
TRINITY GAZETTE

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Welcome to the Trinity Gazette!

By Ute Galloway

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Why study the book of Esther?

By Eileen Johnson

Why study a book about a young Jewish orphan, being raised by her cousin in a pagan land, who was chosen in a beauty contest to become the wife and queen of the king? That story line is very intriguing and raises a lot of questions.

Why would a powerful king choose a wife in a beauty contest?

Why would a young girl be apart of such a beauty contest? Did she have a choice?

What was it like being married to a pagan King?

Why does a Bible study on a book that has no reference or mention of God in it?

All of these questions and the story line provide enough reasons to study Esther (and that's just the first part of the book)!

Let me quote from the introduction to the book of Esther in my Bible. "The book of Esther is a literary masterpiece that reads like a modern suspense novel, complete with irony, intrigue, revenge and plenty of parties. King Xerxes of Persia chooses a

beautiful Jewish girl to be his queen. Risking her own life, Esther appeals to the king to reverse a wicked plan to murder all the Jews. Although his name is not actually mentioned in the book, God is in control, using Esther's position as queen to rescue the Jews. God is behind the scenes, caring for his chosen ones.

Sometimes we wonder if God is really involved in the circumstances of our lives. The book of Esther is an exciting reminder that God sometimes chooses to work indirectly in our lives to accomplish his will. It is only as we follow Esther's example of courage and trust in God and obedience to his leading that we will sense God's character, provision, and faithfulness. Even through tragic events, we can rely on a God who takes care of us in all circumstances and makes good come from evil."

If you would like to join us in our study of Esther, we meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:15 in the fellowship hall/overflow room.

Eileen Johnson, 357-4651 or maileenj@aol.com

Poetry Corner

By Ute Galloway

The power of prayer

The power of prayer is the most awesome thing

It helps me to get and understand the important themes

It holds me accountable, even so I say

I just want to do and say the things I want to say

I just want to follow my own worldly desires

I want to be in complete power

I want the control.

However, a great big thanks to my Lord

Who holds me accountable through the Holy Spirit Stance?

Who tells me it is okay, for I love you so

Regardless the dumb stuff you put yourself through

Who stands at my side and listens to me

Who shows me the way of love it should be
So thank you Lord for the power of prayer
It makes my life tremendously better
For even when I say bla-bla-bla-bla
God gently takes my hand, and show me the way
With kindness, love and compassion,
My Lord loves, yes loves little old me
Therefore, glory to God for all is okay
The power of prayer really works out
And I will go home to my Father's house.

Grand Vue Park

By Tim Howell

Every day a brand new wonder
I hope I don't forget,
How each morn unfolds itself
The next is better yet
It's the fog that fills the valley
It's deer that walk the dew,
As turkeys do their funny trot
Under powder skies of blue
It's the sounds that break the silence;
I can even hear he wins
Of a blue jay flying overhead
Another simple special thing
And, of, the many colors
For my eyes a splendid meal,
All the colors of a rainbow
To my senses, they reveal.
The canary with its yellow
The trees have many greens,
The cardinal wears a brilliant red
The best I've ever seen
I know I'll miss this special pace

But I'll keep it in my heart,

For though next week it's back to work

I'll remember "Grand Vue Park"

Greetings Pallatt Prayer Partners,

Send in by Roy and Rita

Here is an update for you to share with your churches and prayer groups.

1. **ReachGlobal ministry to Asia.** We are now working with nearly 50 missionaries mainly in three countries—Japan, Mongolia and the Philippines. I am busy keeping track of both missionaries who are coming on home assignment and those returning to the field working through their financial issues. There also seems to be more activity in short term workers going overseas. We have one returning from a one-year assignment in a creative access country and one in the early months of a one-year term in Mongolia. As you can imagine there are several things that need to be set up financially when a missionary either goes to the field or returns. Our national office is also gearing up for our annual audit and there are many details that I need to do to support that.

