

# CONSECRATION DAYS

March 7, 2010 — March 21, 2010

*Reaching OUT... Touching HEARTS... Making DISCIPLES...*

First, to the congregation of Trinity English, a great big thank you for all that you have done, and continue to do for the work of Jesus Christ. God has blessed you to be a blessing.

Secondly, throughout Consecration Days we have heard of how Trinity English **Reaches Out** through the Dirty Hands Ministry by providing “handyman” services to people who are unable to do such things themselves. How Trinity English **Touches Hearts** through the Congregational Care Ministry and offers opportunities to serve and to be served by inviting us to journey and discover along the way how, for this time in our lives, we can seek, find, knock, and be opened to the grace of being blessed to be blessing. And finally, through the Christian Education Ministry we have heard how Trinity English is **Making Disciples** by fostering a environment where we can learn, share, and experience relationships with one another as we continue to seek the truth of Jesus Christ. These are just samples of some of the ministries that Trinity English provides to the congregation, to the community, and, in some cases, to the world. We are all a part of these ministries because they only happen due to the generous gifts of time, talent and treasures that so many have blessed Trinity English with by sharing.

Martin Luther summarized stewardship like this: **“I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God’s hands; that I still possess.”**

For Christians, our role as stewards comes as an appointment from God; He entrusts us as eternal partners in managing His resources on earth. The assignment of stewardship is a relationship with God. It applies to time and the talents God has given, as well as to money and possessions. Stewardship becomes a way of life and includes:

- Ordering our priorities
- Time management

- Being good stewards of our health/bodies
- Caring for the environment
- Money management
- Current charitable gifts
- Legacy charitable gifts

Finally, as chair of the Stewardship Committee, I would like to challenge each of us to consider acknowledging our roles as stewards of God’s gifts — as the Stewardship committee has examined over the past months. What can each of us do differently as responsible stewards of what God has given us? Acknowledging our stewardship roles at Trinity English means:

- Affirming that what we have is not ours; that everything comes from God and has been entrusted to our care
- Realizing that God expects us to actively manage these gifts, not simply maintain them
- Acknowledging that God works through us as we use and manage what He has given us
- Understanding that while we may use these gifts for the well-being of ourselves and our families, we are also commanded to use them to help others and further God’s kingdom

Faithful stewardship does not go unnoticed or unrewarded. Scripture tells us when we give to God, we receive from God. We do not give in order to receive, but we cannot give without receiving. Our stewardship is all about our personal relationship with God, and we thank God through Jesus Christ for all that he has entrusted to our care.

— Bruce Dafforn, Stewardship Chair

*“Welcoming Everyone to Grow in the Love and Grace of Jesus Christ!”*



# Making DISCIPLES...

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The dictionary defines disciple as a follower of a master or teacher. We might then conclude that a disciple would live by the teachings and lifestyle of the master, hold to his or her standards and ideals, and strive to be like the master or teacher. As Christians we immediately think of Jesus as master and teacher, and we probably think of those first twelve disciples, Peter, James, John, Andrew, and the others. They believed His teachings, modeled His lifestyle, and gave up everything to follow Him.

We too are Jesus disciples, and we have many opportunities at Trinity English to show our discipleship. Discipleship means loving one another, studying God's word, reaching out to others, helping others, and joining others to help us grow in Christ.

**John 8:31, 32** ..... Jesus said, ***"If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."***

I have found that being in relationship with fellow Christians (fellow disciples) is a most effective way to foster Christian Discipleship. On Sunday mornings, at the ten o'clock hour, one or more classes are offered for adults to study God's word. We are now discussing "Science and Religion—Do They Mix?" On Monday mornings, at 9:15 am, a Bible Study takes place. On Tuesdays at 12:15, Lent through the eyes of Scripture is a choice. Throughout the year subjects change and leaders or facilitators may

change, but these groups allow us to get to know one another better and give us support as we continue to grow in Christ. These groups make exciting discoveries about the word of God and its relevance to our world today. In order for us to learn what Jesus meant when he said, "hold to my teachings," we first have to have knowledge of those teachings.

As children, most of us regularly went to Sunday School where we got to know Jesus. As adults, it is important that we continue to seek the truth Jesus was talking about. In John 13: 34, 35, Jesus says, *"A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* Loving one another as Jesus loves us? Tall order. True discipleship is not easy. It takes time and effort. Here at Trinity English we have many opportunities to show love to one another, to support one another, to grow together in our faith. We need only to look for the best areas for each of us. Jesus didn't choose just one or two disciples to follow him and carry on his work. He chose many and charged them to make disciples of all people. Discipleship works best when the work, the burdens, the joys, the difficulties, the happiness are shared in a community of believers.

— Gale Eller

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