

# Torrance First Baptist Church the Proclaimer

May 2018      Volume 31 Issue 5



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## *It's so hard to say "Goodbye"*

After 19 years of faithful service as the Lead Pastor here at Torrance First Baptist Church, Pastor Charlie and Karen are moving back to Oregon to serve once again at the church in Gresham, Oregon, that they left so many years ago.

It is with heavy hearts that we bid them farewell. They will be greatly missed! Please pray that they will be abundantly blessed as they make this move that the Lord has called them to.

Please also pray for the new Pastor that will be coming to replace him here at TFB.

Their last Sunday will be **May 13**. We will have **one combined service at 10 a.m.** that day with a baptism, special program, and a reception time for you to say goodbye. If you'd like to show your appreciation to the Rice's, there will be a basket available for cards expressing your thanks for their many years of service here at TFB. Gift cards and love offerings are also appropriate thank you gifts.

*"How blessed we are to have had something that makes saying 'Goodbye' so hard." — Winnie the Pooh (adapted)*



Please join us for a

## *Mother's Day Tea Party*

*Sunday, May 20, 12:30 p.m.*

Celebrate Moms for the amazing job they do! Invite girlfriends, sisters, aunts, grandmas, and moms to an old-fashioned Spring Tea with hors d'oeuvres.

The cost is \$8 per person. Sign up in the patio. If you'd like to be a Table Hostess and decorate one of the tables with your favorite "Storybook" or "Princess" theme, please contact Karla Gaines.



*Proclaimers* are also  
 available for viewing and  
 printing on-line:  
[www.tfblife.org](http://www.tfblife.org)

## From the Pastor's Heart



As I wrap up my ministry with you, the Scripture that keeps coming to my mind is the succinct description of Jesus in John 1.

It says that Jesus came to earth “full of grace and truth.” I hope that over the 19 years that I have served with you, the balance of grace and truth has been seen in my life and ministry. I hope that

others would say that we here at TFB stand uncompromisingly on the truth of God’s word and that we are so full of grace that people are attracted to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

And then, of course, there is our God-given mission to make disciples. Helping other people come to Jesus and follow Jesus is still God’s calling for TFB even in the midst of leadership change.

It has been a privilege for Karen and I to be a part of the TFB family. We are thankful for the years we have been able to minister alongside you. We are going to miss ministering with you, but we are confident that God has great things in store for you in the years ahead.

Jesus said that He would build His church and that He would never leave us nor forsake us. So Karen and I leave you knowing that Jesus is staying right here with you and that He will continue to build His church at TFB.

May grace and truth be evident among you, and may Jesus Christ be the center of your attention.

With all our love,

Charlie & Karen Rice



## Reflections by Pastor Rog

Dear Family,

Have you ever felt alone? It’s not a good feeling. There have been times in my life, both home and abroad in the rural villages of India, when “aloneness” crept in.

In thinking of this, I’m sure our Lord’s disciples felt very alone as they heard their Master speak of going away. What were they to do?

How thankful I am that the Lord Jesus is fully aware of all our situations and misgivings. But not only does He know all of this, He also has a plan in place to minister to our needs.

On the night before the Lord Jesus went to the cross to die for our sins, He met personally with His disciples. Think of it—alone with Him—being taught by Him. How absolutely wonderful!

As He met with His disciples, what did He say? Part of His conversation with them is found in

John 14. Please read vv. 15-19. Please read it now.

There are many wonderful truths found in these verses. I’d like to highlight a few here.

Jesus said to those questioning disciples who had heard Him speak of going away and wondered, “How will we make it without Him?” Our Lord, knowing their dilemma says in verse 18:

*“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Being an orphan is a very difficult thing. Those who are orphans have to fend for themselves. They are hungry most of the time, and they usually have no safe place to run to. Along with this, they have no one close to share their lives and concerns with. Talk about “aloneness.” This is it!

