

# The Trinity Times

February 2014

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## Truth Protects You

Ephesians 6 is the chapter of the Bible that contains the famous passage of the armor of God. *“Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

Like pretty much everyone else I’ve ever heard or read who teaches on this passage, I have always taught this passage with much discussion on the armor; how each piece works and how important it is to a soldier. I have recently become convinced, however, that too much focus on the armor is a distraction. It is an ingenious illustration that has helped countless people over the centuries to remember the importance of protecting themselves; but it is not written so that we can study how character is like armor. It is written so we will put on good character.

Do you think you can accomplish something for God? You’d better understand that to attempt to do so is to step onto a battlefield. God has powerful enemies (*“the rulers,...the powers, the world forces of this darkness,...the spiritual forces of wicked-*



*ness in the heavenly places”* Eph 6:12). While you’re not on the battlefield, they don’t care much about you. When you enter the fight, you begin to gain their attention. They will attack you, and you need to protect yourself.

Truth protects you. You need to know the truth, you need to speak the truth, you need to live the truth.

There are many claims to truth in our day. We are like the people of Athens, who had many gods. Paul said to them, *“I observe that you are very religious in all respects. For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’”* They had idols on every street, and just in case they missed a god, they put up an extra altar, just to be sure. That is what some in our culture try to do today. *“Whatever you believe, that is true for you.”*

An old friend of mine used to be fond of saying, *“Whatever floats your boat.”* That’s good in theory; because in theory, your boat could just as easily float in milk or root beer. But if you plan on taking your boat anywhere, you’d better float it in water. If you want ‘your truth’ to be of any use to you, it needs to be the true truth.

All roads do not lead to heaven, all gods are not the same, all holy books are not equal. Jesus made very specific truth claims. He said, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the*

## Photo of the Month



“Our mission is to proclaim the Word of God, leading people to a saving faith and a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Until we meet again—Warren Damschen has gone to be with the Lord, and is both safe and happy with his Savior. Until that time, we will miss you.

*Father but through Me.” He said, “Until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” Jesus did not just make truth claims, but He made exclusive truth claims. There is no ‘both/and’ option when it comes to truth.*

Do you believe this is true? Before giving us a description of the armor of God, the Bible tells us what we are to do with it: Stand. *“Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil...and having done everything, to stand firm.”* Eph 6:11,13. How can you stand firm in what you do not believe? One of the great evidences for the truth of Christianity is the martyrdom of the Apostles. How do we know they weren’t fakers, gaining fame from a made-up story? Because they died for it. You die for what you believe, not for what you don’t. They knew the truth, and stood firm in it.

You need to speak the truth. This means you need to speak God’s word and share truth about God; but it means more than that. It means simple honesty as well. Ecclesiastes tells us that one fly ruins a barrel of perfume. So one lie ruins an otherwise honest person. Once you are known for a lie, everything you say is in doubt. Your enemies in high places are trying to hurt you, and to remove your ability to do battle. If they can expose you for dishonesty, they have disarmed you. Putting on truth is a conscious decision to only be honest always. When you are known to speak the truth about everything else, then your words about God take on much more weight.

You need to live the truth. This is more than honesty,

it is integrity. It is more than just using truth, it is following it. Manipulation of the truth seems to be a sought-after skill. Should we not realize that a truth used to deceive is still deceitful? I think the enemy enjoys few things more than when God’s people hide behind a veneer of truth while living without integrity. Few people have done more harm to God’s cause than those claiming Christ while living for this world. They are the reason so many in the West have rejected Christ Himself.

When Jesus told the parable of the house built on the sand, He did not describe the builders as those who did not know the truth, but those who heard His words but did not obey them. Knowing the truth is not enough; speaking the truth is not enough. We must obey the truth.

This last thing may sound obvious, but it can be harder than you think. You must not abandon the truth. Why would you do such a thing? Because you believe it endangers you, but that a lie will protect you. One of the interesting things about a soldier fleeing a battle is that one of the first things he does is throw down his weapon. It is heavy, it is awkward, it gets in the way. It is a magnificent tool if you choose to stand, but a nuisance to the one who flees.

When Paul wrote about the armor of God, he told us to use it to stand. The enemy is large and powerful and threatening. Truth may sometimes seem an inadequate defense. But it is not and the enemy cannot overcome it. So regardless of the temptation, do not abandon the truth.

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## Apologetics Instant

### Why God?

The key verse of apologetics (1 Pet 3:15) says, *“always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you.”* This means you want to answer what they ask, and when they ask.