2. **Rita's work** at Community Christian Academy is filled with the Lord's blessings. She has added the responsibility to send the weekly updates to the local newspaper. This is along with keeping the website updated and then there is her teaching of both art classes and music classes. This semester she is particularly excited about pulling together her middle school and a few upper elementary school band students to rehearse with them five days a week, instead of before just once or twice along the way. She still gives private instrumental lessons four days a week after school.

3. **Both Rita and I** are very involved on our church with worship each week and me with preaching most Sundays. The church is in the final stages of building our new worship facility, which we are praying will be finished for a grand opening celebration Easter Sunday, April 12.

The Lord uses your prayers and support to sustain us and we are eternally grateful. Our support over 2008 was below our budget need so we finished the year with a deficit and had to take a salary cut of \$400 a month starting this month. Please pray for those who can to send in special offerings of one-time support, as the Lord would lead. (I write this in response to those who have said, "Let us know specifically

what your needs and circumstances are.” This is not a complaint; the Lord always provides and has blessed us beyond measure.)

Your faithful support and prayer is greatly appreciated.

God bless you all,

The Joy of Giving

Sent in by Cheryl Blake

During the Great Depression, two families shared a house in Pennsylvania. One family occupied the upper floor, and the other family lived on the lower. The family that lived downstairs was always inviting people in to share what they had. Whenever there was an opportunity for them to help out, they would do so. No matter how much they gave, they always seemed to have enough. The family on the upper floor, however, scoffed at the way the downstairs family lived. They stored all extras in a locker in the pantry. They gave nothing away. It was not until they found that rats had gotten into their pantry that they were sorrowful for what they had done. Interestingly, the rats had not disturbed the downstairs pantry.

Selfishness leads to despair. True joy comes to us not from what we own but from what we are able to give to others. We were put on this earth to serve one another, and when we fail to do so, there is a price to pay. When we give what we have, God will bless us with more, and the blessing will be double because of the joy that giving brings.

Take what I have, Lord, and use it for Your glory. I have nothing except what You have given me. Help me to share from my abundance and to give all that I can to those who are in need. Amen.

Something to Think about

Send in by Rosaline Bennett

Satan called a worldwide convention of demons.

In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church."

"We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth."

"We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their savior."

"Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken."

"So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, BUT steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ."

"This is what I want you to do," said the devil:

"Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" his demons shouted.

"Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered.

"Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow."

"Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles."

"Keep them from spending time with their children."

"As their families fragment, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work!"

"Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice."

"Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive; to keep the TV, VCR, CDs, and their PCs going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly."

"This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ."

"Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers."

"Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day."

"Invade their driving moments with billboards."

"Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogs, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes.."

"Keep skinny, beautiful models on the magazines and TV so their husbands will believe that outward beauty is what's important, and they'll become dissatisfied with their wives."

"Keep the wives too tired to love their husbands at night."

"Give them headaches too! If they don't give their husbands the love they need, they will begin to look elsewhere."

"That will fragment their families quickly!"

"Give them Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas."

"Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about his resurrection and power over sin and death."

"Even in their recreation, let them be excessive."

"Have them return from their recreation exhausted."

"Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God's creation. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, plays, concerts, and movies instead."

"Keep them busy, busy, busy!"

"And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences."

"Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus."

"Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause."

"It will work!"

"It will work!"

It was quite a plan! The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there, having little time for their God or their families!

Having no time to tell others about the power of Jesus to change lives, I guess the question is, has the devil been successful in his schemes?

You be the judge!!!!

Does "BUSY" mean: B-eing U-nder S-atan's Y-oke?

Get to know me

By Ute Galloway



Peter Bandstra

Ute: How long have you been a Christian?

Pete: I was what you call a womb Christian. I was born into a Christian family, was baptized at eight weeks, and accepted Christ at 5 – 6 with my Sunday school teacher.

Ute: When did you feel the calling from God?

