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**Subject:** Reflections - Pastor Chris  
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**To:** Ken kgkeip@mac.com



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## Wandering Pastor

In my 32<sup>nd</sup> year of ordained ministry (huh, really), God continues to radically surprise me. After 31 years, you would think that it would be hard to catch me off-guard, but God seems to have no trouble! I may be retelling stories, and maybe that means that our honeymoon is over, although I pray that it never ends.

I came to Florida a wandering pastor, not for forty years, although sometimes it seemed like it. I had no job, and worse, it seemed like I had no call from God. I stumbled into chaplaincies, in a hospital and a hospice, but those didn't fit completely. Then, the "Hallelujah Chorus" was faintly audible when the assistant to the bishop here began to tell me about a church that lay at the corner of Kissimmee's West Vine and Plantation. God was speaking loudly, but I was neither listening well nor hearing at all.

However, when I first visited this jewel, neurons began to fire, and my soul began to stir. I saw a "United Nations" of God's creation, and I felt that wandering was finally over, I was standing on Mount Nebo with a bird's-eye view of the Promised Land! With that vision, God blew up my



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### We are on YouTube

In the YouTube search bar enter:  
[TLC Worship Service-Kissimmee](#)  
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Please mail or personally deliver your tithes and offerings to church

PROMISED LAND! With that vision, God blew up my stubborn attachment to the familiar. I was in a new place, one that I had not seen in over three decades of journeying, as an ordained minister, with Jesus.

As you know, I quickly became the pastor, and Pastor Rafael joined me and you to reach out with the Gospel, in two languages, to the cornucopia of cultures which bring to life this holy ground. Now, I sit in the Welcome Center, the crowning jewel of the edifices that grace this place. The spirit generated by the Spirit through the blend of the faithful leaders of the school and church is causing true union between church and community, the seminal Jesus-people connection.

The point of all this is that we have not buried our talents (Parable of the Talents in this week's Gospel), the gifts that God has entrusted to us. No, we have caught the bold vision of God to risk everything for the feeding of God's children, on the food that is the Word made flesh, Jesus, God's son sent to be the Bread of Life to the entirety of God's creation. All of this assures me that, by the grace of God, I / we have wandered into the right place here at Trinity!

Let's give thanks!

In Christ,  
Pastor Chris



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