

100 Year Celebration

Kick off the new vision for Trinity.

Mike Colaw

I think I've stumbled onto the "secret sauce" that helped Trinity make it a hundred years. Yes—leadership, vision, generosity, and prayer matter deeply. But there's something that holds all of those together in a surprising way.

Pause on that with me.

Have you ever wished Jesus would cut you out as the middleman? I have. A few months ago, I heard one of my kids quietly crying at bedtime. I sat on the edge of the bed and asked what was wrong. "Daddy, I'm scared. I wish God would just actually come." I smiled and said, "Well, for tonight...you've got me." She answered, "It's not the same, Dad."

She was right. It isn't the same. And strangely, I agreed. There are Sundays I'm painfully aware of my limitations and think, "Lord, if You just preached this Yourself, it would be so much better. I'm the weak link!"

Wouldn't Jesus make a better dad than you?

A better leader than you?

A better evangelist? Provider?

And yet—look at what Jesus handed to very human, very limited disciples:

- He handed off the preaching (Matt. 10:7).
- He handed off healing and deliverance (Matt. 10:1, 8).
- He entrusted disciple-making to flawed people (Matt. 28:19–20).
- He gave them the mission to witness to the world (Acts 1:8).
- He restored a broken leader and told him to feed His sheep (John 21:15–17).
- He didn't write a single book Himself—He entrusted His story to them.

In other words, Jesus gave His ministry away. The New Testament—and the history of the church—is the story of imperfect people representing a perfect Savior to other imperfect people.

Why does Jesus keep using such flawed people to do His work? Why doesn't he just bypass us and do it all himself?

Let's go to the Bible.

Lectio:

Romans 10:14–15 (ESV)

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹

Meditatio:

Paul’s Argument in Romans 9–11

Romans 10 is part of Paul’s larger discussion on God’s righteousness, Israel’s imperfection, and the inclusion of the messy Gentiles in chapters 9–11. By the time we reach Romans 10:14–15, faith expressed as obedience is the simple starting point for joining in the mission of Jesus.

You don’t have to be perfect; you simply must commit to obey the one who is.

Quoting Prophetic Authority

In verse 15, Paul appeals to Isaiah 52:7 (also echoed in Nahum 1:15): “*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.*” By doing this, he shows that the act of proclaiming the gospel has always carried divine approval.

What does this mean?

When you step into the role of being a “voice” for God’s truth and love in this world, you’re joining in an eternal echo, one that resounds across time and into eternity.

Let the logic of this hit us.

- Who deserves to be loved? No one.
- Who does God offer His perfect love to? Everyone.
- What happens when imperfect people choose to receive and live out the love of Jesus? The eternal kingdom of God begins to grow.

Can you see it? Don’t wait until you are perfect to start practicing love. The pursuit and practice of perfect love by imperfect people is the process of bringing the kingdom of God into this world.

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016.

Next Steps:

Illustration: A Wake-Up Call from the Underground Church

Do you know where the church is growing the fastest? **Iran.**

Yes—the very place where it’s illegal to be a Christian.

In an episode of ***Gospel Gone Global: Heaven Meets Earth***, a Christian leader shares a moment that left a lasting impact. He recalls walking into an underground church—an unregistered gathering of believers meeting in secret, under threat of persecution.

Inside, he witnessed something extraordinary: men and women **weeping and praying over a map of the United States**. Picture it—tear-streaked faces, hands lifted or folded, voices trembling with emotion. Their prayers were not casual. They were full of burden, urgency, and deep love.

“One of the most powerful things I’ve ever witnessed was walking into an underground church overseas and seeing brothers and sisters on their knees, tears streaming down their faces, as they prayed over a map of the United States. They believe America is in desperate need of the Gospel.” — *summary of the George Thomas interview on "Gospel Gone Global"*²

“These believers weren’t praying for America’s safety or prosperity. The underground church sees that we’ve often squandered our immense spiritual freedom...”

