



Trinity Trumpet

Good News!

Since 1973 Vol. 52 No. 8

AUGUST 2024

A Newsletter for Covenant Partners and friends of Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Modesto, California



The Wright Connection

Dear Friends,

I don't often experience revelations from God, but this year in Guatemala, the Word of God unfolded before me in an unmistakable and unshakable way. This experience has emboldened me to ask for your support for the mission of Bethel Ministries International. The revelation was profound: I witnessed an Old Testament story come to life before my eyes. The characters were vividly portrayed, and then it struck me—suddenly and powerfully—that I was part of the story, and so are we all. Let me share this with you, and I pray that you, my dear friend, will enter this story with your whole heart.

I would like to introduce you to a mother and daughter we met in Chimaltenango. The mother is 54, a single mother of many children, but only one is still with her. Her daughter is 15 and realizes the future of her family rests squarely on her thin shoulders. While our team sat in a circle of resin chairs, this mother shared her life story with us. I have never heard such a harsh and heartbreaking story in my life. This woman, from the age of 14, was betrayed and violently abused by the men in her life, family, and strangers. She found herself used and cast aside by all who could help her. She was defiled and rejected, not because she earned the scorn of others with bad behavior, but because she was labeled unclean. At 14, her family turned their backs on her. She escaped to the city, looking for a man to take her in, to cover her, to feed her. Vulnerable, she remained an easy target for predators. It was not easy to listen to the story of her life. Tearfully, she asked our group, "What did I do to deserve this?" As she spoke, I thought there was no way she trusted God after all she had been through, but she did, she does. While we sat outside her modest home, a home that could be taken away from her at any time, my mind flashed to the story of Ruth. This is when the revelation started.

The story of Ruth is a common story in history—women who find themselves alone in a potentially violent world of sexual predators and starvation. This is so common in Guatemala, but it has been common throughout history in all places. Vulnerable women and children need a covering, someone, usually a man, to take them into their hearts and provide food, shelter, and clothing. Such was the story of Ruth and Naomi. Scripture tells us Naomi and her family left Israel for Moab because of a famine. Naomi left with her husband and two sons. While in Moab, her sons married, and all was well until Naomi's husband passed away, followed by her sons. Three women, Orpah, Ruth, and Naomi, were now left alone and exposed. Orpah moved back to her family while Ruth and Naomi headed back to Israel, seeking a potential husband for Ruth who would provide safety, food, and shelter. But as you read the story of Ruth, you can sense the danger under the surface for a young woman vulnerable to abuse. Ruth found Boaz, who became her "kinsman redeemer."

I realized in an instant that the parallels were striking. As in the book of Ruth, many women, often with a few children, find themselves alone in the world. They are abandoned by the men who impregnated them, often abandoned by the church, and sometimes even by their extended families. Alone, vulnerable,



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Ministerial Staff

Rev. Dr. Craig Wright Senior Pastor
Rebecca Duque Administrator
Becky Pombo Minister to Children
Destiny Robles Director of Youth Ministry
Dina Guentensperger Music Director-
 Traditional
La Mar Owens Music Director-
 Contemporary

Trinity Preschool

Cassi Torrez Director
Rebecca Duque Administrator

Char Wickman Circulation Manager
Thanks to many Volunteers!

DEADLINE

FOR PUBLICATION

15TH

OF EACH MONTH
 FOR THE NEXT MONTH'S
 PUBLICATION

Materials are collated
 on the fourth Tuesday
 of each month.

and with mouths to feed, many of these women use their bodies to attract a man, hoping to find an anchor, a good guy who can be their redeemer, enough calories for another day. Those themes echo in Ruth. Yet, she found Boaz—a godly man, a kinsman redeemer. Why kinsman? Because Naomi was related in some way to Boaz. Why redeemer? Because Boaz, out of the kindness of his heart, out of his sense of responsibility and obedience to God, provided covering, protection, food, and a future for these vulnerable women.

As we listened to the life story of this precious woman, I wondered if her 15-year-old daughter would suffer the same fate as her mother. Then it hit me—another revelation—this mother and daughter had found a kinsman redeemer. They would be okay. Food, shelter, clothing, and school—a future and a hope. Who is that kinsman redeemer? Bethel Ministries International! And by extension, you and me. This 54-year-old woman and her 15-year-old daughter are kin, our family. How's that, you ask? They are followers of Jesus Christ, and our sisters in Christ—yes, kin! Because of the outreach of Bethel Ministries, because of social workers like Dulze Galvez, these two precious souls have found the church. And we, the church, are Boaz in this story. Once you get past the tragedy of their story, it turns to grace and hope. Grace and hope are provided by the people of God, by us. I will be preaching the book of Ruth in worship, and we will have this conversation as a church on Sunday, August 11th. But for now, I want to say thank you for your gifts given over the years to rescue these precious souls. We, the church, are actively engaged in redemption, and this pleases our Lord deeply. Please take the time to read the book of Ruth; it might take all of 10 minutes. I pray Christ will open all your hearts as our team shares in the coming days.

