

October 2009

Trinity Tidings

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From the
Pastor's
Desk

Some Thoughts on Thinking

Paul understood that bodily actions and even our emotions follow the dictates of the mind. We understand this as well, if we stop to “think” about it. I once had a mentor who used to say all the time: “Sew a thought, reap a deed; Sew a deed, reap a habit; Sew a habit, reap a character, Sew a character, reap a lifestyle.” Now at the beginning point of the lifestyle is a thought. So, in order to secure a lifestyle which reflects God’s call in my life I must learn to think about what I think more than I already think about

what I think. I want to teach others to think about what they think more than they think about what they think. I want us all to think on thinking for a few moments as we read.

As an example of how this works “think” of this simple question: Why do we stop at a red light? Some of you are thinking “so as not to get a ticket.” Others of you don’t want to end up in a car accident. Some of you just don’t get into breaking the law. And a few of you have already thought of the correct answer. Every single one of us who stops for a red light stops for the same reason. We choose to. We take our foot off the gas and place it on the break and stop the car. Our brain sends a signal to our feet and we act. We have sown this thought so many times that we have reaped a habit, and this habit forms and shapes us as we drive. We must over ride our thinking in order to run the red light. And we would have to completely retrain our thinking in order to learn to stop on green and go on red. After a few months of continuous accidents and bankrupt insurance companies, we might finally learn the “new way”.

Now a more complex question: Why do we worship the way we worship? It seems to me that worship involves inner transformation of heart and mind as well. If it is true to say that our habits follow the dictates of the mind, then our style of worship also becomes a habit. A “spiritual” habit, if you will. So Paul stresses to us that in order to worship spiritually, in order to present ourselves as whole persons on the alter of God, we must first be transformed by the renewal of our minds. In the time of Paul, mind and heart were the same. That inner core of thoughts and emotions that we sometimes call “the depts. Of our being” is the “heart” in our culture. So, using Biblical terminology, what begins as a thought in your mind becomes a deep rooted belief in our hearts. This is the level that turns the thought into a deed and habit. We bin to act on what we truly believe. We stop at the red light because we “deeply” believe we must. We worship as we do because we believe it the way to reach God in the congregation of fellow believers, or because we know that this is the church God has called us to worship within, or because we have always done it this way do not “know” any other way. All are ways of saying the same thin - We worship the way we do for reasons that have been birthed in our minds until they reside in our hearts. It is in this place that God wants to change us - at the core of what we truly believe. For if God can transform us here, then God can change our deeds, our habits, and our character, and create in us a lifestyle that looks more like his Son than our culture.

Supposing for a minute that the above is true, what shall we do? We shall learn to abandon our thinking long enough to consider the possibility that God desires to change it. We shall humble ourselves just long enough to entertain the possibility that the mind of Christ is superior to the mind of Rick or Jane or Jeff or Susie (random names, but it could just as easily be you) When is the last time you read a book by an author you know you most likely disagree with? When is the last time you listened to your teenager to see if they had anything to teach you? When is the last time you opened yourself to the possibility that God was revealing His will to you through the most unlikely of sources at just the right time? The essence of Paul’s message is directed toward those who will heed God’s call and become willing to be Living Sacrifices on His altar, live as creative examples of the Christ

Life on earth, and surrender their personal agendas to the revealed will of God. This leaves us right where we started. If we are going to be people who are living out the will of God in our lives we must first become people who are transformed in our minds, in our hearts, becoming people who interpret ourselves and the world through the eyes of Scripture instead of relying on the wisdom we have always believed and never bothered to question.

Now we are ready to hear these words once again. Paul tells us: ***“Do not conform any longer to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, for it is then (and only then) that you will be able to test and approve God’s good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Roman 12:2)*** Transformation before discernment. Living sacrifices before Revealed will. The more we learn to allow God to teach us to think, the more certain we can be that our deeds are kingdom deeds, that our habits are Christ centered, that our characters are genuinely Christian, and that our lifestyle is used of God to reveal Jesus in the midst of a lost age. Hear the Word of the Lord and allow God to have your mind and your heart this very day.

Pastor Rick



The first Trinity Soup Kitchen will be held on **Thursday, October 15th.** Martha Circle will be organizing this event. How can YOU help? If you can 1) make a pot of soup, or 2) give a package of hot-dogs/buns, or 3) bring a package of crackers... they will be greatly appreciated! Contact ... **Jean Freshour at 389-3762** if you can help. We would also like to give our guests a **“goodie”** bag with toiletries (soap, lotion, toothpaste, etc....). If you have any you can spare, bring it to the church and place in the box provided for the items.

CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

**Saturday ... October 24th
Christian Center - Former Youth Room**



It is not too late to bring and sell your crafts and/or baked goods. **Call Ednita Vaflor at 389-4837.** Crafters and Bakers are needed. If you want to participate but don't want your own table, talk to us! Please help us with the refreshment stand ... we need donations of cookies, and help working that day. For more information call **Sonja French at 528-2818.** Your help and donations will be greatly appreciated!!!

**BROTHER'S BROTHER PENNY COLLECTION
SUNDAY... OCTOBER 25TH
YOUR PENNIES CAN HEAL THE SICK AND FEED THE POOR**

Dear Trinity,

We are approaching the end of the Rafiki Medical Clinic and want to express our appreciation for your help with eyeglasses. One of our last patients today was an elderly gentleman who was so thankful for the ability to be able to read his Bible with the new glasses he received at the Rafiki Clinic. Liz and I shared with him about the donors in the U.S. Who had provided for glasses and he wanted to express his joy by posing for us.



In Mzuzu, simple reading glasses can cost approximately 6000 kwacha, or around \$40 for a pair of reading glasses. For most Malawians they are unable to afford to purchase and is the equivalent of over a half a month's salary.

It is a great joy to be able to share with you just a glimpse of how God provided through your kindness and donations.

Thank you for helping to provide the gift of sight to many in Mzuzu.



*We extend our love and sympathy to the
family of*

Margaret McGregor

Who went home to be with her Lord

Weddings



*Congratulations
to
Jessica Budkowski
&
Charles Pansmore
June 27, 2009*



*Congratulations
to
Mindy Eckard
&
Brian Shonk
August 29, 2009*



On behalf of the Operations Ministry from the Leadership Board, we would like to recognize and express our sincere thanks to Willis Thomas for coordinating the dedicated efforts of the following individuals who volunteered their time for cleaning and maintaining the church during Sam's recent medical leave:

Fred Price, Barb Price, Laura Poling, Steve Roper, Joanie Warner, Gwen Thomas, Willis Thomas, Randy Green, Carolyn Green, John Klenzman & two grandchildren, Victiore Adissem,

Buddie Vaflor, Walt Caldwell, Ed Brewer, Robert Miller, John Freshour, Jean Freshour, Miff Bender, John Oakey and Phil Harbolt.

We would also like to recognize Mac Meginness and Roger Epley for their assistance with opening and closing the church on Sunday mornings during this time as well.

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I too (June) would like to thank Linda Epley for taking over the responsibility of the church office for many months. I knew everything was being cared for in a very special way. Thanks also to anyone who volunteered. I thank everyone for your prayers and calls. We have a very loving church family. God Bless each and everyone of you!

June Marburger

Dear TBC,

Thank you for the continued support as I pursue my college education at the University of Toledo. Not only am I thankful for the financial but the emotional and spiritual support as well. I truly appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers as I continue on my path.

James (Keith) Betker

Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for all your prayers, calls and visit during Roger's surgery and recover. We appreciate your support and love. Thank you Pastor Rick and Pastor Steve for your support and prayers. Especially while we waited in the emergency room.

Roger & Linda

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***For Your Information!!***

Trinity Prayer Gathering  
Tuesday ... October 20th ... 7:00 PM  
Sanctuary

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# Mission News

October 3, 2009

Dear Friends and Family of Lee and Dianne,

Thanks for all your prayers!

Our trip back to Jos went very well including checking an extra bin with no extra fee charged thanks to the generosity of our God and your prayers.

Our parts in the sponsor reports are nearly completed. We are reviewing the names of the children and employees daily. The medicines are adequate until next Community Medical Clinic which we trust will be in March.

The six month dry season is about to begin and we are thankfully blessed with an abundant water supply, which is far beyond what most have here. We praise God.

The sixth graders did the height and weight measurements for the children's annual physicals and these confirm that the children are growing well on their very adequate diet. The boy Isaac, who had the height and weight of a newborn when he came to us at four months of age, is now on the USA height and weight scale, though at the 4 percentile level, and gaining!

It is now time to complete the annual exams of the children and check up on the employees' health status too.

Dianne is looking forward to getting the children's Christmas outfits process started while she keeps up with their other ongoing clothing needs.

Teammates Dave and Gretchen Peterson just returned after extensive medical tune ups and will soon be ready to tear into the work. We missed them in the school and for their shared musical talents.

The village director taught two classes of headmasters Rafiki Bible Study methods; now they are prepared to use these in their Christian schools.

