

The Trinity Times

February 2015

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Worm Theology

"I am special, I am special. If you look, you will see, someone very special, someone very special. Yes, it's me, yes, it's me." Hopefully you recognize this is a children's song, and not for adult consumption. Unless, of course, you need to be told you're special, because you really are. Unless you actually do think you're special; in which case you need to be told you're not, because, really, you are just another wretch. Confusing? You bet. But true.

A woman at a church I previously attended once told me, "I'm never going to _____'s class again."

Why not?" I innocently asked, knowing _____ to be a fine intelligent man and a dedicated Christian.

"Because he teaches worm theology, and I'm not a worm."

"What is worm theology?"

"He says we're just worms."

"Why does he say that?"

"Because of some verse in the Bible."

"Well, if it says it in the Bible, he's probably right to say it."

"No he's not, because I'm a child of the King and child of God and I'm not a worm!"

The offending verse – because it offended her enough that she remem-



bered it, and now so do I, is Isaiah 41:14, "*Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you,*" declares the LORD, "*and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.*"

We discussed it for a while, but she wouldn't budge. She was a child of the King and not a

worm, and no words to Jacob were going to change that.

Unfortunately for her, there are other passages that call man a worm. Job's good friend Bildad scolded him with these words, "*If even the moon has no brightness and the stars are not pure in his sight, how much less man, that maggot, and the son of man, that worm!* (Job 25:5-6)." I don't know for sure if maggots are higher or lower in the hierarchy of slimy things, but either way, this isn't complimentary. Of course, Bildad's theology is suspect; but he is supported by David the Psalmist! "*But I am a worm and not a man, a reproach of man and despised by the people*" (Ps 22:6).

And yet, the other side of the argument is true, too. It was Jesus who said, "*Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows*" (Matt 10:29-31). Now, a wise guy might look at this and ask, "So, you're saying I'm

Photo of the Month



I'm not sure what Lynn thinks of what Knute finds so funny.... The two shared the podium for a while during last year's Valentine's Banquet. This year's event is set for 6 pm Friday, Feb 13th.

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

worth many cents?” But Jesus’ meaning is clear – we are precious in the sight of God. We are the beings made just a little lower than the angels (Ps 8), we are the creatures who bear God’s image (Gen 1). Yes, we are special.

It is the preacher of Ecclesiastes who guides us out of this maze of seemingly contradictory truths. *“There is an appointed time for everything, and there is a time for every event under heaven...a time to tear down and a time to build up”* (Eccl 3:1, 3b).

The person who accepts child of the King thinking might need to be reminded of human frailty. *“Pride goeth before destruction,”* saith the King James Version, *“and a haughty spirit before a fall”* (Prov 16:18). In the New Testament, Paul wrote to the Galatian Church that *“If anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself”* (Gal 6:3). For the Corinthian Church, he wrote the same warning another way, *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall”* (1 Cor 10:12). The person who only sees and accepts good things about himself is self-deceived and in for a rude awakening.

On the other hand, the person who sees himself only as a worm is just as misguided, and ironically, just as self-centered. He is focused on himself and his failures. Of course you’re a failure. Of course all your righteousness is as filthy rags (Is 64:6). But get over it! The purpose of the bad news is to point us to the Good News! And once

you’ve accepted the Good News, why would you dwell on the bad?

The preacher is right, a time to tear down and a time to build up. And the guy who won’t hear anything negative might need to. And the guy who can’t see anything positive might need to.

Is there a balance in between? I sure hope so. I am a sinner, saved by Grace. I am a work in progress, being perfected. I have not attained yet, but I know I will. From the human perspective, Paul described it this way: *“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”* (Phil 3:13-14). From the heavenly perspective, he wrote this: *“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus”* (Phil 1:6).

If you know you have the inheritance of a child of the King; if you know you have the legacy of a worm, you keep your eyes on the prize, and allow God to keep working on you.



Can You Name These Names?