Blessings,
 Pastor Craig

June 2024 Finance Summary

Fiscal Year = September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024

	ACTUAL	
	June	Year to Date
GENERAL FUND		
Receipts	60,452	685,555
Expenses	64,655	743,832
Receipts over Expenses	-4,203	-58,277

In June, we brought in \$60,452 and spent \$64,655. This left us with a deficit of \$4,203 for the month. Year-to-date, we have spent \$58,277 more than we have received. We are currently using funds received in prior years to make ends meet. Please prayerfully consider your financial commitment



*Dates with
Destiny*

Calvin Crest Thoughts at Camp **July 2024**

With the chirping of birds, the breeze near the lake, the hiss of geese (if you get too close, trust me), and the almost faint sound of the growing trees—Calvin Crest is filled with audible glimpses of heaven. It's as if the nature here sings God's praises so clearly (well, okay, maybe not the geese... haha).

With two weeks of camp back-to-back for Rick Crabtree, Cassi Torrez, and me, our schedules have been packed with activities, hikes, team bonding, worship, devotionals, chants, and a little bit of sleep—wherever we can find it... it is almost easy to miss it by not taking a moment to stop to just soak it all in, to breathe it all in.

This summer, Calvin Crest's theme of Relentless Love, centered around the story of Jonah. Hearing and participating in the discussions about how God's love pursues us and how He continues to pour out grace so freely has been incredible to be a part of. We serve a generous and loving God, and there are moments we need to acknowledge that part of His character and receive that

truth for ourselves and moments we get to be an extension of reflecting His character as we show that grace to others. To be transparent, depending on the day, I'm not always sure which of those two is harder to accomplish.

As I write this, surrounded by the scenic beauty of camp, I can't help but hold both the sounds of nature and the story of Jonah in the same thought. Whether I'm like Jonah trying to run away from God or someone in need of hearing God's truth like the people of Nineveh, I know that God will still be worshipped and pursue us. We get to respond to His goodness and forgiveness and worship Him. If we don't, the rocks will cry out, singing God's praises.

There's something profoundly humbling about this realization. Despite our shortcomings and failures, God's relentless love reaches out to us, inviting us to turn back to Him. Each day at camp has been a reminder of this truth, through the laughter of campers, the quiet moments of reflection, and the shared experiences of worship.

My prayer and hope is that our praises would ring louder and worship the Creator more than any bird, tree, wind, and yes, even those silly geese.

Prayer:

Almighty Creator, help me to hear your voice and be obedient. Open my ears to hear your voice and trust your plan. May the praises on my lips be pointed towards you wherever I may find myself. You are worthy to be praised.

-Destiny





More from Les

Time to say "Adieu"

They say timing is everything, thus, I believe it is time for me to retire as your "Parish Pastor." After much prayer and counsel, I sense God moving me in this direction. While serving here for over 31 years, including 24 as your Parish Pastor, I have known far too many blessings to mention. We have faced some tough storms and weathered them well, thus we are spiritually stronger today than ever before. Thank you for loving Mrs. Leslie so much and for allowing her to be herself in the TUPC family. Though I am leaving leadership responsibility here, you will still probably see us from time to time.

We love you and always will!!
Pastor Leslie (Les) Malakian
Matthew 6:33

Trinity Resource Library

The Trinity Library continues to be open each Sunday following the 10:00 AM Worship Service and during the week as needed. All has been inventoried and new books are labeled

Dinghy Mariners

No meeting in August. Watch for updated information on the next meeting



Dina's Dynamic

Dearest TUPC family,

How are you all surviving the heat this summer? Here in Switzerland, it's been quite a wet, humid summer. Sadly, I've not been able to enjoy the cool breezes and summer storms, except by looking out of my hospital window. Nonetheless, this incredibly beautiful country is a constant reminder of God's love for us. Maybe next year I'll be able to travel a bit and see more historic sights. For now, my focus must be on getting well enough to return home.

When I do, I assure you all that we'll be singing and praising the Lord together with happy hearts! In the meantime, know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Blessings!
Dina Guentensperger

Worship Service, Sermons, and Info Online at tupc.org

Use your computer, laptop, iPad or smart phone to livestream online worship Sundays at 10:00 AM through the Trinity United website or on the TUPC Facebook page.