**Please pray for:**

Continued good health for the Rafiki children and staff and good physical exam results.

Good diagnosis for one young adult and appropriate therapy to be available here.

Timely purchase of materials then construction of 106 children's Christmas outfits with the sewing skills of the mothers rather than sending it to outside tailors.

God to guide the headmasters to properly implement Rafiki Bible Studies through which God will draw many children to himself.

Serving joyfully with you,

Lee and Dianne Johnson

Rafiki Jos, Nigeria

Replies only to [johnsonrafiki@netzero.net](mailto:johnsonrafiki@netzero.net)

## **Leadership Board September 8, 2009**

Joe Blue called the meeting to order and offered the devotional, "Gratitude", with scripture from Colossians 3:17, followed by prayer. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as written.

Motion by Ed Vaflor to accept the financial report as submitted for the Tidings; seconded by Randy Green and approved by voice vote.

### **Pastoral reports are included in the Tidings.**

Pastor Rick announced the Prayer Gathering the third Tuesday night of each month, beginning September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Pastor Steven Roper will be in class 9/21-9/24. He will also be speaking at the OBES luncheon at the ABC/Ohio Annual Gathering in October.

Tony Gualtieri reviewed the restructure of the youth program as well as the ABC/Ohio youth week-end gathering planned for February 2010 (details in his Tidings report). He also reviewed plans for the Popcorn Festival fundraiser.

### **Programming – Joanie Warner**

Plans are in place for Trinity's outreach booth at the Popcorn Festival.

**"Back to Church Sunday", September 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. at McKinley Park**, with potluck lunch and community random acts of kindness to follow. Gift coupons will be given out for a fellowship time at 5:00 p.m. at CJ Pizza and Ice Cream.

**Harvest Fest at Lawrence Orchard, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-7:00 p.m.**

### **Ministry – Ron Clayton**

Training is tonight for those who are volunteering at the festival booth.

Sam Newell announced the October communion schedule: 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Oren Linger, Sam Newell, Randy Green, Ed Brewer; 2nd Service, George Lawrence, Vic Mahaffey, Joe Blue, John Klenzman.

Pam Freshour has completed a new greeter schedule through the end of the year. Welcome packages will be given out by greeters.

### **Operations – Phil Harbolt**

Closing on the property at 208 South Main is complete. **Motion by Phil to bring a proposal to the church body for vote regarding projected costs in the amount of \$29,800 for demolition, facade and sidewalk repair, and installation of concrete handicap parking area at the 208 S. Main Street property. Motion seconded by John Layton.**

#### **Discussion:**

\*The Downtown Review Board requires that a plan be in place before a demolition permit is issued. Once a permit is in place, there is a one year timeline for work to be completed.

\*Cost figures are tentative and other estimates may be solicited. Trinity does not qualify for grant monies. Funds will be taken from the Investment Account.

\*Request for vacating the alley may be pursued. If approval is granted, it means Trinity assumes ownership and maintenance of the alley.

**Following the discussion, the Board approved Phil's motion. It will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., along with the 2010 Ballot and Budget.**

Pastor Roper discussed hosting a Beth Moore Bible Study simulcast at Trinity on April 24, 2010. Trinity can host the event at a cost of \$1,000 plus \$595 for the satellite provider. Kingston

Residence has agreed to provide the \$595, and ticket sales can be used to replenish funds. Several women of Trinity have committed to overseeing the project.

**Motion by Ed Vaflor that \$1,000 be committed towards the Beth Moore one day simulcast on April 24, 2010, with \$405 payment now and ticket sales covering the remaining balance. The motion was seconded by Ron and approved by voice vote. Funds will be taken from the Evangelism/Outreach line item.**

**Education – Ed Vaflor**

Sharon Davis announced that she has three new teachers for the Toddler Department and that Junior Church curriculum is currently being used in Sunday school.

Several prayer requests were shared and the meeting was closed with prayer by Gary Warner. **The next regular meeting of the Board is Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., with ministry groups meeting beforehand. The Annual Business Meeting is Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Jane Bender  
Clerk

***Present: Joe Blue, Jane Bender, Roger Epley, Carol Hoffman, Ron Clayton, Gary Warner, Fritz Winegarner, Margaret Winegarner, Sam Newell, Sharon Davis, Pam Freshour, Sheila Klenzman, Tony Gualtieri, John Massey, Randy Green, Joanie Warner, Dolly Russell, Walt Caldwell, John Layton, Pastor Steven Roper, Phil Harbolt, Fred Price, John Games, Ed Vaflor, Pastor Rick Farmer.***