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# TRINITY GAZETTE

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## Welcome to the Trinity Gazette!

By Ute Galloway

*NetudoMagic*

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### How did prejudice keep you from seeing the bigger picture of God?

By Ute Galloway

I know you all just love when I come up with questions like the above one, and then comes the question where is she going to go with this one now. So let me ask it again, in a more extended version. Did your prejudice against a group of people or against an individual ever cloud your mind so you were not able to see the bigger picture God in mind for your life? As it occurred to me recently, I have been there. The irony is that the most beautiful friendship came out of it.

What am I talking about? I grew up in West Germany, yes West Germany before the wall fell on November 9, 1989 that is exactly what it was called. A country, which had worked hard after the war, building up the country and falling under the free part of the world able to compete in the world industrial economic status.

We had it all, and to our east, we had East Germany a country that had fallen under the suppression of the Soviet Union and the Stasi, the secret German police, who terrorized the country and its people. The Country pretty much lay in ruins, it industry ruined, people lacking any kind of self-want to strive for freedom or excellent. You see were I am going with this, don't you? I was brought up looking down on the East Germans because they did not try to take back their country, which lived under the suppression without the guts to try to fight for freedom for 40 years. Then in 1989, the wall finally fell, due to the generation of young desperate families fed up with the decline of the East Germany government and country. The next step was to turn up their noses against those who came to the west looking for a better life. Why? Because what they wanted, over night, was what the west had accomplished themselves through hard work. It was given to them by the western government, without having to do anything for it. Come in, prove you were in eastern Germany; here you go, have an apartment, money, furniture, and a job. Hurray, yes, resentment grew, and prejudice grew with it. They are lazy; the list went on and on. So where does the irony fall into this? Enter the German world through Renate's view. She grew up in East Germany living under the suppression of the Russians and the Stasi, not being able to have a normal life without someone telling her how, when, where, what and why or why not. The ones who tried to change things in the country disappeared, never to be seen again. Information I never heard of before having long discussions with her. She was told about how the west were capitalistic pigs, who were only set on being rich, not caring about the rest of the world, and that we were evil, not to be trusted, and the list ~~is~~ goes on. Needless to say, she had no reason to trust anyone from across the border and it was safer not to think about it.

Entering, the bigger picture of God. The wall came down. Germany was reunited, travel was made possible, and American missionaries entered the eastern city to spread the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. To make a long story short Renate ends up here in the states, and she and I meet two and half years ago, becoming fast best friends.

So the moral to the story is, do not look upon a group of people or a nation with discuss or make prejudice statements against them, God gave us the direct order to love our neighbor as ourselves, that includes people you do not like, or understand. You never know when they will be your best friend, for God is in charge not our little puny minds. Thank you Lord for bringing this point to me and with that my best friend. Please keep reminding me that I need to love all people. They are Your creation just as I am, and help me to keep an open mind when meeting Your people and giving them the love You expect me to. In the name of Your Son Christ Jesus Amen.

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## What about Children's day, a note to my daughter

By Beth Traylor

We have Mothers' Day, Fathers' day, Grandparents' Day, Teachers' Day and so on. I would love to see a Children's Day to celebrate the huge blessing God gives us with giving us our children. Without a doubt, some of our children give us gray hair and push us to the limits. Kind of like what we do with God our Father. I can see him now- what do you think you are doing? Are you brain dead or just stupid? What did I tell you to do? I told you not to put your hand on that hot burner. I feel that God suffers the same as we do as parents. He told you not do it but you did, and you got hurt. God has the same Love we have for our Children, unconditional. No matter what they have done to hurt us, we are ready to accept them back. However, when you have a child who is a Job, one who works for the Lord and does all the right things, then you are truly blessed. I have that child, and I want to celebrate a day for her. Like God, I love both my children, but I can be more pleased by one than the other. The child I am speaking of is Bonnie, Bonnie Harmon. The one you see working in the kitchen with me on Sunday, to put food out for fellowship hour. The one who has volunteered with AWANA for 3 years. After accomplishing the unheard of, the completing of all Awana books in one year. (Sixth grade). Of course, she finished all three Sparks's books in her first year in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. She works with me cleaning the Church and has for three years. She is a straight A honor roll student, plays tennis at Umatilla High, and now during the summer, volunteers at the Umatilla Library. Her loving and kind ways have captured many hearts. Therefore, with this note I am giving Bonnie her day. I thank the Lord for my daughters, but for Bonnie, my soul mate the person who is motivated to do things for others, her loving, caring, and totally unselfish soul. This is your day, Bonnie. I thank God every day – and pray every day for you. Love Mom

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## Rain

By Cheryl Blake

I love rain. Whenever it rains, I think of God watering the plants, filling the lakes and streams, and giving the animals (His creation) a drink. Recently I was talking to another Christian, who said he did not like rain. That prompted me to look up verses in the Bible where rain was mentioned. There were ninety occurrences. How can we not praise Him for rain, when we think of it as a gift from God?

The following are some of the verses I particularly thought brought praise and honor to God for what He has done:

He made darkness his canopy around Him--  
the dark **rain** clouds of the sky.

