

# *Trinity Bible Church*

*The Carpenter's House*

**February 24, 2008**

**FIRST SERVICE MESSAGE:**

*The Unknown Heroes of the Faith*

*12 Principles & 20 Characteristics*

*Romans 16:8-16*

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*Please join us for refreshments between services*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

|           |        |                                  |
|-----------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Monday    | 25 Feb | Youth Group Meeting.             |
| Wednesday | 27 Feb | Bible class-2 Corinthians 8      |
| Thursday  | 28 Feb | Ladies Prayer Meeting.           |
| Friday    | 29 Feb | Louie Giglio Films & Pizza. 6:30 |
| Sunday    | 2 Mar  | The Lord's Table.                |
| Monday    | 3 Mar  | Youth Group Meeting.             |
| Wednesday | 5 Mar  | Bible class-2 Corinthians 9      |
| Thursday  | 6 Mar  | Ladies Prayer Meeting.           |
|           | 17 Mar | Deacons' Meeting.                |
| Saturday  | 19 Apr | Sharefest Project.               |
| Friday    | 25 Apr | Men's Whatchamacallit.           |

**\*\*** The basket at the back also today for a special offering for anyone who would like to contribute to the relief effort in Nigeria.

**\*\*** Note the Feb 29 Outreach opportunity. These are great films to show how Indescribable and Great is our God. They will appeal to people of all ages. Nursery provided. Invite someone to visit.

**\*\*** Note the Sharefest Project April 19. We will be helping out the "Oklahoma League for the Blind." Please make plans to come and help out. We will be helping to dispose of some old furniture.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

***Worship***

**SECOND SERVICE MESSAGE:**

*How To Destroy Relationships*

**DAVID AND DENISE LOVE**  
**Fellowship International Mission**  
**February 2008**

We just received this from a credible source. Let's hold up in prayer the church in Algeria, Africa. Algeria is the second largest country on the African continent; about four times the size of Texas.

Here are some urgent prayer requests for Algeria. Thank you for praying with us that the name of our Lord be lifted up in the church there! Algerian Christian leaders have asked for our prayerful support as they are being pressured in three ways.

First, there is a sustained and intense media campaign against the church. On most days in January major Algerian newspapers carried articles expressing concern about the growth of the church. The amount of detail in some articles suggests that informants have been attending some fellowships.

Second, seven fellowships are known to have been closed by the authorities.' Several church leaders were told to bring an official license issued by a government committee that was established by legal decree in 2007 but has not yet been formed or held its first meeting. The affected fellowships are in Ait Amar, Ait Djemaa, Bachloul, Boughni, Ouargla, Tiaret and Tizi Ouzou.

Third, several believers have been formally charged. There were several trials in 2007 but no Christian was convicted. On 5th February three believers accused of insulting Islam were told that they will be sentenced to three years in prison and fined 5,000 Euros. The official written sentence was expected on the 12th of February.

Another believer has been told to report for a further hearing on 5th March, despite the witnesses that testified against him admitting that they don't know him. He has been told that he will be imprisoned for one year and fined heavily. In a third case another believer has been told his trial will be held on 2nd April. This date has been changed several times.

Algerian Christians request our prayers that:

- a. The media attention will have a positive impact on the church, drawing more people to respond to the love and truth of Jesus.
- b. The closed fellowships will be allowed to reopen
- c. All members will find worship and fellowship with others
- d. Our three brothers will not be sentenced to jail
- e. The brothers on trial on March 5 and April 2 will be acquitted
- f. All officials involved will hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and respond to His love

**VILLAGE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

This is from a contact that VMI has. He is Pastor Livingston Kisambo, a Kenyan living in Seoul City, South Korea. As you know they are having difficulties in Kenya, as well as Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Sudan et al.

**LETS INTENSITY PRAYERS FOR KENYA, AFRICA** - Blessings of the Lord be upon you in the holy name Jesus. Let us continue to pray for Kenya. There is some light at the end of the tunnel. The Kenya Church should not give up concerning this beautiful missionary country.

Kenya is known to be a nation with a large population of Christians. Given the ugly events that have prevailed in the country since the announcement of the winner in the presidential elections; it goes without saying that the Kenya church has a golden opportunity to intensify her prayers. The Church should not relay on the

politicians for the lasting solution, but on God. Where Kenya heads is ugly based on the skirmishes, and crime that has rocked the country for a month. The Church should, however, be optimistic towards the scenario of events. She has to realize that this war is spiritual and geared against her.

