



# The Trinity Times

October 2014

1101 First St.  
P.O. Box 853  
Davenport, WA. 99122  
(509) 725-3270  
tbfdavenport@hotmail.com  
www.tbf.church

Steve McLachlan, Pastor  
(509) 725-1832  
prchr\_steve@hotmail.com

Josh McLachlan, Youth Pastor  
(509) 215-0554  
joshuamac@yahoo.com

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## The Last Pieces of the Puzzle

Jigsaw puzzles were not an uncommon thing in my home as I grew up. I guess that's because video games hadn't been invented yet, so they needed something else for bored kids. A box of pieces would be tipped out on the table or floor, and a systematic process would ensue. All pieces were turned face up, and outside pieces were pulled aside and put together first. It is always easier to put pieces inside once the frame is there. Kids would work a while and then wander off, but there were enough of us that puzzles were rarely left completely unattended. As the puzzle neared completion, though, the puzzle became more crowded. There is something exciting and compelling about a puzzle coming together. It was also common for more than one of us to hide a piece so we could claim the honor of putting in the last one, but that's another story.

In my adult Sunday School class, we've spent the last few weeks looking at the Battle of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38 & 39). We've pulled in pieces from Daniel, Matthew, 1 & 2 Thessalonians and Revelation. We've been trying to discern who the players are, what will happen, and, perhaps most significantly, when it will happen. For some of us, studying prophecy is its own reward. This is a great



puzzle, and we enjoy seeing how the pieces fit together. For others with a more practical frame of mind, the question remains, Why study this? When you're done, you've got a puzzle that does nothing.

There is a growing sense of fulfilled prophecy in our time, however, and it should change the way we behave. The first thing we see is that we are supposed to be watching. *"Now learn the parable from the fig tree,"* Jesus said. *"When its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know summer is near; so, you too, when you see these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door"* (Matt 24:32-33). A little later, He adds, *"Therefore, be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming."* This is followed by the warning of how the homeowner would not have been taken by surprise if he watched at the right time. This is followed again by *"For this reason, you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will."* 1 Thessalonians gives the same word picture, then declares, *"But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief"* (1 Thess 5:4).

Still, God does not tell us to watch simply so we will know and not be surprised. In fact, I think He will particularly displeased if we are able to say, "I

## Photo of the Month



Can you say "Hat Night" at Awana? These Sparkies could, and were among many sporting fascinating headwear. For more special nights see the back page.

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

saw it coming,” but He finds us doing little more than watching. I also think it is dishonoring to Him if we see it coming and so take steps to survive it. Seeing the end approach should motivate us to ministry, not self-preservation.

1 Thessalonians calls us to action in almost boring terms. “So then, let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober...let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation” (1 Thess 5:6,8).

Matthew records Jesus being far more extensive in His application; yet still His call is not for dramatic action, but faithfulness. First, in Matthew 24:45-51, Jesus speaks of those God has entrusted with responsibility. Many will choose to act as if His long absence means He never will return; and they will have no need to give account of themselves. Their punishment will be severe. How does He describe the servant He is pleased with? “Faithful and sensible” (24:45).

Jesus’ next parable is of the ten virgins, five wise and five foolish. The wise were “prudent,” and had oil for their lamps. The foolish had none, and no time to acquire it. Simply put, they knew they were supposed to greet the bridegroom someday, but were not prepared when the time came.

Third is the parable of the Talents (25:14 – 29). All the Master’s servants were entrusted with something. Some worked faithfully, knowing they would someday be called to give an account. Some ignored what the Master

had given them. They looked to their own affairs. If they were ever called to report, they could give Him back what is His. It will not go well for them.

Finally, there is the prediction of the judgment of nations, also called the sheep and goats judgment. People will be divided and judged on the simple basis of how they treated “The least of these brothers of Mine.”

Very consistent through all these is the need to live faithfully now. We don’t know when He’s coming, so be faithful now. If we are living faithfully now, and He returns now, we’re ready. And if He comes in thirty years and finds us living faithfully then, He finds us ready. So if the message is always “Be ready now,” why bother with prophecy? Why not just proclaim be ready now? I think the answer is that we need the reminder. Life in the present can be demanding and can easily intrude on our priorities. Prophecy is our reminder that we really will have to give an accounting for ourselves, and we want to be ready when that day comes.