**He** is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after **rain** that brings the grass from the earth.

He bestows **rain** on the earth; He sends water upon the countryside

He draws up the drops of water, which distill as **rain** to the streams

He says to the snow, "Fall on the earth," and to the **rain** shower, "Be a mighty downpour".

He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; He sends lightning with the **rain** and brings out the wind from His storehouses.

He covers the sky with clouds; He supplies the earth with **rain** and makes grass grow on the hills.

Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring **rain**? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is You, O LORD our God. Therefore, our hope is in You, for You are the One who does all this.

Ask the LORD for **rain** in the springtime; it is the LORD who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of **rain** to men, and plants of the field to everyone.

He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends **rain** on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Yet He has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you **rain** from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

My new favorite verse is Psalms 33:6-9

<sup>6</sup> The LORD merely spoke, and the heavens were created.

He breathed the word, and all the stars were born.

<sup>7</sup> He gave the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs.

<sup>8</sup> Let everyone in the world fear the LORD, and let everyone stand in awe of him.

<sup>9</sup> For when He spoke, the world began! It appeared at His Command.

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## Freedom Quotes

“Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under *God* is acknowledged.”

“The Constitution was never meant to prevent people from praying; its declared purpose was to protect their freedom to pray.”

“While never willing to bow to a tyrant, our forefathers were always willing to get to their knees before God. When catastrophe threatened, they turned to God for deliverance. When the harvest was bountiful, the first thought was thanksgiving to God. Prayer is today as powerful a force in our nation as it has ever been. We as a nation should never forget this source of strength.”

“May *God* keep you, and may we, all of us, keep *God*.”

Ronnie

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## “O Ye Of Little Faith”

### Scott Merklinger

A couple of weeks ago we had a meeting of the AWANA directors. At that meeting, I asked the directors a simple question, “Do you think we should advertise AWANA this year?” You see, at last year’s AWANA club, something wonderful was happening. We were getting more and more students attending and we were presented an opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ with them – some were even neighborhood kids that walked up because they saw and heard the excitement of the students that were already here.

This summer, I have attended two AWANA trainings called Commander College 201 and Commander College 301 (Last year I attended the 101 session). CC101 is about Comprehension of leading a children’s ministry. CC201 covers developing excellence in your ministry. CC301 challenges even more and forces you to think about creating a ministry of significance. On the third day of the CC301 conference, around 11:00 a.m. we were praying in groups after a session called “Risking Weakness.” I literally found myself trembling with a fear that I cannot explain. My mind went to that conversation with the leaders of AWANA where I asked if we should advertise for the coming club year. Since I was already praying I asked God to help explain the fear I was feeling. My immediate answer was, “How little faith do you have to think that I won’t support your ministry?” It doesn’t seem nearly as ominous when I write it down but it shocked me like jumping into Wekiwa Springs on a hot day. Who am I to doubt God?

Apparently, I still don’t get it. Charles Spurgeon wrote, “God will not go forth with that man who marches in his own strength.” I had forgotten that AWANA is more than stickers and trophies. AWANA is more than books and games. At AWANA, we become living proof of a loving God to both children and parents, children who need hope, children who need a friend, children who need to know that life can be different when lived with Christ. When Jesus wanted to get the Word out, he didn’t create a 12-step plan, he found 12 men. That is where you come in. I want you to consider stepping beside me and claiming these kids (and families) for Christ. This is not an easy task. When the students are unruly, work was tough that day and you yelled at your wife about leaving the tube off of the toothpaste, God can still use you at AWANA (and other ministries too).

What is your plan to pass on your faith to your child? Better yet, what is your plan to pass on your faith to your child’s grandchildren? What about your neighbor’s grandchildren? After all, “who is your neighbor?” Please prayerfully consider working with us in AWANA this year. As a final note, especially to the men of Trinity, remember that God call is for us to be faithful rather than successful. Take a moment and look up Mark 8:36.

## Prayer Corner

Sent in by Eileen Johnson

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.

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.

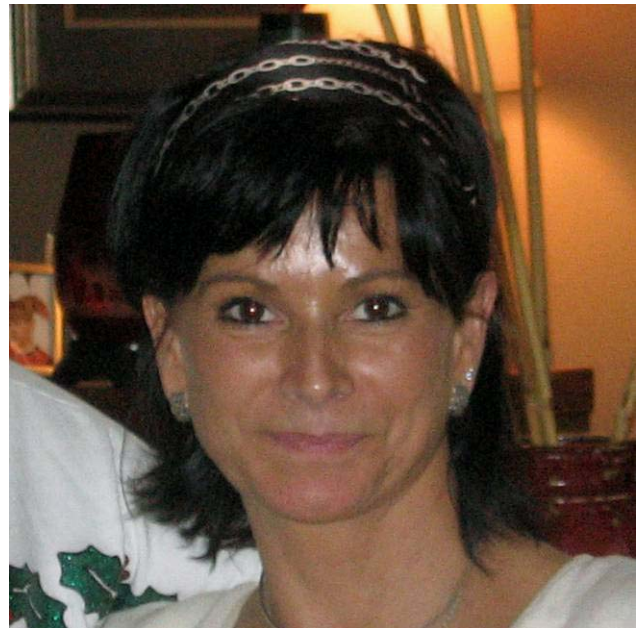
-that they will grow in faith and trust in God and His Son Jesus Christ. -that God's Word will build a Biblical foundation that will guide them throughout all of their life. (Psalm 119: 11 & 105).

