

From the desk of...

Grant Horner

Humanities Chair, Trinity Classical Academy High School

August 11, 2008

Dear Trinity Family,

“PAIDEIA”

I'm really looking forward to working with all my students this year at Trinity Classical Academy. I spent my summers for the last 15 years engaged in scholarship at a number of levels, reading, writing and speaking in a wide variety of venues. I have addressed Berkeley students, taught small Bible studies, been invited to lecture to scientists at Caltech and preached from more than a few pulpits. I believe the greatest thing a scholar can do is direct his or her students towards the truth of God, and to exemplify a life of loving service. This is precisely what I hope to do this year at Trinity!

I have devoted a significant amount of time this summer to developing a viable, teachable, challenging, and God-centered curriculum for our 9th graders. I like using Powerpoint because it helps connect the students visually to the content they're learning, and also aids in my attempts to challenge them to think critically. I have designed hundreds of slides (and am not yet finished!) for the new integrated Humanities courses in Bible, Literature and History; these slides trace the full arc of our content, from the earliest history of Rome through the culture of Medieval Europe – nearly 1500 years of human experience. Our students will learn about politics, philosophy, art, religion, family life, ethics, and of course, early Christianity. By the end of the year, they will have studied in great depth the incredibly important history of what has centrally shaped Western Culture after the Greeks, who were the focus of the 8th grade.

Along the way, all of their studies will be contextualized in the history of early Christianity. We will be reading Luke and Acts, the densely historical Gospels that present the incarnation of Christ and the emergence of the Church in the Roman Empire. This will greatly facilitate their understanding of both the Christian and Pagan worlds. The overarching goal is to teach them to understand Christianity as something that has an eternal nature *but occurs in the world*; I hope to show them that all of their actions and choices matter, and that obedience is always best, and is in fact the only thing that lasts.

These are areas of intellectual and spiritual inquiry that I have been studying personally and professionally for many years – long before any of these students were born, in fact! I continue to follow the calling to which I have been called – which is to study, read, think, meditate, then speak and write as best I can in order to point the hearers to God. I had a number of speaking engagements this summer, from my own church pulpit, to a group of Hollywood artists and filmmakers; this Fall I have been invited to speak on Classical Christian Education and the Protestant Reformers at the annual convention of the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). I will be in the Pulpit at Faith Community Church (SCV) again this coming Sunday, August 17. And I'm a very regular guest on Frank Pastore's national radio show, based on KKLA 99.5 FM. And yes, I did climb quite a few mountains and rock walls as well!

This summer, like all the others, has involved a great deal of reading and thinking. I am engaged in a research project on the influence John Calvin had on the English Puritan writer John Milton, so I've been soaking in many books about or written during the 16th and 17th century; but I've also read several popular novels; a book on Economics by Thomas Sowell; another book on unusual geographical facts, a massive three volume German

work by Werner Jaeger on the “Paideia” – the Greek system of educating for character; a fabulously entertaining book (though very left-wing) about American culture called “Fast Food Nation”; several scholarly works on Shakespeare; a book on Calvin’s knowledge of Greek and Hebrew; a number of excursions into Latin works by Caesar and Cicero and Ovid; an excellent history of the Roman people; Martin Luther’s “Table Talk”; and so forth. You get the idea. I have a nice, private study with my personal library of several thousand books on the campus of the Master’s College, and very peaceful “outdoor office” in my backyard, complete with gardens, trees, fountains, and bookshelves. Most days I study between 5 and 9 hours. All of this, of course, is analyzed, interpreted, and contextualized in the presence of Scripture, which is our ultimate measuring tool for human culture (Philippians 4.8, I Thess. 5.21-22). My desire is to pour, not just knowledge, but *wisdom* into the precious students at Trinity this year and in the years to come! But -- like all men -- I am very weak, and I covet your prayers for my work in this ministry.

If I can ever be of help to you, or if you have any questions I might help you with, please email me at the address below.

ghorner@masters.edu

You can also find me on Facebook, where I have posted the usual kind of personal stuff as well as rockclimbing and ocean sailing pictures and videos. My page is at:
<http://www.new.facebook.com/profile.php?id=733185520#/profile.php?id=733185520&v=info&viewas=733185520>