

TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

SUMMER 2007

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

The other day I had an experience that all of you have undoubtedly had many times. The doorbell rang and as I opened the door I was greeted by two friendly people who wanted to start up a conversation. It just so happened that they saw the sign outside the church that said, "Why is God's name such a big deal?" and they wanted to talk to me about it. A few minutes into the conversation I realized that they were Jehovah's Witnesses and I politely explained to them that I believe in the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I mentioned to them that I'm not interested in a debate and they decided to leave. The whole experience reminded me again of how important it is for Christians to know what they believe in. Since we differ on beliefs about the Trinity, where Jesus Christ came from and how he died, a physical vs. spiritual resurrection, as well as eternity, I want to explain some of these differences between Christianity and Jehovah's Witnesses in this month's issue of the Chimes.

Origin

Jehovah Witnesses was started in the 1870's by a man named Charles Russell. He was the one that God supposedly spoke to and gave wisdom to concerning what their belief was supposed to be. At the age of 17 he witnessed to a friend and the friend's belief ended up being stronger than his and convinced him that a loving God would not send people to hell. Russell took some beliefs from Christianity, mixed them with some of his own made up beliefs and started a new movement. In fact, he prophesied the return of Christ in 1874. When Jesus did not return he made another prophecy that he would return in 1914. He was wrong again. As the movement began to grow, Russell started to publish magazines to spread his message. They later became known as the *Watchtower* magazines published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society right here in Brooklyn NY. The society leaders hold complete authority over the Jehovah Witnesses and it tells each church what to do. Watchtower magazine prints over 18 million copies every month in more than 100 languages.

Statistics

Jehovah's Witnesses have more than 6 million members in 230 countries and territories. About 1 in every 277 people in the U.S. is a Jehovah's Witness. They claim to be the one true church in the world. They believe that they alone possess the truth and that if you are not a JW, you are choosing to serve Satan or choosing to not even know God. They are not allowed to enter a Christian church and think very lowly of Christian ministers. In fact they believe that Christian ministers are spreading the word of Satan.

What they believe

According to them only 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses will go to heaven to spend eternity with God. This they get from a wrong interpretation of Revelation 7:4. The other Jehovah's Witnesses will receive recreated bodies and live on a recreated earth. Earth will be restored to a paradise, as it was with Adam and Eve. So what do they believe about those of us who are non Jehovah's Witnesses? Since they do not believe in a literal hell, the rest of us will be annihilated and permanently perish.

As a Christian, I believe in the Trinity - One God, three distinct personalities in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in the Trinity: They believe they are separate entities, three separate individuals. They make their case by using the New World Translation, which was published in 1950 by Watch Tower Bible and Tract society. This is their version of the Bible with certain changes. They will for instance add a word that supports their interpretation. For example: John 1:1-2 says, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.* The JW Bible says something different. It says the Word was a god, little g. Jesus is a god, not almighty like Jehovah. Jesus is not God, he is a god. They believe that Jesus originally was Michael the archangel who was with God in heaven, and then was transformed to Mary on earth to be the Christ child. They believe that he did not die on a cross, but on a torture stake and spiritually (not physically) was raised from the dead. This is significantly different from what we believe about Jesus as God, our Lord

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Our vision is
to help
people find
New Life in
Jesus Christ!

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and Savior.

What to do

Unless you are very well prepared and informed, do not try and debate with a JW. You are not prepared for it, and they are. They would love to take you into debate, because they have studied years for that and it's what they hope would happen. So redirect away from that.

Express your love and God's love for them. Don't slam the door, because that will only confirm in their minds their belief that they are being persecuted and right. Especially when you say you are a follower of Christ they will say, see they are lost. If you say you are a follower of Christ and show them love, it will cause them to doubt what they have been taught.

If they will let you, share how you became a follower of Christ. Most of the time they will not allow you the opportunity, but if they give you a chance, just share your story of how Christ has made a difference in your life.

Rev. Dr. Albert Potgieter

(Parts of this article was adapted from a message by Craig Groeschel of LifeChurch.tv)

Christus hat keine Hände

Christus hat keine Hände, nur unsere Hände, um seine Arbeit heute zu tun, Christus hat keine Füße, nur unsere Füße, um Menschen auf seinen Weg zu führen. Christus hat keine Lippen, nur unsere Lippen, um den Menschen von ihm zu erzählen.

Wenn unsere Hände mit anderen Dingen beschäftigt sind als mit den seinen? Wenn unsere Füße dahin gehen, wohin die Sünde zieht? Wenn unsere Lippen sprechen, was er verwerfen würde? Können wir ihm dienen, ohne ihm nachzuzufolgen?

Herkunft unbekannt

Du willst unter den Menschen wohnen

Herr, du willst unter den Menschen wohnen, wo sie leben, wirken und arbeiten, wo sie leiden, kämpfen und ringen, wo sie fragen, glauben, und zweifeln, wo sie lieben, einander helfen und sich streiten, wo sie denken, planen und träumen, wo sie warmherzig, kalt oder lau sind, wo sie ausruhn und sich erholen, wo sie hoffen, mißtrauen und aufgeben, wo sie lachen, weinen und cool sind, da willst du unter ihnen sein.

Komm. Herr, wohne unter uns und sei unsere Mitte

Clemens Nodewald in : Sei nicht tot bevor du stirbst, Bibelmeditationen

Anniversary Day Parade

This year's Anniversary Day Parade will be held on Thursday June 7. The theme for the parade is "Christ Our Strength in These Times" based on Philippians 3:14. Although Trinity will not have an official group because of our small Sunday School,

anyone who would like to march will be welcome. The line up will take place on 71st Avenue off Fresh Pond Road at 10:15 a.m., and the parade begins promptly at 10:30 a.m.

