

# The Trinity Times

March 2015

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## Making Peace with Rahab's Lies

In the book of Joshua, Rahab the harlot lied to protect two Israelite spies. As a reward for this action, she and her family were spared when the walls fell and everyone else was killed. Much later, in the book of Hebrews, Rahab is commended for this action.

*"By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace"* (Heb 12:31).

Over the centuries, this 'faithful lying' of Rahab's has spurred all sorts of debate and possible explanations and justifications for her actions. I thought we'd look at a few and see if we can glean any truth that will be helpful for us.

The first, and by many, preferred answer, is that Rahab sinned when she lied. This is easy, because she lied, and "Thou shalt not lie." (Actually, the commandment says, "*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor*" (Ex 20:16, Deut. 5:20), but it's the same idea.) This viewpoint says Rahab did wrong when she lied, she sinned.

Then she would have betrayed the spies, right? Defenders of this position point to the famous Corrie Ten Boom, who with her family hid Jews from the Nazis during World War II. Convinced that she couldn't lie, when the soldiers came in and demanded she



tell them where the Jews were, panicked and said, "They're under the table!" The soldiers looked lifted the tablecloth, and she was overcome with nervous laughter. Thinking they were the butt of a joke, the soldiers left, never realizing the trap door to the cellar was under the kitchen table. The point – we never have to lie, we can trust God to protect truth-tellers.

Another explanation – one I heard from a military man – is that in a time of war, deceiving the enemy is strategic and right. The fantastically successful US invasion of Iraq in Desert Storm relied partially on deception – the Iraqis bought the lie the invasion was coming from another direction. This is considered good planning.

Applied to Rahab, this was a time of war, and she lied to deceive Israel's enemy. She allied herself with Israel, so her lie at a time of war was good and right.

A third approach to Rahab's lie is that it is the best you could expect of someone with her background. She was raised in Jericho, not in the wilderness with the wandering Israelites. She had never been given such a difficult and unworkable commandment as "Thou shalt not lie." Then, as a new believer, she was put into such a pressure-laden position as to have to figure out what to do when the king's soldiers were before her and the Israelite spies were behind

## 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."

This year's Giant Banana Split was SEVENTY FEET LONG! Fortunately, the kids were up to the challenge, and enjoyed taking about fifteen minutes to polish the thing off. Thanks to all the extra helpers who helped pull this off.

her.

This viewpoint says lying is still wrong; but it is the best you could expect from such a person in such a situation. She did wrong, but did it while going in the direction of doing good.

And, of course, the right answer is...that your guess is as good as mine. But it might be helpful to realize the Bible never actually comments on whether Rahab sinned or not when she lied. What it does do is commend her faith. She was looking at the king's soldiers, and chose the Israelite spies. That action demonstrated faith.

But the real issue as we examine Rahab's lies is not making peace with her lies, but our own. After all, why is the question even relevant to us? If not to say, "This is when it is okay to lie." And I have to wonder why we would even be concerned with the question. Do you expect to be put in a situation where an innocent person's life or death depends on what you say?

I have been in the situation where telling the truth would reveal an innocent person's identity. For example, I might be the bearer of a gift on someone's behalf, to protect their anonymity. (Pastors sometimes do that.) I have learned to smile and say 'no comment.' I am not above rubbing it in that I know but won't tell. I know the

truth but won't tell. I've been in that situation.

I have also been in the situation – I have a less-than-stellar past – of wanting to lie to protect the guilty. The truth would reveal the culprit, and I want to protect the culprit. I've been in that situation.

But I have yet to be in the situation where telling the truth would endanger an innocent person while lying would protect him. I have not been put between those pincers as Rahab was, and don't expect to be.

So why do I want so badly to know if Rahab's lie was okay, unless I'm trying to find some way to justify my own lies. And it won't work. Because I'm not trying to justify lies on God's behalf – and even that phrase sounds stupid – but on my own. And Rahab's lies will never justify my own.

You can try to make peace with Rahab's lies, but do not try to make peace with your own. Rather, make war on them. Hate them; do away with them. Do not wonder if you can lie on God's behalf. On God's behalf, do away with lies.



