

the Proclaimer

March 2018 Volume 31 Issue 3

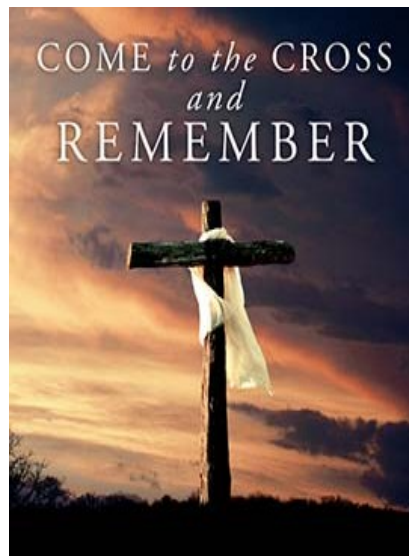
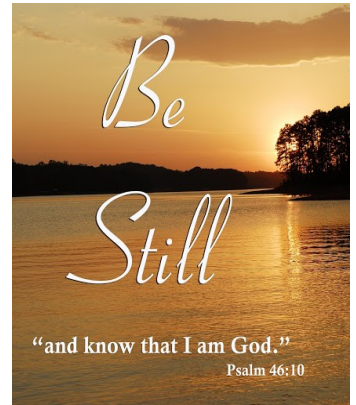


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Women's Ministry Kick-off Luncheon Sunday, March 4 12:30 p.m.

Ladies, join us for lunch and see what the Women's Ministry Team has planned for you for this year. Our theme is Psalm 46:10.
Sign up in the patio.



Easter Cantata Palm Sunday March 25, 6 p.m.

Christ's journey to the cross is filled with images of His sacrificial love for us: the palms, the cup and the bread, the nails, the crown of thorns, and more. These images form the centerpiece of *Come to the Cross and Remember*.

Invite your neighbors and friends and join us for this powerful Easter presentation by our Worship Choir under the direction of Randy Stager.

Tenebrae Service Good Friday March 30, 7 p.m.

Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." The darkness reminds us of the time between the Last Supper and Jesus' body being put into the tomb.

The purpose of the service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment, and agony of the Cross, and it is left unfinished, because the story isn't over until Easter Day.



Proclaimers are also available for viewing and printing on-line: www.tfbclife.org

From the Pastor's Heart



“...I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven. I

hope all of you who are mature Christians will agree on these things...we must be sure to obey the truth we have learned already” (Philippians 3:13-16, NIV).

Paul points out some great principles for living life God’s way.

First, we need humbleness of heart. Humble people are very conscious of their own shortcomings and choose not to focus on other’s shortcomings. Humbleness is a posture of dependence upon God with an honest evaluation of one’s own strengths and weaknesses.

Second, we are to see the future with hopeful anticipation of what God will do. Paul says he looks forward to what lies ahead. He is a man of hope because he believes in

and is trusting God with his life and his plans. To write down your plans in pencil and give God the eraser is an act of trust and hope, believing that God has your best interest at heart and knows what He is doing.

Third, we are to live life with a view towards eternity. Seeing life through the lens of eternity enables us to weather the storms and stay on course. Our personal devotion to Jesus Christ as the One in charge Whom we follow opens us to God’s presence and power in our lives.

Paul says that spiritual maturity possesses these perspectives. My prayer is that, by God’s grace, each of us will mature in our walk with God, demonstrating these qualities each day.

Serving Christ together,
Pastor Charlie

Reflections by Pastor Rog



Dear Church Family,

Our life of discipleship with the Lord Jesus Christ is one of learning, implementing, and obeying His will for our lives. We never reach full spiritual growth this side of heaven but should be constantly aiming at what He desires us to be as we yield to the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul understood this and his work with Christ reflected it. In Galatians 2:20, he penned:

“I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

When we read verses like this, we may be tempted to think that what Paul penned here is but for a

few **select disciples** belonging to Jesus—certainly not meant for people like us. But it is.

A while back, I read an account of a young lady who took God’s Word to heart as she ministered to those with leprosy in Calcutta, India. Her task was to care for little babies who had been stricken with this disease. A daunting task indeed! When asked by an observer if she was afraid of catching this dreaded disease, she replied, “Why should I be afraid? You see, I’ve already died. I’ve been crucified with Christ, so my life now is His. He is the One Who told me to care for these orphans. It is my joy and privilege to love these babies. This is what Christ would have me do.” WOW!