The Helping Hands Ministry

Our last meeting for this season will be June 6th. The ladies have been very busy this past month finishing up many of the projects we've been working on before the summer break. We'd like to thank everyone who has been so faithful in supporting our ministry. We are grateful for having such committed ladies who donate their time and talents. God has blessed this ministry from its beginning and continues to make us aware of new projects to expand our outreach in His name.

Jean Kunzinger

Vacation Bible Camp



Wahoo! Our church is becoming a stampede of excitement as we start preparing for our annual Vacation Bible School for the children of our community. This year's theme will be Avalanche Ranch, so get ready for a wild ride through God's Word. .

From July 23 to July 27 we will each night provide fun, memorable Bible-learning activities. Kids will sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, nibble Chuck Wagon Chow, take on a Daily Challenge to let God's love grow into their homes, experience electrifying Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God's Word, and create Bible Point Crafts they'll take home and play with all summer long. The week will conclude with a special worship service and barbecue on Sunday, July 29 at 10:00 am. The Avalanche Ranch staff will be dedicated on Sunday, July 22 during our combined service at 10:00 am.

We need your help! We have relied on the generosity of our members to supplement our funds for Vacation Bible School for the last number of years. This year we would like to ask you to open your hearts and wallets once again and sponsor a child by donating \$10 to our "Wahoo Wads" campaign. Our goal is to sponsor 100 children and forms are still available at church. You can also send a check to Trinity with a note that states it is for the VBC "Wahoo Wads" campaign. In addition we will again post a list of supplies needed for VBC at church and ask you to pray about providing some items.

As in past years we also need volunteers to help with registration, to be crew leaders and to help with decorating the church etc. If you are interested in being involved in this exciting and fun ministry at Trinity and want to be greatly blessed by your participation, please speak to the VBC Director, Annelise Potgieter.

If you are approached by anyone looking for information on Fiesta, please mention to them that detailed information is available on our web site. Please start praying that God would do miracles in the lives of the children and spread the word about the best VBC in our community!



Churches Don't Take A Vacation

The months of July and August are a time when many people take their vacations. While our church's pace may slow down, although there will be a lot of activity with Vacation Bible Camp, remember that we're still here on Sunday mornings. Also please remember that our expenses don't take a holiday either during the summer. Have a great summer.

Other Noteworthy News

- ◆ Our long time member Thomas Thomsen has left Ridge-wood and now resides in the Plattdeutsche old age home in Franklin Square.
- ◆ Sadly we have to report the death of Peter Hunsinger. He was a member of Trinity for many years. Our condolences go out to his family.
- ◆ More than 80 members and guests participated in the 40th German-American Afternoon. A good time was had by all.
- ◆ The Ladies Aid/ Frauen Verein cake sale was again a great success. It generated \$445 for our Church.

New Consistory Members

Then newly elected Consistory Members were ordained and installed during a Combined Worship Celebration on May the 6th. Elders and deacons, together with the minister, form the consistory to lead God's people in proclaiming good news to the poor, righteousness to the nations, and peace among all. The consistory provides for the welfare of the church, stewardship of property and finance, and the spiritual benefit and growth of all Christ's people. The minister of Word and sacrament does not serve without the elder and neither without the deacon. Together they enable the whole mission of the church.

From left to right: Back row: Elder Marieanna Trautmann, Vice-President of the Consistory and Pastor Albert Potgieter. Middle row: Elder Leonard Schiefer, Elder Ludwig Hauser, Deacon Kurt Andreas and Deacon Robert Bambach. Front: Deacon Diana Albanese.



WWW.TRINITYQUEENS.ORG — EMAIL: LIFE@TRINITYQUEENS.ORG

Father's Day

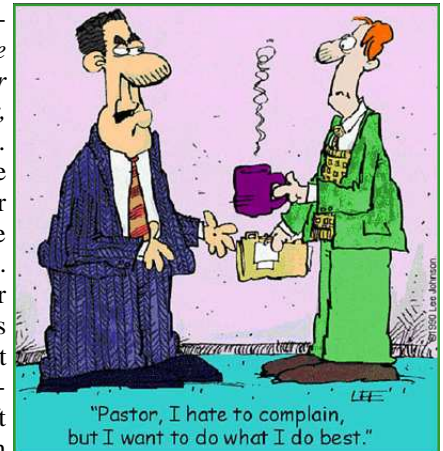
A reminder that Father's Day is on June 17 this year. A form will be made available at worship over the next 3 Sundays for any memorials you would like to submit for our special Father's Day insert in the bulletin. You can also mail your memorials to Trinity. Just remember to specify that it is for the Father's Day insert.

Encourage One Another

The Bible says in 1 Thesalonians 5:11, *Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.*

At Trinity we encourage our members to use their spiritual gifts to serve God and the church. However as a pastor pointed out to one of his members who said that she had the gift of complaining: "That is a gift that you will not find in the Bible."

So, for all those who always seem to be on the "critical list," remember that we are called to build each other up and not tear each other down. Let us follow the example of love and acceptance that Jesus gave us in dealing with each other.



Summer Worship Schedule

Please note that our regular worship schedule of having both a German and English language service will end on Sunday June the 24th. Our summer worship schedule will start on **July the 1st**. During the months of July and August we will only have one worship service at 10:00 am. Our regular worship schedule will again resume with Communion on September the 9th.

Next Issue of The Chimes

Please note that the next issue of the Trinity Chimes will be the September issue. We wish all our readers a refreshing summer and encourage you to remain faithful in your worship attendance over the summer months.

Worship Schedule for June

June 3, 17, 24—Regular Worship Schedule

German—9:30 am

English—10:45 am

June 10—Combined Worship Celebration at 10:00 am

* Communion will be celebrated on June 3

* Junior Church each Sunday at 10:45 am