According to Cam & Valerie Hamm, there are special challenges to writing names in a new language. See if you can properly guess how we say these names:

1. Kasa Agustu
2. Pontio Pile
3. Amblahan
4. Muse
5. Ndafu
6. Saimu

7. Meli
8. Yeso
9. Yose
10. Fili
11. Helo
12. Lisapi
13. Nzog

Helps:

1. ‘R’ is usually replaced by ‘L’.
2. ‘J’ is usually replaced by ‘NZ’

or ‘Y’.

3. No word ends with an English consonant.
4. There cannot be a ‘B’ without an ‘M’ in front of it.
5. There cannot be a ‘D’ without an ‘N’ in front of it.

How did you do? You can check yourself with the answer guide on the Missions Page.



Heart Talk

by Mark Smith

It appears that we’re in the midst of awards season, complete with the Golden Globes, the Grammys, the Oscars, league district and state championships – and that little gem that accompanies the Super Bowl known as the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Competition is at the heart of most awards, held up as incentives to do a job well. Our Creator has wired us to desire rewards for our labor.

Perusing several New Testament passages that compare the Christian lifestyle with that of a competitor, one could easily draw the conclusion that God also offers awards to those He describes as *“good and faithful servants”* for completing assigned tasks and doing them well.

The ultimate reward, of course, is to hear direct from the Savior’s lips: *“Well done, you good and faithful servant”* – the one who was faithful with *“the few things”* the Master left in his care (Matthew 25:21, 23) while He was away. A variation of this: The Beatitudes in Matthew 5, each starting with the word *“Blessed”!*

The Apostle Paul often linked his admonitions with the cultural context of the athletic games with which his readers would be familiar. The participants competed for *“crowns,”* those olive branches worn on the head, but Paul quickly suggests these will fade and wither away, but *“crowns”* received from the King Eternal would last forever – a prize worth all the effort needed to attain it.

In Philippians, he unashamedly asserts that his objective is to *“press on to take hold of that for which Christ*

Jesus took hold of me ... I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (3:12, 14).

In his last letter, addressed to his protégé, Paul urges Timothy to *“guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you – guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us”* (2 Tim. 1:14). The language is reminiscent of Jesus’ story of the talents entrusted by the Master to three servants, who were not to set them aside, but to invest them.

Later, Paul compares Christians to soldiers, athletes and hard-working farmers. The athlete, he notes, cannot *“receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules”* (2 Tim. 2:5). In the race set before us by the Lord Himself, we keep the rules by following Him in obedience.

Still later, the apostle writes, *“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness”* intended for *“all who have longed for His appearing”* (2 Tim. 4:8). That the world is getting more and more evil should tug at our hearts, fueling an increasing desire to see Him return and set things right.

The New Testament book devoted to that certain eventuality, Revelation, also includes admonition blended with the offer of rewards. There is the *“crown of life”* given for remaining *“faithful to the point of death”* (Rev. 2:10) and the encouragement, in light of the truth that He is *“coming soon,”* to *“hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown”* (3:11). There are special promises for those who *“overcome”* – completing the assignment and doing it well!



Rebuilding Property, Building Lives

Dear Pastor Steve, the elders, and all the saints,

Loving greetings in the gracious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in this new year to you and to all the saints there at Trinity Bible Fellowship. May this letter find you all safe and sound in this blessed new year!

I want to thank you all for your unfailing love and continual sacrificial support of our ministry here in India. With your great help for our restoration damaged property during the October storm I was able to rebuild almost everything back to its normal position. I was unable to bring the trees back, but I will plant again and make it beautiful. Please find our pictures which tell about the rebuilding of our property walls, more than 500 feet, church building roof, kitchen and dining hall roof were replaced. Most of our money was gone on toilet system; because I had to rebuild the whole thing again. Also I put the whitewash on the construction, too. Kindly accept my humble gratitude for all the funds you have invested with us. May the rich Lord repay you back with more than a 100-fold!

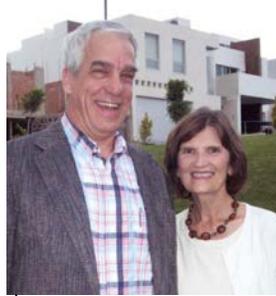
By the grace of God we had a wonderful New Year's 1st Day celebration which is a very big event among the churches in India. We cook food for more than 500 people and gave many new clothes and blankets, etc. The Lord helped us to do so. On that day I also baptized 12 people and it was a great harvest! The bad thing on that is my son Victor has a street dog bite which is very painful and he is under severe treatment now. Please pray for his healing. I am getting very encouraging news from all our associated churches how the Lord did great things for them. Mary, Victor, all our family sending their love and greetings to all of you.