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## Life Services Sends their Thanks

Dear Friends at Trinity Bible Fellowship,

On behalf of Erika Goetzing, our Development Director, I wanted to give you a quick update on the Life Services' Sanctity of Human Life Baby Bottle Campaign thus far.

Thank you to you and your congregation for your valued participation! It is through your gifts to the ministry that we are able to serve women

in our community who are facing an unplanned pregnancy and struggling with the decision on how to move ahead. Because of you, we are able to be there offering hope and help in the midst of their crises.

With 20 other churches participating along with yours... we have raised \$11,000 thus far, with another round of collection happening next week. Of that amount, your congregation

so graciously gave \$1963.72!

It's not too late to bring in those bottles that might have gotten left behind. So please encourage your congregation to get those in and we will send you the updated totals as we receive the last of the bottles that trickle in.

Thank you!!!  
Roxanne Jenkins



## Heart Talk

by Mark Smith

I think the apostle Paul was someone who liked to stay informed and up-to-date.

Several times in his letters to churches, he asks, "do you not know?"

The tone of such questions implies that they should have known, by the way!

Writing in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 about Jesus' return for His Church at what we call the Rapture, Paul communicates his desire that his readers not be "uninformed" about death and the future resurrection life. Because he wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, it's safe to say that God doesn't want us to be uninformed either.

In that passage of Scripture, God wants us first to understand the reality of death. In fact, it really is a "life and death" matter that we comprehend what the Spirit says about this matter!

Scripture defines death as "separation" and physical death, therefore, is the separation of the real you (spirit and soul) from that which houses it on this earth (body). For the Christian, death is being "*absent from the body, present with the Lord*" (2 Cor. 5:8).

Death wasn't God's original intent for His creation. According to Genesis 2:16-17, it intruded as a punishment for Adam and Eve's rebellion, prompted by Satan, against God's expressed command that they not eat of the forbidden fruit – a test of their love for Him and resulting obedience.

Paul writes in Romans 5:12 that "*sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned*" and, in Romans 6:23, "*the wages of sin is death.*"

But death is not the end of it all – or of personal exist-

ence. There is a future life to come – a destiny for every human being of either everlasting life or eternal separation from God. Physical death marks a transition from one sphere of life to another.

Back in 1 Thess. 4, Paul goes on to explain that our Lord desires us to understand our destiny with the purpose of not grieving when death comes "*as do the rest who have no hope*" (verse 13). Being uninformed reduces the comfort we should experience by virtue of knowing Christ as our Savior (verse 18).

If our loved one who dies is a true believer in Jesus, the assurance of where that person is right now offers encouragement and motivation to keep on living out the Christ-life. That understanding will moderate our grief at a loved one's homegoing.

What we understand begins with what we believe. Paul notes in verse 14 these essentials of our faith: Jesus died (to pay the penalty of our sin). Jesus rose again from the dead (conquering death). Jesus is coming again! Those who have died in Jesus will return with Him.

Encouragement and comfort come from being in the know about these matters. We can have confidence, because it is "*according to the Lord's own word*" (verse 15).

So what will Jesus' return be like? Paul tells us in verses 15-17 that it will be personal ("*the Lord Himself*"), orderly ("*the dead in Christ will rise first ...*"), and it will be the passage into our eternal home with Jesus ("*and so we will be with the Lord forever*").

And, it is imminent; that is, it could occur at any time. Paul himself expected to be included even as he wrote ("*and we who are alive and remain ...*"). That means we need to be ready and prepared!



February 10, 2015

Dear Family and Friends,

We are always giving thanks for you, and for your partnership with us. We are sorry that this is a bit late. It seems there is always something else to do....

In December we had some awesome Christmas parties which included new believers from Muslim backgrounds, as well as those who are still Muslim.

Two Christmas parties were with Iranian families who have just arrived as refugees a few months ago. They have turned from Islam to Jesus. Margo prepared a wonderful meal, and gave the children gifts, and the parents some household gifts, and other useful things as they are trying to get settled. One woman exclaimed that this was her first Christmas gift ever! They were all deeply touched to celebrate Christmas with other believers.

We shared with them many things about our Christmas traditions and how Jesus is at the center of all our celebrations. We also explained that many Canadians follow these same traditions but do not know the Lord. It was a meaningful time of discussion and sharing of the Scriptures.

