



## The President's Circle



### *Wind and Waves*

Have you ever been at sea? Have you ever been on a stormy sea in a boat or ship? It can be a real adventure. The wind and waves do strange things to you:

1. They can make you 'seasick;'
2. They can make you unsteady in your movements, even pin you down for any movement;
3. They can create 'uncertainty' leading to fear;
4. They can be very 'noisy,' removing other voices for you to hear;
5. They can confuse you on your destination;
6. They can cause you to doubt the 'durability of your vessel.'
7. They can cause problems between you and other people aboard,

***and the list goes on...***

#### ***Do you have any Winds and Waves in your life?***

Do you see any parallel from the above list that could be applied to your situation and cause you to feel 'sick,' unsteady, fearful, lonely, lost for the next move, confused, concerned about the viability of your surroundings, and in disagreement with others?

Matthew 14:22-33 is the Biblical passage for you! The entire chapter records the events the disciples of Jesus experienced before Jesus ***strongly urged*** them to get into the boat and go before Him to the other side. (Matthew 14:22 NKJV) The shocking news about John's beheading, limited supplies for a great need that confronted them, feeding of the 5,000 plus, and countless people being healed ... *they*

*were tired, stressed out, and worn thin.* (Do you feel like that?) And Jesus urges them to get in the boat without His known presence and go before Him to the other side. They obeyed and rowed into the night. *Wind and Waves greeted them.* They were in the middle of the sea ... fearful, tired, confused, and lonely!

(Between nine and twelve hours must have elapsed since Jesus left the disciples. He had left them at about 6:00 p.m. and rejoined them between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. All this time they were fighting the storm and He was praying.) - *from Thomas/Gundry NIV Harmony of the Gospels*

**But Jesus was coming! Walking on Water!** He was totally aware of ALL that was happening, ALL that was Needed! And He said to them and to **YOU:** "Be of Good Cheer! It is I, do not be afraid." Matthew 14:27 NKJV

Peter wanted assurance that this figure before them was Jesus, not a ghost, so he said: "If it is You, command me to come to You on the water." Jesus said "Come" and Peter walked on water. He got into trouble looking at the circumstances and began to sink. He cried out: "Lord Save Me!" And Jesus reached out and they both got into the boat and the "wind ceased."

*You may have Wind and Wave Problems. You may be in a life storm ... but are you ready to 'walk on water?'* Jesus is over all the difficulties and will perform great and miraculous deliverances for you ... *just keep your Attention, Focus and Eyes on Him!* And when you and He get into the 'boat,' others who know what you have gone through will 'worship Him!' Matthew 14:33 NKJV. *Your deliverance will help others to see and believe.*

Because of your experience and God's Intervention, look what others will say to JESUS:

"Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, **'Truly, You are the Son of God.'**" Matthew 14:33 NKJV

**Something to think about ...** Look what happened to the boat and passengers: "Immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading." John 6:21 NIV

**May the Proclamations Begin!**

## The Latest Happenings ...

- ✦ **The 2022-2023 Collegiate year has begun!** New schedules, new classes, new professors, new environment, and new discoveries are on the agenda. Eleven juniors and seniors from Trinity Collegiate High School have entered the dual enrollment program. The college has a 90.5 retention rate (86 out of 95 returning students have registered.) This has never been accomplished before during my tenure. More than 50 new students have registered. With the *TrinityQuest* enrollment (degree completion) yet to be determined, we are thankful for these students that God is sending our way.



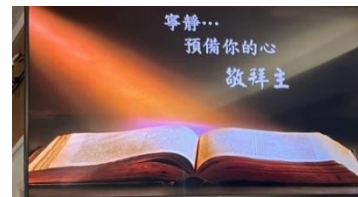
- ✦ **The Prayer Garden, a project by SGA,** was completed before the semester began. Benches have been provided. In the days to come, the green foliage will develop to offer a place to be alone with our Lord.