In my many mission travels, it’s been my privilege to be among and minister to people with leprosy. It

is a devastating disease, but they too need the Lord. I must admit, though, that my thoughts at that time were not bathed in Galatians 20:20 as her life was. This tells me that I did **then** and **still do** have a long way to go with having the spiritual reality of Galatians 2:20 stamped upon my life. Perhaps this is true for you as well. What are we to do?

In wrestling with this, it’s been made clear to me that my eyes must be fixed on the Lord Jesus, the greatest SERVANT of all time.

Even though He is God in the flesh, He stooped to minister to sinners like me...like us (Matthew

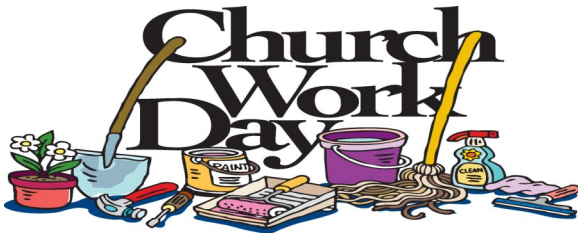


New Directory Available in Foyer on March 4

New TFB Address and Phone Directories will be available in the patio on March 4. You may take two per family at this time. If you need more than that, please call the church office to order more.



First Row: Carol Hubert, Barbara Harvey, Alicia Spitzer, Irene Hardy and Eleanor Estee. Back Row: Pam Metz, Amylee Moore, Donna Hester, and Anita Johnson
Not shown: Angie Subala, Donna Zahn, Isabel Stringfield, Nhung Norman, Peggy Moore, Tobie Fix, and Yvonne Large



Saturday, March 10 9 a.m. ~ 4 p.m.

Everyone is invited to meet at the church to help with the maintenance of our building. A Continental breakfast and a lunch will be served to our workers. A list of needed work to be done is in your bulletin.

“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” (Haggai 4:1)

Here’s our Knit2gether group along with our knitting/crocheting projects completed in 2017. We donated over 45 scarves to Doors of Hope. And we also worked on our own projects. If you’re interested in meeting with our group, we’d love to have you. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, we have several people who can help you. We meet the last Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m.. Contact Pam Metz (310) 320-9239 or email her at pam.metz59@yahoo.com for details. THERE’S A SPOT JUST FOR YOU!!

Altar Flowers

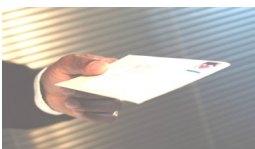


Flower Calendar

If you would like to celebrate a special event in your life or honor a loved one in 2018, please sign up to reserve your preferred date on the calendar in the foyer. Some of the dates still available are as follows: 3/4, 6/3, 7/1, 8/19, 9/30, 10/7, 11/25, 12/23, and 12/30. Choose one date per family until all have had an opportunity to sign up and only one sign-up per date. You may make your **tax deductible** payment of \$70 anytime before your chosen date. Mark your envelope *“TFB Flower Donation”* to get credit for your gift.



Turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, **March 10**, before you go to bed.



We Get Mail

Dear Family & Friends,

We’d like to thank all of you who came to remember Mimi’s (Mary Larsen) life with us. We were deeply touched by your prayers and expressions of love and support during this most difficult time. Thanks again and God bless you.

Sincerely the Ritchey family: Suzy (daughter), Michael (son-in-law), Sara (Granddaughter), Patrick (Grandson), and Loralai (Great-Granddaughter)

C4 MINISTRIES & Youth Events

Winter Camp 2018: God Wrecks Students

I'm writing this for Matt since we (13 students and leaders) just got back from our C4 High School Winter Camp. This was week 2 of three consecutive weeks of camp for him – Jr. High, High School, and College.

We combined with four other TransMin churches that we do Summer CLC with and created our own camp program. This meant that Matt led worship for the weekend and also spoke at one of the evening chapels. Because it snowed the day we left, we had many struggles getting home, finally arriving home 8 hours after our last chapel meeting. Right now, he is pretty exhausted so I thought I would fill you in on what God is doing.