At the end of our time together we prayed with those who came. On one occasion the husband was so moved by our time together that, as we held hands in a circle to pray, he gripped my hand so hard that the blood stopped flowing. I thought to myself, "he won't maintain this hard, squeezing grip for our whole prayer time!" Each person around the circle prayed. Over 20 minutes later he was still gripping my hand as hard as ever, which had turned white.

I was silently praying for my hand! :-)

After the prayer time was over he let go, and we did the normal thing of going around and hugging everyone good bye, seeing them to the door, and waiting until they got in their cars and drove away.

During that time of leave taking, I was shaking my hand and attempting to massage the blood back into it!

How these people long for, and rejoice over loving fellowship. It is wonderful to see the love they have found through their Savior Jesus. When we pray together we sense His presence as He ministers to our hearts.

Please continue to pray for these 'newcomers' to Canada. They face many challenges. We rejoice that they have been granted refugee status and can feel safe here as Christians. Prayer is needed for their ongoing discipleship. (Ahmad & Dina are discipling 2 of the families, and are preparing them for baptism.)

Pray also for one young man who was led to the Lord last summer by Masoud. You will remember him as 'Mustafa'. He returned home to his country, but then came back a couple of weeks ago to Canada. He is living with us here in the Shalom House, and getting some discipleship. He also has many challenges. Please pray for his growth in the Lord.

love to you all,

Randy and Margo



Bruce & Lynda, with their son and his family, and a giraffe, in Mexico.

Hello Dear Friends,

It's been a while so we thought we would try to get a letter out. God has been so good, giving wisdom, guidance and strength just when we needed it.

It is hard to comprehend how fast this school year is flying by. We sought the Lord concerning returning for the 2015-2016 school year and God seems to be directing us to continue on here for the coming year. When we returned to Puebla we both felt the Lord impressing on our hearts that it would be for a "missionary

term" which is generally four years. We will complete four school years in June 2016. We know God will open the doors where He wants us to be, as He always has. Please pray for our hearts to always be open to God's leading and direction.

Spring has sprung here in Puebla, we've gone over 80 degrees, the spring winds are blowing towards Puebla bringing lots of ash from Popo, flowers are blooming everywhere, and lots of germs being spread around. Bruce got over the cold he had and now is fighting allergies. Lynda had a little stomach bug which, unfortunately, came when we were getting ready to go on a teacher retreat last week end. She is well now and we are praying that we will both stay well as we head into Puebla Spiritual Emphasis camp, which starts Saturday, Feb. 28 and goes through Friday, Mar.6th. Please pray for the students and the staff who will attend Spiritual Emphasis Camp next week.

The Lord willing, we hope to be

in the Northwest for most of the summer. Our time there was short last summer since we came back early to assist a mission team. It is our desire to visit all of our supporters and many friends this summer. Please let us know if you would like to schedule us to visit your church.

Thank you for standing with us in the gap, through your faithful prayers and financial support. We thank the Lord for blessing us by your faithfulness to Him and to us. *"Now, all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into His glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to Him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ Our Lord."* Jude 25

By grace alone,  
Bruce and Lynda

If you would like to read more of this letter, contact Pastor Steve for a copy

## Elders Report

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

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

Agenda Items:

Intercessory Prayer:

Minutes were read and approved.

Pastor's Report:

- LeVance Reed has asked if scholarship funds could be used to purchase a copy of the Logos program for use in his studies at Moody. Approved.
- Due to changes in healthcare laws, Steve must now pay for his insurance coverage rather than the church paying it. That amount has been added to his salary. It's not clear if the increase in income will mean an additional increase in the cost of his insurance.
- If no one volunteers to host the Ugandan Children's Choir soon, the visit will need to be canceled so the choir has time to change their plans.

Youth Pastor's Report:

- There were 24 kids at the Marshmallow War games and lots of fun was had.
- A Life Size Game of Life is planned for February 22nd. Steve will give the message at the Game of Life. Josh will give the sermon that morning during the Sunday service.
- The Youth Leadership mission trip is scheduled for June 29th through July 3rd. The group will go to Northport again for VBS. The Valentines Banquet will be a fund raiser for this trip.

Treasurer's Report:

- The General Fund has dropped approximately \$2000 .