Well, when our Lord returned to heaven after His resurrection, what was He going to do to keep His disciples from feeling as



orphans? Verses 16 and 17 gives us the answer:

*“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.”*

From the Greek word Paraklētōs, the Holy Spirit is referred to as a Helper, Comforter, Counselor, and Advocate. The word means “One called alongside to help.” It’s also important to know that the word ANOTHER means “of the same kind or quality.”





*Women's Retreat, May 4-6*

We know as Christian women, your days are filled with busy schedules, commitments, and responsibilities. Take a break from the busyness and come with us to Thousand Pines' Women's Retreat 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 our mountains. Be pampered with gourmet meals, professional massages, afternoon tea, and other special activities.

We will be blessed with inspiring messages from speaker and author, Donna Jones. Donna is the author of four books, including *Seek: A Woman's Guide to Meeting God* and *Taming Your Family Zoo*. Donna is deeply involved in her home church. Her favorite role, though, is wife to JP, and mom to their three young adult kids. They make their home in southern California.



Donna Jones

Check with Ann Pursche to see if there is still room. Costs: Glamping ~ \$190 (4 to a room); Standard cabin ~ \$180 (26 ladies); or Rustic ~ \$165 (6 ladies).

*Seniors & Friends*



*May 18 ~ 12 noon*

Join us as we get together to enjoy food and each other's company here in the annex and gym.



On May 19, the Torrance Pregnancy Help Center will be having their 31st Walk for Life at **8:30 a.m.** at Veteran's Park in Redondo Beach. For details and to RSVP, contact Stephanie at 424/263-4855, or [sturner@phctorrance.org](mailto:sturner@phctorrance.org).

Jill Lee will be walking again this year. To sponsor her, or for more details, email her at [jillngale@juno.com](mailto:jillngale@juno.com). Gale and Jill will be hosting a table there too with information about all TFB has to offer, so if you want your ministry's information included, please give them a flyer.



## & Youth Events

### *High School Movie & Pizza Night*



*Sunday, May 20  
6:00 p.m.*

**Pizza, drinks, and snacks provided.**

## KIDS night OUT!

*a.k.a. Parent's Date Night*

*3rd Friday of each month*

*May 18 ~ 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.

### *Summer Camp Schedule*

Parents: Sign up now with a \$50 deposit.

TFB Family: If you would like to help a child go to summer camp, please donate to the Camp Fund, and mark your envelope as such. You will help to put a smile on a young person's face.



#### Junior's Lightseeker's Summer Camp at Mile High Pines

June 25-29  
\$300.00



#### High School Summer Camp at Thousand Pines

July 8-13  
\$400.00





## *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, May 19, 6:30 p.m.** [Note it is the 3rd Saturday, this month] ~ Meet at Islands Restaurant, 2647 Pacific Coast Highway (in Rolling Hills Plaza).

**Game Night ~ Saturday, May 26, 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**

## *"Canonicity--Discerned Authority"*

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

Life is full of gray. We all face choices that are difficult or unclear. Who gets to speak into those choices? Whose voice do you trust? We likely have family and friends who we trust to help us, but sometimes they don't know any more than we do. Whose voice is authentic and has authority to speak? Whose voice always brings wisdom?

Proverbs tells us that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). God is that authentic and authoritative voice. But how do we know which words are God's words? Canonization is the process by which the people of God have answered that question for over two millennia.

Before the birth of the Church, the people of Israel discerned and recognized the Old Testament Canon over a span of about 1,300 years, recognizing various documents and collections as authentic and authoritative: (1) speeches and sayings, (2) individual books, and (3) collections of books. The Old Testament Canon (known as the Tanakh, which includes the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings mentioned by Jesus in Luke 24:44) was fixed around 164 BC.

The New Testament followed a similar path over a span of about 350 years. During the first century, some writings were already recognized (for example, the writings of Paul were recognized by Peter in 2 Peter 3:16). During the second through fourth centuries, lists of books appeared noting sacred writings appropriate for worship and private devotion. In AD 397, at the Council in Carthage, the New Testament Canon was fixed.

