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Next Press Deadline
September 22, 2019

Thoughts on Insanity & Holiness

The recent shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, are a major concern for all thoughtful citizens of our nation. These acts of violence cast a long shadow, and all of us feel a sense of sadness, confusion, frustration, and loss over these seemingly senseless acts of evil.

The weekend after these shootings, the *Wall Street Journal* carried an extended article about the rise of White Supremacism as one of our nation's most significant terrorist threats. All of us have heard many words in many different places about racism — and everyone seems to blame everyone else for fueling racist tension in our country. Though racism appears to have been a driving force in the El Paso shooting, there is another factor fueling hatred and anger that was mentioned in the article — a new word for my vocabulary — that word is "incel" — which can be defined as "involuntary celibates" — members of an online subculture who define themselves as unable to find a romantic or sexual partner despite desiring one. These young men who identify as incel feel justified in attacking women since they feel they have been mistreated or rejected by them.

This reference to incels caused me to think of another shooting which happened here in California in 2014 — and I wrote the following article in response to it — and I decided to share that article again today since the 'incel' movement seems to be a growing movement in the subculture of hate-groups.

On the night of May 23rd of 2014, Elliot Rodger went on a mass killing spree in Isla Vista near the University of California, Santa Barbara. The Alpha Phi sorority house was singled out in the attack. This got my attention since my mother and my sister, Leslie, were both members of the Alpha Phi chapter at UCSB many years ago. Elliot's rampage left six people dead and seven others injured. Only hours before he would open fire, Rodger posted a chilling manifesto titled "Retribution," that detailed his plans to attack and what drove him to such a violent act. The 22-year-old student ranted about how he would "punish" women for their mistreatment of him.

"College is the time when everyone experiences those things such as sex and fun and pleasure," Elliot said in his video. "But in those years I've had to rot in loneliness. It's not fair. You girls have never been attracted to me. I don't know why you girls aren't attracted to me. But I will punish you all for it."



Jim Rauch
Interim Pastor

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Thoughts on Insanity & Holiness

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Many reporters and analysts have labeled Elliot Rodger as insane. From what we can tell, he was intelligent, wealthy, and physically attractive. Yet there was something terribly wrong with this young man's mind and perhaps more importantly, his soul.

As I thought about the philosophy of life represented in Elliot Rodger's statements, it occurred to me that his views are at the opposite end of the spectrum from the views we seek to cultivate in the body of Christ.

Instead of seeking God, Rodger made an idol of pleasure. Instead of viewing sex as a gift from God to be experienced in the covenant of a loving marriage, Rodger saw sex as a 'right' that he deserved to receive from women without the need for love or commitment. Instead of protecting and preserving God's precious gift of life, Rodger took life away from others. Instead of giving thanks to God in worship, Rodger was consumed with covetousness. Instead of developing a personal relationship with God to bring guidance and comfort in life's struggles, Rodger played God himself and fell into lonely despair.

As I read about Rodger's ranting the verse that came to mind was Philippians 3:18-20:

"¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." (ESV)

Though Rodger appeared to me to be insane, his insanity must be seen in its cultural context. Sadly, our culture nurtures the viewpoints taken to an extreme by Elliot Rodger. The modern entertainment industry in its myriad venues proclaims a clear value system – a value system that replaces God with humanity. One that replaces commitment with recreational sex. In

this value system, pleasure is placed high above holiness or righteousness. Entitlement is placed high above obligation. The result is that the entertainment industry nurtures covetousness and undermines gratitude. The message is that there is no God to serve and thank – instead there is just you – and everyone else has it better than you do.

Our goal in the body of Christ is to grow people into holiness. We call people out of darkness into the light. We call them to self-control, gratitude, worship, community, and especially love. We call people to draw near to Jesus Christ because apart from Him we are prone to idolatry, loneliness, despair, and hatred.

