

# The Trinity Times

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## The Bible and the Homosexual Debate

Jude introduces his short letter with this statement, *“Beloved, while I was making every effort to write about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once handed down to the saints.”* That’s how I feel about this article. There are



other topics, much more pleasant to write about, but this one seems to me important at this time. When our state government tries to legalize homosexual marriage without the peoples’ approval and our president announces that his Christian beliefs lead him to approve of it, we need to be clear not only of what we believe, but why. I have two main goals with this article: to explain what makes homosexuality so wrong, and to answer major attacks on Christians over the issue.

What makes homosexuality so bad? First, all sexual sin is especially bad. 1 Cor 6:18 tells us, *“Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.”* Homosexuality is worse, because it is the result of a previous descent into sin. Romans 1:18-27 describes a graduated descent into sin, from suppressing truth about God at the start to, three steps later, *“God gave them over to degrading passions,”* women with women, and men with men. If we can

use drugs as an analogy, other sins are ‘gateway’ sins, homosexuality is ‘hardcore’ sin.

Perhaps the greater threat of homosexuality is that it is defended as not being sin at all! When people take what is clearly sinful and insist it is not sinful, what does that say about those people?

Sexual sins, including homosexuality, have that distinction in our society. Society does not defend murder, theft, or arson; but increasingly defends every type of sexual sin. In that same passage of Romans, Verses 28-32, we find that the final step of man’s descent into sin is, *“They not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”*

What makes legalized homosexual marriage so bad is that it confirms that we, as a society, have hit the bottom of a long descent into sin.

So is homosexuality worse than other sins? Than many, yes. All sexual sin is bad, and it marks a descent into deeper sin; but probably the worst aspect of it is how it is defended in society.

In the meantime, those defending homosexuality are pressing their attack, and it would be good for us to be equipped with an answer. Their first tactic is to defend homosexual rights as civil liberties. This depends on the assumption that people are born homosexual. First, this is simply not true. Some will claim there is scientific evidence to support

## Photo of the Month



What do the workers do when the kids aren’t looking? Play, of course! Vacation Bible School is June 18—22. Be sure you don’t miss out on the fun!

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

this, but that is simply not true. At best it is convenient interpretation of questionable data. I will acknowledge this much, though—we are all born sinners. Does that therefore excuse my sin? Not at all. If I am born greedy, does that justify theft? Sin does not become less sinful because it comes naturally.

It should not be surprising that man’s philosophy draws the exact opposite conclusion than the one Scripture presents. Man says, since sin comes to me naturally, it is okay to sin. God says in His Word, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” and “The wages of sin is death.”

Homosexual rights are not about civil liberties being denied a legitimate people group. They are about public endorsement of sin.

The next argument hurled at Christians with increasing frequency seems intent to label us hypocrites who do not keep the same standards we would seek to impose on them. Referring to Levitical laws against homosexuality, they ask, “Why don’t you adhere to the dietary laws? Do some of you have tattoos? Do you follow all the other restrictions in the book?” Of course they know we don’t live according to those laws. Therefore, they imply, we hold a double standard, requiring them to follow the laws we do like, while we ignore the ones we don’t like.

It’s an interesting argument, and if our stand against homosexuality were based on those passages, they would be correct. But our position is not based on the book of Leviticus. There is a saying that the person who defines the

terms wins the debate. Do not let them define the terms of the debate and restrict you to arguing from Leviticus, as if that was the only passage in Scripture opposing homosexuality.

As we’ve seen, the New Testament book of Romans deals extensively with the subject. The teachings there are both plain and reasonable. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 clearly condemns homosexuality along with a host of other sins, before offering the grace of Christ as the hope of those guilty of any. “*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*”

We stand on firm ground when we oppose homosexuality. We need not succumb to charges of hypocrisy.

The only hypocrisy would be if we opposed it as if we were holier than thou. We are sinners who have been washed, sanctified, and justified by Christ. We oppose sin in the hope that other sinners will find Him, even as we did.

## In the Library



by Judy Crowell

With summer approaching, many people will have some extra time to think about reading. The church library has books for all ages and interests. These include novels, nonfiction, and many fascinating biographies. There are also books about activities for families, inexpensive travel ideas, and even games that can be played in the car. And don't forget that audio books and CDs, as well as

Adventures in Odyssey programs, can be checked out.

On a more serious note, the Voice of the Martyrs speakers left several items for those interested in more information on that important subject.

