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# TRINITY GAZETTE

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## Welcome to the Trinity Gazette!

By Ute Galloway

*NetudoMagic*

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*In Loving Memory of Clement Kirk*

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## Reflections on the accomplishments

By Ute Galloway

As I reflected on the past year, I thought about everything, which has taken place at Trinity. God was really busy in our church. Then God started to expand my horizons and show me the things we had done through His glory over the last three years. Of course, I am only capable to reflect on the items I am aware of, so if there are other items you remember, feel free to share them with each other and me so we can really understand what all the Holy Spirit has done.

We are blessed with an awesome musical team. I am absolutely in awe every Sunday, listening to them and hearing the new songs and the olds ones being sung and backed up by the bands, which are made up of some very talented people. I am not sure if you realize that it is because of those teams, that I cannot sit still, my entire body and mind screams worship. I have not had a Sunday service I was disappointed. Awesome job all of you involved in making our worship time so much more fun, and totally glorifying God in the process.

The next thing, which came to my mind, was the Nursery. Thank you so much to our staff in the nursery who takes such great care of all of our little people. You are totally appreciated by the parents of these little critters.

Of course, then we have the Rock and the children's Sunday school, which has been headed up by many incredible of parents, students, and teachers. The kids enjoy what you are teaching them; otherwise, we would not have such a big exodus every Sunday.

We also have to say thank you to the youth group leaders for middle school and high school. Without all of you who so dedicated help Pastor Doug arbitrating the events in those areas, we would have absolute mayhem on our hands.

We recently had numerous testimonies from our teenagers demonstrating that what you are teaching them is working.

Now, not everything going on in Church has to do with the Rock, or Sunday school, or youth ministry. There are also the rest of the kids, which are going to Awana. What a year

Awana already had so far, and of course, we have to say thank you to the leadership and parents who spend so much time trying to pass along God to the kids. Of course, I must say that regardless what year Awana has put behind them, each year the teams worked hard and had as much success of teaching God's word and with His glory bring the word of God to the children in our neighborhood.

I also would like to reflect on all of the work we accomplished in church. There is an enormous amount of maintenance, which has been finally addressed over the last three years. Beside all of the repairs, which are just as important as renovation, we were able to handle getting some major jobs done. We replaced the roof, air conditioners, and renovated the sanctuary building on a water budget, got the signs taking care of, and received recently new landscaping in. Thanks to certain women, we have practically no weeds in the landscaping. Of course, we cannot forget all of the in and outdoor cleaning, mowing, and trimming we are keeping up with. Thank you to the entire crew who works on this and is still working diligently on getting, and keeping the place looking great.

We accomplished to start a hospitality group, which has become quite famous for the wonderful food they are providing us every Sunday.

Our bible study teachers have made great strides teaching us the word of God and letting us know how to understand His word. We have dug deeper into the word of God with all kinds of studies, learning about different books, precept studies, and different religions, so we can do Gods' job better.

The jail ministry, open Mic Jams, Media ministry, Family fest, ABF's, Shepherding groups, Bible studies: we have so much going on it makes my head spin.

There are so many more things, and I feel like I am standing at the Emmy Awards trying not do forget any one item or one person or group, knowing full well, I most likely already have done so. As I said in the beginning, these are just the items I know of, I am sure, you know of more. Please let someone around you know that you are appreciated them for what they are doing. I can see it; we have done an enormous growth in this church over the last three years, with the help of the Holy Spirit, and I am looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the New Year; I am very excited to see it happened. So let us glorify God and get to work.

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## **Salvation comes at times when they are least expected, however most appreciated**

### **Story form a person read to us two days after his salvation**

It was Sunday 12/27/2008 when this story was brought to the prayer team in room 102. If you ever wondered what we do, or if what we do works or makes sense let this story proof to you Yes, prayers work, and over the last years we were able to pray with many people who were helped by the glory of God. Sit back, read this story, and realize your life is saved and your sins have been forgiven by the grace of God. He loves you and he will enclose you in his arms.

A week of anguish

A week of joy

Dealing with an emotional terrorist

Trying to sooth suicidal maniac

Sleeping with hungry lions.

