

THE PRESIDENT'S



TRINITY COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

“...Old Rags and Discarded Clothing...”

Jeremiah 38 is rich with applications for today's challenges. Jeremiah was warning the people of the impending invasion by the Babylonians. The officials of the King did not like his words, asked and received permission from King Zedekiah to take Jeremiah, who was under arrest, “from his cell and lowered him by ropes into an empty cistern in the prison yard ... *There was no water in the cistern, but here was a thick layer of mud at the bottom and Jeremiah sank down into it.*” Jeremiah 38:6 NLT

Ebed-melech came to the rescue with thirty men. How could they rescue him from the mud, from starvation and from the awful environment? They needed ‘something’ to assist them and help lift up Jeremiah while using the ropes to pull him out. What did they find? Read the following Scriptural account:

“So Ebed-melech took the men with him and went to a room in the palace beneath the treasury, where he found some old rags and discarded clothing. He carried these to the cistern and lowered them to Jeremiah on a rope. Ebed-melech called down to Jeremiah, ‘Put these rags under your armpits to protect you from the ropes.’ Then when Jeremiah was ready, they pulled him out. So Jeremiah was returned to the courtyard of the guard - the palace prison - where he remained.” Jeremiah 38:11-13 NLT

Have you felt like an old rag? A ‘has been’? Someone who has been discarded and is unimportant? Someone whose counsel is called ‘out of date’ and not relevant? Someone who is not ‘with it’ or has served one’s purpose in life and it is time to be moved out of the way? Are you feeling ‘like old rags and discarded clothing’ and that nobody cares or has interest in you? Do you feel you have lost value and the ability to contribute?

But wait: The ‘needed’ Ebed-meleches of today **need you!** That’s right! You are the one who has experienced ‘the hard knocks of life,’ and your walk with God will be used by the Almighty to assist in ‘pulling many out of the mud,’ including believers! Do not cast away your confidence! As the writer of Hebrews states:

“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.” Hebrews 10:35 NKJV

The ‘confidence’ is that He will use you regardless of what others may say, what others may think or embrace! **Remember: *All that you have weathered over life has great value!*** You have counsel, you have the insight, and you have the ‘necessary ingredients’ to lift someone up at the right time ... out of despondence and out of *gridlock* and into light, peace, hope, comfort, and joy! **Be ready to be used!** **It is not pleasurable to be sinking in mud!**

Notice that these ‘old rags and discarded clothing’ were *‘beneath the treasury.’* **Mark this down:** Money is not everything! There are some things ‘money’ cannot buy such as *wisdom* and *real peace!* God looks at the *heart!* **Jeremiah did not need money ... he needed ‘old rags and discarded clothing’ to set him free! The Trash became Treasure under the Treasury!** Think of it: You may be the very one God wants to use to be close to the scene of need and make a difference. Ebed-meleches *need ‘old rags and discarded clothing!’* This is a mystery, but absolutely required within the whole Counsel of God!

He uses those who 'are in step with Him!' We must be a prepared and ready 'vessel' to be used by the Master! As Titus 3:1 says: 'Remind them ... to be ready for every good work'!

Get Ready To Be Used!

The Latest Happenings ...

- ✦ The First Super Bowl Party in Speer Hall was held the night of the Super Bowl. Two floors of the three-story facility were utilized with TVs in the common areas. A donor supplied 25 pizzas to enjoy. Along with the pizza, there were boxes of chicken wings, fruits, and other snacks with beverages of all kinds.



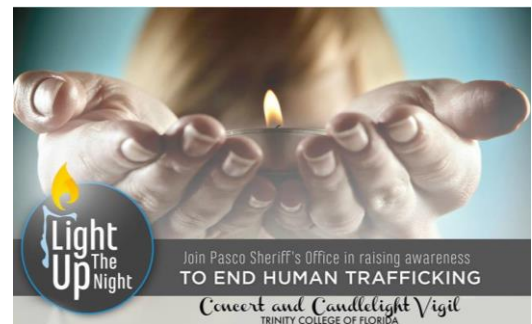
- ✦ The second **Global Impact Missions Banquet** sponsored by the College, donors, and churches was held at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club. Money raised will be used by students for summer missions trips. A silent auction was held along with challenging speakers, food, and great fellowship. A special 'Thank You' from all of us to Dr. Joe Allotta, professor and Director of Church Ministries for his leadership in guiding this two-day college-wide missionary conference.