Pete: In 1973, when I was working at the telephone company in New York City, I was accepted at Calvin College in Michigan. I had found work and living quarters. The one I did not consult in my decision was God; he turned me down because I was not ready yet. As I am looking back at that time, I was not ready yet. I was an active Christian, active in my Church, on the school board, however; I was getting increasingly angry. It was around that time that the Telephone Company sold me to the Miami branch for benefits into management position. They needed a classroom bully, so I got the job. I worked with a Lady in Miami who became very ill. Our desks were up against each other. I did not know how to speak Jesus to her or how to quote the bible to her. When she died, I was the only one in company who did not go to her funeral. In 1988 around 15 years later, God placed me into my own prison for 12 weeks after surgery. That is when I started to read the Bible, and it was Romans that made it click. I read Romans 15 times repeatedly, that is what changed my life. It took two years to clean out my anger, two years to build up for something

useful to come out of it. In 1993, God opened up the doors for me. The first mission I got involved in was the rescue mission/ rehab center, and homeless shelter in Leesburg. In 1998, God sentenced me to go to Jail.

Ute: The first day on the job, what went through your mind?

Pete: What am I doing here; this was a foreign field to me. I was completely overwhelmed.

Ute: When did the factor set in which made you realize how important the job is you started to do?

Pete: I cannot answer this question; I have all these events going through mind, which took place through the first couple of months. I honestly cannot give you a specific answer. One of the times when I realized how important it was, when I walked through the mall and a young man came towards me who had recently got out. He over-towered me by 4” and outweighed me by 150lbs. He was in the mall with his seven children, he came over to me and literally picked me up and gave me a big hug.

Ute: When you hold the service, how does it take place?

Pete: I only hold two services out of the 15, and volunteers do the rest of the 29 bible studies. We go into a meeting pod, and the officer calls for church. The men and women have to get up for it and come out to participate in the meetings. The services sometimes consist of Testimonies, prayer and then we do Bible teachings.

Ute: Have you found yourself in a situation where you knew that what was said to you was beyond yourself?

Pete: Every day, their problems are so huge, that all I can do is trying to handle it with them.

Ute: Does God give you the scriptures in times like that?

Pete: All the time, the Holy Spirit gives me the right verse at the right time for the situation.

Ute: Do you carry a bible into the pods?

At this point of time, Chaplin Pete pulls out his tiny little bible out of his back pocket.

Pete: I never leave home without it.

Ute: How is the supplying of Bible help the Jail Ministry?

Pete: We get mostly Gideon Bibles, or King James Bibles. That becomes hard so when you have people who cannot read or understand the King James Versions. I would prefer to get New King James Bible because that would give them the chance to do their bible studies.

Ute: How do the bible studies work?

Pete: They developed a booklet, which has 8 studies in them. Once the inmates complete the booklet, then they receive a study bible.

Ute: Are they allowed to keep the bibles in their cell?

Pete: Yes, they are allowed to keep it and they can take it home once they are released.

Ute: What percentages of felons do you see come to Christ in jail?

Pete: Let me explain it to you this way, out of a 1000 inmates, 250 participate every week, out of them, 100 are serious, and out of them 10 – 25 are going to make it. Out of those 10 - 25 who have accepted Christ, I anticipated 5 to find their way back in here within a two-year period, before they are done. In all of the years, I only saw two people I prayed for and received Christ, who walked away from Jail and they did not return. That is in the 15 years I have been here.

Ute: Do any of the man and woman released ever return as volunteers?

Pete: Never, they are not allowed. Now, we have four of them working at my local church; three of them are employed full-time, and one is involved as a youth teacher.

Ute: Did anyone in your family teach you what the true Christian spirit was?

Pete: My mother did, she was a saint. I always remember watching her after my father died, sitting there having tears run down her face, reading the word of God, and praying. We always had food on the table, clothes on our backs, and a roof over our head.

Ute: How old were you when your father died?

Pete: I was eight years old.

Ute: What is your favorite verse?

Pete: For the inmates or for me? For the inmates I like to give them Acts 2: 42

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

My life verses are Colossians 1: 9 – 12

⁹And so from the day we heard we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all

spiritual wisdom and understanding,¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord fully pleasing to him¹¹ bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.¹¹ May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light?