Talking, one verb from death

Pleading to lifeless eyes with Plexiglas complexion

Figuring truthful lies

Deadly grief for the breathing

Tearfully embracing an empty shell called baby

Screaming sense at illogical deafness

She is nodding compliance, thinking treason

Trying to disrupt plunging needles, likes French kissing water moccasins or Embracing boa constrictors.

One week of terror trumped by failure, relief from heartache, cold, hard heart, fighting hate with childhood memories of her.

One week of failure trumped with my families love. A week of endless calls of support, love, and comfort

Your support dwarfing any I have offered you. Your Love of God and your prayers to Him for us have shattered my pride. They have made me desire a restored relationship with Christ. Your closeness to the throne access to His spirit opened my eyes and heart to my need to repent. I thank God for all of you and the love you have poured out to us! I realize I am no different to my Heavenly Father than Aly is to me. My cheating, lying, stealing, drunkenness,

aggressiveness, anger are no less appalling to Him the Alycia' addiction.

I come before Your throne with my only defense Your Son's Blood. Please wash me with it and renew me to Your presence. In Your Sons Name I pray I forgive Aly as You forgive me.

-- I hope that this excerpt out of his life's story gives you hope, and the encouragement to trust God with your life as well. He loves you, and is waiting for you to just crawl into his lap and embrace Him.

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## Quotations by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Submitted by Gary Ensign

**On Love and Non-Violence** – This is a spiritual movement and we intend to keep these things in the forefront. We know that violence will defeat our purpose. We know that in our struggle violence will not only be impractical but immoral. For it is my firm conviction that to seek to retaliate with violence does nothing but intensify the existence of evil and hate in America and in the world. Along the way of life, someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chains of hate and evil. The greatest way to do that is through love. I believe firmly that love is a transforming power that can lift a whole community to new horizons of fair play, good will, and justice.

Love is our great instrument and our great weapon, and that alone. I believe firmly that, "He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword" (*Matthew 26:52*). We will not retaliate with hate, but will stand with love in our hearts and stand resisting injustice, with the same determination with which we started out. We need a great deal of encouragement in this movement. Of course, one thing that we are depending on, from not only other communities but from our own community, is prayer. We ask people everywhere to pray that God will guide us, pray that justice will be done, and that righteousness will stand. And I think through these prayers we will be strengthened; it will make us feel the unity of the nation and the presence of Almighty God. For as we said all along, this is a spiritual movement. (*From Dr. King's essay "Walk with Freedom" published in 1956.*)

**Christian Faith** – The Christian faith makes it possible for us to nobly accept that which cannot be changed and to meet disappointments and sorrow with an inner poise, and to absorb the most intense pain without abandoning our sense of hope... This faith in God transforms the whirlwind of despair into a warm and reviving breeze of hope. The words of a motto, which generations ago commonly found on the wall in the homes of

devout persons, need to be etched in our hearts: "*Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. There was no one there.*" (*From Dr. King's writings "Strength to Love published in 1963.*)

**I Have a Dream** – I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places shall be made plain, and the crooked places shall be made straight and the glory of the Lord will be revealed and all flesh shall see it together (*Isaiah 40:3-5*).

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.

With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning—"*My country 'tis of thee; sweet land of liberty; of thee I sing; land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride; from every mountain side, let freedom ring*"—and if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and hamlet, from every state and city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children—Black men and White men, Jews and Gentiles, Catholics and Protestants—will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "*Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last.*" (*From Dr. King's most well know and most often quoted speech delivered before the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963, as the keynote address of the March on Washington, D.C., for Civil Rights.*)

**Where Do We Go From Here?** – I must confess, my friends, the road ahead will not always be smooth. There will be still rocky places of frustration and meandering points of bewilderment. There will be inevitable setbacks here and there. There will be moments when the buoyancy of hope

will be transformed into the fatigue of despair. Our dreams will sometimes be shattered and our ethereal hopes blasted. Difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future. And as we continue our charted course, we may gain consolation in the words so nobly left behind by that great Black poet who was also a great freedom fighter of yesterday, James Weldon Johnson:

*Stony the road we trod,*

*Bitter the chastening rod*

*Felt in the days*

*When hope unborn had died.*

*Yet with a steady beat,*

*Have not our weary feet*

*Come to the place*

*For which our fathers sighed?*

*We have come over the way*

*That with tears hath been watered.*

*We have come treading our paths*

*Through the blood of the slaughter,*

*Out from the gloomy past,*

*Till now we stand at last*

*Where the bright gleam*

*Of our bright star is cast.*

Let this affirmation be our ringing cry. It will give us the courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds of despair, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice. Let us realize that William Cullen Bryant is right: *"Truth crushed to earth will rise again."* Let us go out realizing that the Bible is right: *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"* (Galatians 6:7). This is the hope for the future, and with this faith we will be able to sing in some not too distant tomorrow with a cosmic past tense, *"We have overcome, we have overcome, deep in my heart, I did believe we would overcome."* (Delivered at

*the annual meeting of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference held at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta Georgia August 16, 1967.)*

**I've Been to the Mountaintop** – I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life; longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. And I'm happy tonight, I'm not worried about anything, I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord! (Delivered April 3, 1968 at Mason Temple Church of God in Memphis, Tennessee on the eve of Dr. King's assassination.)

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## Something to Think about

### Send in by Ray & Dagmar Traylor

Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument and one friend slapped the other in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything wrote in the sand: "Today my best friend slapped me in the face." They kept on walking until they found an Oasis where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning he wrote on a stone: "Today my best friend saved my life". The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him: "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write in stone. Why?" The friend replied: "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand, where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. When someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no winds can ever erase it."

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone. They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but an entire life to forget them.

Send this to the people you will never forget. I just did! If you don't send it to anyone, it means you're in a hurry and that you have forgotten your friends. Take the time to live! Do not value the things you have in your life but value who you have in your life! If I happen to get it

back, then I know my place in your life should write it down in sand, where winds of forgiveness can erase it away.

When someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no winds can ever erase it. Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone. They say it takes a minute to find a special person, and 20 hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but an entire life to forget them. Send this to the people you will never forget. I just did! If you don't send it to anyone, it means you're in a hurry and that you have forgotten your friends. Take the time to live! Do not value the things you have in your life but value who you have in your life! If I happen to get it back, then I know my place in your life

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## Get to know me

By Ute Galloway



Pat Thompson

*I went to Pat Thompson's funeral because of Celia, whom over the last year, has grown on my heart as a woman of God filled with grace, compassion, and love. She always has been what I just have described, but it took last year to truly appreciate it. It is the same with Richard, beside the woman of God factor of course, he always has been very reserved, godly, and much respected. It struck me as I am sitting in the funeral why Richard is the way he is. It is because of his mother, Pat Thompson. So God put it on my heart to let the rest of you who did not go to the funeral to meet her. She was an incredible woman of God. Before I introduce you to Pat, I decided to let the grandchildren tell you about their last weeks with her. The first one to share her thoughts is Milla, she could not be present at her grandmother's*

*memorial service, because she had to be at her husbands side; therefore, sent this letter to her family.*

This Christmas week, Brad and I both lost grandparents; this past Saturday, my sweet GP and Brad's MawMaw passed away. Brad is spending time with his family in Birmingham, so I couldn't make Grandma Pat's memorial service, but I wanted to have the chance to tell you all what my grandmother meant to me this Christmas specifically.

This year, Christmas was very different. Instead of sitting around a tree, this Christmas was spent sitting with Grandma Pat. Instead of talking about food and gifts, this Christmas was spent reflecting on life and on death and on the true meaning of Jesus coming to earth as a child. This year, Christmas was spent taking communion and reading about heaven and giving thanks to God for family. And because of Grandma Pat, this Christmas was more special and more meaningful than ever before.

Grandma Pat amazed me. During her last weeks on earth, she didn't complain or worry; she didn't flinch at the thought of death. She simply enjoyed the things around her and looked forward to every card, every phone call, and every visitor. Though she didn't have a strong appetite, boy did she enjoy Krisan's Blueberry Pie and Ghirardelli Peppermint Bark. She repeatedly asked her nurses to look at her prized "grandmother wall" - a wall of pictures of Alicia and Russell, Michael and John, Celeste and Brad, Krisan and Casey, and me and Brad, and she had a photo book of her great-grandson Grant that she proudly showed everyone who walked through her door. She always smiled and laughed, and because of her, we all did too. Whenever someone came in her room, her face lit up. When asked if she was comfortable, she always said "mmm hmmm" with a smile. She made jokes about wanting more great-grandkids, and when we offered to paint her nails and toenails, she accepted though she joked that she didn't have many left to paint. She constantly thought of others, and she sent cards, letters, and flowers to others even when she could hardly write. I was simply amazed at her sweet, positive attitude about everything. Many of you who have known GP have said the same things about her selflessness and her every-positive outlook on life, and you should know that she was the very same person until the second her spirit went to heaven.