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, 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).

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## Get to know me



*Renate Baldanf*

You all have met Renate over the last two years at multiple times. She came to our church as Renate Rinne, married to Norman Rinne. Happy, looking for a church to serve the Lord in, this is acutely what she did in different areas. Since Renate is back in Dresden Germany, I will write this interview more as a biography.

Renate as born on March 24, 1958 in Dresden Germany known back then as the DDR. This is what the world called back then East Germany, under the rule of the Stasi and with that the rule of Soviet Union. She lived under that ruling until Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, 1989 when the Berliner Wall came down and the borders opened, the Stasi were defeated, the Russians withdrew and the reunification took place.

The Irony is that as-I was against the reunification back then until very recently, I did not expect to find a friend who would become as dear to me as Renate has managed to do.

Renate ran into a group of American missionaries about five years ago, who showed her the gospel of Jesus Christ. She had always grown up with a Bible in her house, but as she told me, her dad always told them not to touch it since it was a very old family heirloom you did not mess with. So she never knew the wonderful story hidden within the pages, plus under the Soviet Union, it was against the law,

punished by the threat of jail, to talk about Church or Jesus Christ.

So four years ago, after she heard the story, she was baptized into the word of God and four months later, she made her first trip to the USA. She repeated this trip three more times, in hopes of starting a new life here. Around Christmas 2005, she immigrated using a fiancée visa, and was married in May of 2006. The years which followed were filled with happiness and sorrow as I found out later, but she hung in there knowing God had brought her here, and studying the word of God, knowing that she loved her husband wanting to stay.

Enough about her down side experience here in this country I want to introduce to you the Renate you have met and the accomplishments she has done in this church. She was involved a couple years ago, in cleaning up the kitchen. She helped us paint the sanctuary building brick by brick, room by room, enjoying herself all the way. She also blessed us with the wonderful paintings, which are hanging in the entrance of the prayer garden, and she redid the sign at the entrance of our Church beginning of this year, or was it the end of last. Time flies when you are having fun. She also has prayed with our prayer warrior team for many of you, and she has a wonderful gift of mercy. Now Renate had to recently return to Dresden; and is disappointed, in how things did not work out here in her personal life. She is looking forward to work full force for the church in Dresden. She has asked God to open the doors for her to be able to do the jobs God wants for her. We all should look upon Renate and appreciate this warrior for Christ and pray for our missionary gone home, to spread the gospel in a yet still hostile situation. May our Lord Jesus Christ protect her and give her all the opportunities to spread the word of God, and to do the work He wants her to do for His Glory.

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## International Cuisine

### Rahmschnitzel with Mushrooms and Onions

**Left for you by Renate Baldauf**

Take thin pork cutlets and lay them inside a crock-pot. Season them with salt, pepper, and other seasoning as desired. Pour heavy whip cream over the cutlets make sure that they are completely covered. Add your Champions and finely chopped onions. Let it cook on low until the heavy whip cream has turned into a nicely browned gravy. This will take about 4-5 hours.

Serve with Pasta, Potatoes, Rice, or Dumplings. Moreover, enjoy your meal. The more people you want to serve increase your ingredients accordingly.

*I made this recipe on Sunday in my crock-pot and served it over pasta, this is what I call a calorie bomb, and it was so good. Not for the faint at heart or those of you claim to be on a diet.*

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## From the left field

### Creative puns for smart minds

Sent in by Don Galloway

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's Round Table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. A rubber band pistol was confiscated in an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
4. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
5. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
6. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
7. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
8. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, "You stay here; I'll go on a head."
9. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
10. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, No change yet.

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### BIBLE (I love this one)

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out.

'What have you got there, dear?'

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'

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## **Favorite Verse**

### **Leviticus 19:16 - 18**

*<sup>16</sup> You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.*

*<sup>17</sup> You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him.*

*<sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.*

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## **What does "Evangelical" mean?**

The term "Evangelical" refers to our faith, our theology. We are committed to the proclamation of the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, and to the Scriptures as being the inspired, inerrant, authoritative, and sufficient Word of God.

## **What does "Free " mean?**

The term "Free" refers to our polity, our structure, and organization. We are committed to a congregational form of government.

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## **Editor's Comment**

Remember God has created us all as brothers and sisters regardless where, when, how, or to whom we were born. With this said and trust me it is not easy, do not show your anger or frustration to others about others. A lesson I have to tell myself over and over again, and it is the hardest thing I have to do. With the last statement God, I give to you, which is rightly yours, the right to judge and to pass out justice. Thank God, for letting me know that I do not have to burden myself with that enormous task, for every time I do I make a mess of it.