Ute: What are you going to do when you actually retire?

Pete: My goal is not to retire until the Lord takes me home. The only way I would quit now is if my wife who is very ill, would need a full time caregiver, or my health would prevent me. If my work is taken away, I will sit in the window and stare outside all day.

Ute: What advise do you have for young people out there?

Pete: For the inmates I have three pieces of advice: first be in Church, second be in church, and third be in church. For other people obey God and obey your parents. Let me explain to you what I mean by this. Released felons who go to church all the time and did not miss three Sundays in a row, made it 100%. For those who missed three Sundays in a row, they were a 100% failure.

I hope that this interview gave you all a little bit more of an insight in the workings of Chaplin Pete, and the wonderful volunteers active in the jail ministries. In addition, if you have some New Kings James bibles you do not need anymore, feel free to drop them off in the church lobby. Should any of you want to take a tour of the jail, all you have to do is to contact Chaplin Pete, Gary Ensign, Neil Stewart, or Deanna Howell. I am sure arrangement can be made, it is something to remember.

International Cuisine.

Food recipes taken from the Burma food website

Red Pork Pot Roast

Recipe based on: Recipes From The Golden Land The Burmese Kitchen by Copeland Marks (try library) Serving Size: 6

Ingredients

2 Pounds Boneless Pork -- cubed
2 Tablespoons Soy Sauce
1/2 Teaspoon Salt
2 Tablespoons Peanut Oil
1 Tablespoon Brown Sugar
2 Cloves Garlic -- sliced

1 Inch Ginger -- chopped

2 Cups Water

Directions

Marinate pork in soy sauce and salt for 1 hour. Heat the oil, add the sugar and stir to dissolve and caramelize. Add garlic and ginger, stir-fry 2 minutes. Add pork and mix well. Cover pan and cook 15 minutes stirring occasionally. Add water, cover and continue to cook for 45 minutes or until pork is tender and liquid is almost evaporated. Serve warm.

Chicken and Vegetable Fritters

Recipe based on: Recipes From The Golden Land The Burmese Kitchen by Copeland Marks (try library) Serving Size: 6

Ingredients

1 Cup Chopped Chicken -- uncooked
1 Medium Egg -- beaten
1/2 Teaspoon Salt
1/2 Cup Carrot -- grated
1/2 Cup White Radish -- grated
1/2 Cup Cabbage -- grated
1 Teaspoon Fish Sauce
1/2 Teaspoon Sugar -- optional
1 Medium Scallion -- thinly sliced
1 Tablespoon Cilantro -- chopped
1 Tablespoon Serrano Pepper -- chopped
1 Tablespoon Rice Flour
1/4 Cup Peanut Oil

Directions

Mix the chicken, egg, salt, carrot, radish, cabbage, fish sauce, sugar, scallion, cilantro and serrano. Mix well. Add rice flour and mix well. Heat the oil in a skillet. Prepare

Fritters about 3 inches long and 1/2 inch thick using about 1/2 cup of mixture. Brown them in oil over moderate heat about 2 minutes on each side. Drain on paper towels. Serve warm.

Serving Ideas: Serve with Achin (Sour Sauce Dip) or other Burmese dip

From the left field

Sent in by Harlow

FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY.

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians, Jews, and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!" The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur, and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays." The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant." The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists." The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."

Favorite Verse

Send to me by Donna Arthur

Joshua 1:9

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Editor's Comments

Ute@trinityfree.com

I found myself involved in two bible studies Philipians and Esther. I am very happy and I have been known for also putting it as being tickled pink. If you have nothing better to do, which I by the way are not saying that you only should get into a bible study if you have nothing better to do; but I am saying regardless of what you are up to get into a bible study. It is an enlightenment business. It gets you closer to God, and much deeper insight into the word of God. Both studies are absolutely awesome and I can only recommend them all of you, a bible study will recharge you and take care of you mental, physically, and emotionally. Try it what do you have to loose.