When I first left to come home for Christmas break, I thought this was going to be a very sad visit. I knew GP was becoming weaker by the day, and though I wanted to be

with her more than anything, I thought our time might be depressing and painful.

But I was very, very wrong. Because of GP, our time was full and meaningful, and because of Christ, we were able to truly rejoice. I came home changed after watching my grandmother's strength and love in the last weeks of her life. I have a new perspective on relationships, and how important it is to focus on people instead of things, and I have new resolve to keep in touch with those living far away. Most importantly, though, I have a new love for my savior and a new appreciation for why he came to earth as a child on Christmas morning; now I truly understand what someone having assurance of heaven actually looks like. Thank you, Grandma Pat, for your example. We all love you very much.

As the family sat around her bed over Christmas, they made lists of words that described their grandmother. Krisan Thompson and Michael Porter read this at the memorial service:

**"Patient, kind, thoughtful, selfless, honest, caring, generous, high integrity, practical, content, strong, determined, independent, confident, outgoing, consistent, nice, dedicated, sweet, optimistic, and the one word that sums it all up... is FAITHFUL."**

Ute: Richard, when you think about your Mom, what stands out?

Richard: Her kids; the amazing way she took care of her family, when her back was pushed against the wall. She devoted her whole life to raising us kids. As a kid, I never knew how to appreciate this, until much later in life when I had my own children. So many times, kids are a result of broken homes or remarriages; she never divided her love and affection between us and someone else. She always put us first, she let us grow up in her love, and we knew that we came first. This allowed me to grow up without any baggage in my life.

Ute: Do you know when Mom became a Christian?

Richard: That is hard to say. Mom grew up as a child going to the Christian Science church. In her early adulthood, she attended a Methodist church for many years where the gospel was preached, I assume she became a Christian during those years. She could not name a specific day or time but I know this – her relationship to Christ was real. She shared with me how she knows and felt the love of Christ and presence of Christ in her life and knows that his loving arm around her is what got her through the tough times. This is what also enabled her to face death with such bravery, dignity, and grace.

Ute: What would you say Mom's top three Christian Qualities were?

Richard: The first one was never question the sovereignty of God in her life. Something came along that was out of her control and she accepted it as part of God's will for her life. Second, her level of integrity was impeccable. She always told the truth, and she always did the right thing. Finally, she was always so willing to give her charity and putting other before herself.

Ute: What is the lesson she taught you that stands out, something that has ingrained itself into your brain?

Richard: She always did the right thing, even when life threw her into potential conflict; she always put us kids first and made sure that we would be protected and safe. If that meant not to pursue certain situations even so she would have every right to do so, she did not do so for us. She always put the family first.

Ute: Do you think this lesson has trickled down to your kids?

Richard: It made a big difference in the relationship I have with my kids now. She taught me unconditional love.

Ute: Did Mom have a special song she liked to sing?

Richard: No, music was never her thing.

Ute: What was her thing?

Richard: Greeting cards, she always wrote them to everyone she knew. If you were ever part of her life, she never dropped her friendship with you. Greeting cards were a big part of how she kept up with old friends. She sent out hundreds every year.

Ute: Did she have a special Bible verse?

Richard: I cannot say that she had a Bible verse; I do know that the Serenity Prayer was the one thing; she even had embroidery hanging on her wall:

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;*

*Courage to change the things I can;*

*And wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;*

*Enjoying one moment at a time;*

*Accepting hardships as a pathway to peace;*

*Taking as HE did, the sinful world, as it is not as I would have it;*

*Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;*

*That I may be reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.*

*Amen*

Ute: If she could have given advice, what would it have been?