Old Business:

- We are trying to send support to Vicente Reyna via Western Union. When a transfer of a small amount has been completed the balance will follow.
- The Trustees were instructed to use money donated in the form of wheat as funding for current projects, but there is question as to whether or not it was directed to be used for missions.
- Sunday Greeters still in progress. Jeremy and Lexine Eaton greeted the Sunday before.
- A visit from Sean Trostrud and his wife is still pending.
- The Neighbor's ad has been submitted.
- A date for the Golf Fiasco is still pending.

New Business:

- This year's Men's Rendezvous planning will begin soon. Mike will ask for volunteers to help with planning.
- A discussion about the Constitution was started and will continue at a later meeting.

## Church Funds

1/31/14

Benevolence Fund	998.08
Missionaries Reserve	2,100.00
Missions Fund	601.30
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>\$20,297.63</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$23,997.01</u>

Building Fund	\$222,039.96
Overall Total	\$246,036.97

### Talent Show!

It's time to put shyness in the closet and bring out your inner celebrity—the Second Annual TBFTalent Show is scheduled for after church, Sunday afternoon, March 15th. Song, dance, poetry, art, chainsaw juggling; whatever it is, bring out your talent and share it with the rest of us!

There is also a pot-luck dinner before the talent show. Bring something to share with us then as well!

### Meet Sean and Becca!

Sean and Becca Trostrud are the new North Idaho/Eastern Washington youth missionaries with InFaith; and the new Program Directors at Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp. They are joining us Sunday, March 1st, to introduce themselves. Be sure to be here that day, and bring something desertish to share with all of us after church!

### New Ladies Bible Study

Joan McLachlan will be teaching a ladies Bible study on Elijah at her house, starting Tuesday, March 3rd. The study is scheduled from 10—11:30. Moms are encouraged to bring their little ones.

Contact Joan for info at 725-1832.

### CHS Auction

The 25th Annual Auction to benefit Christian Heritage School is set for Saturday, March 14. Get a good deal and support the school. Fliers are available at church.



by Josh McLachlan

## Youth Stuff

“Life is like...”

That was the opening lines of Pastor's Steve's lesson for the Youth Group kids Feb. 23 right before they played the “Game of LIFE”. The kids were all given a chance to answer, but soon discovered the right

answer of...“an obstacle course”.

In real life, we daily face situations that we weren't expecting. For example, we may get hurt on the basketball court, or score poorly on a test. The obstacles in my life might be drastically different from the obstacles in your life, but we all face obstacles.

Jesus doesn't intend us to face those obstacles alone. He knows how you feel. He may not have gone through your exact situation but when he came down to earth, He experiences the same types of situations we experience. Heb. 2:14-18 talks about how Jesus lived as man on this earth so He could help us. Jesus knows what is like to be

alone, sad, and scared. He knows what it is like to be frustrated. Jesus also knows what it is like to be happy as a clam, and even have the desire to steal in order to get something He feels he needs. Jesus is there for us when we face obstacles and fall flat on our face, and He is there to help us succeed. The next time you are facing an obstacle in your life, go to Jesus and ask Him to help you. He will give you mercy and grace in your time of need. (Heb. 4:16)

P.S. “Game of LIFE” winners: Austin and William

Up and Coming:

**Wild Walls Birthday party** for everyone!

Cost: \$8

Sign up by March 15<sup>th</sup> to reserve your spot!

Youth Pastor,

Josh McLachlan

“Reach them to Teach them” “Teach them to Reach them”



by Robert Boleneus

### Scapegoat

An advertisement on TV with a goat eating peanut butter on a conveyor belt got me thinking about working with others once a problem arose.

Once we had a mess and did not know who to blame. One of the workers turned to another and said, "This is not your fault, but we are going to blame you." I have used that line from time to time with those who have worked for me on my farm. It is fun to see the reaction, and then remind them that it is not their fault.

I have noticed that none of us ever want to except blame even when it *is* our fault. It seems to be easy to blame our problems on someone else. Recently, I have heard comments like, "You made me do it."

# Teachers Corner

And, "Things would have been better if you would have just done what I wanted." One of the hardest things for each of us to do is accept blame for what we have done.