Please continue to pray and support our ministry. May the Lord be with you all throughout this new year and keep you safe and healthy as you are reaching the nations. God bless!

Yours in His service,
Daniel Chittumuri



Pastor Daniel in corner of rebuilt perimeter wall



Christmas Keeps Coming!

Hi,

I trust all is well with you guys. We are fine. We received your Christmas cards on Friday. They were mailed on the 1st and the 8th of

December and arrived on 23 January - not bad! Gotta love the Mexican postal system. Anyway, we enjoy celebrating Christmas for the whole month of January as these cards trickle in. We had already received our report from Southside so we had seen the \$80 from "McLachlan" and assumed it might be from the Sunday School. Please pass along our thanks to all involved. We love how you love us.

If you read this before church please greet the brethren (and sistren) for us. We miss you guys. Also, we would like to come visit you this summer. If we can fit into your schedule, let us know. Let us know how we can serve you. Take care.

Yours by grace, Bruce & Lynda

Naming the Names:

How we say the Bible names on Page 2:

1. Caesar Augustus. 2. Pontius Pilate
3. Abraham 4. Moses 5. David 6. Simon
7. Mary 8. Jesus 9. Joseph 10. Philip
11. Herod 12. Elizabeth 13. John

If you got more than half, you did great!



God Did It! Hamms' Highlights of 2014

February: Only a week after returning to Cameroon, our cluster had its annual planning meetings. Translators, community leaders, and missionaries of the Ndop Plain gathered in Bamenda to report what God had done the year before and make plans for the following year. We were very encouraged to see everyone and rejoice together at what God had been doing and then to work out what next year should look like. Thank you, God, for the encouragement and amazing timing.

March: (Valerie) Another missionary lady and I felt a strong need to meet regularly for Bible study, so I returned from furlough armed with some studies. We began right away and haven't stopped. In fact, two have grown to twelve women and

more, studying God's Word individually and then meeting together weekly (while our kids play outside) to discuss what God is teaching us and questions we have. Thank you God for this incredible blessing that is spreading to include others.

August: (Valerie) I knew this was the year to become more involved in our Bamenda neighborhood. God spoke clearly that He wanted me to start a kid's Bible club for our neighborhood children. I was nervous and fearful of how it would turn out, but I trusted God to do His work. Braving afternoon rains, we started the last week of August and have around twenty children each week for songs, memory verses, Bible stories walking through Genesis, and coloring time. Praise the Lord for new relationships and the honor of telling children about God's great love and plan.

September: (Cam) A linguist's encyclopedia is the Ethnologue, a well-known list of all the world's languages with key information about

each language referenced by academics all over the world. As linguistics coordinator for SIL Cameroon, one of the jobs given to me was to coordinate the updating of the Cameroon section. I worked for several months to collect and organize information from SIL members working here, as well as other scholars who have worked closely with some language communities recently. In all, over 80 language entries had information that was updated. I'm grateful to God for the challenge and strength to complete the updating work. The new edition is set to be published online in February,

Prayer Points:

- For local church leaders to work together to lead the Bible translation project.
- For all denominations to be actively involved in Bible translation in each village.
- For insight and agreement on how to express key biblical terms in each language.

Elders Report

Tuesday, January 6, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

Attendees: Steve McLachlan, Josh McLachlan, Mike Anderson, Knute Hernas, Dion Ricketts

Agenda Items:

Intercessory Prayer

Previous minutes were reviewed and approved.

