



TRINITY
COLLEGE
OF FLORIDA

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

A MUST for EVERY BELIEVER!

In the Christian experience, there is plenty of room for personal choice ... what you wear, where you live, the vehicle you drive, the trips you take, and on and on. Naturally, one should be praying with regard to these decisions, but there is room for personal preference.

However, there is something EVERY BELIEVER MUST DO! This is a MUST!

This requirement came to me in a new way as I was traveling through 1 Kings. I was enjoying again the simplicity and desires of Solomon, his pursuit of God's will, his humility and his proclaimed need for God's leadership and guidance. The Lord 'appeared to him' twice, giving unusual awareness of His Presence but also clear blessings for his submission. I read of Solomon's Wisdom and Wealth, the acknowledgement of nations around him, the comments of the Queen of Sheba, and so much more. Then I read 1 Kings 11 ... *I was stunned new and afresh!* When you read 1 Kings 11:1-8, your heart breaks ... *what has happened?*

The Bible says he loved many foreign women. The Bible says he was 'deeply attached to these women in love.' He had 700 wives who were princesses and 300 were concubines, and they turned his heart away. (1 Kings 11:2 CSB) And then this Scripture appears:

"When Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away to follow other gods. He was not wholeheartedly devoted to the Lord his God, as his father David had been ... **he did not remain loyal to the Lord.**" 1 Kings 11:4-6 CSB.

My dear reader ... This cannot happen to you or to me! How was this possible with so much blessing, divine direction, and amazing provisions of wealth and wisdom? My mind raced for reasons and here are a few. They are to be 'warnings for you and me.' Here they are:

1. The **'push and pull' of people** outside God's family or pretending to be in God's family.

I call it 'PEOPLE PULL or POWER.' They overwhelm you and take charge. Their interests, purposes, and desires are not yours or God's!

2. The **magnetism of desire and feeling** not guided by God's Word. Literally, Solomon disobeyed the Lord's command. 1 Kings 11:2. Clear as can be! No doubt, he was honored and every human wish was put before Him. He did not say 'NO!' And think of this ... he had everything one could possibly want before all this happened!

3. The **deceitfulness of Evil**. Evil slips in unawares ... quickly, quietly, but consistently. One thinks that it can be handled but it grows and grows. It overwhelms, distorts, and conquers. It weakens common sense, correctness, and strengths of all sorts.

4. **Self-Authority and Control**. Solomon was King. You think you are King, BUT!! Life is about *Choice*. Man needs outside help to make the right choice regardless of the position in life.

5. **Lack of proper Focus.** Solomon lost focus. Other 'things' captured his attention. We cannot lose focus. The plain thing is the main thing and the main thing is the plain thing.

Other things are flashing through my mind and heart about this decision Solomon made, however, **'WE MUST REMAIN LOYAL.'** A plethora of challenges are coming on the church and culture. **We must remain true to what we have always believed.** I have much to say on this but 'STAY BY THE STUFF!' Do not drift as the writer of Hebrews has stated. Reflect on his word:

"...We must pay attention all the more to what we have heard, so that we will not drift away."
Hebrews 2:1 CSB

And This Will Preach!

God Calls.
We Equip.
You Advance.

Our 2021 Annual Banquet, 'A Fresh Start on a Trusted Path,' occurred on May 6, 2021. The entire sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of New Port Richey was utilized which would seat 1,000. Following CDC Guidelines, people were provided a meal and time to be together.



Awards and Recognitions were presented. A total of more than \$35,476 was raised in gifts and pledges. Of this, \$12,291 was given specifically for the Life Change Scholarship. Dr. Wintley Phipps was in concert and speaking along with our keynote address speaker, Dr. Jeffery Singletary, Regional Catalyst of the

Florida Baptist Convention and Trustee of the College.



Mrs. Cindy Perkins, Director of the Business Organizational Leadership program, was awarded the Wade Academic Service Award.



Trinity's 2021 Commencement occurred on Saturday, May 8. Dr. Philip Dearborn, President of the Association for Biblical Higher Education spoke to the Graduating Class.



Last year, all these events had to be cancelled or postponed!

President's Activities

- ✦ The President spoke at the Commencement service for the graduating seniors at Spring Hill Christian Academy on May 29, 2021.

- ✦ Dr. and Mrs. O'Farrell were in Fort Myers for the CMAF Board of Directors meeting at Shell Point, May 19-21, 2021.
- ✦ Dr. and Mrs. O'Farrell attended the Council of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Nashville, Tennessee May 31-June 4, 2021. They also had the opportunity of visiting the *Ark Encounter* before returning home.



Projects Underway

- ✦ **An Entrance Gate and additional security measures** for the College are being constructed.
- ✦ **Remodeling and Refreshing of the Dining Area** of the College will begin shortly.
- ✦ A **Driveway** involving asphalt shavings was provided by the County for the EMT to utilize.



- ✦ **The Sheriff's Office** of Pasco County is on campus 50 hours a week. Additionally, EMTs have moved into L.L. Speer Hall. They will be there for the next 18 months while their new facilities are being built.

- ✦ A **Director of Online services**, Danny McDonald, PhD, is coming on board to assist faculty and students in taking online courses of study. He will be working off site, but making visits to our campus.
- ✦ **Mr. Nate Freeland**, President of *Network People*, will be guiding and supervising our IT needs. His company has taken over the responsibilities that Buddy Paynter developed and supervised. After 8 years at Trinity College of Florida, Buddy was hired by the U.S. Government to undertake a special project along with others that involves Defense and Security Awareness. He has guided the College into the IT world of technology. He and Cindy will be ***missed but not forgotten***.

Special Prayer Requests

- ✦ **Fall Enrollment:** Please pray for potential students seeking to enroll at Trinity. The numbers are encouraging. New software is in place to help each student in their application process.
- ✦ **Operational Needs:** While students are not on campus in force over the summer, other activities are occurring to assist in providing ministry and support for our faculty and staff. Please pray regarding these funds.
- ✦ **Faculty and Staff Physical Needs:** Pray that ample rest and change of pace will encourage and strengthen those who have served this past semester. Many are having physical challenges that need a prayer covering.
- ✦ **Wisdom, Timing, and Needed Personnel:** Pray for the timing of all events, the search for individuals who could fill in the gaps, and for those who are retiring or moving on after many years of faithful service. We need His Wisdom and Direction.

Something to Think About ...

"A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling 'darkness' on the wall of his cell." - C.S. Lewis

His BEST to You Always,



Mark T. O'Farrell
President
Trinity College of Florida

Enjoy the following pictures of recent activity from construction of a sidewalk in front of the Administration Building all the way to the Board of Trustees meeting and commencement!



