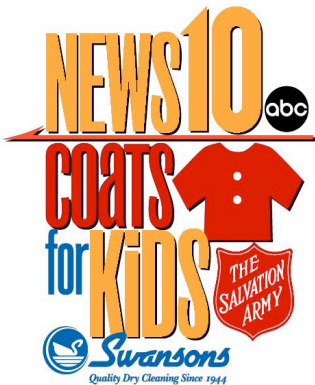


December 8, 2008  
Volume 4, Issue 2

# Campus Chronicles

## Special Interest:

- WANTED:  
a Nutrition text book.  
Please contact the front  
desk if you have one to  
loan or sell!



Trinity Life Bible College is proudly participating in News10's Coats for Kids Campaign as a drop-off site. New or gently used coats for both children and adults are being accepted. Coats do not need to be washed (all coats will be professionally cleaned). Coats can be placed in the bin in the TLBC office.

Trinity Life Bible College

(916) 348-4689

## The Riches of His Grace, Ephesians 1:3-14 Part 12 | Eph. 1:7b-8a

By Andrew Johnson

"...according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us."  
(Eph. 1:7b-8a NASB)

I know it may seem we've been "splitting hairs" as we've gone through this text. From a positive perspective, there is indeed a richness in theological content that one can extract from Paul's doxology. Negatively, the way English translations divide what in Greek as a single sentence, in a way that adds clause upon clause and phrase upon phrase, is problematic. Here we find a phrase that is cut in half with the division of verse seven from verse eight. Part of the issue is the verse division itself, while another is how this phrase is translated in relation to what follows. Paul continues in the second half of verse eight, "In all wisdom and insight..." NIV renders this phrase, "with all wisdom and insight" and connects it with what

came before, so that God's grace is lavished "with all wisdom and insight." We'll get more into the better translation later. For now I'd like to consider the richness of God's grace.

The Greek term *ploutos* means *wealth, fullness, abundance*. "It is the overflowing abundance of unmerited love," Charles Hodge explains, "inexhaustible in God and freely accessible through Christ." Hodge also observes the contents of this grace: first, in providing satisfaction of the justice of God by the blood of His Son; second, in "accepting those who are entirely destitute of merit"; and third, in bestowing redemption "and all its benefits without regard to the comparative goodness of men." We might add as a fourth point his note that "God chooses the foolish, ignorant, and those who are of no account, that they who glory may glory only in the Lord."

*Continued on page 2*

## Evil and the Justice of God, by Tim Souza

N.T. Wright has some pretty intimidating credentials: Professor at Oxford University, Dean of Lichfield University, Canon Theologian of Westminster Abbey, and currently he is serving as the Bishop of Durham. He writes books, which clock in at just under a thousand pages. He also has a British accent (which to my susceptible ear makes a man sound

smarter). Nonetheless, he is man of the people, writing books for us 'plebeians' to enjoy and act like we actually "get it." Evil and the Justice of God is a book that just about anyone could pick up, read and understand. Additionally, it gives great insights into Wright's much deeper (and longer works).

*Continued on page 3*

## The next four years...by Priscilla Marshall



Photo by Taryn Colburn

There are many people across this country who are fearful of the moral and political direction our country is taking. There are several philosophers and preachers who are saying that we are no longer a Christian nation, but are in fact living in a post-Christian culture.

No matter what the beliefs of society around us, as followers of the Lord, we have a certain standard to uphold. Now the time has come for us to put into place one of the most important commandments of God's: to pray. It doesn't matter if we agree with our political officials, we must pray for them. Remember, God can guide even non-Christians in the path that He has laid out.

If we are living in a post-Christian society, as Christians we may, in fact, be "in for it." It is my strong feeling that, as a nation, we have had life very easy. We have come out on top in so many things. God has given us so much freedom and thus the opportunity to learn what it is that He has to teach. We have so much freedom to talk about God on the streets, to go to Bible College,

to openly have church, and to teach our children what we desire them to know about God. The problem is we have become complacent and lazy. Most people, who go to church in America, don't practice Christianity on a daily basis; they simply go to church on Sundays. American Christians, for the most part, don't practice the most important aspect of Christianity: The Great Commission, telling others about what God and His Son have done for us.

