
TRINITY GAZETTE

Issue 41 – A New Beginning

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Welcome to the Trinity Gazette!

By Ute Galloway

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To be obedient to God

By Ute Galloway

As you all noticed, I had put things on hold over the last couple of months because the participation was not available. However, as I'm sitting here reflecting on this New Year, God made it clear that it is not what needs to be done. The Gazette has to move forward, sometimes we do not want to do what God wants us to accomplish, but then comes the time when we can not run from his wishes anymore and things have to move forward. Hence the Gazette is back in what form, how big, how little, it is up to God, His timing - not mine, His context - not mine. I am looking forward to seeing where He will take it.

Lord, I thank you for showing me that my brothers and sisters want the Gazette. Lord, I thank you for Your help in making it happen. And Lord, I thank you for your love, understanding, and the end result. I thank you for this in the name of your Son, Christ Jesus, AMEN!

So Welcome Back

It is a new beginning. I was waiting for God to give me an article so I could start up the Gazette again, however as I know and had to learn again it is God's timing not mine. I received a call tonight from Donna Arthur with some very exciting news, and with that, the Gazette is restarted. Will this be the same as the last issues only God knows and He will reveal it to me when He deems it fit! Therefore, what got me so excited to take this step, Donna Arthur bubbles excitement with me on the phone about the new 12-week discussion group Suan Rohrdanz and She are starting on March 4.

This Spring Event will use a book by Jan Winebrenner called "*Intimate Faith*", designed to help understand Study, Prayer, Worship, Fellowship **and many other long-forgotten**

disciplines such as humility and celebration. Service. It will held on Thursday morning between 10:00a.m. to 11:30. Child care will be provided. What does this book discussion expects of you? Is it another big precept study with a lot of homework? NO! The only thing you will need to do is read between four to five PAGES a week, then show up Thursday mornings. You will hear a 20 min. teaching by either Donna or Suan, then spend time with your table Mentor/Leader in discussion of what you heard and read, and have an awesome chance to make some new friends. **This is a perfect occasion for a Mom's Day Out.** Coffee and Snacks will be provided. If you have any further question please contact Donna Arthur at 357-6801 or email her at DCA321@comcast.net.

For those of you who are still not convinced check out the excerpt I found and read it, see if this is something you would like to participate in. Join Suan and Donna and grow in your Faith. God bless you all.

Excerpt - Intimate Faith

The day my husband Ken bought me a horse has to be one of my all-time best days.

I had been taking riding lessons on a chestnut mare named Tess at a little stable in South Carolina. The trainer had mentioned Tess was for sale, but I never allowed myself to think about buying her. How could we afford her, along with stable costs (we lived in town), farrier and vet bills, not to mention saddles, bits, bridles, and all the rest of the tack I borrowed each time I rode? But everyday I fell more in love with this beautiful mare. I learned the basics of caring for her as well as how to walk, trot, and canter, and I pretended she was mine.

Then one afternoon, Ken came home from work and said, "Come take a drive with me."

"What's up?" I asked, when we arrived at the barn.

"We're buying a horse today," he said, grabbing my hand and pulling me toward Tess's stall.

I couldn't breathe. And then, I couldn't see through a blur of tears. I stumbled into Tess's stall, threw my arms around her neck and sobbed. Ken stood in the doorway grinning, waiting for me to finally erupt with the laughter of pure joy.

Later that night, I fell asleep with fantasies of the equestrian life galloping through my dreams. I imagined myself riding through

fields, jumping Tess over colorful fences, cantering through forests to the accompaniment of baying hounds and squeaking leather.

I never imagined what it would take to make those dreams come true.

Life is often like that, isn't it? We harbor our dreams, sometimes for years, savoring them, but seldom do we really understand what it will take to make them a reality.

When Ken gave me the gift of a horse, I had no idea what I would have to do to become the kind of rider I dreamed of being. I didn't know what it would take to become proficient enough to ride my horse over a three-foot obstacle, land safely, turn and canter toward an oxer and complete an entire course without taking a fence out of order or pulling a rail--or, worse, breaking my neck.

As weeks of riding passed, and lessons piled upon lessons, reality hit me in the chest like a flailing hoof. This riding thing, the whole equestrian thing, the way I wanted to do it, was a full-time endeavor. It was not something I was going to be able to just "pick up."

I yearned to know God, to experience His power and presence more fully, yet this kind of relationship eluded me.

I noticed that the good riders at the stable where I rode took lessons all the time. They signed up for clinics with world-class trainers. They arrived at the barn early every morning, worked their horses, then studied videos and watched other classes to learn more. They attended horse shows where they competed and others where they just observed. They read books about riding; they studied their horse's "way of going"-I didn't know a horse had a "way of going".