Canonicity is a quality of those sacred writings that have divine authenticity and authority. God's people discover this quality; they do not determine it. We recognize the Canon; we do not regulate it. It guides and commands life and ministry (Deuteronomy 31:24-29), and it is our task to read, meditate, and obey (Joshua 1:8-9).

*"Canonicity is a quality of those sacred writings that have divine authenticity and authority."*

A life well-lived can only happen through wisdom, and wisdom begins by respecting, honoring, and worshiping God. The 66 books of the Christian Bible are the written word of God, discovered and recognized by prayerful believers over centuries and confirmed through use and obedience over the centuries until now. So let us fear God, study his book, and live out the wisdom only he can give.

1	2	3	4 Office Closed All day prep for Loaves & Fishes Ladies leave for Retreat @ 1000 Pines	5 11a Loaves & Fishes
6 2:30p Sing at Royalwood Ladies home from 1000 Pines	7 12n Shut-in Meeting	10 7p Beacon Light Mission	11 8a Karate Testing	12 8a Karate Testing
13 <b>Mother's Day</b> 10a One Combined service; Rice's Going Away Reception 6p Check w/Pastor Rog re: W & W	14 7p Finance & FacMan Teams	15 6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, & Disc. Dev. 7p Deacon/ess Mtngs	16 6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, & Disc. Dev. 7p Deacon/ess Mtngs	17 18n Srs. & Friends Potluck 6p Kids' Night Out
20 12n Ladies' Tea 6p H.S. Movie	21	22	23	24
27 5:20p Prayer Group	28 <b>Memorial Day</b> Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30	31

**Upcoming Events:**

- 6/2 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 6/9 ~ Singles' Dinner Out, 6:30p
- 6/10 ~ TFB Academy Theology Brunch, 12:30p
- 6/12 ~ Srs. & Friends to Getty Museum, 8:30a
- 6/15 ~ Kids' Night Out
- 6/23 ~ Singles' Game Night, 6:30p
- 6/25-29 ~ Junior's Lightseeker's Camp
- 7/23-27 ~ VBS, 6-8p
- 8/3-5 ~ Kamper Kamp

**Recurring Weekly Events:**

**Sunday**

**Worship Services:**

9:15 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Worship & Witness, 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

[All the above except 5/13; see calendar]

**Monday**

Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m.  
King's Karate, 6:30 p.m. [except 5/28]  
Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m. [last one 5/7]

**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.  
"Crazy Love" Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.  
Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m.  
Choir Practice, 7 p.m.  
Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.

**Thursday**

Ladies' Bible Study [Resumes 9/13]  
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.

**Saturday**

Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m.  
[last one 5/5]  
7th Day Adventist Baptists, 9 a.m.





Just for

# KIDS

## "A Time to Plant..."

The spring of the year is time to plant gardens or tend to other plants. The list below contains the names of plants that grew in Bible times. How many do you recognize? Circle the names from the list. They may be found →←↕↑↘. There will be 13 letters uncircled. Write them in the spaces below.

- |                    |             |                |                |           |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| myrrh              | aloes       | cassia         | mint           | dill      |
| lentil             | apple trees | crocus         | barley         | cucumbers |
| balsam trees       | melons      | leeks          | onions         | garlic    |
| oak trees          | wheat       | figs           | mustard        | grain     |
| pomegranates       | olive trees | beans          | millet         | cane      |
| almonds            | cinnamon    | pistachio nuts | rose of Sharon |           |
| lily of the valley |             |                |                |           |

P L E N T I L M C C J E B S U  
 I O G R A I N I I U B E A N S  
 S A M I N T E L N C D A L S U  
 T P Y E S B N L N U R L S S C  
 A P R M G A A E A M A M A E O  
 C L R E A R C T M B T O M E R  
 H E H L R L A L O E S N T R C  
 I T S O L E S N N R U D R T O  
 O R N N I Y S N A S M S E E F  
 N E O S C D I L L T O F E V I  
 U E I W H E A T L E E K S I G  
 T S N G O A K T R E E S O L S  
 S R O S E O F S H A R O N O D  
 L I L Y O F T H E V A L L E Y

Who is the "Master Gardener"?

