteam.org)

## 1970s



**JOHN (1976) & NYOKA (JINES, ATTD. 1973/74) HUDDLESTONE**

John is currently part of a counseling practice which allows him to incorporate the Christian faith in a clinical setting. He also preaches in local churches as needed. Nyoka, who has her degree in health information technology, manages

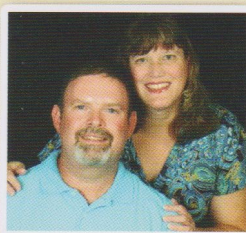
the medical records department for a group of surgeons.

[jch5463@yahoo.com](mailto:jch5463@yahoo.com)

## 1980s

**BARRY & JANICE (1983) BANTHER** Janice was recently featured in the latest book in the Chicken Soup Series, *Chicken Soup For The Soul - Answered Prayer*. The story highlights Janice's ministry, Birth Behind Bars, which is a faith-based ministry that reaches pregnant inmates with childbirth education, prenatal advice, parenting classes and labor support. [janice@janicebanther.com](mailto:janice@janicebanther.com)

**GURUDATT (1985) & NADIRA (1989) SHIWDAT** Gurudatt and Nadira continue to serve the Lord in Suriname as missionaries with World Team.



**RANDY (1986) & KAREN (EDSCORN, 1982) BOARD** After serving in China for 10 years, Randy and Karen are preparing to serve in Bangkok, Thailand. Their new ministry will involve working with Chinese students at two large universities in the Ramkhamhaeng District with the goal of establishing a student center to assist the

students in English proficiency and Bible study.

[boardsinchina@juno.com](mailto:boardsinchina@juno.com)

**DALE (ATTD. 1986) & CAREN (HALL, 1986) STOCKS**

Caren is currently pursuing her master's degree in special education with an emphasis is reading. Dale & Caren currently reside in Sarasota, FL. [caren8563@msn.com](mailto:caren8563@msn.com)

**JOSEPH (1987) & BRENDA RINEHART** Joe and Brenda recently authored a book entitled, *Moving From Judgment: How to Have an Open Heart in a Closed World*. Proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit Greatest Goal Ministries, an organization involved in missionary work in Sierra Leone, Africa.

[jrinehart@gracestonecompany.com](mailto:jrinehart@gracestonecompany.com)

## 1990s

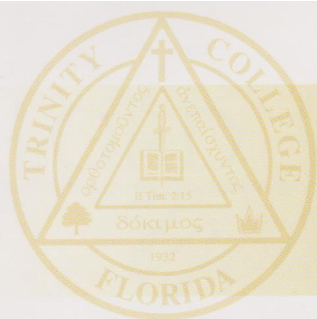
**JOE & CHRISTY SANTERELLI (1997)** Joe is celebrating his 12th year of ministry at Hillside Community Baptist Church. Joe arrived in 2000 and with God's grace has helped to eliminate the church's debt. They are anticipating great things ahead as the church moves forward. [joesanterelli@yahoo.com](mailto:joesanterelli@yahoo.com)

cont'd



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# Alumni UPDATES

## 2000s

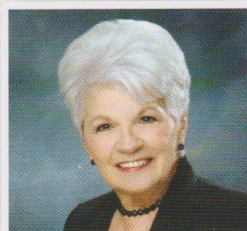


### TIM (2003) & JAMIE EDWARDS

Tim and Jamie welcomed their second child Isabella Grace on October 17, 2011. She was born in Thailand and joins big brother, Preston, who is now four years old. Tim recently completed a master's degree in linguistics with an emphasis on translation. Tim & Jamie are living in

Southeast Asia and working towards church planting and oral Bible translation among an unreached people group.

thegocenter@gmail.com



### JUDY LAWSON (2003)

Judy is an ordained minister and program administrator for the *TrinityQuest* degree completion program at Trinity College of Florida. She also serves as a chaplain to the women at the Pasco County Jail and has recently authored two books, *Spiritual Warfare in the 21st Century* and