Miss an online worship service? You can watch past worship services by logging on to Trinity United's website at: www.tupc.org and selecting "MEDIA" then "Worship" or "Sermons Video" from the menu.

You can also find other important information about the life of Trinity United on the website such as current and past Trumpet Newsletters and an active monthly calendar. Use social media as a tool to connect with Trinity United family through Facebook.

Moment for Missions

Guatemala Mission Report

Submitted by Pastor Craig & Marcy Wright

Every team member came home with stories that gripped their heart. Be sure to reach out to them. Have Dave Zellman share with you Maria's hope for her daughter's health when the doctors say there is no hope. Bryan Crabtree was moved by the energy and drive to live of the two young brothers with muscular dystrophy. Let Debbie Chin show you the beautiful picture of the little girl who cannot speak or the triplets in need formula and diapers.



Hear Rick Crabtree's heart break over the trauma of Norma's life and the cancer she is now dealing with. Experience the gratitude of Estafani in her new home that Jeff Chin witnessed.



Ask Marcy Wright about Nayeli having her one-year-old removed from the home due to severe malnutrition and now not being able to produce milk or afford to buy formula for her newborn.



Listen as Pastor Craig shares the message of the kinsman-redeemer (August 11th) that Astrid and Anna inspired. Hear about the dreams of going to school to break out of the cycle of poverty. Sit down with Jon Bucknell and let him tell you why he keeps going back to touch the lives of these beautiful people.

There is still work to be done and what a privilege to play a small part in bringing hope to their situation. We can find the means to help ease the expense of food, formula, or diapers. We can provide doctor's visits for the malnourished children full of parasites. We can arrange for transportation. And we can encourage the dream of going to school to escape the cycle of poverty. Even though we are home, the work continues and TUPC is an ongoing part of that work. Would you prayerfully consider meeting one of the needs we encountered and make plans to join us in Guatemala June 10-17, 2025. The needs waiting to be met are as follows:

Don Joel (68) has a bone infection in his leg that needs to be examined. He and his wife need a food sponsor @ \$50 per month and medicine @ \$85 per month

Erica and Domingo's triplet babies - need formula for 6 mos @ \$160 per month and diapers

Moment for Missions continued on page 6

6 year old Mirna needs seizure medication @ \$50 month and older sister Damaris (17) wants to study English to be a secretary, her training would cost approximately \$80 per month

Norma is a cancer patient who needs transportation money (\$60 one time) to and from the hospital for surgery. (Government is covering medical)

Irma has 2 special needs sons and needs \$100 to help purchase medicine

Elida has diabetes and her medicine and pressure sore treatments cost \$110 per month

Olinda is a single mother with kidney failure and two teenage sons—they need a monthly food sponsor @ \$50/month

Mirian needs seizure medicine for her younger son @ \$50 per month, and an education sponsor for her older son @ \$50/month

Irma Ajabaj is a single mother of a down syndrome daughter. She needs a bed for her daughter at \$150, and a food sponsor@ \$50/month.

Olga has a special needs son. He needs diapers at \$130/month—and she needs help restocking her micro store @ \$250 (one time)

Josefina lost her sister and son to renal failure. She needs \$900 to pay off a loan for burying her son, and she needs a food sponsor @ \$50/month.

Isolina's 13-year-old daughter needs an education sponsor @ \$50/month

Maria needs a food sponsor \$50/month, and a pediatrician visit for 7 grandchildren with malnutrition for \$1000 (one time)

Leonarda - needs a food sponsor @ \$50/month, a pediatrician visit for 11-year-old granddaughter Marjorie for \$150 (one time)

Saturnina needs school sponsors for two grandsons Hector (12) \$50/month and Remigio (15) \$50/month

Jennifer (18) and Edwin (12) need school sponsors \$50/month each

Nayeli and Jose need a food sponsor @ \$50/month, and their newborn Jose Jr. needs a formula sponsor \$50/month

Darlyn needs a food sponsor @ \$50/month

Jesus needs a food sponsor @ \$50/month

Anna needs to have hernia surgery @ \$90 and she needs a series of shots @ \$245. Her daughter Astrid needs a school sponsor @ \$50 to \$100 per month. This family is \$180 behind in rent and it urgently needs to be covered

Wednesdays United begins August 21

Submitted by Marcy Wright



WEDNESDAYS 5:30-7:30 PM



Wednesdays United starts up again August 21. Children, kindergarten through 6th grade, will have dinner in the Telle Center (5:30 PM) followed by class in Covell (6:00-7:30 PM). Join us for games, activities, songs, and crafts as we learn about God's character in the "Many Hats of God."