-----, -----

# Plant a Tree!



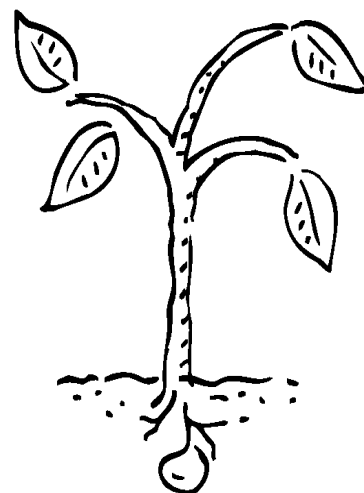
### You will need:

- ✂ seeds from a grapefruit, orange, lemon or tangerine
- ✂ a flower pot
- ✂ soil

### How to:

Soak the seeds in water overnight.  
 Fill the flower pot with soil.  
 Plant 3 or 4 seeds about half an inch deep.  
 Keep soil moist. Water once or twice a week.  
 Keep pot in a warm, bright place.

*The seedlings will sprout in about 8 weeks. Leave only the strongest plant in the pot. It will grow into a little tree with dark, shiny leaves.*





*TFB Mission Outreach*

*Denise Hadley's Report  
of her One Day Mission Trip to Tijuana*

We had an awesome Mexico Mission Trip on Saturday, March 3. There were 70 missionaries and fifteen 6-month missionaries divided among 3 churches.

There were 10 of us that served at the Vine Cristo La Teresa Church in Tijuana where I was assigned. We had a doctor and two adults doing the food and then a translator and the youth team. My friend Rosa was my translator, and she did an awesome job.

Thirty-six children participated where I served, another church had 12 children, and the other had 50 children come even though it was pouring down rain.

I told the Bible story of the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. When I asked the children if anyone wanted to ask Jesus into their lives, three little boys raised their hands and prayed to receive Jesus. It was an awesome day!

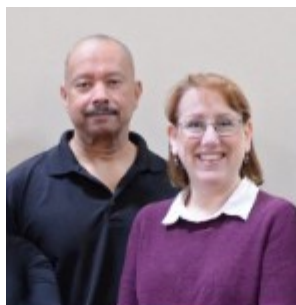
After craft time and game time, I got to sit down with El Vira, the wife of the pastor of the Vine Cristo La Teresa Church. They also minister at the AGAPE Safe House. Rosa translated for us, and we talked and shared for an hour. God is really using her and her husband Sergio and their little boy David who is only 2 years and 3 months old. He prays for others' needs at the safe house and asks his mom to pray for them too. He is a super smart little guy. When he listens to the Spanish worship songs on his mom's phone one time, he can sing that song and knows all the words. He also likes to play the drums and has rhythm, even though he can barely reach the drums because he is so small.

In the evening, all the missionaries that went down met at El Pipila Church and had a wonderful worship time. We sang in Spanish as the Pastor led us. Then we had time to share about our day. I told them about all that little David is doing for God. I told the missionaries to never let anyone tell them that they are too young or too old to be used by God. The Holy Spirit was moving throughout the day in each church. It was a powerful day and God was glorified!



Denise Hadley

Denise goes to Mexico several times a year to minister to the people there. If you would be interested in joining her on one or more of these mission trips, please let her know.



Clay & Sharlene

*El Salvador Construction Team*

*May 4-13*

Our TFB Receptionist Sharlene Jackson and husband, Clay, are heading to El Sunzal, El Salvador, with a team from their church, Calvary Chapel, South Bay, to help Pastor Jorge and his wife Carolyn with several projects at a Calvary church in this poverty stricken area. This is their first mission trip and they are very excited to be participating.

The team will be working on different construction projects including the building of skate ramps, working on small homes for families, building a chicken coop, installing concrete walkways at the church, and more.