Our theme for this retreat was "Broken Chains" as we looked at Galatians 5 and also looked at the life of Moses. What we learned was that the people of Israel were born into slavery and needed God through Moses to set them free. Yet despite the fact that God did many amazing miracles before them, they complained and wanted to go back to their bondage in slavery when life got tough. For us as Christians today, we were born in slavery to sin, but through Christ's death we are set free. Unfortunately, we sometimes want to go back to the life we had before, and we put on chains of our own making. This camp reminded us that we need to break those chains and live the life of freedom Christ offers us.

This was a huge time for all of us. God used this camp to wreck us spiritually and begin the process of making us new in Him—letting go of the things that hold us back.

I am excited about how this weekend has changed our group, drawing us closer to one another and to our God. No one left unchanged. Even in the midst of the challenges, God worked in hearts and lives. I look forward to this weekend with our C4 College group as we go do the same with a slightly larger group of 14. We have a few students who are not yet believers, and so we would appreciate your prayers. Hopefully, it will be as impactful as HS camp was.



*Sunday, March 18
6:00 p.m.*

Pizza, drinks, and snacks provided.



a.k.a. Parent's Date Night

3rd Friday of each month

March 16 ~ 6-9 p.m.

Parents, leave the kids (infants through 5th grade) to have dinner and a movie with us while you enjoy a night out together. We are asking for a donation of \$3/child.

Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please remember that *Dinner Night (2nd Saturday of the month)* and *Game Night (4th Saturday of the month)* are great opportunities to invite friends, whether they attend TFB, go to another church, or don't go to church at all.



Dinner Night ~ Saturday, March 10, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at California Pizza Kitchen, 25304 Crenshaw (next door to Smok'n Joe's BBQ).



Game Night ~ Saturday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Gloria Pedersen's, 817 Amapola Avenue, Old Towne Torrance. Bring drinks and snacks to share.



For additional questions, suggestions, or more information, call Gloria, 562/505-4495.

TFB Academy

"Inspiration--Truth Breathed Out"

By Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M., Ph.D

When we think about inspiration, we often think of something along the lines of, "I feel so inspired..." But biblical inspiration is not about feeling. It is about history and reality.

With regard to the text of Scripture, inspiration means that through the influence of the Holy Spirit, the writings of God-selected persons (prophets) are also the trustworthy and authoritative Word of God. Inspiration has to do with this

influence, describing the process whereby the breath of God—his *spiration*—works through his prophets, making their written words his Word.

The family of terms translated "breath" in the New Testament, namely, *pneuma* and related terms, is used concerning the creation of the universe (Genesis 1:2) and of humanity (Genesis 6:17) in the Greek version of the Old Testament. God spoke, and the universe became. God breathed into the human's nostrils, and he became a living being. God breathed into the writings of the prophets, making those written words the very Word of God.

Because the Scripture, this written text, is breathed by God, it has value for our growth as persons in community in Christ. The prophets understood they were writing the words of God. They understood inspiration and their part in it. They communicated this each time they used the phrase, "This is what Yahweh says."

Feeling moved, awed, or convicted in response to Scripture is good. It is important to feel the feelings rather than set them aside as useless or analyze them into non-existence. But feelings are not the foundation of faith. Truth is. And the inspired Word of God is our primary source of the truth about God. Feelings must not be the filter through which we select which biblical passages are authoritative and which we set aside. The entire Bible is authoritative.

Biblical truth, gleaned from the entire Bible, is a sure foundation. It is always worth our intellectual, emotional, and behavioral engagement. Know the truth. Feel the feelings. Do God's work.

"But feelings are not the foundation of faith. Truth is."

Announcement: On April 22, 2018, TFB Academy will be having its first Theology Brunch at 12:30 P.M. in the Academy Room.

Recurring Weekly Events:

Sunday

Worship Services:

9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
 Adult Sunday School, 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Children's Church, 9:15 a.m.
 Patio Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
 Children & Youth S.S., 11 a.m.
 Handbell Practice, 4p

Monday

Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m.
 King's Karate, 6:30 p.m. [except 3/13]
 Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m. [except 3/13]

Tuesday

C4 High School Leadership, 5:30 p.m.
 C4 High School, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's Lunch @ Sizzler, 12:30p
 Family Dinner, 6 p.m. Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m.
 p.m. "Crazy Love" Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
 Parenting Fellowship Group, 6:30 p.m.
 Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m.