Some people, when they ask “Why God?” are being argumentative. They want to know the proofs. Often, they feel the better arguments are on their side. “You can’t prove God scientifically,” they challenge. Their challenge is weaker than they think. You can simply answer, “Okay then, scientifically disprove Him.” It can’t be done.

Sometimes, however, the question

is “Why, God?” This is not the challenge of a rebel, but the cry of a hurting heart. When you answer this question, do it gently, from your own experience. “When I was hurting, that’s when I found God was closest.”

The answer you give depends on the question asked. Do your best to answer well.



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## Heart Talk

by Mark Smith

You do realize that we’re all a bunch of misfits, don’t you?

The Scriptures are all about how God – the very standard of perfection – works in, with and through imperfect human beings to accomplish what He wants. None of the great heroes of the faith were models of perfection. They, like us, all had flaws – but despite their blemishes, God desired to fill them with Himself and they became vessels for His glory!

One of those heroes of faith, King David, also had the ability to draw others to himself and, ultimately, to his God. Even as he advanced in power and influence, he remained approachable and compassionate. People were attracted to him and wanted to be with him.

An example of this is recorded in 1 Samuel 22. David isn’t yet the king, although he has been anointed by Samuel the prophet. Instead, he’s on the run from jealous Saul, who’s out to get him, after he has escaped from a hiding place with the Philistines after faking insanity to save his life. It would appear that he is down on his luck as he takes up new residence in the Cave of Adullam.

Here’s what happens next: *“When his brothers and his father’s household heard about it, they went down to him there. All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About 400 men were with him.”*

Distressed. In debt. Discontented. Those three conditions could be applied to any one of us, too. Life isn’t a bunch of roses (unless you’re thinking of the thorns!). It’s very easy to get discouraged, even to enter into despair. Many of us have financial concerns, whether full-fledged

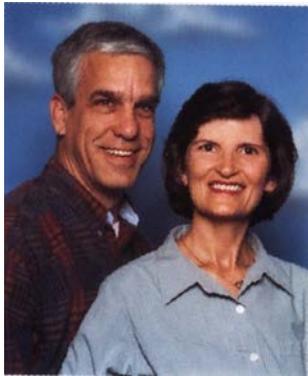
indebtedness or feeling the strain in today’s economy. And we’re conditioned by our culture to be dissatisfied, always wanting more, even feeling entitled to wealth.

Take it to the next level. In our natural, without-God state, we’re in distress, whether we realize it or not. We certainly owe a debt of sin to our Creator that we cannot pay. Discontent reigns supreme as one of the major effects of being separated from God and bound for an eternity without Him.

But God has made a provision to reverse all of this. Our Savior Jesus Christ brings joy and paid the debt we owed through His blood shed on the cross. Like David, He has become the leader of misfits. And that’s what you and I started out being – until His intervention.

*“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called,”* the apostle Paul writes (1 Cor. 1:26-31). *“Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him. It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, ‘Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.’”*

By the way, David’s misfits eventually became his “mighty men” and nobody thought of them as misfits anymore. Under Christ’s leadership, we become His “saints” (holy ones) – through whom He reveals Himself to a world in such need!



Dear friends,  
Happy New Year 2014!  
God has provided for us a great time to reflect on His goodness throughout this

past year and to make plans and dream dreams based on the fact that God is good. As for us, our plans, God willing, are to continue faithfully on this road on which He has placed us.

One of the biggest "events" that happens in January is our current staff making their decisions on future ministry. We typically ask for their decision this month. Please pray for them as they seek God's face and pray for the staffing needs of the school. We already know that we are losing one of our elementary teachers. Our senior students are also making big decisions about their futures. Please pray for them. Lynda and I are especially involved with this class of 2014 because they have chosen us to be their sponsors. Pray for us as we minister to them, to their fellow students and to our staff at the school.

In January we will also be starting a Truth Project group. Our church will join us with a ministry to present the Truth Project. Please pray for maximum impact. Also, pray for my ability to communicate to/with these college students in Spanish as I will be leading this project. I always feel inadequate to "go deep" with them in their language.

Lynda will continue with her adult English language students, elementary ESL students, and leadership in the Women's Spiritual Retreat. She will also be helping with

the new-born daughter of our music teaches, while said music teacher teaches. Please pray for Lynda as she ministers in all these various areas of responsibility. On top of this, she is 'on call' for her mother who is battling serious health issues. She has a double surgery scheduled very soon. This may require Lynda to 'go' at any moment.