Besides, it’s exciting when you see the final pieces of the puzzle falling into place. We are put on this planet for such a time as this. When He returns, let Him find us working, and let Him find us watching.



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## Christmas Program, Anyone?



Set in late 1941, **I'll Be Home for Christmas** is the story of the faith of a family, and a nation on the brink of World War II, preparing to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. Most of the action takes place in the main characters' home, with the choir providing music and drama as it is broadcast over the family radio.

TBF will be performing this play on Fri, Dec 19 and Sat, Dec 20 at 6:30 pm. Rehearsals begin on Thursdays, starting October 2 at 7:30 (worship practice time changes from 6:30 to 6 pm). Both drama and choir practice will practice at the same time with drama in a back Sunday school room.



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## Heart Talk

by Mark Smith

“Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment,” James says in Chapter 3 of his letter.

That little exhortation brings a measure of fear into my consciousness, yet that anxiety hasn’t prevented me from responding to God’s call to be a teacher of His Word. But I teach with the sober awareness that I’m handling just that – His Word, communicating His message to His people.

The One who commissioned me is also evaluating my life and ministry. One day, I will find out what He really thought of my work for Him, so I want to do all I can to make sure He’s pleased. The apostle Paul instructs us to “find out what pleases the Lord” (Eph. 5:10) and do it.

In the teaching realm, that would include investing time in good study, lesson preparation, prayer for our students and involvement in their lives, including being there to welcome them even before class officially starts, and visiting them as we are permitted in their own environments outside the church building and culture.

James warns us of the “stricter judgment” on us who the Lord has called to teach. But “stricter judgment” has a companion – great rewards! The “crowns” of Scripture will be distributed as eternity unfolds, but we don’t have to wait until heaven to enjoy the special blessings associated with teaching His Word.

Paul tells Timothy (1 Tim. 3:1) that “if anyone aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.” For our purposes, let me broaden that statement to include all church leaders, especially those who teach. We do a fine work, Paul assures us. Keep that in mind when you’re tempted towards discouragement and feeling insignificant.

Each of us could tell a story of how “the lights went on” for one of our students, usually when we weren’t expecting it. When that happens, what a blessing! How thankful we are at moments like these to be used of the Lord in the teaching ministry!

As teachers, we experience the benefits of having been involved with our lessons much longer and much more in depth than our students. As we allow the lesson point from His Word to permeate our thinking and change our lives, we get hit with the truth first. We may be called upon to adjust our approach to someone or a situation. The Holy Spirit might wish us to forgive and rid ourselves of bitterness as a result of His application of our lesson to us. We might see something we hadn’t before – because we made time for study if only because we knew our class would be there the next Sunday.

These are just a few examples. Don’t let the prospect of a “stricter judgment” get you down. Focus instead on those special blessings you get just because you’re a teacher!



from  Our Missionaries

Morocks' Summer, Part 2  
(August 14, 2014)

One of the teachers left us her car to use this summer. We have been doing some day trips. We are trying to see some sites in the state of Puebla. We took a trip up to the

Paso De Cortes, this is the mountain pass between Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl mountains where Hernan Cortes passed to go to Mexico City.

Last week we took a drive south. We ended up at a river and for \$1.25 took a barge, pulled by a cable, to the other side. Yesterday we went north. We stopped at Tuliman waterfalls. It is a park run by the people of the local town. The paths were "go at your own risk" type of trails. The Mexicans have a different method of marking their roads and it seems to be the same for these types of places. They are very vague, so they don't give you distances for trails nor the difficulty of the trail. We felt bad for a group of older ladies who arrived at the bottom as we were leaving, they were not looking forward to the climb back out. We had walked from the main parking lot so we had a couple of miles of switch backs to climb to get back to our car.