*Redeeming Hard Time and Hard Times*. [jlawson@trinitycollege.edu](mailto:jlawson@trinitycollege.edu)

## MEMORIAL *Givings*

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Mr. & Mrs. Mel Carter

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Cook

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cook

Ms. Patti Evans

Ms. Mary A. Roberts

Mrs. Margaret Westin

Mr. Peter Westin

### E. C. Bragg

Dr. Peggy A. Bragg

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Kornis

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Rinehuls

### Allan Carter

Ms. Charleen Foster

Mr. & Mrs. Homer Foster

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Springer

### Class of 1981 (in honor of)

Rev. Kenneth Cummings

### Ursula Giberson

Mr. Philip A. Giberson

### Lawrence & Doris Hale

Mr. & Mrs. David Hale

### Robert E. Matherly

Mrs. Gaye M. Matherly

### Vince Shaffer

Ms. Isabel Shaffer

### Janet Forbes Simmons

Rev. Jerry C. Simmons

### William Touchton, III

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Touchton

### Dr. W. T. Watson

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Kornis

### Sid Williams

Dr. & Mrs. Richard  
Williams

### Art Yohner

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Church

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Beckham

Mr. & Mrs. Jerome  
Bergquist

Dr. Peggy Bragg

Rev. & Mrs. Mel Carter

Mike & Anita Hamrick

Barbara Hayes

Holly & Jon Dwight

### Robin & Charles Conklin

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Howey

Ms. Helen Hughes

Mr. & Mrs. John Huth

New Hope Baptist  
Church

Dr. & Mrs. Mark O'Farrell

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen  
Palmer

Dr. & Mrs. Don Ralston

Mrs. Christine Shakeshaft

Mr. & Mrs. Matthew  
Sherman

Mr. & Mrs. Willard Sutton

Mrs. Byron Wallace



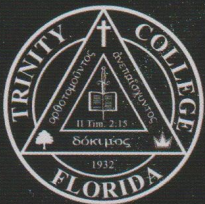
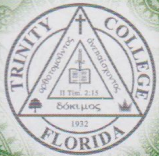
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# Part of Your *Legacy*

by Charlie Martin

*W*ith all of the problems David faced in the Bible, he ultimately came to a place where he wanted to leave a legacy. David loved God and God loved David. We all can remember from childhood the stories about David's life. He was a shepherd boy who took care of his father's sheep. As a young man, he had a confrontation with the giant, Goliath. Armed with a slingshot and five stones, David killed the giant. He later became the King of Israel where he served for forty years. As he approached retirement, he chose one of his sons, Solomon, to rule in his place.

In I Chronicles 29:1, David begins the transfer of authority, responsibility, and wealth. It's a great scripture text and presents a wonderful example for all of us to follow. He wants his son, Solomon, to succeed, and he wants to do something big for God. I see several lessons in this scripture.

First, David wanted to do something to help others. This is a noble quality. God tells us that we are to think of the well being of others, not just ourselves.

Second, David wanted to honor God. He loved God. He began to think about building a house for God (verse 3). When we think of something that will last for a long time, a building that God can use often comes to mind. David wanted his gift to honor God!

Third, David wanted his legacy to also be an inspiration to others. He wanted to lay down an example that those who came behind him could follow.

Finally, David, like all of us, wanted to be remembered for doing something good.

I suppose that may reflect the way most people feel down in their heart. We want to be remembered well. It's really amazing that probably the most famous offering ever mentioned in the Bible was the gift of a woman who lived in poverty. It was not a multi-million dollar donation, but a sacrifice of "two mites" dropped into the treasury by a poor widow in Luke 21. Jesus said that she had given all she had.

As we grow in the Lord, we also grow in age. Hopefully, we grow closer to Christ and we continue to grow in grace and wisdom. We realize



The proposed new student residence hall on the campus of Trinity College of Florida.

that God has been good to us. He has given us far more than we deserve. Along the way we all come to realize that we are not the owners of these possessions; rather, we are the stewards or managers to some degree of the wealth from God.