Richard: Her main advice to our girls was first getting our education. Mom lost our dad at age thirty-five due to a tragic hunting accident and had to take three kids back to college to complete her education. She was opinionated about the importance of a good education. Second, she would advise young couples to have kids. She loved children and saw how important your children are to you in your older years. She was always so appreciative of everything her family did for her --- especially in the last few months of her life when she was dependant on us to care of her

Ute: How are you going to remember Mom? Is it her life, what she taught you, or is it her legacy?

Richard: The last couple of months I had with Mom made a huge impact on my life. I am going to try to incorporate them into my life. I am trying to keep up more of my old friendships I have, like with old college friends of mine. I also have this cousin of mine, which whom I am going to stay more in contact. Mom never dropped a friend; she always stayed in contact with all of her old friends many going back to her college days.

I also going to try to accept God's plan without complaining, with grace, to put my family first, and myself second and try to live my life with the highest level of integrity possible.

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## **International Cuisine.**

### **Pork with cranberry sauce**

Ingredients: boneless pork - 750 g, fresh mushrooms - 200 g, green onion - 100 g, drawn butter - 4 tablespoonfuls, hard cheese - 60 g, cranberry - 2/3 glass, sugar - 1 tablespoon, salt and pepper to taste.

Wash mushrooms and onion and mince them. Then sauté mushrooms, add onion and salt them to taste. Wash pork, peel away the film, and slice meet across the grain.

Beat slices of pork, add salt, and pepper to taste.

Put sautéed mushrooms and onion on the centre of each slice, roll them up, and fix with wooden skewers.

Fry rolls in drawn butter until they become golden in color. To make cranberry sauce, sort cranberry out, wash it, mix it with

sugar, and blend them with blender. Then grate cheese and mix it with blended cranberry.

Put cranberry sauce on each pork roll and bake them in an oven at a temperature of 220 C° for 10 minutes.

Dish pork rolls with rice and vegetables.

You can change filling, garnish, or cook pork not in the form of rolls but like French meet.

Bon appetite!!!

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## **From the left field**

### **THE LIMO**

The Pope had just finished a tour of the East Coast and was taking a limousine to the airport. Having never driven a limo, he asked the chauffeur if he could drive for a while.

Well, the chauffeur didn't have much of a choice, so the chauffeur climbs in the back of the limo and the Pope takes the wheel. The Pope proceeds to hop on Route 95 and starts accelerating to see what the limo could do. He gets to about 90 miles per hour and, WHAM; there are the blue lights of our friendly State Police in his mirror.

He pulls over and the trooper comes to his window. Seeing whom it was the trooper says "just a moment please I need to call in."

The trooper radios in and asks for the chief. He tells the chief "I've got a REALLY important person pulled over and I need to know what to do."

The chief replies "Who is it, not Ted again?"

The trooper says, "No, even more important."

The chief replies, "It's the Governor, is it?"

The trooper replies, "No, even more important."

"It's isn't the President is it?"

"No, more important", replies the trooper.

"Well WHO the HECK is it!" screams the chief.

"I don't know," says the trooper. "But he's got the Pope as a chauffeur!"

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## **Favorite Verse**

### **Deuteronomy 6:24; 10:12-13**

<sup>24</sup>And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to [reverently] fear the Lord our God for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.

<sup>12</sup>And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you but [reverently] to fear the Lord your God, [that is] to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being,

<sup>13</sup>To keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes, which I command you today for your good.

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## **Editor's Comments**

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A Church represents a unity in Christ Jesus, not as a social club that gathers on Sundays, but a group of people who believe in the word of God, the unity through Christ Jesus willing to do what the word of God, our heavenly father and his son command us to do through the Holy Spirit. Let us get to work.

I can see no better way, than to reach out and do just that. I have notice many little projects completed in our church. Now it is always human nature to see the things one could have done better, however we should keep in mind that if we had better ideas on completion of a job one could have done the job him or herself. Such opinions are wonderful, still they do not reflect God's attitude of thankfulness and grace. Therefore, I want to say thank you to the persons who took it upon themselves to tackle certain jobs, and took time out of their schedule to complete them. Thank you for giving up your time, your money, and your sweat doing something for our church. Thank you for being part of the body of Christ, thank you for doing the jobs I did not know how to do, or I did not want to do. So my brother and sister's in Christ, I appreciated your efforts, and now let us go to work in the spiritual realm and become fishermen of mankind.