Pastor's Report:

- The bank transfer for Vicente Reyna is still in progress.
- A letter has been sent to New Tribes Mission in support of the Cains.
- The Baby Bottle drive will start the January 18th.
 - * Satisfactory changes have been made by the leadership at Life Services.
- The Trustee Board has assembled a considerable list with items to fix and are asking if money is available to purchase supplies.
 - * Funding will be discussed at the Quarterly Board Meeting.
- The Commissioning Service has been rescheduled for Jan 11th.
- The Valentines Banquet has been scheduled for February 13th.
- The group of volunteers for Greeters has become very short.
 - * A list of possible candidates was assembled.
- Four sponsor homes for the Ugandan Kids Choir will be needed
- Sean Trostrud and his wife will be invited to TBF soon.

Treasurer's Report:

- General fund has improved as of the end of November
- The mission fund includes approximately \$500 that is intended for Clifford and Rachel Abell.

Youth Pastor's Report:

- The Lock-in went well.
- Youth Group and Youth Leadership have been going well.
- Sunday School is different not having the Junior High kids.
- A Baptism service for the youth is still in the works.
 - * A portable baptismal is available for use.
- Winter Camp will be January 17th - 19th .
- There will be Marshmallow War games for the Youth Group the weekend of January 25th.
- Josh will do the chapel service at CHS on Wednesday, Jan 7th.
- There will be a Youth Group event in the future at Wild Walls.

Old Business:

- Cell groups were discussed.
- The prayer chain phone list was updated .
- No response has been received from Larry Burke in regards to questions about Fred Sena. It is suggesting that his support should be terminated.

New Business:

- Communion message responsibilities were re-delegated.
- Easter services were discussed.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 3, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

Church Funds

12/31/14

Benevolence Fund	958.08
Missionaries Reserve	2,100.00
Missions Fund	1,701.30
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>7,182.84</u>
Total	\$11,942.22

Building Fund	\$222,993.25
Overall Total	\$234,935.47

Valentines Banquet

Valentine's is the 14th, but Friday the 13th is the luck date this year! Bring your sweetie to TBF by 6 pm and join the fun as we share love, laughs, and good food.

We should all feel right at home, because the theme is 'All American,' which includes all of us! As always, we will enjoy playing the Trulywed Game. We will also be introducing a new speaker for the event: Brad "Sugar" Cain!

Bring a wedding picture or some other picture of the two of you. Child care is provided at the church.

For more info, or to rsvp, contact Leslea at 215-0550

Baby Bottles

How are you doing with your baby bottle full of change? If you haven't taken yours yet, pick one up at church, fill it up with change (& other money), and return it to church by Feb 15th. We'll deliver it to Life Services for you.

Last year we gave over \$700 as a church. Let's see if we can't top that this year.

Hosts for Ugandan Children's Choir?

We need four host families for Ugandan children and their chaperones, from May 7th until after church May 10th (Mothers Day). Contact Pastor Steve if you are willing and able to help.

Membership Class?

Let Pastor Steve know if you are interested.



by Josh McLachlan

Youth Stuff

GIVING UP on the HAWKS

The Seattle Seahawks had an impressive win against the Green Bay Packers in the N.F.C. Championship game Jan 18th.

I admit, I *did* quit watching before it was even over, and thus have been labelled a "giver upper" by multiple people. It also resulted in my brother-in-law fleeing from the seat next to me to an entirely different location during my son's birthday party.

What can I say, I *left* the game. Those who persevered through the 5 painful turnovers and were willing to stick with the Seahawks when it looked like all had been lost were rewarded with the comeback of a lifetime!

I can't help but think about this situation in a Biblical way:

Do you give up on God like I gave up on the Seahawks? I knew the Seahawks COULD win, I just didn't think they WOULD win.

I know that God is omnipotent (All-Powerful) but that doesn't mean He will do everything I want when I think he should. Am I willing to trust Him anyway? Am I willing to stick with my faith in God when I flunk the test I studied and prayed for? Am I willing to rely on God, when it doesn't look like my prayers are going to get answered—again? Am I willing to endure in my faith when so many bad things happen around me? When faithful Christians are dying for their faith, and what about when I am the one, being persecuted for my faith? Do I give up on Him, or do I keep walking *with* Him?

Mt. 24:4-13 talks about how all sorts of problems are going to happen (and are happening now). The love of most people *will* grow cold. This means people will choose to walk away from God, take a no-care attitude about him and his word, and even deny him.

