

The Flame

Development Newsletter—March/April 2009

...fan into flame the gift of God. 2 Timothy 1:6



MISSION:

TRINITY'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROVIDES STABILITY FOR THE SCHOOL BY SECURING PRIVATE, PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FOR ITS PROGRAMS. OUR MISSION IS TO FULLY DEVELOP TRINITY'S FACILITIES AND PROPERTIES TO ENABLE EACH STUDENT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND WHY GOD CREATED THEM.

CONTACT US:

200 TRINITY WAY
MORGANTOWN, WV
26505

PHONE: 304-291-4659

FAX: 304-291-4660

WWW.TCSWV.ORG

BHUMBLE@TCSWV.ORG

HPIERSON@TCSWV.ORG

How to Feed a Crowd During Tough Economic Times

Keratoplasty. That is the medical term for a cornea transplant—the surgical procedure where they replace part of your cornea with corneal tissue that has been donated from a deceased donor. The reason I speak of this is because I recently had to undergo this very procedure. I had basically become legally blind in my left eye due to a degenerative disease of the cornea known as *Keratoconus*.

This disease causes your cornea to gradually thin and bulge into a cone-like shape, thus causing vision to become extremely blurred and distorted. Replacement of a distorted cornea is the only means of restoring full vision and this is done through transplant surgery using human donor corneas.

It is an amazing thing and I thank God for this gift to have my vision restored. I realize that this also means that someone lost a loved one and I offer a multitude of prayers for them – prayers for comfort and peace, as well as prayers of

gratitude for the generosity bestowed upon me.

I also thank God for the many prayers and offers of help from my friends and family. You are amazing and I thank God for you!

This surgery also caused me to do some thinking about the meaning of vision. In the literal sense, vision refers to the ability to see—the faculty of sight. Figuratively it is defined as a shared look at the future. Organizations generally have a vision statement and ours is to be an interdenominational institution committed to providing a life changing education resulting in a Christ-centered world view... "so they may have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

Our mission is to accomplish God's purpose in the lives of students, teachers, staff, and parents as disciples of Jesus Christ, resulting in a positive influence on our community, our nation, and the world. We are here so that God can feed His children and then they can in turn go out into the world and be used by Him to feed the world. I

hope that this truly is a "shared" vision and that we can work together to accomplish this.

But how do we do that? I will tell you how. We all need to become bread-makers! Please bear with me and let me explain. My grandfather was an evangelist and traveled all over the country preaching God's message. My grandmother recently gave me some cassette tapes of some of his sermons that someone had given her. It was wonderful therapy to be able to hear his voice again and these incredible sermons are still packed with truth and application for my life today. The first one I listened to was titled "Making loaves for the multitudes." His scriptural reference was Matthew 14 where Jesus fed the crowd of five thousand.

You may recall, a large crowd had gathered and followed Jesus. Evening was approaching so the disciples suggested that Jesus send the crowd away so that they (the crowd) could get something to eat. Jesus replied "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." (Matthew 14:16) This confused the disciples as they didn't have any food or supplies except for a lunch consisting of five loaves of bread and two fish that belonged to a boy in the crowd.

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That was no obstacle for Jesus. He told the crowd to have a seat, took the meal from the disciples, raised it up to Heaven and gave thanks. Then he gave it to the disciples and they fed the people. Just like with my surgery, as well as with our salvation, someone gave something up so that others could benefit. This boy, whom I am sure was hungry, gave up his meal and God multiplied it and fed the multitude.

How does this apply to Trinity? We need to be making loaves for the multitudes. There are multitudes of kids in our surrounding communities that need Christian education. And there are multitudes out in the world that God will use our students to reach. It is our job to feed them. Each one of us has to ask the question "Am I doing all I can to feed the multitudes?"

While this applies to our mission as well as our development program, I am not solely using it for our benefit. I would welcome your support and we need your support. But if God directs you otherwise I am okay with that as

long as we offer it all to Him. One of the main things I learned from this passage of scripture is that when we give God what we've received from Him to begin with, He can take it and use it a lot better than we can. It may not seem like much to us, but it is more than enough for Him! *"They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children."* (Matthew 14:20-21)

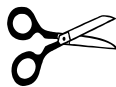
If we give it all to Him we may just find ourselves with enough to meet the operating budget, pay for our building, and with the leftovers build the Chapel, complete our building plans and develop our athletic fields.

One last thing - If you are having problems with your vision let me recommend The Great Physician. *"Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly."* (Mark 8:25)

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

We need to raise \$750,000 by November 2009 to make our mortgage payment. As of 3/31/09 we have raised \$326,706 in Capital donations. We need 100% participation to make this goal. Be a part of the vision and make your Campaign Pledge today!

We just completed our CSI year and raised \$356,329 of the \$360,000 that was pledged. Thank you!



Clip & Return



YES! I would like to support Christian education by making the enclosed gift of \$_____ to Trinity Christian School. Please apply my gift to:

Capital Campaign Annual Operating Fund Other (Specify) _____

Name/Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

I/we prefer to give in _____ installments of \$_____, paid each _____ month, _____ quarter, _____ year, over the next _____ years), beginning _____ (date), and ending on _____ (date).

Appreciated Securities (A TCS representative will contact you.)

Bequest, charitable trust, life insurance, or other planned giving instrument. (A TCS representative will contact you.)

Please complete this form and return it to: **Trinity Christian School, Development Office, 200 Trinity Way, Morgantown, WV 26505**