My word to Elliot Rodger: The goal of life is not the pursuit of pleasure – it is the pursuit of God. You are lonely because you have rejected God or perhaps your parents failed to teach you about God. Women are not here for your pleasure. They are here as God's gift for divinely ordered covenantal partnership. You have focused on what you think the universe owes you – this is called covetousness and it is a sin. Try giving thanks for what you have, and stop playing God yourself so you can get to know the real God who loves you and sent his Son to save you from your meaningless existence. Your god is your own appetite. You are starving your soul to death. Repent and come to Jesus and discover the true meaning of your life.

Most young people do not act out their despair in deeds of violence. But sadly, many of them live in the same warped value system that Paul the Apostle describes in Philippians 3:18-19, "as enemies of the cross of Christ ... whose god is the belly." Let us continue to bear witness to the light of Christ wherever we go, and may the good news of Jesus turn many people back from the path of destruction. Amen.

As we begin a new school year at Trinity Christian School (TCS) — I think of the mission and ministry of Trinity

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God Rescues Us!

Tuesday, July 23st, our Shipwrecked Vacation Bible School began. We had over 40 children in attendance, in addition to an amazing group of volunteers. The time was spent learning that God rescues us no matter what the circumstances. The days began with worship, followed by our Bible lesson of the day, and some pretty tasty snacks! We choose to raise money to help feed orphans through ricebowls.org. With the help of videos and stories, the kids were really able to understand how blessed they are to have enough food to eat every day. With their collection and, thanks

to the generous donations from the congregation, they were able to raise a total of \$259! I would like to extend my deepest thanks to each and every one of you who volunteered countless hours of time and showcased your amazing talents. I COULDN'T have done this without you!

As we look forward to fall, we will be starting off with Kids' Kingdom. We will meet on Wednesday nights from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. for homework help, Bible study, crafts, and more. I am still in need of volunteers in all areas to help make this program a success. Please contact me if you feel led to help or have any further questions.

Krista Young

Children's Ministries Director

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Discipleship & Missions

God is at Work in this Place!

As I sit here in my office, trying to put the Press together, I am reflecting on how God is always at work in this place.

As I work, Don Axe is cooking some amazing food for the small group leader dinner happening this evening. Tonight we kick off a new year of growing! Kirk Drummond, our Discipleship Elder, is passionate about bringing us into a deeper walk with God and each other. This passion runs deep in me as well. Most of you see the missions side of my heart, but seeing our church dig deeper into the Word, get to know more and more of who Jesus is, and bring that heart knowledge to our church family and the world around us, is what I pray

for on a daily basis. I love how God moves in small groups, as we learn to love each other, love God more, and move to show that love to the world around us.

Along with the wonderful smells from the kitchen, there is a small group of unique believers sitting out on the benches, eating their lunch. They are from Wycliffe Bible Translators (Trinity Church supports Mary Hopkins, who is also with Wycliffe).

This group is part of a brand new direction for Wycliffe. The majority of languages that have yet to have any translation of the Bible are spoken in areas of the world where it is forbidden to be a Christian, where war and conflict are constant, and where

there is deep distrust of foreigners. All of these situations put the Wycliffe translation staff in grave danger, including the native speakers who are assisting in the translation work.

Most of these areas also have large numbers of refugees fleeing war or persecution. This flight is called Diaspora, and it is with these Diaspora people groups that Wycliffe now has a new vision. Believers, like those who met together here at Trinity Church this week, are working to use these Diaspora native speakers to help with the translation of the Scriptures into languages desperate for the Gospel. The work of translating can be done in a safer, more open environment.

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We Celebrate 50 Years Serving God on the Hill

Trinity Christian School (TCS) is starting its 50th year of outreach to the community! We are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for this part of His mission on our hill. Classes have been filling up and we expect more than 200 students to receive an excellent, Christ-centered education this year. Also, in March 2020, we will host a WASC and ACSI accreditation team for our six-year renewal. Please keep TCS in your prayers during this unique and exciting year.