Then we went to a national park called Piedras Encimadas (Stacked rocks). The road in was probably five miles of dodging ruts that could take out a tire but it was worth the drive. When you go into the park you are swarmed by people wanting you to rent horses, a horse drawn wagon, bicycles or four wheelers. We opted to walk. It was late afternoon and fog swirled around us, reminding Bruce of the Irish moors he visited with his family. You would only be able to see a short distance in front of you as you were trying to evade the animal droppings from the horses, sheep and dogs that roam the park, when out of the mist you would see these huge stacked rocks. We picked out an alligator, a turtle and other creatures in these rocks God placed in this valley. It was a beautiful example of God's creativity. I think we have one more day trip planned before we give the car back this Saturday. We are grateful for this summer's mobility.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to support us, in prayer, in encouragement and financially in serving the Lord here at Puebla Christian School in Puebla, Mexico.

Bruce and Lynda



Wednesday, August 27th, 2014

Brother Steve and Family and Church:

Dear brothers in Christ, I wish to greet you and hope that you are well and rejoicing in all

the blessings of our God. Here everyone is well, serving the Lord. Brother, we had a camp in Galeana recently and it was a huge blessing as there were about 200 people there and 8 people were saved, thank God! We have been working hard and continue to pray for land, because the truth is that we need it very much. Thank you to all of you for your prayers and support.

Brother, I received your offering and it was a great blessing but, brother, I had a bit of trouble cashing it, because they forced me to open a bank account so they could deposit the money for me. So in order to not have this trouble again, I am going to give you the number and pin for the deposits. I hope it won't be a bother to you all.

Well, brother, I think that is all. Greetings to all the brethren. May God bless you always. That is our wish for you.

In Christ, with the greetings of the church, Vicente Reyna C. and Family

(Translation by Shilo Cain, who has been working to alleviate the banking problem)



Praise the Lord!

Homeschooling is especially challenging this year with three kids now officially in school, and one that is learning to read. The kids are doing great though, and mom is resting in the truth of Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me . . . and I will give you rest. Take my yoke . . . and you will find rest for your souls."

The Easter story is now available in Bafanji as an audio recording that can be put on cell phones! Nineteen minutes of the Good News in the language they understand best!

Cam is enjoying his new responsibilities, especially coordinating the updating the Ethnologue with the

latest information from Cameroon's languages.

Valerie and the kids have started a kids' Bible club for our Bamenda neighbors. We are teaching through the stories of Genesis with songs, memory verse, games, coloring, and rewards for coming early and remembering last week's verse! As we hoped this is already opening up and growing new relationships with our neighbors. May it also lead these children to their own relationship with God.

The Bafanji translators are about half-way through the second major checking in Luke. Cam has been heavily involved, and they are encouraged by the improvements and progress. It makes the work easier for our translation consultant, Greg, who has approved about one third of Luke. We are still hoping that Luke will be ready next year for publish-

ing, recording, and maybe the Luke video in Bafanji and four other languages in our cluster.

Valerie and Roland (our house help) were able to do lots of canning this summer which will make meals in the village so much easier. Don't need a refrigerator!

Pray for all four church denominations in Bafanji to be well represented and fully involved in the Bible translation process. This is not yet the case.

Pray that Valerie could learn to manage homeschooling in less time so that she could have more time again for translation work.

Pray that Cam and Valerie would be able to balance family time and ministry time.

Cam & Valerie Hamm,  
Noah, Ellie, and Jojo

## Elders Report

DATE: 12 September 2014

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

### AGENDA ITEMS

**Intercessory Prayer:** Time was devoted to prayer for the trials and hardships that some members of our congregation family are undergoing.

### Pastor's Report:

- The Gideons will be presenting on the 4th of October
- Operation Christmas Child will be starting in the near future
- Pastor Steve is exploring the possibilities of have a Bible Study in the Lincoln community
- Pastor Steve gave us his notes from a meeting he attended with former members of Life Services who were very concerned with the direction it had taken in recent months
- Pastor Charlie Scott has contacted TBF offering a 4 session Creation Seminar
- Pastor Steve and Joan may be changing their plans of going to Israel for their sabbatical

### Youth Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Josh is very pleased with all youth ministries
- The Youth Leadership program will begin in one week
- The big activity for this month will be a Christian film double feature

### Old Business:

- The Nominating Committee is going well and should have all their recommendation finalized in the near future

