

The Trinity Times

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The Church's Busy Season

It may sound odd for a pastor to advise people not to pay too much attention to certain parts of the Bible, but there are a couple of books you want to be careful with. Job's friends, for instance, when they're advising him, share some bad theology. It's important that they do, because at least one of the purposes of that book is to reveal it as bad theology. But if you don't realize that and just read their comments, you could walk away confused and confusing.

The book of Ecclesiastes is similar. The repeated statement "*under the sun*" reveals its perspective. The purpose of the book – or one of its purposes – is to show the pointlessness of life if what is under the sun is all there is. The book opens with "*Vanity of vanities*" because life under the sun is purposeless, and ends with: "*The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments.*" Meaning you find meaning when you look beyond what is under the sun.

I say all this just to let you know I'll be working from Ecclesiastes in this article. Probably the second-most well-known passage of Ecclesiastes, after "*Vanity, vanity, all is vanity*" is the '*To everything there is a season*' passage. Some of us remember well the song "Turn, Turn, Turn" made



popular by the Byrds in the '60's. Most of the song is simply the words of this passage with the words "turn, turn, turn" thrown in repeatedly.

"*There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven – A time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted. A time to kill and a time to heal;...*" You can read the rest in Ecclesiastes 3. This may be wisdom garnered under the sun, but it is clearly true. Some actions that are right at one time are improper at another.

What motivated me to write on this subject is timing. I'm writing this in August—before vacation—for September—after vacation. These are two such radically different times for the church, placed so closely together. August is typically the slowest month of the Church year. Camping is mostly over, though we've got the three-day family camp coming up at Cocolalla. Most of the Vacation Bible School art and props are down. I just took down the 'bars' from Joan's classroom – no longer Paul and Silas's prison. Summer ministry is down to minimum. A good number of people are about to jump full-speed into harvest for the busiest time of their year. Others (like me) are about to jump into vacation for (hopefully) the un-busiest time of the year. But aside from some planning, what we're not busy about is

Photo of the Month



Eric Laflin brings daughter Melanie out of the water after baptizing her in the Spokane River by the Hernas' cabin last month.

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

church.

In September, however, we take the church out of idle and start running through the gears. Awana is a big one (see the article on the back page), Bible studies start back up, I'll be offering a new Membership class, Mark & I are talking about the Bible Institute for this year, and Youth Group and Youth Leadership roll back into action. Monday Night Chili starts up again on September 9th. No, it's not a burden; but it is another thing on the schedule. The TBF Women's Retreat is set for September 20-21. The Young Married's class is also preparing to start back up. And then we've got some new things, too, as Awana is adding Junior and Senior High ministry to its portfolio. And – are you ready for this? – we'll start planning for Christmas.

Does that look like a lot? Maybe, but it's actually our normal state of affairs. Summer is our time to slow down and specialize. Fall is our time to gear up and get busy. With this in mind, I hope that you found rest in your summer. It is good to be refreshed before a busy season of work. I hope that you are viewing the coming year with excitement for the opportunity and not dread of the burden. If it does feel oppressive to you, I suggest you consider doing less. Otherwise, enjoy the excitement.

There's more we need to consider from this passage of Ecclesiastes, though. Solomon followed this famous poem first with a dreary conclusion: "*What profit is there to*

the worker from that which he toils?" He looks at it all, and asks; What's the point? If I work to heal, someone will kill. If I work to build, someone will tear down. If I make peace, someone will make war. Even birth only ends in death. So why bother? This is not good news! It is bad news! Everything we do makes no difference. Under the sun.

Fortunately for us, Solomon gave a second conclusion that reveals hope. "*He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart.*" The magic of Ecclesiastes is what it reveals – that life under the sun is useless if lived for the sake of life under the sun; but life under the sun lived with eternity in mind takes on tremendous meaning and value. In this world, the end of everything is the same. It is temporary, its end is destruction. But in the eternity which He has placed in our hearts, what we do makes a difference.

If you are looking ahead with excitement to the opportunities of this coming year – and I hope you are – remember these are not just opportunities to do good for now, but for all eternity. God gives you a season of activity, and it is activity that matters.