[See calendar for above events on 3/28]

Choir Practice, 7 p.m.
 Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study, 2 p.m.
 C4 College Group, 7 p.m.

7th Day Adventist Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Friday

Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m.
 Bible Study @ Greteman's, 6:15 p.m.
 [except 3/30]

Saturday

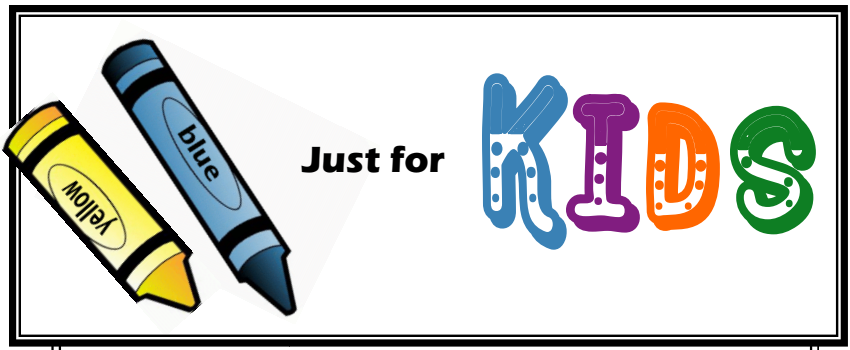
Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m. [except 3/31]
 7th Day Adventist Baptists, 9 a.m.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4 12:30p Ladies' Kick-off Luncheon 2:30p Sing at Royalwood	5	6 7p Beacon Light Mission	7	8 7p Beacon Light Mission	9 All day prep for Loaves & Fishes	10 11a Loaves & Fishes
11 Daylight Savings Begins 5:20p Prayer Gathering	12	13 12n Shut-in Meeting	14	15	16 6:30p Kids' Night Out	17 7p Share & Care
18 6p H.S. Movie	19 7p Finance & FacMan Teams	20 6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, & Disc. Dev. 7p Deacon/ess Mtngs	21	22	23	24 9a Cantata Rehearsal 6:30p Singles' Game Night
25 Palm Sunday 6p Easter Cantata	26	27 No: Dinner Colossians Kids Crazy Love Parenting Class	28	29	30 Good Friday ~ Office Closed 7p Tenebrae Service	31

Upcoming April Events

- 4/1 ~ Happy Easter; *Untangled* Easter program, 9:15a
- 4/7 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 4/14 ~ Singles' Dinner Out, 6:30p
- 4/15 ~ Women's Ministries Luncheon, 12n
- 4/15 ~ High School Movie Night, 6p
- 4/20 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 4/28 ~ Singles' Game Night, 6:30p





HELP!

Wouldn't it be nice if we never had to make any hard decisions or choices, or face any big challenges? Sometimes we just don't know what to do! But there is help!

Read James 5:13-18.

What do these verses tell us to do?

Use the graph to find the answer.

	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y

P

Pray in faith. Pray for each other. Pray earnestly.

Make a CARD GAME

- You will need:**
- 30 unlined index cards
 - markers
 - stickers

How to make:
Write each of the words from the list below on its own card. Make a second set. Decorate with stickers or markers.

Play:
The object of the game is to find cards that match. Shuffle all the cards. Lay them face down in 5 rows of 6 cards. Choose 2 cards. Keep them if they match. If they don't, return them to their places face down. Continue until all cards have been matched.

- Words to write:**
- | | |
|------------|----------|
| Faith | Love |
| Healing | Help |
| Jesus | Patience |
| Kindness | Mercy |
| Gentleness | Peace |
| Generosity | Hope |
| Prayer | Joy |
| Grace | |
-



The History of Beacon Light Mission



In 1902, Captain Charles Farr approached the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles City Christian Endeavor Union and asked it to support a Sailor's Mission to be conducted by him in San Pedro, CA. After an investigation by the committee, it took over the work. Meetings were held aboard the "Warrior," an abandoned tugboat, moored on the east side of the San Pedro Bay. After about two years, a site was selected at 331 S. Beacon Street. A corporation was formed in

1905 and the mission was named "The Sailor's Rest Mission." In order to have a more central location, a building was rented at Fourth and Beacon Street. The success of the mission increased, and a bigger building was needed. Therefore, in 1916, a larger building at 430 S. Beacon Street was purchased. The purpose of the mission was to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the men. Evangelistic services were held each night, and a meal was served to all who attended.