We may have a major purchase decision to make shortly. A mission agency is selling an extra car and they are giving us first option to buy it. We have operated 2 years now without a vehicle. While this has not been terrible, it is limiting. Pray for us to make wise decisions with our finances. Another area is housing. Our house contract is renewable every year and the price continues to climb. Pray for us to make wise choices—to stay in this house or to shop around (difficult without a car). We ask you to pray with us for summer ministry opportunities and plans.

We have enjoyed time with family, both gifts from God. Please pray for Anthony, Micaiah and family as they continue to heal in God's grace, after the loss of their baby boy on Thanksgiving day. Pray for Lynda's brother, Vernon, battling life-threatening cancer, her sister, Gaylee, facing surgery; and for my sister, Roberta, whose home has been 'sold out from under her'. Please pray Roberta will find a place to live.

We pray for you; that God would make clear His will for you this year and that you will appropriate the grace to walk therein. Thanks for journeying with us and praying for us.

Yours by grace, Bruce & Lynda



Praise the Lord!

- Thank God with us for a good low-stress experience before leaving Canada. It really helped to have someone take our kids for 28 hours!

- Our van sold to a youth pastor, and we were able to use it until the afternoon before we left for Cameroon - God's wonderful provision!

- We arrived back safe and sound in Yaounde, Cameroon on January 23rd after some great flights, despite some delays

- We arrived in Yaounde ready to be horizontal - so nice that it was bed-

time when we got there.

- Our truck papers were not all up to date when we arrived in Cameroon, but the piece we needed was found in time so we could travel to Bamenda as planned. The six-hour drive to Bamenda on Sunday was pleasant and uneventful. We were surprised to see a road construction company working on a bad section of the main highway to Bamenda. May they continue to completion!

- Most things in the house are working fine - all our backup power solutions are working well, and we've had the privilege of using them twice already in two days! But we really are enjoying being back in our house again, getting settled.

Lord, we need You . . . in British Columbia

- We left Canada without getting Valerie's Permanent Resident Card. Our solution was to reapply the next

time we return to Canada. That costs way less than changing flights!

Lord, we need You . . . in Cameroon

- Unpacking, sorting, and cleaning is going well despite not having our regular house-help available.

- May God grant us success as we readjust to life in Cameroon after 8 months on home assignment. By next week we'll be in our routines of homeschooling and language project work. Pray that our phone number can be reactivated - it helps so much in communication with others here in Cameroon.

- For the last few days Cam has had some shooting but short-lived tooth pain in his bridge that the dentist fixed up so nicely. Pray that there is no major problem with the bridge. It only gives pain when there is forward/backward pressure on the front tooth.

Dear Saints at Trinity Bible Fellowship,

Loving greetings from India. Wishing you all God's best for the new year 2014!

Thank you so much for your prayers and sincere sacrificial giving to our ministry in India. By the grace of God we entered into this new year with new vision and urgent call to speed up the Gospel work before the return of our Lord Jesus. We started this new year with new baptisms and six people were added to the Church! After the new year service we fed about 400 people with good food. We also helped the community by giving clothes. Once again, thank you for praying and helping

financially.

In this month we are going to dedicate a new church at Thutangi, a tribal village where no roads or travelling access; only by walk. The Lord helped us take a team to go there to preach the gospel to them. Today a church was established, and soon we will also build a church building.

Yours in His service,  
Ch. Daniel



## Elders Report

13 Dec 2013

IN ATTENDANCE: Steve McLachlan, Mark Smith, Knute Hernas, Josh McLachlan, Mike Anderson

Intercessory Prayer: Time was devoted to prayer for the trials and hardships some members of the congregation are experiencing.

Pastor's Report:

- The China Mission Team will do a presentation during the Sunday Service on the 12th of January. The mission committee will also be reworking the application for the next trip.
- January 19th is also designated as "Right to Life" Sunday. We will be handing out baby bottles for the Spokane Life Services Center.
- Vance and Bethany Reed will be having a ceremony to celebrate their marriage at the church on the 18th of January.

We reviewed the upcoming calendar of events;

- Quarterly Meeting Jan 7 at 6:30 pm
- Easter Events: Good Friday April 18, We will have a service at the church at 7:00 pm. Sunrise Service at the park, 7 a.m.

Old Business:

- Pastor's Medical Benefits. We discussed the status of getting Pastors Steve and Josh and their families set up with Medical Insurance. Pastor Josh is taken care of, Pastor Steve will be working with Tyson Lacy in the near future to get signed up on the new state program.
- Trinity Bible Institute (TBI). We decided to have Mark Smith send out an interest sheet to see if it is something the congregation would like to participate in.
- TBF Fellowship Groups. We spent a good amount of time breaking the congregation into groupings under the three elders. The elders will begin making contact with the people in their groups to make sure we are doing everything we can to support them.