Josh & Kim's Farewell

As many of you may know, we are leaving at the end of the summer.

You may be thinking, what is your plan? We are planning to move to the Kirkland, Washington area to go to school.

As I am thinking about this and getting ready to go I want to thank everyone

at Trinity Bible Fellowship for the 6 and a half years that I have been here. It has been a blessing to work with the church, and the youth in youth group, youth leadership, and Awana.

My thought goes to what the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3-6, "*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your*

partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

I wish you all well and I will continually be praying for all of you. In the words of Walt Disney, 'Good bye may seem forever. Farewell is like the end, but in my heart is the memory and there you will always be.'



Heart Talk

by Mark Smith

How do you respond when God works differently than how you'd like? What do you do when God's way isn't yours – when you don't get what you want and perhaps think you deserve from God and from life in

general?

As a youngster, so my parents told me long ago, one of my favorite participatory sports was pouting – sticking out that lower lip – when I didn't get my way. Since it lingered in their memories, I must have done it a lot! These days, I'm sure I've applied some adult sophistication (I "pout" on the inside) when things don't go according to *my* plan.

Scripture proclaims that "God's ways are not our ways" (Isaiah 55:8-9), that the direction He's going probably will clash with mine. When that happens (a lot), my natural response is to get mad at God, to pout and become complacent in my relationship and service for Him.

I'm comforted (to a point) that I'm not the only one like this, even among those we meet in Scripture. Moses was beleaguered by the pressure of leading God's people. David was perplexed about God's response to his trying to do a spiritual thing, just not as God wanted it done. Elijah had expectations that were *too high* – he thought *everyone* would get right with God on Mt. Carmel.

Jonah, on the other hand, had expectations that were *too low* – he didn't expect (or desire) *anyone* to get saved! He became the pouting prophet.

Jonah was told to preach to the people of Nineveh, the

capital city of godless Assyria. He went the *opposite* direction. God intervened, transporting Jonah in the great fish back to the road *to* Nineveh. Arriving, he preached judgment, which brought repentance and God's compassionate provision of grace.

That made Jonah mad! Nineveh was Israel's enemy. People there weren't supposed to get saved, but be blasted to bits! When they were spared, Jonah became upset. How he thought God should act was far different than how God does.

Jonah reasoned that a just, loving (towards Israel) and powerful God should follow these rules: Reward those who do good; punish those who do evil. But those are our rules, not His.

So the prophet goes off to pout. God asks, "Have you any right to be angry?" No response. The Lord provides a vine to give shade for Jonah, then a worm to cause it to wither! When God inquires again, the prophet responds, "I do. I am angry enough to die."

The Lord rebukes his man at that point, declaring he cared more for a *plant* (for which he had not worked) than the *people* to whom he worked hard to bring God's message. His temporary comfort became more important than eternal souls.

That's what happens when we pout, whether on the outside or inside. The solution (we're not certain from Scripture whether Jonah ever got it) is to find out from God's Word what He thinks and how He acts, square our thoughts and will with His, and have our "joy in serving Jesus" restored.



Meet Vicente Reyna

Vicente Reyna, with his wife Maria de la Luz, pastors a church in Los Adobes Village in the state of Nueva Leon, Mexico. He is not a missionary, but a Mexican national pastoring a church in his home town. Vicente and Maria have four adult children: Eunice, Alma Lidya, Pedro, and Luz Maria. All of them are married with children of their own.

Trinity Bible Fellowship has supported Vicente's work since 1984. Our first connection with Vicente is somewhat confusing. Larry Gullings, TBF pastor at that time had a friend – Ranulfo Reyes – who was involved in ministry to migrant workers in Idaho. Ranulfo Reyes was visited by a friend – Jesus 'Chuy' Garcia – who was a missionary working in Mexico. Chuy mentioned a pastor he knew in Mexico who needed some financial assistance. Trinity Bible Fellowship then took him on as our third missionary – our first outside of the US. In 1984 we sent him a gift of \$190, and by 1986 we were sending him \$75 monthly. Today we support Vicente's work with \$220/month (I think).