Two new novels are To Have and to Hold by Judith Miller, and The Edge of Recall by Kristen Heitzmann. Family Man, the biography of Dr.

Dobson, is now available, along with the BBC presentations of The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe; Prince Caspian; and The Silver Chair.



## Heart Talk

by Mark Smith

Following our Shepherd, we experience His provision for all we need for the abundant life.

Describing His mission, Jesus (in John 10:10) said He came “that they (we) may have life, and have it to the full.” One of my favorite Bible teachers, Howard Hendricks, renders it like this: “I mean, really live!”

The psalmist David put it this way in the 23rd Psalm (verse 5) – “My cup overflows.” It’s the result of having feasted at the table personally prepared for me by the Shepherd as my enemies are looking on. It’s the experience available to every believer “anointed with oil” (filled with the Holy Spirit).

Having acknowledged that the Lord’s personal presence is encouragement enough to fear no evil, even while walking through the valley of the shadow of death, David continues, “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”

David probably had some specific enemies in mind, both inside and out of the palace, when he wrote these words. Taken in their spiritual sense, Scripture identifies the believer’s enemies as Satan (the devil, 1 Peter 5:7-9), the world system of evil that he controls (Romans 12:2), and my own sinful nature (“the flesh,” Romans 6 and Galatians 5:16). Despite their presence, we can relax and enjoy fellowship with our God!

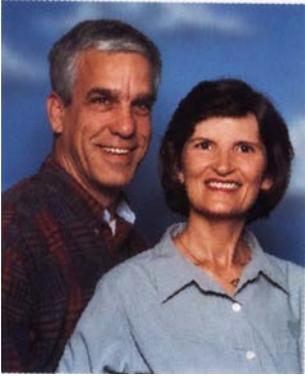
The Shepherd has prepared the Word of God to protect us from the devil and the world, and the Holy Spirit’s indwelling and controlling enablement (His filling) to keep the flesh in check so that we may, even in this life, have it abundantly (experience some heaven right now).

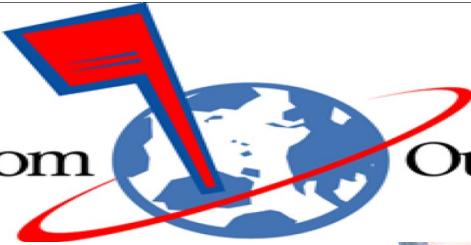
The “anointing” and oil are regarded by most Bible teachers as symbolic of the Holy Spirit and what He does in the Christian. In ancient times, olive oil was used as a healing agent – sheep were anointed with oil to keep insects off! Oil also was used for illumination (“give me oil in my lamp”). When a king or prophet was anointed with oil, he was set apart for God’s specific purpose. Jesus, as the Christ, is the ultimate “Anointed One.”

As we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, the Holy Spirit comes upon us and sets us apart for His purposes. As the illuminator, the Spirit sheds light for understanding the Scriptures. “He shall take of mine and disclose it to you,” Jesus said in John 16:14.

Letting the Spirit do His work in our lives will cause them to be “more abundant” and our “joy (will be) full” (1 John 1:4). My cup – my portion in life – will overflow (KJV: “runneth over.”)

The Shepherd already has blessed us with “everything we need for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3) and with “every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3). He wants our cup to overflow, our capacity for the Christ-life to expand! Do we?



from  Our Missionaries

(excerpts from)  
Morocks' Missionary Moments  
May 2012



Thursday,  
March 22nd,

Brother Steve  
and family:

Dear brothers  
and sisters in  
the Lord, I glad-  
ly address this

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, God composed the body...that the members should have the same care for one another. 1 Cor.12:24-25. Thank you for working together with us, with the gifts God has given you that we might serve God here in Puebla. One of the greatest gifts God has given to all His children is the gift, privilege and responsibility of prayer. Through prayer, we have seen a number of the teacher needs filled. Please continue to pray for staff needs. Through prayer, God has led us to be involved in a new church plant associated with a campus ministry. It is primarily reaching college students and new believers but we do have a few mature Christians involved. Please pray for the church during the summer months when many of the students are gone home.

The school sponsors fall and spring outings for Jr. and Sr. high school students. Last month Bruce led a group on a camp out to La Malinche, one of the inactive volcanoes near here. Popocatepetl is an active volcano about 25 miles from Puebla and it has been very active since the middle of April, spewing ash and even fire. We praise God for safety and for spiritual refreshment.