Soon, we may not have the very freedoms, we have for so long taken for granted. Times are changing.

Now is the time when we must take what we have learned and what we know to be true about our Lord and speak it out! We will come against a storm of resistance, and we may actually see persecution, but we must trust that God will restore us when we stand strong. We cannot shift the blame to someone or somewhere else, instead we must learn how to pronounce the name of Jesus Christ--Boldly!

"For You, Oh Lord, are my rock."

## Grace, continued from page 1

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*"He has set His "great love" ... and in that love He lavishes His abundant grace upon them in Christ."*

We often define grace as "unmerited favor." However, as Hodge's second point captures well, and as James White says explicitly, grace is more accurately "the demerited favor of God, for it is extended to...enemies of God. These are not merely those at a moral neutral point who are given something they did not deserve, they are convicted criminals, justly condemned." One need only review Romans 1-3 and Ephesians 2:1-3 to see where he stands with God apart from grace: "entirely destitute" and "justly condemned." "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even

when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)." (Eph. 2:4-5 NASB)

We have done nothing to deserve God's favor; nothing is in us that would commend us to the love of God, that He should "make us alive" with Christ. To the contrary, everything we have done and what we are makes us deserving of His wrath, to be "justly condemned." Yet because He is "rich in mercy" He has set His "great love" on a chosen people, "those who are of no account" and in that love He lavishes His abundant grace upon them in Christ.

## Union Gospel Mission Praise Report

I walked into the UGM 18 years ago; a man broken in every way, and it was worship groups like the TLBC team that affected me so much. Hearing a different message every night helped to stretch my understanding of scripture.

As graduate of the rehabilitation program at the mission, and then graduating from TLBC with a BA in Ministerial Studies, and now a missionary in Ukraine God recently gave me an opportunity to speak at the mission. To take advantage of this opportunity I had to travel half way

around the world. I loved adding to the lives at the mission, the way that so many did in my life. Praise Him Praise Him!!!

I encourage every student to participate in this ministry and to let it stretch you into the shape that God intends for you.

*Rev. Mark Bohannon*

*Every third Friday night, a group of dedicated, TLBC students head over to the Union Gospel Mission to minister to the guests of the Mission. For information on how you can help, contact Pastor T or ASB President,*

*TLBC gave \$500 to the UGM to help feed the homeless Thanksgiving dinner. What a blessing and showing of love from you, our students.  
Thank you.*

## Evil and the Justice of God, *continued from page 1*

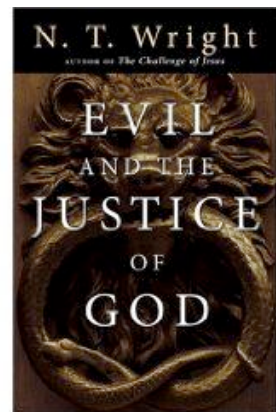
This book was written as his response to the reaction of the world when evil rears its ugly head. Now, for most Christians, we understand that evil is all around and it does not just show up from time to time. However, Wright wants to address this issue with the people who are surprised by evil's existence when they witness tragedies such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks or Hurricane Katrina. He lays out an understandable case, revealing that evil has been alive and well from the beginning of human time and is still very much alive today.

Wright addresses, in everyday language, what he sees as a common problem. He seldom enters the brainy world of theology so that the common man can understand what he is getting at. Referencing work of his contemporaries in the

field of theology, he opens the reader to a much deeper and fuller understanding of the problem of evil and the Christian's correct response to it.

I recommend some other books on a similar topic such as Exclusion and Embrace by Miraslov Volf or even The Shack by William Young. Though these books could not be more different in their approach to the subject of evil, they both tackle the subject head on. The strength of N.T. Wright's book, especially for Bible students, is that it gives a fresh perspective on the Bible. Wright explains how the Bible is, in many ways, God's response to "the problem of evil."