In 1924, the Community Chest offered to help finance the work the mission was doing, and the offer was accepted. The attendance dropped markedly during the war, but after the war the work increased so much that a larger building and more workers were needed. The adjoining building was purchased in 1945, and the two buildings were joined and remodeled to care for about 200 men. Also, the name was changed to "Beacon Light Mission," and it became a fully functioning shelter for men.

Beacon Street in San Pedro had the reputation of being the "roughest" street in the world. It was located in downtown San Pedro, in a decaying crime-ridden area filled with bars, liquor stores, prostitution, drugs and homeless men. In the middle of all this was the Beacon Light Mission, bringing God's light to those who found themselves in need in that darkness. Efforts by the City to clean up Beacon Street were not successful, and the City decided to just tear it all down. (If you were to look at map of San Pedro today, you would notice that there is no Beacon Street between 3rd Street and 6th Street.)

The Beacon Street Project of the Community Redevelopment Agency (C.R.A.) was formed to clear the area and in 1971, the Beacon Light Mission received its eviction notice. When a suitable relocation site could not be found in San Pedro, with the help of the C.R.A. and the United Way, a site in Wilmington was selected and construction began on our present site at 525 N. Broad Avenue. The mission opened its doors in Wilmington on March 11, 1972.

In December 1972, United Way ended its involvement with the mission, and the Beacon Light became privately supported. The Lord has continued to bless the Mission with financial support from churches, schools, businesses, individuals and a few industrial and professional foundations.

While the Wilmington facility was smaller, the conversions to Christ increased, and the ministry grew. In 1988, more space was needed for housing and feeding the needy, and so the chapel and dining room areas were enlarged to hold 80 people each and the dormitory facilities were expanded to provide temporary shelter for 20 men, plus a volunteer staff. The mission's goal was to meet the needs of the men—to rehabilitate them physically, spiritually, and vocationally, and to give them a new start for individual success. The Mission was open to men eighteen years of age and over, of any race, color, national origin or religion, and served everyone equally. Chapel services provided through local church groups that sent ministry teams monthly to the Beacon Light Mission were held nightly. Following the chapel service, meals were provided for everyone in attendance. However, if you were a woman, at the end of the evening, the best that could be offered was a blanket and a blessing, and you were back out on the street.

In 2005, research began on the feasibility of providing a shelter to homeless women. It was discovered that there were no facilities in the area that provided shelter for women who were alone on the street. In November 2007, without sufficient funding, the Board voted unanimously to step out in faith and move forward with the construction of a women's shelter, and the Doors of Hope Women's Shelter was conceived. A women's committee was established in 2008. Through their efforts the ministry needs were defined, the fundraising began, and the process of getting the City's approval was started. After overcoming a number of obstacles, the groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 10, 2010, and the facility, located next door to the Beacon Light Mission, was dedicated to the Lord's service on September 17, 2011. The dream of providing a shelter for homeless women became a reality as the 20 bed shelter for women opened its doors.

Reflections Continued from p. 2

9:10-13). As His child it is my responsibility—yes, privilege—to walk in His footsteps, but it is here that I experience a real problem. Do I realize, in the depth of my spirit, that He can take care of me if I give Him my all, or do I play it safe in my walk with Him?

True Christianity cannot survive if it only lives on the highest rooftop. The greatest opportunities are in the deepest, darkest places where the hurting and broken people live. Am I...are we...willing to follow where He leads us?

Help me follow You, dear Lord Jesus,
Pastor Rog

Beacon Light Mission Continued from p. 8

Beacon Light Mission's motto is "**Soup, Soap and Salvation.**" Our focus is on changing people's lives through the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are grateful to those who join us in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ in our evening chapel services. We are also thankful for the dedication of our staff volunteers, Board members, and all those who give of their time, talents and resources to this ministry. God is so gracious in providing for all of our needs.