New Business:

- Prayer Meetings: The "Pray in the New Year" evening was so successful we have decided to make it a regular event on the final Sunday of each month beginning on the 26th of January.
- Membership and the TBF Constitution: Some of our missionaries who are members of our church are also members of other churches. This is not currently allowed by the TBF Constitution. Mark Smith will draft language for the constitution to allow a special category of "Associate Member" for these individuals.
- Prayer Chain: We discussed the idea of adapting the prayer chain for email. All agreed. Pastor Steve said he could also provide updates to prayer items as they came in. This will allow anyone who isn't already participating to join if they so wish.
- We elected Mark Smith as this year's Chairman of the Board of Elders.

Next Meeting: 7 February, 2014



by Josh McLachlan

## Youth Stuff

### "THE GOLDEN RULE"

The golden rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." We have all heard it, and chances are we have shared it with someone younger than ourselves to show them how to get along with their siblings, friends, or enemies. We all know THEY

SHOULD DO THAT!

**Matthew 22:34-40** tells us to **LOVE** the Lord our God, and also **LOVE** our neighbors as ourselves. We all want to **LOVE** the Lord, but **LOVE** my neighbor? Brother? Enemy? I don't know about that.

In the Bible there are three different words for **LOVE**. In this case, we are to **LOVE** the Lord with the same **LOVE** we **LOVE** our neighbors with. Must be a special kind of **LOVE**. It's agape **LOVE**, or a sacrificial kind of **LOVE**.

What does Agape **LOVE** look like? Put it this way: Would I treat God this way? Would I talk bad about something He did that I didn't like to make Him look bad?

Would I slander God to others or to His face? Would I take something from God? Would I choose to not keep my commitment with God because something else came up? Would I steal from God? Would I cheat God? You get the idea. Hopefully you would never treat God like this, and you certainly wouldn't want to be treated this way, so make sure you **LOVE** those around you like you want to be **LOVED!** This would include your neighbors, friends, enemies, parents, strangers, or anyone else you come into contact with whether you like them or not.

Can't buy me **LOVE**, but I can freely give it away! "**LOVE UP ON SOME PINS**"

-DATE- FEB 23, 2014

-TIME- 1-3:30

-EVENT- Bowling and Bad Bowling-

-COST- \$10 for unlimited bowling, free drinks and free pizza!!!!

-Prizes for Highest score and the lowest score-

"Reach them to teach them, Teach them to reach them."



## Church Funds

12/31/13

Benevolence Fund	1,336
Missionaries Reserve	2,100
Missions Fund	3,670
<u>General Fund*</u>	<u>6,307</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$13,413</u>

Building Fund \$225,666

Overall Total \$239,079

### Celebration of Life for Warren Damschen

A service to honor the life and faith of Warren Damschen will be held at the Davenport Middle School gym Saturday, Feb 1, at 2 pm. Following the service, a meal will be served at Trinity Bible Fellowship.

Please keep LaRae, Shilo, Shannon, and Shayna and the rest of the family in your prayers.

### Spokane Orphan Summit

March 15, 2014

A full day of teaching, worship, and encouragement for those who have adopted, or are considering it. For information, go to: [www.SpokaneOrphanSummit.com](http://www.SpokaneOrphanSummit.com).

### Aloha, Valentines!

A romantic evening on the beach! Through the magic of a woman's touch, Hawaii is going to be transported to Davenport for an evening.

Friday, Feb 14th, 6 pm

Fun, good food, and good friends. Find out how well you really know your Sweetheart in the Truly-wed game! Get your picture taken with your true love. And find yourself asking the eternal question: "How are they going to get the sand out of the carpet?"

### New Members Class

Begins Sunday evening, Feb 9th, at Pastor Steve & Joan's. 6 pm



by Robert Boleneus

### Why?

Why attend Sunday School? I have noticed over years of attending Sunday school and church that more people attend church than Sunday school. So, I believe that there are those who believe that there is no reason to attend Sunday school. Actually, there are many good reasons to attend.