Stephen Ministry

For information,
please contact: Liz Benson at
209-522-2390

Bear one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

—Galatians 6:2 NRSV

Stephen Ministry provides one-to-one, confidential, Christ centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

Contact Liz Benson at 209-522-2390.

Trinity United Family Prayer Calendar

AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Marilyn Brown Grace Brummel	2 Elizabeth Bucknell Jim and Monique Bucknell	3 Lee and Sandy Bucknell Reva Burchett
4 Greg Cash Mike and Barbara Cash	5 Mike and Kim Caskey Karen Chamberlain	6 Jeff and Debbie Chin Rebecca Clover	7 Rich and Sue Colla Loi Collins	8 Hal and Lucy Conkey Walt and Leslie Cooley	9 David and Mary Couchman Marty and Karen Cox	10 Bryan Crabtree Rick and Bonnie Crabtree
11 Charlie and Sherry Crane Jenny Currie	12 Milt David Delma Davis	13 Leonard Davis Carol Decker	14 Chris and Linda Dickinson Bill and Leanne Donahue	15 Tim and Trish Duncan Rebecca and Earl Duque	16 Robin Eldaly Twyla Engel	17 Kathy Evans Renne and Fred Fellows
18 Elvio and Susan Filippi Frank and Betty Flaim	19 Bill and Joy Fox Greg Fusi and Janice Lucero	20 Debbie George Daivd and Judy Glaister	21 Sam and Claire Graham Roger and Janice Gray	22 Sarah and Chris Haberman Steve and Nina Hanna	23 Saylah and Justin Harvey Melinda Heim	24 Chris and Marti Hennings Devon and Rosalie Hill
25 Brian and Stacy Hoekman Lois and Rex Holm	26 Don Jepson Helen Johnson	27 Sharon Johnson Doris Jones	28 Irma Kaelemakule Joy Kerr-Owens	29 Duane and Susan Kirk Lily Knight	30 Nannette Knockum Dyann LaMantia	31 Christina Latino Merilyn Lewis

1. Advancing Vibrant Communities
Michael Douglass
2. Bethany Christian Services
Sandra Hiatt
3. Bethel Ministries International
Ben and Emily Mooney
4. CRU Zimbabwe
Kelly and Vicki Londoni
5. Guatemala Trinity United
Mission Team: Marcy Wright

6. IDEAS, Bangladesh
Dr. Jay Litchfield
7. Intersivity Christian Fellowship
Lo McDermott
8. LOVE Modesto
Jeff Pishney
9. Modesto Gospel Mission
Jason Conway
10. Modesto Pregnancy Center
Erin Koolhaas

11. The MomCo
Marisa Hooper
12. Operation Christmas Child
13. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Liz Benson
14. Rock of Ages
Sidney Stone
15. Samaritan's Purse
16. Servant Partners
Liz Heim Fung

17. Shalem School
Pastor Helcias Reyes
18. Mesa Global
Todd and Sarah Hunnicut
19. Valley Recovery Resources
Steve Berkowitz
20. Vine House
Cheryl Van Horn
21. Youth for Christ
Ken Sylvia

Pray for one of our supported Mission Families each day of the month.

WORSHIP WITH US!

8:30 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Onsite and Online

Fellowship after Worship in Telle Center

LEADERSHIP

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION:

Tuesday, August 20, 8:30-9:30 AM

DEACONS: Tuesday, August 6, 6:30 PM

SESSION MEETING: Tuesday, August 13, 6:30 PM

TRIP COMMITTEE: Monday, August 5, 10:00 AM

WOMEN'S MINISTRY TEAM: Monday, August 26, 9:30 AM

SERVE

BASKET OF HOPE DISTRIBUTION: Friday, August 16,

10:00 AM-12:00 PM in the North Parking Lot

TUESDAY GROUNDS CREW: Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS UNITED: Beginning August 21

5:30-6:00 PM Dinner in Telle Center

6:00-7:30 PM Bible Study Programs for everyone!

Childcare Provided

STUDY

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 8:30 AM, various locations on campus

BIBLE STUDY: Tuesdays, 10:30 AM, Room #203

PRAISE

COMMUNION: Sunday, August 11

WORSHIP ONSITE and ONLINE: Sundays, 10:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP: Sundays, 11:15 AM, Telle Center

THE MOMCO: Starting Wednesday, August 21, 5:30-7:30 PM

TRINITY QUILTERS: Mondays, 12:00-3:00 PM, Telle Center

Electronic Version Online at www.tupc.org

See Online Calendar for changes.

Worship Services are livestreamed on www.tupc.org



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