Bruce preached at church last week. It was well received, though it may have been too deep for some of the new believers, a few people asked if he would be preaching again. I have been teaching art at P.C.S. since the art teacher just had a baby. I am still teaching art at the Deaf School also.

Many of you already know that I (Lynda) will be going to Idaho early, on May 13th (to house sit for friends). Bruce will come up on June 12th. We are spending the first week in Davenport, WA. Then we will head up to Sandpoint. All our Sundays are scheduled, and Bruce is the speaker at CLBC teen camp July 8th -13th but we still have many week days available to visit. Please let us know if there is a time when you would like to get together with us. It is amazing how fast 9 weeks will go by.

May the God of peace equip you with everything good for doing His will and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Have a blessed day!

By God's grace, Bruce and Lynda

letter hoping that, when it arrives in your hands, it finds you in good health and rejoicing in the rich blessings of our God. These are the desires and prayers of your brothers and sisters in Christ:

Vicente Reyna and family.

Brother, again I just want to tell you that we are in good health. As for the church, every day new souls arrive. God is giving us many souls for His honor and glory. We have a request (that we have left) in the hands of God. We are organizing a camp for the first week in April. The location is in Galeana N.L. at Camp Peniel. We are also considering an evangelistic campaign in July. Additionally, we are praying for a new property for the church because the location we are currently using is too small. The church has grown a lot. Every day we have new people. We are also supporting Sister Tere once a month. We ask for your prayers for this also.

Thank you for your support. Everything that you send is a great blessing. Thank you for your letter. I know that your church is growing also. We are praying for you also. Greetings to you and your family and to all the brothers and sisters in your church. God bless you all greatly.

These are the desires and prayers of your brothers and sisters in Christ,

Vicente Reyna C. and family



May 23rd 2012

Dear Prayer Partners and Sponsors Pastor Steve and the family of Trinity,

Greetings in the most loving name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It's my privilege and pleasure to have you as our sponsors and partners with Christian Faith Ministries. You have been such a great blessing during the past years with your sacrificial giving, we were able to reach the unreached Indians, converting souls, planting churches and establishing the kingdom of God in India. Thank you so much for your generosity. You have strengthened my hands to feed the orphans, widows and homeless. I'm assuring that your investment with C.F.M.A. is not in vain. Please continue to be a part of our

ministry with your regular prayers and sacrificial giving.

Right now I'm building three different churches at three different villages. One church is at Devada, where Pastor Peter is working. He is our own product; six years ago he was graduated from our Faith Bible College. This Church is ready for roofing. The second church is at Duvvada where Pastor Robert is working, we were only able to laid the foundation, and the third is at Gouvarampeta where pastor Benerje is working. To complete each church \$5,000.00 is needed. Kindly pray for these churches. I welcome you as a sponsor of any one of these churches or part of them. Please continue to pray for us.

Thank you once again for your continual support. May God richly bless you as you bless others!

Yours in His service,

Ch.Daniel

### Meet Our SMIs

Of course, you know them, but you may not know they are Summer Missionary Interns; better known as SMIs.

SMIs are the backbone of camp staff at Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp. They are given the jobs that require the most responsibility, and are role models for other staff. They are literally on call 24/7 while at camp.

To be an SMI, a person must be over 16, have completed Youth Leadership in their church (or, if older, be an alumni of YL or have similar qualifications), and have their pastor's recommendation.

As SMIs, they are eligible to receive missionary support through InFaith, an American mission.

This year's crew from TBF are: Heidi Abell, Andrew Abell, Levi Ricketts, and Elizabeth Wandling. We will support them as a church, and I hope you will support them in prayer, and possibly financially as well.



by Richard Hayes

## Elders Report

May 4, 2012

Intercessory Prayer:

Attendance: Steve McLachlan, Josh Cooper, Mark Smith, Knute Hernas, Richard Hayes

Pastor's report:

- Tyndale Publishers – Send a sample of inserts for the Bulletins
- There is a 50% open rate for the emailed Weekly announcements.