- There is coffee available.
- The start of Sunday school is later in the morning than the start of “work” the rest of the week. Besides we already had Saturday.
- Attending SS as a parent shows our children the importance of learning God’s word.
- There are no football games or NASCAR races on during SS time.
- The time before SS and the time between SS and church is some of the best “bonding” time with other

# Teachers Corner

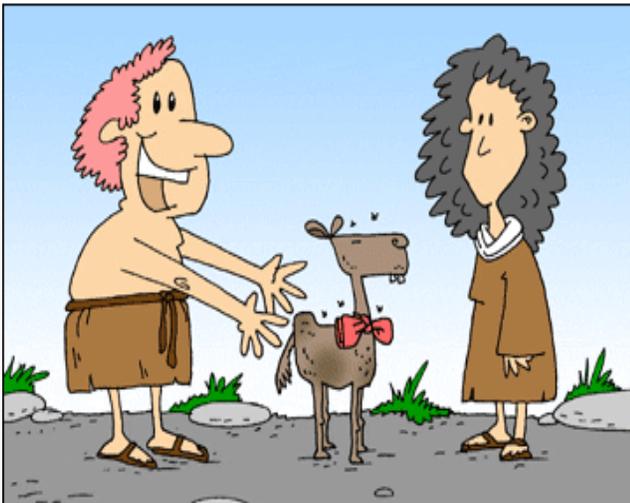
- people at church.
- SS is more “interactive” than church. One can share stories and opinions. (can’t do that during a sermon)
- The “interactive” time during SS adds to the “bonding” with the other people attending.
- One does not fall asleep in SS, because of the interaction (and to be ready for the opportunity to share a story or opinion – or alertness to a turn at reading from the Bible).
- Learning from the Bible (imagine that).
- To see how the Holy Spirit manages to tie two different parts of the Bible (the one from SS and the one from the sermon) into your week to give you prospective for the next week.

There are many other reasons for attending Sunday school. Tell me your reason when you see me during the next week.



Trinity Bible Fellowship  
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Thanks to Chris Arveson

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HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

### AWANA FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

“We had a “Mega-Dark” night” (Lorie Wandling) Jan. 22 the power went out for about 45 min. No need to panic. Pastor Steve led the kids in singing and the Bible story of Jonah-(inspired from the dark place Jonah had in the belly of the big fish). Toni Kay and Dave Fitzpatrick worked together to keep things fun with balloon games. With the return of the lights was the return of AWANA, for those who were left.

- February 5 Crazy Hair night
- February 12 LOVE Your Leader night
- February 19 President’s night
- February 26 40 ft. BANANA SPLIT NIGHT-YES- 40 FT. BANANA SPLIT!

A special “Thank you” was sent by our Awana missionaries, Jim and Bev VanMersbergen’s for the Christmas Money we sent them. Way to go!

Missionaries of the Month: Cam & Valerie Hamm  
Serving Wycliffe Translators in  
Cameroon Africa



# February 2014

Women's Ministry Leader: Annie Ricketts  
Group Members: Kristi Bell  
Sandy Buchanan  
Leslea McLachlan  
Lori Rieth



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Warren Damschen's Service 2 pm  <i>Vernon Ross</i>
2 Coffee Fellowship Youth Group 6:30 pm	3 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Deaconess Meeting 6 pm	4 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 am  <i>Walt Sweetser</i>	5 Awana Crazy Hair Night 6 pm	6 Ladies Prayer @ Abell's 6:45 pm	7 Elders Meeting 8 am	8
9 Members Class 6 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm  <i>Jackson Falk</i>	10 Men's Coffee 8:30 am	11 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 am Mission Committee Meeting 9:15 am BSF Prayer 7 pm <i>Joshua McDowall</i>	12 Awana Love Your Leader Night 6 pm	13 Ladies Prayer @ Abell's 6:45 pm  <i>Finn Shumway</i>	14 Valentine Banquet 6 pm  <i>Toni Kay Copeland</i>	15  <i>Tristan Hoffmann</i>
16 Members Class 6 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm	17 Men's Coffee 8:30 am  <i>Vicente Reyna</i>	18 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 am M & Ms 6 pm	19 Awana Presidents Night 6 pm  <i>Linette Vaughn</i>	20 Ladies Prayer @ Abell's 6:45 pm	21 Awana Directors Meeting 6 pm	22 Baby Shower for Teresa Karr Noon
23 Communion/Benevolence offering Concert of Prayer 6:30 pm YG Bowling 1—3:30 pm	24 Men's Coffee 8:30 am  <i>Tiffany Abell</i>	25 Ladies Bible Study 9:30 am  <i>Jim Buchanan Annie Ricketts</i>	26 Awana 40 ft Banana Split Night 6 pm  <i>Tyson Lacy Cindy McDowall</i>	27 Ladies Prayer @ Abell's 6:45 pm	28  <i>Dan Abell Lindsey Anderson Mike Crowell Carey Falk</i>	