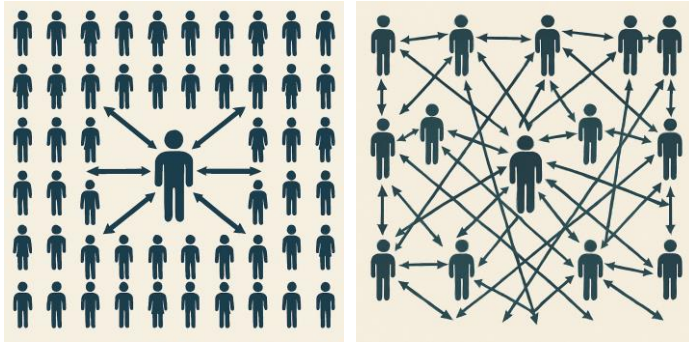
Hold on... let’s defend the Western Church for a moment. In what sense have we “squandered it”? After all, we’ve built enormous church buildings, filled stadiums for worship, listened to world-class Christian musicians, and tuned in to famous podcasters with millions of followers. We have produced countless Christian products! So, what exactly do they mean when they say we’ve “wasted our spiritual freedom?”

We’ve become consumed with secondary issues while neglecting the first and greatest commands of Scripture like sharing the Gospel with our neighbors and loving one another.

Two Pictures of the Church

² Thomas, George. “Heaven Meets Earth.” *Gospel Gone Global*. Hosted by Greg Kelley. Podcast audio, 27:51. August 21, 2024. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/gospel-gone-global-with-george-thomas/id1806665471?i=1000728973166>.

I believe the best way to illustrate this is with two images:



The first image represents much of the modern Western church.

One dynamic leader stands at the center, passionately proclaiming the love of Jesus. Around them is a crowd of silent spectators.

Now ask yourself:

- How many in that crowd are proclaiming the good news?
- How many are praying boldly for miracles?
- How many are sharing how God’s goodness has transformed their lives with their neighbor?
- How many are being “beautiful feet?”

For many, this is church.

And to “go deeper” simply means listening to more sermons or adding another Christian podcast.

It’s **consumption, not participation.**

The second image looks different. It shows a **web of interconnected, faithful people**—each one carrying the gospel.

Yes, there may be fewer people in the picture.

But here’s the difference:

- How many are proclaiming the good news? **All of them.**
- How many are praying for miracles? **All of them.**
- How many are sharing their stories of God’s goodness? **Every single one.**

Here is the big question. Which picture has more “beautiful feet?”

In the second picture there are fewer individuals—but far more **beautiful feet.**

And *this* is the kind of church that many in the East are praying the West will become.

The Secret Behind Trinity's Enduring Impact

Remember when I told you I think I've discovered the secret behind Trinity's incredible impact over the last 100 years?

Here it is:

Trinity's 100 year ministry wasn't actually built on buildings, personalities or performances. All of those will fade with time. Trinity Wesleyan Church has worked because the amazing members of this church truly believe they are to be "beautiful feet." My friends, you have embraced what theologians call the "**priesthood of all believers.**"

- Who is responsible to pray? All of us.
- Who is responsible to invite people to our church family? All of us.
- Who is responsible to make a joyful noise to the Lord in worship? All of us.
- Who is responsible to visit the hospitals, feed the poor, and help the immigrant? All of us!

And when you do, you reflect the very design of the church that Paul describes in Romans 10: a community where the gospel isn't just spoken **from a stage**, but **shared by every believer**.

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Our future vision is a doubling down on our original vision, the underground church vision, the New Testament vision. This is what will lead us into the next 100 years.

This is our answer to the prayers of so many over the Church in America.

Over the next weeks we'll unpack Trinity's new creed:

As God's people, we, the church, are not a product to consume or a show to watch. We are a Holy Spirit-filled family, united under Jesus our Founder and King. We, the people, are the instruments of worship, in our gathered services and our everyday lives. At Trinity, love for our neighbor welcomes all as they are; love for God means none of us can remain as we were. Our greatest witness is our Holy Spirit-empowered love for one another, our transformed lives, and the way we serve our community. Real discipleship is not just ideas to ponder but the Spirit's miraculous work of adoption and transformation, making us sons and daughters of God. We know who we are; we are a people prepared and preparing, living in the hope of Christ's coming Kingdom and our true home.