King Jehoshaphat encouraged the nation of Israel when he said, " ... Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's" (2Chronicles 20: 15 NKJV). Christians should not view the crisis in Kenya as between the government and the opposition party. This crisis is geared to destabilize the credibility that the Kenya Church has maintained over the past years. The Church should not take sides like the politicians, instead should be non-partisan. It is the sole responsibility of the Kenyan Church to prevail and travail in prayer for the nation.

Apostle Paul wrote a letter of encouragement to the Church at Corinth and said, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NKJV). The Church should not begin to lay blames to the politicians. The fight should focus on the devil that is our adversary. Shifting our blame to the politicians will mean we are fighting according to the flesh - thus missed the focus. We need to intensify our prayers and ask God to reveal to us the spiritual lesson He wants us to learn during this period of political stalemate. This will enable us to successfully combat any other spiritual crises that may arise in future."

Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Ephesus and said, "Finally, brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6: 1 0-13 NKJV). Our two crucial questions should be, "What are the principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual hosts that are hovering over the nation of Kenya? How can we engage them in prayer and fasting so that we successfully bring them to the obedience of Christ? Once we get these two questions answered then we can move boldly towards our victory.

In order to achieve this total victory we need to drop our denominational affiliations. Lets avoid divisions brought by denominations. We should view ourselves as one Church. There is need for unity under one umbrella of the KENYA CHURCH. I am sure there is light at the end of the tunnel.

#### **Update from Bob and Jean Young, Medical Evangelists in rural Ghana, Africa.**

These requests came anonymously from Christian friends in Kenya. Pray for all Africa, as conflict in one area destabilizes neighboring countries quickly.

Things are relatively calm in the country while negotiations are taking place, and for that we are very thankful. Many of God's people have responded by helping their brothers and sisters in tangible ways (food and clothing drives for the displaced, campaigning for peace through the media and in person, etc.) The most encouraging thing I've heard recently is that 150 pastors from Nairobi have been fasting and praying for nearly three weeks. They plan to go to the five most affected cities in Kenya for the entire month of March teaching pastors on topics such as: What is our identity as believers? What is a godly response to our "enemies? What did Jesus and Paul teach about love and forgiveness? What ministry (i.e. reconciliation) do believers have to the rest of the world. So please keep this country and these pastors in your prayers. The issues that have brought about all this turmoil are deep seated and will not easily be resolve, but pray for continued progress in addressing them.

**The Unknown Heroes of the Faith**  
**12 Principles & 20 Characteristics**  
**Romans 16:8-16**

**Rom 16:8 = The Fifth Salute.**

**16:8 C.T. = Salute Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.**

**Rom 16:9 = The Sixth Salute.**

**16:9 C.T. = Salute Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.**

**Summary:**

1. Two of these three people are simply loved and appreciated by Paul, without any comment about any particulars.
2. Just some sinners, saved by grace, that Paul was led to salute.

**Principle #6: All saved sinners are worthy of a salute.**

**Rom 16:10 = The Seventh & Eighth Salute.**

**16:10 C.T. = Salute Apelles, the approved in Christ. Salute those who are of the household of the Aristobulus.**

**Summary:**

1. Apelles was one who:
  - A. Truly lived the Kingdom of God. Rom 14:15-18
  - B. Accurately handled the Word. 2 Tim 2:15
  - C. Would receive the Crown of Life. James 1:12
2. Unnamed saints are saluted who lived around Roman royalty and kept the faith.

**Principle #7: Major tests come everyone's way.**

**Characteristics:**

13. Passing big tests.
14. Not swayed by elitists.

**Rom 16:11 = The Ninth & Tenth Salute.**

**16:11 C.T. = Salute Herodion, my kinsman. Salute those of the household of the Narcissus, who are in the Lord.**

**Principle #8: True honor endures in the face of powerful wickedness.**

**Characteristics:**

15. Not swayed by wickedness.

**Rom 16:12 = The Eleventh & Twelfth Salute.**

**16:12 C.T. = Salute Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who are working in the Lord. Salute Persis the beloved, who has worked hard in the Lord.**

**Summary:**

1. Ladies, some people realize your hard work for the Lord.
2. The focus here is on present and past labor, so it appears that Persis started something that Tryphaena and Tryphosa continued.