- ✦ The road in front of the college, Welbilt Boulevard, is almost complete. It connects with State Road 54. After one more topping of asphalt, it will be open, resulting in an increase of the exponential visibility of the college. It has been a long time coming.



- ✦ Our Chinese sisters and brothers have been burdened about the Chinese families who own/work in restaurants within the area (approximately 35) coming to know the Lord. Many work seven days a week with little or no break. They began English classes for these families, teaching the Bible at the college. A graduation service was held ... there were four groups graduating and reading the Bible and stories about the Bible in English. It was an amazing event. There is interest among our students, ministering to parents as they wait for classes to end.



## **FACTS OF INTEREST**

- ✦ The Billy Graham/Ruth Munce Display and pictures have been placed in the Administration Building for increased visibility by the students.



- ✦ The Women's Volleyball team and Men's Soccer team will be playing this semester. A million-dollar soccer field near the college has been made available to our players. This will make it easier for our students to attend the games. The Women's Volleyball team is expecting a great season with more student participation.
- ✦ Through consultation with family, friends, colleagues, and the understanding and approval of the Board of Trustees, the President will be moving toward retirement. No date has been set. The appointed Presidential Search Committee and Board of Trustees are going forward in the search for the next person the Lord will appoint for this position. Procedures, process, and protocols are in place. Our Board Chairman, Ed Brandt, will be leading the search.
- ✦ The refurbishing of the Chapel area has occurred, allowing more room for our student body. The Genesis School has moved out and will be occupying their own building in the months to come.



- ✦ We welcome **Dr. Angela Parsons** to the position of Registrar. She brings to this position a detailed awareness of reporting and accuracy. Her background is in Pharmacology which includes giving oversight to pharmacists in various organizations. After five years of service, **Mrs. Sheila Johnson**, former registrar, has returned to the insurance world. She has guided us through all the COVID-19 years and she will be missed.
- ✦ Two alumni have returned as instructors. **Mr. Alex Castaneda** and **Ms. Darlene Starrett** have come on board as adjunct professors along with **Lt. Col. Jack Packer**.
- ✦ The tabernacle model built by **former President Richard Williams** is being utilized by Idlewild Baptist Church while **Pastor Ken Whitten** speaks on this subject for the next six weeks. The display table for the tabernacle was created by **Dr. Tom Wade**, Board of Trustees Executive Committee member. Thousands will enjoy the display and the series.
- ✦ Trinity College of Florida is **Precinct 100** for the voters in Pasco County.
- ✦ The **1611 King James Bible** is on display on the Raymond H. Center M.D. Library building.



- ✦ The **Faculty and Staff Retreat** was held August 10 at Calvary East Lake. **Pastor Ken Whitten** of Idlewild Baptist Church was our guest speaker and **Charlie Jones**, Music Minister at First Baptist Church of Elfers, led in worship.



### **Urgent Prayer Requests:**

- ✦ Please pray for the **operational needs** of the college. When students have difficulty in paying their bills, it affects the college and its obligations.
- ✦ Please pray for the **new AA degree** program that has been initiated.
- ✦ Please pray for the **safety and spiritual development of every student**. Biblical foundations are imperative in today's environment.
- ✦ Please pray for the **required upgrading of fire prevention** in Ruth Munce Hall. The unanticipated expense is \$41,000. We are working with the Pasco County Fire Department.
- ✦ Please pray for our **Faculty and Staff**. The demands, workload, and expectations are challenging.

"The death of President Franklin Roosevelt abruptly thrust Harry Truman into the presidency. He traveled to Capitol Hill to address Congress, and at the end of his speech, he said, 'As I have assumed my heavy duties, I humbly pray Almighty God, in the words of King Solomon, *Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad, for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*' I ask only to be a good and faithful servant of my Lord and my people.'" (Turning Point Ministries/Dr. David Jeremiah)

Something to think about today, don't you think?

Serving Him with you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark T. O'Farrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mark T. O'Farrell  
President  
Trinity College of Florida

*August 2022*