So give Evil and the Justice of God a chance, if only because N.T. Wright is giving us a chance.



## Christmas In The Community...

**Live Nativity**, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Carmichael Presbyterian Church 5645 Marconi Avenue, 486-9081. 12/12 - 12/13 7:00-9:00pm, 12/14 6:00-8:00pm. Free, drive thru or walk thru. Free hot chocolate and home made cookies. Canned food donations for our Food Closet.

Natomas Life Ministries will hold its Christmas Musical entitled **His Love Still Shines**, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Multi-Purpose Hall of Jefferson Elementary School, 2001 Pebblewood Dr., Sacramento. You are all invited to the free musical. Refreshments will be served before and after the event.

**"The Gospel According to Scrooge"** is a Broadway style, musical adaptation of Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol." The principal characters in "Scrooge" and the Dicken's classic remain the same. Catchy songs and choreography, beautiful costumes and vocal performances, huge set and cast make it a must see. Saturday, December 13 at 3:00pm and 6:00pm and Sunday, December 14 at 6:00pm at Sunset Christian Center in Rocklin. Reserved seating. Tickets and information available at [www.sunsetchristian.com](http://www.sunsetchristian.com)

The Grace Baptist Church adult choir presents **"Tonight, Heaven Touches Earth"**, a multi-media presentation. Sunday, December 14, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Grace Baptist Church in Yuba City. Admission is free. For questions or directions, call 530-673-6847.

**Capital Christian Center 52nd Annual Singing Christmas Tree** entitled **"Christmas Jazz!"** Friday, December 12 at 7:30 PM, Saturday, December 13 at 3:00 & 7:00 PM, and Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 & 7:00 PM. For additional information: [info@thesingingchristmastree.org](mailto:info@thesingingchristmastree.org). Regular Ticket Prices: \$5.00, \$10.00, \$15.00, & \$25.00. All performances are held at Capital Christian Center, Main Auditorium, 9470 Micron Avenue, Sacramento, (Highway 50 at Bradshaw Road)

This Christmas season, don't miss **I'll Be Home For Christmas!** There are three showings -- Friday, December 12th at 7 PM; Saturday, December 13th at 7 PM; and Sunday, December 14th at 10:30 AM. Admission is free, so invite your family and friends. New Life Community Church of Fair Oaks, 8101 Sunset Blvd. For information call 916-536-5433.

COME & HEAR THE REAL CHRISTMAS STORY THIS YEAR! Christ the King Lutheran Church (5811 Walnut Ave, Orangevale, CA 95662) will host it's 17th Annual **"LIVE NATIVITY"** on December 19-21, 2008 each evening at 7P, 7:45P, and 8:30P. "Our annual Live Nativity presentation is a spectacular narrated presentation of the Christmas Story with elaborate scenery, changing scenes, elegant costumes and special effects, music, lighting and sound."

**A Family Christmas Night "Wise Men Still Seek Him"** Sunday, December 14, 6:30 PM. The night will begin with fun Christmas songs performed by a live band then will lead into scripture narration, solo performances, quartet, live scenes all geared towards the story of Christmas. Traditional Christmas songs will be sung with the audience. A Free Event. For More Information, phone: 530-682-2154. Presented at Lake Natomas Inn, 702 Gold Lake Dr., Folsom by Prayer Mountain Church.

**Dr. Newheart's Christmas Cure** is a fun-filled Christmas musical to be performed by children ages, 5 to 11 yrs old. Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 916-689-7625. The Rock Church, 8520 Bradshaw Road, Elk Grove.

**Bear Creek Community Church presents "That's Mandie"** An UNTraditional Christmas Comedy Show times 12/12/08 7:00pm 12/13/08 2:00pm and 7:00pm 12/14/08 2:00pm. For More Information phone: 209-951-9229, Bear Creek Community Church is located at 11171 Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi.



*Campus Chronicles*

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*Training Lives  
Building Character.*