### New Business:

- We discussed the possibility of having a men's Bible study. While it seems a good idea there are a number of scheduling and other hurdles to overcome. We will table a "study" until after we look into have the Creation Seminar (see Pastor's Report)
- We may also run another "Truth Project"
- The Monday Night Football Men's Ministry is started and going well but we are have a hard time getting "hosts"
- Knute graciously offered his home on those nights when we don't have other options

Next Meeting: October 17th, 2014

Next Quarterly Meeting: October 14th, 2014



by Josh McLachlan

## Youth Stuff

### "YOUTH WALK" -ASKING TOUGH QUESTIONS, ACCEPT- ING TOUGH ANSWERS

This year for youth group, we are going to be going over some tough Biblical topics. R.C. Sproul wrote a book called "Essential Truths of the Christian Faith." We will use this book as a springboard for discussions about topics such as: Can I lose my Salvation, how do I tell people about Jesus, and what does God expect of me now that I am saved.

The tough part isn't asking the questions, we can do that all day. The tough part is accepting the answers. We don't have to understand or like every answer we find in the Bible, but we need to accept it, because as we recently saw in 2 Tim. 3:16, God inspired the Bible. We discussed how God put His Word into the minds of men to write down. God had them write down His words, not their own opinions, which means we need to accept them, and live by them no matter what we think of them.

As we wrestle with tough questions and thoughts we have several "Fun Spots" to stop at. To start with, **Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>**

we are heading to the **Hayes' house** to watch "**God's not Dead.**" **Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>** we will be off to Spokane for the ever popular "**Spokavenger Hunt.**" We will meet at church about 3 and return about 8.

We are also going to start meeting every other Sunday afternoon starting Oct. 12, as we dive into the program known as "**Youth Leadership.**" As we meet from 4:30 - 6, we will be fulfilling the requirements needed to work at camp and go on our mission trip to Northport in June. The requirements are: Bible study, sermon notes, prayer journal, and service in your church. These might look overwhelming, but they are routines, practices, and qualities we should all as Christians strive to do.

Here is a great chance to learn some new study skills, and develop some important habits along with your friends, as well as gaining the opportunity to work at Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp and go with us on our mission trip to Northport WA.

Any questions? Please feel free to call or text me. My number is 215-0554. I hope you can make it.

Youth Pastor, Josh McLachlan

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

## Church Funds

8/31/14

Benevolence Fund	2,076.97
Missionaries Reserve	2,100.00
Missions Fund	1,497.97
<u>General Fund</u>	<u>1,266.48</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,941.42</b>

Building Fund	\$226,463.98
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>\$233,405.40</b>

## Love & Respect

For the next several weeks it's going to be the Not Just for Young Married's class meeting in the new addition. Anyone interested in the class is invited to join the Sunday school class, which begins October 12.

Kid's classes meet at the same time in other rooms. Sunday school is one hour, from 9:15—10:15.

For more information, contact Tyson & Rachel Lacy.

## Thinking Outside the Shoebox

What goes into a Christmas Child shoebox? Toothpaste, soap, washcloth, toys, candy, crayons, clothing, and.... It is the 'and' that might be most important! Testimonies abound to special gifts that have met special needs. And what comes out of the shoebox are gifts, smiles, and the love of Christ and His people

Bring your donations, and give a blessing.

## Quilt Camp

Friday and Saturday, Oct 24-25, for ladies age 13 and up. There will be classes on 'Watercolor Wall Hanging,' 'A Bit of Country Charm Wall Hanging of Table Runner,' and 'A Simple Christmas Tree Ornament.' For beginners to Advanced sewers. Registration forms at church.



by Robert Boleneus

### Plans

Have you ever noticed how many factors are beyond the control of our plans? Yes, we do need to make plans, because it gives us direction, but often what we want to happen does not happen the way we want it to. There are often too many variables, and possibilities that we never even imagined. Recently, someone told me that they failed because others had messed up their plans. Well, it is not as if others intentionally mess-up our plans. It is more that they did something we did not expect with regard to our planning.