Maintaining the facility and grounds is an important part of good stewardship. Over the summer, several facility upgrades were made including carpet replacement for several classrooms, middle school

roof repairs, clearing overgrowth and weeds, leveling areas for the installation of security fencing, repairs of several doors, restrooms, and drinking fountains, and, most happily, installation of solar panels.

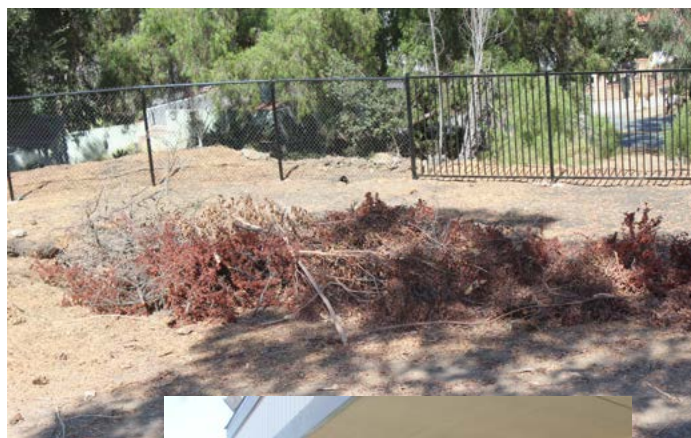
Each year, we host a welcome dessert night for the new families coming to Trinity Christian School. It will be held on Thursday, August 29th at 6:30 p.m. in Williams Hall. Staff and families have a chance to meet before the busy year begins. There is a general orientation and the opportunity to chat informally. In addition, our traditional Meet-and-Greet event will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd, following Labor Day. Families will arrive on campus around 5:00 p.m. to locate their children's classrooms

and deliver their student's supplies. The families then gather on the grass quad to enjoy a barbecue picnic. On September 4th, a mandatory school-wide parent Back to School evening is held at 6:30 p.m. This event starts in Williams Hall with a general orientation followed by dismissing parents to attend classroom meetings with their student's teachers.

Thank you again for your prayers as we begin the 50th year of Trinity Christian School. Thanks be to God!

Sharon Axe
Principal

Jimmie Drummond
Principal



An Action-Packed Summer

The Trinity Church youth group had an action-packed summer of fun! We had a movie night, beach bonfire night, our summer retreat, and a Knott's Berry Farm trip. The students enjoyed fellowship, time with God, and prayer throughout all of these events.

For the summer retreat, we paired up with Cloud 9 Worship Center and booked a large house in Running Springs (near Big Bear). The students were able to enjoy archery, zip-lining, rock wall climbing, and a small boat

in the pond. We all marveled at God's creation with s'mores under the stars. We also went on a hike and bought some goodies in town.

We joined the Cloud 9 Youth Group again for the Knott's Berry Farm trip and went on several rides throughout the day. The student's favorite rides were the *Silver Bullet* and *Ghost Rider*.

The youth group is excited to go back to school! We will be having youth group every Wednesday after school from 3:00 - 5:15 p.m. Continue to keep

encouraging friends and family to come! It has been a privilege for Emily and me to serve Jesus in this ministry. Please keep praying for students to know Jesus and to develop a strong relationship with Him. Please check out the photos below. For more information, please see our Instagram, @trinitypressyouth.

Joe Burke
Youth Ministries Director

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CLIPPERS

Saturday, September 21st

Please join us on September 21st for an afternoon of fellowship and conversation led by Nancy Scholder as we explore “**What did you do this summer;**” “**How well do you know your Clipper neighbor;**” and other topics.

We meet at 12:45 p.m. for a fantastic 1:00 p.m. potluck luncheon. GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Please contact Pat Palmore at 619-444-6736 or Jackie Van Dyne at 619-857-2193 for further information.

Presbyterian Women

Below is the September schedule for Presbyterian Women.

Remember - ALL women who attend Trinity Church are members.