Over the years, in addition to regular support, we have helped Vicente's ministry in other ways. In the early '90's we sent money to help with the cost of a church building. In early 2004, four of our men (Robert Boleneus, Greg Bowman, Richard Hayes, and Pastor Steve) took Bruce Morock as a translator and visited Vicente while installing an insulated ceiling in the church, which prior to that had only a metal roof. In the summer of 2005 we sent several people – youth and adults – to work



Vicente's study, early 90's



Vicente behind his pulpit, '04

with Vicente. We put on Vacation Bible Schools in Los Adobes Village and the nearby city of Allende, and built picnic bench-like pews for Vicente's church. Knute Hernas offered his dental skills as he set up a free clinic in Vicente's house. There is a photo collage of this trip hanging

in the church office.

In addition to Sunday morning preaching at Los Adobes Village, Vicente sometimes fills in at a larger church in Allende, pastored by his daughter's father-in-law. He conducts Bible studies in homes, holds prayer meetings for the community, and volunteers at Camp Peniel.

Currently, the church is becoming overcrowded, and they are seeking the means to expand.



Bruce Morock speaking with Vicente in front of Pedro's house. Vicente's house in background.



Our crew, 2005.



From the

McDowall Messenger

(Summer, 2013)

Circuit Riding Preacher

People often ask me what I do as a missionary. One of the privileges of this ministry is that I get to travel around and preach at different churches, sometimes traveling a hundred miles one way to give a sermon. One hundred-fifty years ago, the In-Faith missionary would ride his horse from church to church. Thankfully, I ride in my car.

A pastor might be on vacation or sick, a church may be in-between pastors, or they may want a speaker for a Bible study or special event. Then I get a call. Since March, I have preached at least once at each of these churches: Blanchard Communi-

ty Church, Calvary Spokane, Crossroads Community Church, Calvary Chapel Newport, Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp, Cottage Fellowship Chewelah, Valley Bible Church, and Chewelah Evangelical Free Church. Twice in July I will be preaching at Rice Community Church and Lake Roosevelt Bible Church. I am thankful for Cindy's company as she travels with me to each of these places and we say hello to all the wonderful people.

God's Provision

In Our winter newsletter, we mentioned that our roof was wearing out. We praise God for answered prayer. Grace Church and Crossroads Community Church provided the finances and the work crew to replace our roof.

At 7 am, shingles started flying. In one hour the old roof was off. The repairs were made and the new roof was put on by 3 pm. God even held

back a powerful rain storm until the last of the tools were picked up. We are humbled by God's blessing and the faithfulness and generosity of His people.

Israel

We have had a request for us to host a teaching tour to Israel this winter. We need a minimum group of approximately sixteen to make this possible. Please contact me if you are interested.

We are humbled each day that God has allowed us the privilege to be in full-time missionary service. Through God's call on your life to support missions, you make this possible. Please be encouraged that each soul saved, each life touched by the grace of God is credited to your account. This is a partnership and we earnestly thank you for your involvement.

Elders Report

August Elder's Meeting

DATE: 9 Aug 2013

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

AGENDA ITEMS

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

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Steve informed us that the candidate we were considering for the Youth Pastor position will probably take another job elsewhere.
- We discussed various options for handling the Youth Pastor's responsibilities within the congregation until the position is filled.
- We will be conducting five baptisms on Sunday, the 11th of August at the Hernas' lake cabin.
- There will be going away Potluck for Josh and Kim Cooper at the Hernas' cabin following the baptisms.
- Cocolalla Family Camp is 16-18 August. Pastor Steve will be speaking.

Old Business:

- Pastor Steve and Joan are still looking into possible sabbatical options. They are leaning toward taking a trip to the Holy Land on a tour led by Robert McDowell, and are hopeful other members of TBF would go with them. More information will follow as the details emerge.
- The building program seems slow but is proceeding well. Volunteers have dug the trench to move the power service and we are expecting a new power pole to be set any day now.