- Letter from Camp Cocolalla. 40th year celebration after Labor Day, 9-8-12. Also camp work day: June 1st and 2nd.
- Tim Karr preaching May 27th, both services. Graduation Recognition after the 2nd service.
- Elders approved \$750.00 for the China trip; closing out the balance of mission trip fund, the rest from the general fund. \$ to be given to Laurie Anderson for distribution
- Building program, we have been visited by two engineers. Need discussion of sound system layout with Knute & James.
- Church land is currently separated into non-taxable and taxable. Pastor Josh's home is still considered taxable. To correct this, a list of actions was received and acted upon:
  1. The Elders approved and issued to Josh Cooper a "License" to perform the duties he is currently doing.
  2. The Elders prepared and signed a letter stating that Josh is currently a full-time pastor of TBF, performing all of the duties associated with that position. That letter was signed by all Elders.

Treasurer's Report: None

Tabled Items: None

Old Business:

- Richard to talk with Fred, to set up a meeting with Trustees on May 12 @ 8:00AM. Purpose of the meeting is to discuss a possible transfer of funds from the general fund to the building fund.
  1. Based on the discussion in #1 above, the transfer of \$ from the general fund to building fund will be brought before the congregation. A donation for Cocolalla will also be put before the congregation.
  2. Richard needs to type up minutes of the last Elders meeting held April 6, 2012.
- Timing of the Quarterly Business meeting was discussed; there was no consensus on when the meeting should be held.

New Business:

- The Elders would like to meet with the new member's class. This would provide the prospective new members time to talk with the elders and ask any questions they may have.
- The summer schedule was reviewed. Pastor and worship leaders will schedule their own time off and coordinate with other members of the services.

Next regular meeting: June 8th @ 3:00 PM



by Josh Cooper

## Youth Stuff

In June 1873, D.L. Moody arrived in Liverpool, England to hold evangelistic meetings. After he arrived he found out that the three men who promised to pay for his expenses had died and there was no money for him to do anything after paying for the tickets to and from England.

Moody said to the people that came with him, "God seems to have closed the doors. We'll not open any ourselves. If He opens the door, we'll go in. If He doesn't, we'll return to America."

At his hotel that night Moody remembered George Bennett, the founder of the local YMCA in York. Bennett had once invited Moody to York for evangelical outreach. Moody got up and told those with him, "The door is only ajar."

The next morning Moody went to the YMCA in Liverpool and had them send a telegram to Bennett, "Moody here—are you ready for him?"

Bennett was surprised at the telegram. He replied, "Please fix date when you can come to York." Moody replied im-

mediately, "I will be in York tonight ten o'clock—Make no arrangements till I come."

That night Moody and Bennett planned out some events to preach the gospel. The next day he went out and found places to preach and made up posters. Then Moody preached the gospel and over the next two years half a million people heard Moody preach the gospel.

*"I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord."*—Psalm 27:13-14.

### Upcoming Events:

June 20<sup>th</sup>—**Youth Group BBQ.** We are going to have a BBQ at the Regan's. We will have food, games, and a campfire. It will start at 5:30 pm and goes until 8:00 pm. Bring a snack to share. If you are going into the 7<sup>th</sup> grade next year you are welcome to join us for this event.

June 24<sup>th</sup>—**Pie Social.** (6 pm) Come support the Youth Leadership mission trip to Bridgeport, WA. We will be putting on a VBS for a church in that town. Come learn about our trip.

## Church Funds

4/30/12

Building Fund	\$174,709.44
Benevolence Fund	994.82
Missionaries Reserve	2,100.00
Mission Trip/Scholar.	530.38
General Fund	34,832.88

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Overall Total	\$213,167.52
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### Roofing Project at Cocolalla

"On September 20-22, crews of men and women will undertake one of our largest projects in recent history. We will be tearing off the roof of Hatcher Hall (The dining room/kitchen) and replacing it. This project is a large need, as the roof has withstood many years of North Idaho weather. In efforts to improve the efficiency and longevity of Hatcher Hall, we will also be replacing all 22 windows at the same time." (taken from a recent letter.)

In the near future, expect a congregational meeting to decide how much money we might like to donate to this project. Their total need is about \$11,000; currently, another \$8,000 is needed.

### Quarterly Board Meeting

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 2nd. All church meetings are open, so anyone can come. This is a good time for reports, updates, and learning about needs at church.

### Building Project Update

It may not seem like much is happening on the building front, but you don't see much of an iceberg, either! The building designer is designing, and the engineers are engineering. What's exciting (to me, anyway) is that bills are being paid and the building fund is still growing! Thank you for your faithful support of this project.

### Work Day Kudos

Thank you to the pruners, gardeners, fixers, cleaners, yardworkers, and tractor drivers who worked hard to do such a good job at our work days



It's coming up fast, but I think we'll be ready!