Knowing that we brought nothing into this world and understanding that we will not take anything with us when we leave, is a perplexing thought. God planned it that way. He wants each of us to prayerfully and carefully consider our legacy. How do I want to be remembered? What can I leave behind in a meaningful way, since I cannot take anything with me? Sound familiar? That's alright because these are common to all of us. As you worship God and think of leaving a legacy, consider Trinity College of Florida; it can be part of legacy.

Here at Trinity, The Office of Advancement is able to help answer your questions about joining the work at the College. 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 in the lives of students who seek to become 21st century transformational leaders for Christ!

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*The Office of Advancement*  
727.376.6911 • [cmartin@trinitycollege.edu](mailto:cmartin@trinitycollege.edu)

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





# On the *Receiving* End

by Tim Smith

*I*t was August 2008 when I stepped on the campus of Trinity College of Florida with great expectations as to what God was going to do. I had left New Jersey and was excited about everything Florida was going to offer. If someone told me all the things God was going to do during my time at Trinity, I never would have believed them. Yet, here I am in the spring of 2012, just weeks from graduating, and God has given me one of the biggest blessings I have ever experienced.

I arrived at Trinity with two functioning prosthetic limbs, never thinking they were going to break and if someone had told me I was going to get new prosthetics, I would have accused them of lying. But by April of 2011, my prosthetics were broken, uncomfortable, painful and in need of replacement. Little did I know, four weeks later, God provided the \$31,000 needed for new prosthetics. By November 2011 I had brand new, top of the line, prosthetics. I had gone from walking on legs akin to a 1987 Honda Civic to walking on ones like a 2012 Mercedes Benz.

### *How does it feel?*

After hearing God's amazing story of provision, many have asked me, "What was it like to be on the receiving end of this gift?" The two emotions I had and still have to this day are: thankfulness and remembrance. I could not buy a friend in high school, at least a real, true and genuine one; but at Trinity, God redeemed those lonely feelings. I watched as Christ encouraged my fellow friends and classmates to give money towards the prosthetics. To watch college students (who are known to struggle financially) give so sacrificially, broke my heart. They did it because of the gospel. I watched as people I never met or heard of were encouraged by Christ and moved with compassion, give generously. Doctors and

prosthetic technicians moved with a desire to help and provide me with a new pair of legs. It was overwhelming. All I could say was, "Thank you and praise God for His faithfulness!"

### *It keeps growing!*

I've had the legs for several months and every time I put them on I am reminded of God's faithfulness to work through the body of Christ. Every time I put them on, names, faces, memories, conversations, flood my mind. I think of all the people who have prayed, supported, cared and loved me and they flash through my mind. Sometimes, a small tear wells up in the corner of my eye because of the incredible love from so many people. What makes putting on the legs awesome is that those emotions never decrease; in fact, they grow. I know thirty years from now, when I look at these prosthetics I am still going to remember everyone who prayed, loved, cared, supported, donated, helped and worked towards blessing me with new prosthetic legs. I will never forget the people and I will never doubt God's faithfulness because my legs serve as a walking reminder of our great God.

For those of you, who are reading this, thank you! From the depths of my heart, I am forever grateful for your sacrifice, commitment, love, prayer and support. My prayer and desire is that if this story of new prosthetics has been any encouragement to you, it is because of Christ! I pray that in the midst of whatever challenges, difficulty, hardship, or persecution you may face, Christ would find His name exalted and God be glorified. May you remember that what the world may see as a dis-ability is in fact an ability to display the Glory of God.



**Tim Smith** is a senior studying Christian ministry at Trinity College of Florida. In 2011 he received new prosthetic legs by the grace of God and thanks to the generous financial contributions of his brothers and sisters in Christ.





mo-men-tum: -noun. speed of movement; the force gained by a series of events

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Campus Live (7-11 pm)

## Friday

April 20

Check-in (7 am)

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Trinity 101 Q&A Session

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BBQ Lunch

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Tigers' Athletic Game

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