New Business:

- Dave Fitzpatrick briefed everyone on two outreach ministries he is involved in, the Martin Hall Juvenile ministry, and the local Jail Ministry. Both activities provide Christian witness and literature to individuals in trouble with the law. Dave explained the details of both ministries and what his expenses were to run them.
- Due to time constraints, we had to table the matter before reaching a final decision on how to best support him, but we will reengage in the near future.
- We briefly discussed the progress of the Nominating Committee which is proceeding well, with no anticipated problems.
- Elder Responsibilities. We continued a discussion brought up at the last Quarterly Board Meeting on expanding the Elder's responsibilities to better serve the congregation
- The question came up about whether members of the congregation or others can present Sunday Service Sermons at TBF. The answer is that our policy at TBF is that speaking from the pulpit is by invitation only.

Next Meeting: 6 September, 2013

Church Funds

Not available this month

Now is a good time to buy supplies for Operation Christmas Child—things like school supplies, children's clothing, small toys, etc.

While you are out school shopping, pick up an extra box of crayons



Membership Class

Pastor Steve would like to start a new membership class in the near future. Normally, these are held on Sunday evenings, but the schedule can be adapted to fit the needs of the class.

There are usually about six sessions, lasting about 1 1/2 hours each. In membership class, you learn the history of TBF, our beliefs, and how we function.

Why bother? For some, the simple answer is, "I want to belong." For others, there is the greater level of participation you can have (serve on boards & committees). Perhaps the simplest reason is, you have to be a member to have a vote that counts.

Please contact Pastor Steve if you'd like to attend this class.

Monday Night Football!



The first night is set: A double-header at Dave Fitzpatrick's house on September 9th. Chili by Steve, wings by Dave. Pop and munchies by everyone else. Devotions at half time with participation by everyone.

Make your picks (Redskins in game one, Texans in the second or mine) eat good food, enjoy the company—such as it is—and have a great time.

Youth Stuff

Youth Group by Committee!

If you think we're going to let a little thing like not having a Youth Pastor yet stop us, you'd better think again! Pastor Steve will be working with a committee of adult volunteers to make sure meetings are fun, lessons are good, and food (favoring tasty over healthy) is served.

Our first night is September 8, 6:30—8. Call if you need a ride.

Youth Leadership

We are still working out details and dates for Youth Leadership. It looks like this year we will be combining the Awana Trek and Varsity programs with YL. The two programs complement each other very well.

Youth Leadership is a discipleship program for kids in 7th—12th grades. Bible study is deeper, and expectations are greater. This program is not designed to reach the lost, but to develop the saved.

Benefits of Youth Leadership? Discipleship is its own

reward, but there is more. Being in YL allows (but doesn't require) you to go on Mission Trip and/or work at Cocolalla.

Not sure its for you? YL might not sound fun, and might sound intimidating. That's ok. You can still try it and see what you think. You can even come and not do the extra work! If you don't do the work, you won't be able to do Mission Trip or Camp, but you might still like the group.

Special Events

The **Spokavenger Hunt!** Join us on Sunday the 22, as we follow directions to you places of interest in Spokane. The rules are simple—kids are divided into car-size teams and given the same list of things to find. Drivers follow directions to the various items on the list.

Note: your driver is not on your side! He/she may not speed, break any traffic laws, or help you.

Whoever completes the most tasks in the time allotted wins.



The Law of the Learner

It could have been yours... the door prize given away at our Sunday School Teachers meeting Aug. 4. Mike Anderson was this meeting's winner. Will you be next?

by Josh McLachlan This class talked about law #2, "The law of the learner." For everyone who thinks the learner should be the one to read this, keep reading. When teaching your students, remember to teach in such a way that you engage them in the learning process. Telling them what they need to hear is important, but remember to help them learn it as if they discovered the truth for themselves.

If you are having trouble maintaining order in your class, try something more on the surprising or shocking side; show an unexpected picture illustrating what you are teaching, or give a sudden noise, or a sudden pause. Use something unanticipated to teach your biblical truths. It will both regain their attention, and also help them to remember the lesson better.

Teachers Corner

Another way to keep your students attention is to let them talk about what they are learning from you. Give them a chance to say what they think, or why something may have happened in a lesson even if the passage doesn't give the explicit answer.