Please pray for strength for Clay and Sharlene and the whole team as they co-labor with Calvary Chapel, El Sunzal; for team unity; wisdom for leadership; Pastor Jorge and his wife, Carolyn, as they continue to shepherd the body of Christ and help alleviate the severe spiritual, educational, economic, and physical poverty in the El Sunzal area. Also pray for growth of the church in their walk with Christ.



# Reflections

Continued from p. 2

And so even though the Lord Jesus would no longer be with them physically, He would be with them through the Person of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus was with the disciples, they could listen to His teachings and ask Him questions. With Him being gone, the Holy Spirit assumed that role—teaching, encouraging, comforting, and strengthening them.

Dear friends, the same is true for us today in 2018. Through the Person of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus is still personally ministering to us. Praise His Name!

Our part is to call out to Him in faith seeking His help, will, and guidance. Please know this, the Lord Jesus is not only an attentive Listener but also a gracious Helper. Whatever you need, commit to Him today. He's there for you.

I'm rejoicing in Him,  
**Pastor Rog**

**The Holy Spirit**

And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counsellor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever

**John 14:16 Amp**



## We Get Mail

Dear TFB Family,

Thank you for all your prayers during my recent heart attack and hospital stay; Pastors Charlie and Rog for your visits, prayers, and phone calls; and Irene and Neville Hardy for your prayers and being with Dick in the waiting room during the procedure. Thank you to the many that came to the hospital to visit. Your phone calls, your cards, and most importantly, your many prayers. Due to your prayers, I am making an excellent recovery. Our God is so good, and Dick and I are so thankful for our TFB family.

Love,  
 Kathy [Hills]



Jean Forman, beloved wife of Earl and mother of Sue Domingo, is now with the Lord;



Joy Moore lost her brother, John Marshall [Glenn's uncle];



and

long-time TFB member, Gloria Deering is now in the arms of Jesus.



Please pray for the following who need continued prayer:

Barbara Ashcraft, Michael Banfield, Nancy Christensen, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Carl Cook, Mary Crutchfield, Gloria Deering, Leah Douglas, Ruth Easley, Virgie Fletcher, Earl Forman, Dutchess Gattis, Patricia Hollomon, Mary Jacobsen, Joanne Jenkins, Barbara Johnson, 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, Jerilyn Vitali, Tammie Wakefield, Gertie Wissinger, and Art Zeller.

## TFB Tithes & Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately \$44,802 in the month of March.

## *A Positive Word of Encouragement Can Help Anyone's Destiny*



One day Thomas A. Edison heard the teacher tell the inspector that he (Tom) was “addled,” and it would not be worthwhile keeping him in school any longer. He was so hurt by this that he burst out crying, went home, and told his mother about it. Then he found out what a good thing a good mother is. She came out as his strong defender. Mother love was aroused, and mother pride was wounded to the quick. She brought him back to the school and angrily told the teacher that he didn’t know what he was talking about, that he (Tom) had more brains than he himself, and a lot more talk like that. She then proceeded to take him out of school and homeschooled him herself. She was the most enthusiastic champion a boy ever had. Tom Edison later wrote, “My mother was the making of me. She was so true, so sure of me, and I felt I had something to live for, someone I must not disappoint, and I determined that I would be worthy of her and show her that her confidence was not misplaced.”

Edison, one of the most prolific and ingenious inventors of all time, would be homeschooled until he set out on his own at the age of 16, openly grateful for his mother’s support and education throughout his life.

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As I get older I realize:

1. I talk to myself because sometimes I need expert advice.
2. Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.
3. The biggest lie I tell myself is, “I don’t need to write that down, I’ll remember it.”
4. When I was a child, I thought naptime was punishment. Now it’s like a mini-vacation.
5. Wouldn’t it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes and come out wrinkle-free and 3 sizes smaller?

*“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](mailto:tfbc@pacbell.net). Or visit us on the web at [www.tfbc1ife.org](http://www.tfbc1ife.org)*