**Principle #9: Honor both present and past ministry.**

**Characteristics:**

16. Willing to fill a need.

**Rom 16:13 = The Thirteenth Salute.**

**16:13 C.T. = Salute Rufus, the chosen man in the Lord, also his mother and mine.**

**Summary:**

1. Rufus had been called out for special service, although we are not given any specifics.
2. It could simply refer to a man who lived out his Divine selection.  
Col 3:12-17
3. It could have been the son of Simon of Cyrene, a north African, who was forced to carry the Lord's cross. Mark 15:21
4. A salute also to Rufus' mother, who had acted like a mother to Paul.

**Principle #10: Living out our calling and selection is worthy of a salute.**

**Characteristics:**

17. Fulfills the call.
18. Functions as family.

**Rom 16:14 = The Fourteenth Salute.**

**16:14 C.T. = Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brethren with them.**

**Summary:**

1. The phrase "and the brethren with them" indicates that they were leaders of house churches.
2. Slaves could be leaders in this new movement.

**Principle #11: Neither your social status nor your name is crucial to the Christian life.**

**Characteristics:**

19. **Overcome the world's gods.**

**Rom 16:15 = The Fifteenth Salute.**

**16:15 C.T. = Salute Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.**

**Summary:**

1. **This appears to be the leaders of still another house church.**
2. **Of all these individuals only Priscilla and Aquila are mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament for certain; yet Paul knew them all individually and sent personal greetings to them and their associates. Paul cannot properly be charged with not being "a people person."**
3. **Among all those to whom Paul sends greeting here is not a word of Peter, which gives occasion to suspect that he was not bishop of Rome, as the Papists say he was; for, if he was, we cannot but suppose him resident, or at least how could Paul write so long an epistle to the Christians there, and take no notice of him?**

**Rom 16:16 = Application-Salute One Another.**

**16:16 C.T. = Salute one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ salute you.**

**Summary:**

1. **Kisses were a common form of affectionate greeting for family members, intimate friends or those who were objects of respect (e.g., Gen 33:4; 45:15; 1 Sam 20:41). Due to abuses, in subsequent centuries the \*church limited the practice of the liturgical kiss of fellowship to men kissing men and women kissing women, although this was not the initial practice.**
2. **The "kiss" is to be "holy" which means:**
  - A. **It is to honor the Lord by saluting other saints, saved by grace through faith.**
  - B. **It should not be a cover for betrayal, like Judas. Luke 22:47-48**

**Principle #12: Don't forget those nearest you.**

**Characteristics:**

20. **Pass on the love.**

## *How To Destroy Relationships*

**10. Q. = What kind of Attitudes harm or destroy relationships?**

**A. = Those which are not humble and thus arrogant.**

- A. A Lack of Salvation. Matt 25:32-33
- B. Rejecting the gospel. Acts 28:25 cf. Gal 1:6-8
- C. The Flesh controlling one's life. Gal 5:17
- D. Sinful Sexual Lust. Rom 1:27
- E. Hatred of others. Matt 24:10; Titus 3:3-4
- F. Wrongful Judging. Acts 28:4; Rom 14:13
- G. Elitism. Mark 9:34; Mark 9:33-34
- H. Spiritual Scar Tissue. Rom 2:14-16
- I. Being Inconsiderate. Luke 12:1
- J. Seeking glory from man. John 5:44
- K. Envy. Gal 5:26
- L. Happiness over the death of the innocent. Rev 11:10

**11. Q. = What kind of Speech harms or destroys relationships?**

**A. = That which contradicts the Word of God.**

- A. Hostile speech. Jas 4:11
- B. Bringing false charges against One Another. Acts 19:38
- C. Devouring One Another. Gal 5:15
- D. Mocking Christ. Mark 15:31
- E. Arguing with One Another. John 6:52
- F. Lying. Col 3:9
- G. Complaints against others. Jas 5:9
- H. Complaints about God. Mark 8:16-19
- I. Grumbling with One Another. John 6:43

**12. Q. = What kind of Actions harm or destroy relationships?**

**A. = Those which do not build up others.**

- A. Murder. Rev 6:4
- B. Conspiracy to harm others. Luke 6:11; 23:12; Acts 4:15; Luke 20:14-17; John 11:56-57
- C. Injuring others. Acts 7:26
- D. Challenging One Another. Gal 5:26
- E. Betrayal. Matt 24: 10
- F. Marriage partners sexually depriving each other. 1Cor 7:5
- G. Looking with accusation at One Another. John 13:22
- H. Distributing ill-gotten gain. John 19:24
- I. Wrongful separation. Acts 15:39 cf. 10:26-28