September 3	9:30 a.m.	Board Meeting – Ward Center
September 10	The Gathering – Williams Hall	
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study -lead by Linda Hensley
	11:00 a.m.	Program-
		Steve Robinson -
		MAF Missionary
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch – Prep by Morning Circle
September 17	9:30 a.m.	Crafts – Ward Center
	6:30 p.m.	Evening Circle –
		Debbie Torres’ home
September 24	9:30 a.m.	Morning Circle – Ward Center

Thoughts on Insanity & Holiness

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Presbyterian Church and TCS. I believe that we are, in a small way, helping in the larger battle against hatred and evil in our culture by helping to train up the next generation in a value system that is radically different from the one our culture is promoting directly and indirectly in so many different ways. When it comes to helping to stop senseless acts of violence, the police and law

enforcement agencies can be helpful. Politicians can be helpful. Public schools can help also. Ultimately, this evil trend of murder and hatred being cultivated in the lives of alienated young men can only be solved by a spiritual renewal – from the self-focused life of sin to the God-focused life of love, peace, and joy. I am glad for your partnership with each other and with brothers and sisters

all over this nation and this world who are committed to bringing the transforming message of Jesus Christ to a world where Christ’s love and Christ’s Spirit are needed more now than ever.

In Christ,

Jim Rauch
Interim Pastor

God is at Work in this Place!

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One of the leaders of this group came to me after their meeting had ended on Friday. She wanted me to know that they felt so welcomed and loved by all of the Trinity people, from both the school and church. I love watching how Trinity Church and TCS step up and bring love and graciousness to guests and show love to one another.

On more than one occasion, I have been told that our place on this hill has brought peace, love, and joy to those that visit us. This is who we are as a church and it will be the reason we grow. We may need a pastor to help guide us, but God can grow us even now because we love one another and we love those that come from all over to meet at this place for

many different reasons. I encourage you to continue in this amazing work – God is glorified by our obedience to love each other and our neighbors.

Rebecca DeBrau
*Director of Discipleship,
Communications & Missions*

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God's Grace Sees Us Through

“The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:25 (NLT)

God's grace has seen us through another summer, and it's exciting to look forward to the refreshment the Lord has in store for us this fall. Through your faithfulness, He has blessed us consistently, and met Trinity Church's needs.

Soon we will begin our annual time of Stewardship and set the budget for 2020. Please be in prayer for how you will share your *time, talents, and treasures* with Trinity Church for 2020. Please also pray for the Finance Committee as we seek the Lord's plan for His church, may we always be faithful to His will for the finances here at Trinity Church.

Here is your June report, July's final report will follow with the August report in the October's Press.

Rebecca Casey
Financial Administrator
 rebecca@trinitypres.org
 619-465-3011 x108

	June 2019 Final	August 2019 (As of 8/28/19)	Year to Date 2019 (As of 8/28/19)
BUDGETED INCOME	\$ 31,383.63	\$ 31,383.63	\$ 251,069.04
ACTUAL INCOME	\$ 34,617.05	\$ 23,961.91	\$ 231,788.42
DIFFERENCE	\$ 3,233.42	– \$ 7,421.72	– \$ 19,280.62
CURRENT EXPENSE	\$ 27,554.79	\$ 16,390.95	\$ 256,610.50
INCOME – EXPENSE	\$ 10,552.80	\$ 7,570.96	– \$ 24,822.08

Trinity Staff

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Krista Young
Children's Ministry Director
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Coming in the Fall!

Midweek Bible Study Begins • September 18, 2019

Wednesdays • 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. • Williams Hall
Potluck dinner with study beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Kids' Kingdom • Date to Come

Wednesdays • 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. • Williams Hall

Choir has started back up again! Come and join us!

Thursdays • 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Fall Festival • Saturday, November 2, 2019

Come for tasty treats, beautiful gifts, and seasonal items.

Watch for tickets to go on sale for the

Opportunity Drawing for the Quilt pictured at right!



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