In college, I was taught that a plan has to be re-evaluated and up-dated regularly to allow for changes surrounding the plans. For a farmer changes can be things like the weather, and the markets. For all of us it is "the rest of us," I believe that human behavior is more unpredictable than the weather or markets (but I am a farmer).

# Teachers Corner

Part of what is difficult is predicting the interactions between two or more people. I know that it is way beyond what I was taught in a Forecasting class in college.

However, Romans tells us that "ALL things work together for good..." How can that be? I have concluded that the hand of God is in every detail of what is around us. Some of what we cannot plan is how God is going to draw in "one more believer," or work in their life. I have seen many things not go according to plan, and then turn out better. Sometimes things get way-worse before they get way-better.

By the way – Let's have a planning meeting. I would like to meet with all the Sunday School teachers and discuss plans for building some of the classes. Teachers, contact me with a time that would work for you.



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

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## AWANA 2014-2015

Awana is a program designed to reach boys and girls with the gospel of Christ. This is done in a variety of ways. The big attractant to Awana is game time, led by Tyson Lacy. The kids all have a chance to hear a message from God's word coordinated by the directors of each group: Cubbies (age 3-5) -led by Laurie Anderson, Sparks (K-2nd) -led by Steve McLachlan, T&T Boys/Girls (3-6th) led by Dave and Deanna Fitzpatrick, and Trek/Journey (7-12th) led by Mike Anderson. The kids also have yummy snacks distributed by Toni Kay Copeland, the "Cookie Lady." With their leaders, these directors, work hard to help the kids learn Bible verses, understand God's Word, and have fun. They would appreciate your prayers throughout the school year.

Theme nights for October-

- Oct. 1 Run Like the Wind night (Awana Jog-a-thon)
- Oct. 8 Bring a friend night
- Oct. 15 Homemade poster night
- Oct. 22 Dress like a clown night
- Oct. 29 Dress like a Bible character night

Commander Josh

Missionary of the Month:  
Fred & Maimouna Sena  
Serving in Chad, Africa



# October 2014

Women's Ministry Leader: Lori Rieth  
Group Members: Becky Oehlwein  
Tiffany Abell  
Debbie Anderson  
Joan Wintersteen  
Brenda Victor  
Deanna Fitzpatrick



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Awana Jog-a-thon Run Like the Wind Night 6 pm BSF 9:45 am  <i>Betty Turk</i>	2 Christmas Program Practice, 7 pm	3  <i>Bethany Reed</i> <i>Bruce &amp; Lynda Morock</i>	4 Awana Conference in Spokane  <i>Cliff Carstens</i>
5 Gideons Visit TBF Coffee Fellowship Youth Group 6 pm	6 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Deaconess Meeting 6 pm MNF -@ tbd YL 7 pm	7 Missions Committee 6 pm	8 Awana 6 pm Bring a Friend Night BSF 9:45 am	9 Christmas Program Practice, 7 pm	10	11
12 Youth Group 6 pm Youth Leadership	13 Men's Coffee 8:30 am MNF @Mike Bell's	14 Quarterly Board Meeting 6:30 pm  <i>Sue Warwick</i>	15 Awana 6 pm Homemade Poster Night BSF 9:45 am <i>Faith Bell</i> <i>Randy &amp; Margo Hoffmann</i> <i>Steve &amp; Joan McLachlan</i>	16 Christmas Program Prac- tice, 7 pm	17 Elders Meeting 8 am  <i>Camryn Hayes</i>	18
19 Youth Group 6 pm	20 Men's Coffee 8:30 am MNF @ tbd YL 7 pm	21 M & M's 6 pm	22 Awana 6 pm Dress Like A Clown Night BSF 9:45 am	23 Christmas Program Prac- tice, 7 pm	24  <i>Quilt Camp @ CLBC October 24 &amp; 25</i>  <i>Bruce Morock (6-0!)</i>	25
26 Communion/Benevolence Offering Youth Group 6 pm Youth Leadership	27 Men's Coffee 8:30 am MNF @ tbd  <i>Randy Anderson</i>	28	29 Awana 6 pm Bible Character Night BSF 9:45 am  <i>Jason Wandling</i>	30 Christmas Program Prac- tice, 7 pm	31  <i>Alexander Plasencia</i>	