Of course, I'm referring to our "Very Exciting Bible School" that launches Monday morning, June 18, at 9 through Friday's cookout at noon.

We have most of our staff assembled, but still need a couple of "guides" to accompany kids as they make their way through mornings filled with music, Bible lessons, crafts, games and delicious snacks!

If you're prompted by the Holy Spirit to join us, come to our pre-VBS staff gathering on Sunday, June 10, at 5 p.m. That's when we'll firm up everything and see what still needs to be done before all the action starts!

In this Olympics year, our theme is "God's Champions: Equipped to Follow our Lord." The church will be turned into a series of mini-sports camps, offering activities centered on soccer, football, baseball, hockey and mountaineering, while presenting principles from God's armor (Ephesians 6) and five individuals from the Bible who learned what it really means to win!

Perhaps you have stuff around your house that can be used to decorate our various settings. Sports equipment that fits the aforementioned activities is welcome; tag it and we'll make sure it comes back to you.



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

# Teachers Corner

An essential need is for prayer that the Word will go out unhindered, that people will come to know Jesus as their Savior and those who already know Him will grow more in His love!

■ Even though school's about done and warmer days are nearly here, our faithful teachers continue to provide instruction in Sunday School throughout the summer months. Junior and senior high schoolers will meet together, and our college group will move back into the church facility.

■ Once VBS is history, Pastor Steve and I will begin our preparations for our "TBF Bible Institute" for the fall. As our congregation has grown in numbers and spiritual maturity, it seems right to address a need for a "college-like" curriculum and ongoing training for our teachers and children's workers.

Along with the Bible, there would be assigned textbooks, special assignments and yes, tests! We're thinking of offering two 10- to 13-week courses, on different days so both could be taken if desired. I'm planning a course on hermeneutics (how to interpret the Bible, and I think Steve is working up a theology course of some sort).

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04-06-2001

AT SHEPHERD GRADUATION

## Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp Summer Schedule

Teen Camp	July 8-13	\$170
(Save \$15 by pre-registering)		
11-12 Camp	July 15-19	\$135; Save \$15 by pre-registering!
9-10 Camp	July 22-26	
7-8 Camp	July 29-Aug 2	

Camp registration is at 4 pm Sundays; camps end at 1 pm Thursdays (Teen Camp, 1 pm Friday). Pre-registration must be postmarked 10 days before camp starts to get discount.

Part of TBF? Ask at church and you will get a coupon for an additional \$15 off the cost of camp!



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Christian Camping!

For more information, log on to  
[www.clbcamp.org](http://www.clbcamp.org)  
Camp brochures available at tbf

Missionary of the Month: CLBC Summer Missionary Interns

Heidi Abell  
 Andrew Abell  
 Elizabeth Wandling  
 Levi Ricketts



# June 2012

Women's Ministry Leader: Denise Hayes

Group Members: Sarah Sweetser

Susan Stefanini

Denise Sampson

Lynn Hernas



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 CLBC Work Days June 1 & 2 Tim & MaryAnn Scheiffele	2 Randy & Laura Damschen
3	4 Men's Coffee 8:30 am  Shilo Cain	5  Jeremy & Shannon Sewall	6	7 Esther Bible Study 6 pm	8 Elder's Meeting 3 pm TBF Yard Sale 5-9 pm 	9 TBF Yard Sale 9am—noon  Ben & Michelle McLachlan
10 180° 6:30 pm  Jasper Eaton	11 Men's Coffee 8:30 am  Brian Lembcke	12	13	14 Esther Bible Study 6 pm Pauline Brown Margo Hoffmann Carolyn Ross Ken & Carol Horner Walt & Sarah Sweetser	15  Kathlene Shumway	16  Heidi Abell Wayne & Annette Lembcke
17 Happy Father's Day! BBQ after 12:30 service Bruce Morock @ TBF	18 Vacation Bible School At Trinity Bible Fellowship June 18—22			20 Youth Group BBQ at Regan's 5:30 pm  Jeremy Eaton Robert Vaughn	21 Esther Bible Study 6 pm	22  9—11:30 am  Gabrielle Sweetser
24 YL Pie Social 6:00 pm  Lynne Anderson Kristi Bell Arne & Rebecca Seim	25 Men's Coffee 8:30 am	26	27	28 Esther Bible Study 6 pm	29  Brad & Shilo Cain	30