*Professor Joe Allotta, Missions Conference Speaker
Voddie Baucham, President O'Farrell*

Trinity Students in Prayer at Missions Conference

- ✦ **Light Up the Night**, a county-wide event demonstrating the need to confront human trafficking in our area, was held on the campus of Trinity College of Florida on February 2, 2019. Approximately 400-500 were in attendance along with speakers and contributing sponsors. The Pasco County Sheriff's Office led the way in guiding the event along with many volunteers from the College. Horses and a helicopter landing were on the agenda. Food trucks and activity stations for children were also on site. Thanks go to Leslie Rewald, Professor of Counseling and Director of the Online Program, along with other key people such as Jeremy Alvarez, Facilities Manager, and Kathy Rudiman, Business and Finance, for their sacrificial efforts and countless hours.



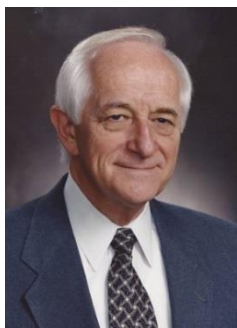


Sheriff's Department at Light Up The Night

Trinity Volunteers at Light Up The Night

Ahead for Trinity ...

- ✦ A new **IT refreshment project** is underway. It features better communication, better metrics on progress within admissions and tracking of giving. There will be a new phone system available to faculty and staff. A donor has offered to fund this project.
- ✦ Due to the expanding community around the College (including a new subdivision, new mall area, and restaurants), there exists an increased desire to lease or utilize our facilities. Our college campus is also used for community and church activities.
- ✦ **Trip to Disney.** A special trip to Disney on February 18 was made possible by SGA and others.
- ✦ **Dr. Charlie Martin, Vice President for Advancement**, was guest speaker at First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks on February 24, 2019.
- ✦ **Scholarship Chapel is March 22, 2019.** More than thirty Scholarships will be presented to students in recognition of their academic achievements and career focus.
- ✦ **College Preview is Friday, March 29, 2019.** This is an opportunity for prospective students to experience a day at Trinity. Classroom time, chapel, and lunch along with meeting the directors of the various disciplines Trinity has to offer will occur. It is a time to 'feel the Trinity touch.' Click on www.trinitycollege.edu for more information.
- ✦ **Anthony Abell**, former Provost of Clearwater Christian College and an adjunct for Trinity College of Florida, will be assuming a part-time position as Vice President for Enrollment to assist the Administration in all areas of admissions, including recruiting and financial aid. With the new IT enhancements, he will be an excellent coach for sharpening focus, analyzing information and progress, and response time to interested potential students.
- ✦ The **2019 Annual Banquet will be May 10, 2019** at the Innisbrook Golf and Spa Resort. Mark your calendars for this special event. This year, our own **Dr. John Corts**, second President of Trinity and former President of the Billy Graham Evangelical Association, will be speaking, followed by the outstanding music ministry of **Wintley Phipps**. Mr. Phipps has sung for several U.S. Presidents and for a number of well-known individuals such as Mother Teresa, and the Gaithers. He was nominated for Grammy Awards in 1988 and 1989.



Dr. John Corts



Wintley Phipps

- ✦ The **President's Council** will meet on campus **Friday, April 5**, for its spring meeting.

Urgent Prayer Requests ...

- ✦ ***Pray for our Admissions Teams*** for both traditional and degree completion programs. Pray for their contacts, decisions, and travel. The goal for Fall is 75 new students in traditional and 25 in degree completion.
- ✦ ***Pray for our Faculty and Staff.*** Pray that they will sense God's Hand on them and His Word to them. Pray that all of us will have the "Favor of God" on our efforts.
- ✦ ***Pray for our surrounding community.*** There is growth and expansion. Pray that we will have *Godly influence* in the affairs of man.

A clear and concise prayer of the Psalmist:

"I am yours, save me." Psalm 119:9 NKJV

With a very grateful heart for your support,