The Mission provides meals, clothing, showers, beds, mail service, and transportation to meet physical needs; chapel services, Bible studies and counseling to meet spiritual needs. Rules for acceptance and participation in the program are the same for everyone regardless of race or religion.



Please pray for the following
who have lost a loved one:

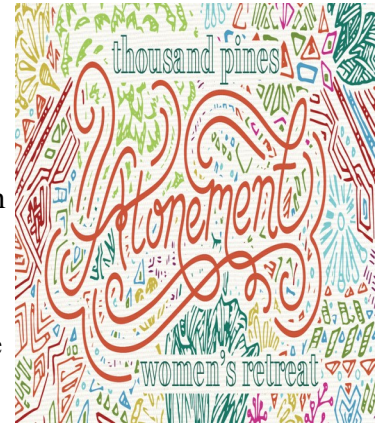
JoAnn Marshall (who attends TFB on Sunday evenings) lost her beloved husband, Gene;
Dorothy Morgan lost her brother-in-law,
Howard Baygents; and our missionary Paul Pillai
is now with the Lord.

Save the Date for the Ladies' Retreat

We know as Christian women, your days are filled with busy schedules, commitments and responsibilities. Take a break from the busyness and go to

Thousand Pines' Women's Retreat with us for a weekend to re-charge both spiritually and physically. Take this opportunity to hear some great teaching, spend time relaxing, listening for the Lord, and reflecting amidst the beauty of the mountains. Be pampered with gourmet meals, professional massages, afternoon tea, and other special activities.

Sign-ups are already being taken for this retreat scheduled for **May 4-6**. Glamping: \$190 (4 to a room); Standard cabin (26 ladies); or Rustic: \$165 (6 ladies). Sign up in the patio.



Barbara Ashcraft, Michael Banfield, Nancy Christensen, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Mary Crutchfield, Gloria Deering, Leah Douglas, Ruth Easley, Virgie Fletcher, Earl & Jean Forman, Dutchess Gattis, Patricia Hollomon, Mary Jacobsen, Joanne Jenkins, Bill Johnson, Helen Kessenich, Joan Kindt, Joy Moore, Bill Morgan, Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Jean Rayner, Connie Reimer, Barbara Rudé, Edna Hazel Ruth, Claudine Schultz, Mary Schultz, Jo Standifer, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Norma Vinsonhaler, Tammie Wakefield, Gertie Wissinger, and Art Zeller.

TFB Tithes & Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately
\$60,042 in the month of January.

Interesting Animal Markings



Smile
in
a
house
high
e!



Holy Cow!

Question: What time of the day was Adam created?

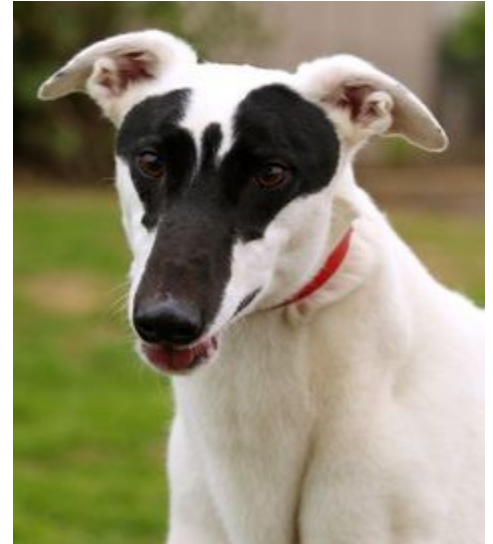
Answer: A little before Eve.

Question: Why didn't they play cards on the ark?

Answer: Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Question: How does Moses make his coffee?

Answer: Hebrews it!



An angel is watching over me!

"A merry heart does good, like medicine" (Proverbs 17:22, NKJV).

The Proclaimer is a monthly publication of the First Baptist Church of Torrance, California, located at 2118 West Carson Street (6 blocks east of Crenshaw). Sunday services: 9:15 a.m. Worship Gathering (Contemporary Service); 11:00 a.m. Blended Service (with Sunday School for all ages); and 6:00 p.m. Evening Service. Mid-week events for children and students: College NeXus; High School C4; Jr. High Quest; and *Colossians Kids* for children.

For more information, contact the church office: 310.328.5030 or tfbc@pacbell.net. Or visit us on the web at www.tfbclife.org