John the Baptist was "making a way" for the one who came after, and what he preached was repentance. It is an important step in the Christian Life and it is ongoing. John asks us to repent of our sin, and Jesus accepts our "fault" and becomes our "scapegoat" even though He is blameless.

**Teachers:** I want to thank all of those who have been teaching Sunday school, and I would like to ask if there is anyone who might like to teach a children's class as a sub or for the Summer.



Trinity Bible Fellowship  
P.O. Box 853  
Davenport, WA. 99122



Spring Forward March 8th!

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02-23-2015

Prefer to get your Newsletter by email? We can do that! Contact the church office at [tbfdavenport@hotmail.com](mailto:tbfdavenport@hotmail.com)

### AWANA

What can we say, the **60 ft. Banana Split** was a lot of fun! We had extra kids to help us eat the extra ice-cream. Thanks to all our volunteers in the setting up, dishing up, and cleaning up of the ice cream fun!

Theme nights for March:

- March 4 Uniform Inspection Night
- March 11 Come as a Family Member
- March 18 Sports Night
- March 25 Wacky Sock Night
- April 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Prix

Kits for the Grand Prix are available now from the Awana secretaries for \$3.00. Clubbers, Leaders, and Trekkers are eligible for this competition. Clubbers compete only against other Clubbers, Trek competes against Trekkers and Leaders. Sparks and Cubbies bring their best Hot Wheels® or Matchbox® cars.

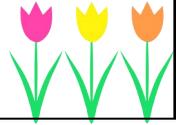
Commander Josh

Missionaries of the Month:  
 Randy & Laura Damschen  
 Serving with New Tribes Mission



# March 2015

Women's Ministry Leader: Sandy Buchanan  
 Group Members: Lori Rieth  
 Tiffany Abell  
 Debbie Beckstrom  
 Brenda Victor  
 Sparky Erickson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Sean &amp; Becca Trostrud            Visit TBF—Dessert Potluck            Youth Group 6:30 pm</p> <p>Krissi Bell            Josh &amp; Leslea McLachlan</p>	<p>2 Men's Coffee 8:30 am</p>	<p>3 Ladies Bible Study 10 am            Elders 6 pm</p>	<p>4 BSF 9:45 am            Awana 6—8 pm            Uniform Inspection Night</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7             Robert Boleneus            Brandon Dodge</p>
<p>8 Daylight Savings Time            Begins SPRING FORWARD            Youth Group 6:30 pm</p>  <p>Harriet Denson            Randy &amp; Lynne Anderson</p>	<p>9 Men's Coffee 8:30 am            Youth Leadership 7 pm</p>	<p>10 Ladies Bible Study 10 am            VBS Meeting 6:30 pm</p>	<p>11 BSF 9:45 am            Awana 6—8 pm            Come as a Family Member</p> <p>John Regan            Robert Abell</p>	<p>12</p>	<p><b>CLBC Quilt Camp March 13 &amp; 14</b>            Kurt Elledge            Maryann Scheiffele</p>	
<p>15 TBF Talent Show &amp; Potluck            Youth Group 6:30 pm</p> <p>Fred &amp; Mary Bell</p>	<p>16 Men's Coffee 8:30 am            Deaconess Meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>17 Ladies Bible Study 10 am            Missions Committee, 6:30 pm</p> <p>Dick Wandling</p>	<p>18 BSF 9:45            Awana 6—8 pm            Sports Night</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20             Justin Regan</p>	<p>21 Grand Prix Clinic 9—n</p>
<p>22 Youth Group 6:30 pm</p> <p>Wanda Bowman            Jude Falk            Ken &amp; Allyson Morrison</p>	<p>23 Men's Coffee 8:30 am            Youth Leadership 7 pm</p>	<p>24 Ladies Bible Study 10 am</p> <p>Raleigh Beckstrom</p>	<p>25 BSF 9:45 am            Awana 6—8 pm            Wacky Sock Night</p> <p>Denise Wollweber</p>	<p>26             Madison Tarbert            Justin Vaughn</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Wild Walls Birthday            Party 1 pm</p>
<p>29 Communion/Benevolence            Offering            Youth Group 6:30 pm</p>	<p>30 Men's Coffee 8:30 am</p> <p>Lexine Eaton</p>	<p>31 Ladies Bible Study 10 am</p> <p>Victoria Cain</p>				