If you would like any examples of how these ideas work, or any tips on how to do this, please don't hesitate to talk to me. I would love to help.



Thanks for your hard work,
Josh McLachlan



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Welcome back to Awana!

We are excited for the New Year and hope you can join us. We are planning on having an Awana leaders meeting Sept. 4 at 6:30. We are asking that every person working in Awana attend. We will be discussing important dates and topics as well as handing out important information.

Kids remember to come and invite your friends! Awana starts at 6pm and we hope you come!

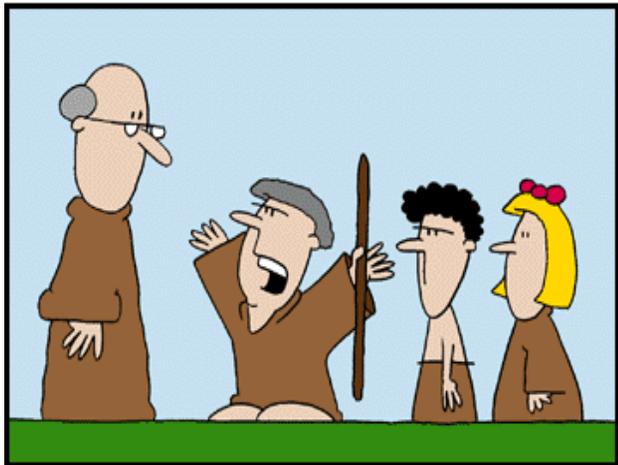
Special September Nights:

- Sept. 4 Awana Leaders Meeting
- Sept. 11 Come As You Are Night
- Sept. 18 Team Color Night
- Sept. 25 Wild Hat Night

Future events include the Awana Workers Conference Oct. 5th.

Look for news about the Awana Jogathon Fundraiser in October.

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(See Exodus 7-12) 12-11-1997
LET MY PEOPLE GO TO RECESS OR A GREAT PLAGUE SHALL FALL UPON THIS SCHOOL

Missionary of the Month: Vicente & Maria Reyna



Serving in Allende Mexico

September 2013

Women's Ministry Leader: Sandy Buchanan

Group Members: Joan Wintersteen
Lorie Wandling
Joan McLachlan
Kristi Bell
Allyson Morrison



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Coffee Fellowship Josh McLachlan Speaking</p> <p>Bryan & Kristi Morris</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Carol Horner</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Awana Leaders Meeting 6:30 pm</p> <p>Joshua Walker</p>	<p>5 Worship Team Practice</p>	<p>6 Elder's Meeting</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Youth Group 6:30 pm</p> <p>Deanna Fitzpatrick David Payne Sarah Sweetser</p>	<p>9 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Monday Night Football/Chili Mission Committee Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Awana 6:00 pm Come As You Are Night</p> <p>Cam Hamm</p>	<p>12 Worship Team Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Jonathan Regan Laurel Victor</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Verneta Carstens Lynda Morock</p>
<p>15 Youth Group 6:30 pm</p> <p>Daxton Sewall</p>	<p>16 Men's Coffee 3:30 am Monday Night Football/Chili</p> <p>Jill Knittel Richard Hayes</p>	<p>17 M & M's 6 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm</p> <p>Megan Hayes</p>	<p>18 Awana 6:00 pm Team Color Night</p> <p>Valerie Hamm</p>	<p>19 Worship Team Practice</p>	<p>20</p> <p>TBF Women's Retreat September 20 & 21 Randy Hoffmann Katarina Knittel</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Wendy Cronrath</p>
<p>22 YG Spokavenger Hunt</p> <p>Trevor Laflin</p>	<p>23 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Monday Night Football/Chili Youth Leadership 7 pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Awana 6 pm Wild Hat Night</p> <p>Ken Morrison</p>	<p>26 Worship Team Practice</p> <p>Lane Sewall Brenda Victor</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Cay Payne</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Communion/Benevolence Youth Group 6:30 pm</p> <p>Elizabeth Bell</p>	<p>30 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Monday Night Football/Chili</p> <p>Josh McLachlan</p>					