I never became the rider I wanted to be. Over time, the demands of family and the limits of budget loomed as more indomitable obstacles than the colorful fences and log jumps that stood in the hunt field. But as I walked away, I took with me some of the most valuable lessons I would ever learn.

The equestrian life I dabbled in for a few years became for me a metaphor of my Christian life.

The Big Five

For many years, I thought that an active, Bible-informed Christian life consisted of the practice of certain daily habits. Every discipleship class I ever attended emphasized the same ones--always five; always the same five.

Study

Prayer

Worship

Fellowship

Service

I didn't confuse the discipleship experience with the salvation experience-I knew the Bible well enough to know the difference. I understood that Jesus' death paid the debt of my sin that I could never pay. I knew it was His overwhelming act of grace and mercy that secured my place in heaven and made me a child of God through faith. But discipleship often confused me.

My faith was fragile--the slightest disturbance in my world could send me tumbling into a field of doubts and uncertainties about God's goodness. I didn't have the kind of intimacy with God that my discipleship classes promised. I yearned to know God, to experience His power and presence more fully, yet this kind of relationship eluded me. God seemed distant, strange. I knew His Word, His promises, but for all my knowledge, it seemed I didn't know God.

I practiced some spiritual disciplines--the five most commonly recognized ones--no one would argue that these are basic building blocks for a disciple's life. But I knew I was missing something. Could it be there were vast treasures of grace that God wanted to deposit in me, if I could only learn to widen my heart? But how? The question haunted me.

Dry, stale, thirsty for God, I began praying that He would show me how to open my heart. I prayed that He would teach me how to move into deeper levels of intimacy with Him. I prayed that I would learn how to know God, really know Him.

I was tired of living a limp, weak spiritual life. I was tired of saying I loved God, when the truth was, I hardly knew Him, apart from the facts I read about Him. I certainly didn't trust Him as He deserves to be trusted. I was living proof of Brennan Manning's words:

You will trust God only as much as you love him. And you will love him not because you have studied him; you will love him because you have touched him--in response to his touch.¹

I yearned for the touch of God.

I had no idea how it would happen, but I prayed that His fingers would press on my heart and mark me with the certainty of His presence. In almost immediate response to that prayer, I stumbled into a study of the classical spiritual disciplines.

Over the next few years, I discovered there is much more to the life of discipleship than I had ever imagined. I learned that walking with God involves more than merely doing the four or

five things a denomination may teach in a six-week discipleship class.

I learned that the spiritual disciplines are God's means of training us, finite and flawed creatures, to love the invisible, almighty, infinite Creator; they are the means by which we learn to enjoy Him; they are the means God uses to nurture our confidence in His goodness and love.

REFLECTIONS FOR RAGAMUFFINS

1 Manning, Brennan, (New York: HarperCollins, 1998) p. 201

We are in a war against the strategies and the deceits of Satan for the souls of our children and our youth. Just as Satan tempted Eve to doubt God's Word in the Garden, today, he is tempting our young people and children to doubt God, to turn from God and to ignore God. It is our responsibility as Christian parents, grandparents and leaders to "stand in the gap" and "to keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18).

I ask you to pray with me for the parents and ministries at Trinity that can help

establish and ground our children and our youth in the Word of God.

Prayer Corner

Prayer from Eileen Johnson

Pray for the **parents** at Trinity:

-that they will have God's wisdom to lead their children spiritually. (James 1:5).

-that they will be **consistent** and **intentional** as they seek to train their children and their youth in the ways of the Lord. (Proverbs 22:6).

Pray for the **leadership** of the Children's Sunday School, the "Rock", A.W.A.N.A. (Scott Merklinger), and all Youth activities (Doug):

-that they will have God's wisdom to direct and lead these ministries. (James 1:5).

-that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit as they minister and lead our children and our youth.

-that they will be able to adequately staff these ministries with volunteer staff and teachers.

Pray for the **teachers** and **volunteers** who come along side the leadership team:

-that they will be a consistent witness to our children and our youth.

-that they will have the patience and energy to come week and after week.

Pray for our **children** and our **youth**:

-that they will come to know Jesus as their personal Savior.

-that they will grow in faith and trust in God and His Son Jesus Christ.

-that God's Word will build a Biblical foundation that will guide them throughout all of their life. (Psalm 119: 11 & 105).

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. **Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home** and when you **walk along the road**, when you **lie down** and when you **get up.**" (Deuteronomy 6: 4-7).

From the left field

Sent in by Cherly Blake



**"Now let me get this straight,
the Arabs get the oil,
and we have to cut off the ends of our what!"**

Editor's Comment

I am looking forward to new beginning for God let newspaper. Remember that you have something you would like to share, submit it to the Gazette. May God lead us into a exiting year, and into awesome spiritual growth.