Don't be like my "Seahawks fan" impersonation and miss out on the miraculous finish and be labeled a "giver upper on" on God. He *can* and *will* do greater things than we can even imagine!

DON'T GIVE UP ON HIM!

Feb. 22 is Life-Sized Life!



by Robert Boleneus

Blessing

Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings see what God has done. Yes, those are words from a hymn. My mother would touch each of us with her finger while singing that hymn while we were growing up. She was counting us – as blessings. As a small boy I did not “get it,” but I sure do now.

In life we often focus on what others have and miss the blessing that we each have. “Keeping up with the Jones’s.” Or, looking over the fence at “greener pastures.” In the process we miss what we already have. Mom wanted us to know that we were her blessings and that she could touch and count her blessings. I like that, and I often think about how she did that, and I smile.

Even as a local church we often do not see the blessings that we have. Right here at TBF in Davenport, we are

Teachers Corner

blessed. What a blessing to have this little church and the ministry that goes on here, and the relationships and interaction we each can build right here. Sometimes we forget our blessings and envy the mega-church an hour or so drive away. You know what? The mega-church envies the advantages that we have as a small church.

My point in all this is to point out that our Sunday school is a blessing. We have these “small groups” that the large churches want to emulate, and some of them we call Sunday school classes. We have a closeness and interaction that others want. Come get “plugged in” to a group every Sunday morning at 9:15. We would love to have you. It would be a blessing.

Also, note that we have restarted the Jr. High age group taught by Ken and Carol Horner.



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at tbfdavenport@hotmail.com**

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(See Luke 6:31)

01-16-2015

**I'VE BEEN TRYING TO WORK ON DOING TO
OTHERS AS I'D HAVE DONE FOR ME**

Awana

Whether we are enjoying “Mega Night,” or getting ready for “Crazy Hair Night,” or looking forward to Davenport’s biggest banana split, we are making lots of memories, and hiding God’s word in our hearts so we can know God, and understand how he wants us to live.

We just started the second half of the Awana year, and there is still plenty of time to complete your books, invite your friends, and learn about Jesus. This month, we are looking forward to:

Theme nights

- Feb. 4 Crazy Hair Night
- Feb. 11 Love Your Leader Night
- Feb. 18 Presidents Night
- Feb. 25 60 Ft Banana Split Night

AWANA COMMANDER,
Josh McLachlan

Missionary of the Month: Cameron & Valerie Hamm

**Serving Wycliffe Bible Translators
In Cameroon Africa**

February 2015

Women's Ministry Leader: Leslea McCachlan
Group Members: Kristi Bell
Sandy Buchanan
Carol Horner
Carmelyn Choate



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Coffee Fellowship Youth Group 6:30 pm</p> <p><i>Vernon Ross</i></p>	<p>2 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Deaconess Meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>3 Elders Meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>4 BSF 9:45 am Awana 6 pm Crazy Hair Night</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Youth Group 6:30 pm</p>	<p>9 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Youth Leadership 7 pm</p> <p><i>Jackson Falk</i></p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 BSF 9:45 am Awana 6 pm Love Your Leader Night</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Valentine Banquet 6 pm</p>  <p><i>Finn Shumway</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Toni Kay Copeland</i></p>
<p>15 Youth Group 6:30 pm Life Services Baby Bottle Return</p>  <p><i>Tristan Hoffmann</i></p>	<p>16 Men's Coffee 8:30 am</p>	<p>17 Missions Committee Meeting 6:30 pm</p> <p><i>Vicente Reyna</i></p>	<p>18 BSF 9:45 am Awana 6 pm Presidents Night</p>	<p>19</p> <p><i>Linette Vaughn</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Communion/Benevolence Offering Youth Group 'Life Size Life' Game 5 pm</p>	<p>23 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Youth Leadership 7 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Tiffany Abell</i></p>	<p>25 BSF 9:45 am Awana 6 pm 60 ft Banana Split Night</p> <p><i>Jim Buchanan</i> <i>Annie Ricketts</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Tyson Lacy</i> <i>Cindy McDowall</i></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Mike Crowell</i> <i>Carey Falk</i></p>