

# Torrance First Baptist Church

# the Proclaimer

May 2019

Volume 32 Issue 5



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## Women's Retreat at Thousand Pines May 3-5



Ladies, sign up for camp at 1000 Pines and enjoy a time of leisure with other believers, as well as many fun activities, and biblical teaching.



The speaker this year is Bonnie Xiomara Powell who is the Executive Pastor at Redeemed Life Church, a church she and her husband, Pastor Anthony Powell, planted in Azusa, California, three years ago. With over 15 years of ministry experience, she is passionate about preaching the Word of God through the testimony of her life in an authentic, challenging, relevant, and Bible-based style that brings you along the raw journey of faith!

Having overcome abuse, eating disorders, drug addiction, and self-harm, she has devoted her life to sharing her testimony and allowing God to use her redeemed life as an example of His love! A native of East Los Angeles, she was raised in a multi-cultural home and exposed to the many realities of life from an early age. Having to grow up pretending life was "perfect" was exhausting, and she now serves God by encouraging people to shed the façade and dig deep to share who they truly are and purposed to be! You won't want to miss it.

Costs: Standard Cabin (which includes a full bath) ~ \$195

Rustic Cabin (restrooms in cabin; showers a short walk away) ~ \$180

[Scholarships are available.]

**"Our Mission is to  
Love God,  
Love People, and  
Teach Others to do  
the Same."**

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

## Marriage Night 2019

Friday, May 17 @ 6 - 9pm

Featuring:

Francis and Lisa Chan  
Les and Leslie Parrot  
and Michael Jr.

\$15 per person

Free Dinner @ 5:30 pm

Childcare is available

Register for this Simulcast Event at:

<https://events.rightnowmedia.org/attendee/site/996>





A Word from our Transitional Pastor

Dear TFB family,

***"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14***

TFB is pressing on. We have been called heavenward to do something for Christ Jesus and our Strategic Leadership Team is articulating what that something is. We are making plans for the future and want to keep you informed every step of the way!

What makes TFB unique from every other church? Our Core Values do. These are our core values as a church. These are our spiritual D.N.A. :

***We depend on God, because without Him we are utterly hopeless and lost.***

***We share the Good News of Jesus Christ.***

***The Bible, the Word of God, is our guide to living and behaving as followers of Jesus.***

***We worship God and pray to Him as ways of living out our relationship with Him.***

***Jesus is the source and standard of our life together as brothers and sisters in Christ.***

***People and our relationships with them are essential because people matter to God.***

***We learn and experience life together to become more like Jesus.***

What has God called us to do? What is our mission as a church? What is our purpose? It is as follows ...

***"Our mission is to love God, love people, and teach others to do the same."***

This is really a combination of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission (Matthew 22:36-40 and 28:19-20). Finally, what does that look like? The mission is a broad statement. We need something more specific and tangible—something we can sink our teeth into—something that inspires. That is the purpose of a "Vision Statement." It clarifies. It spells things out. It inspires. Please continue to pray for our S.L.T. as we finish this third and final step to strategic planning.

Pastor Alex

## ***Reflections*** by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

How different our lives would be if we did not have God's Word to give us guidance in our daily lives. I shudder even to consider the thought! Our Heavenly Father knew how we would stray from Him if left to our own plans and self-will so He graciously made available to us His mind, heart, and will so that we might **listen** to Him and stay close to Him. God's Word is holy, practical, energizing, strengthening, and **personal**. Think of it, in His Word our Lord not only shares His thoughts with us but His **love**. Our God is a wonderful **Heavenly Father**—protecting us and always personally involved in our lives.

The book of the Psalms has always been special to me, for in it I find the **attributes** of our

Heavenly Father vividly displayed.

Psalms 34:17-18 tells us:

***"The righteous cry out and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles...the Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."***

Let's face it, at times the sorrows of life can weigh heavily upon us and our strength is all but stripped away. Who is there to help us? Thankfully, **He** is.

In one such difficult situation, David wrote:

***"This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles. The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them" (Psalm 34:6-7).***

There is **Someone special** mentioned in verse 7. It is *the Angel*



*of the Lord*. This is a phrase that appears only three times in the Psalms (35:5-6). The Lord Jesus appeared on several occasions in the Old Testament in this form (e.g. Exodus 3:2; Judges 2:1-4; 1 Chronicles 21:16-18).

Think of it, not only has God promised to deliver His people, He has promised to give them the *Deliverer*! Jesus Himself draws near to the believers in their fear.

You might be in such a situation right now, but please know this—your *Deliverer* is with you. You are not alone!

*Continued on p. 9*





*May 5  
10:30 a.m.*

To elect Kent Meyer to  
the Deacon Board.

## WORKDAY

*Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. ~ 4 p.m.*

There is a lot to do to keep our church building looking its best for the Lord. Please come any time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to help with our projects. A Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided for all who come to help.



*May 18 (Saturday), 8:30 a.m.*

The Pregnancy Help Center is inviting everyone to participate in their 32nd annual Walk for Life—to walk with them to protect life and show your support for the women and babies they serve. Meet at Veteran's Park in Redondo Beach. You can Pre-register today by going to [supportphctorrance.org](http://supportphctorrance.org). On-site registration at the park starts at 7:30 a.m. Get there early for pre-walk festivities, including bagels, coffee, and raffle prizes. Questions? Call: 424/263-4855.



*May 18  
1:30 ~ 3:30 p.m.*

This year marks the 60th year that the City of Torrance will host an Armed Forces Day Celebration to honor the nation's military. The 2019 celebration will highlight the Navy.

Your TFB Local Outreach Committee will have a table near the corner of Maple Avenue and Torrance Boulevard, where we will hand out water bottles to anyone and everyone in attendance. Feel free to join us as we stand with our city honoring the men and women of our Armed Forces.

*Membership Class  
Sunday, May 19 ~ 12:15 p.m.*



If you are interested in becoming a member of Torrance First Baptist Church or you just want to know more about what we believe, you are invited to join Pastor Alex for our next class.

This class is a pre-requisite for membership and deals with questions of Christian doctrine, church practice, and the organization of TFB. There is also a discussion of the varying routes to membership at TFB: baptism, transfer of membership, or statement of Christian experience. We will meet in the annex right after the 2nd service. Lunch will be provided.

Please let us know if you will be coming by signing up in the patio or calling the church office.



*Friday, May 24, 12 noon*

Invite your friends and bring your favorite dish to share at our quarterly lunch get-together which is always a lot of fun!



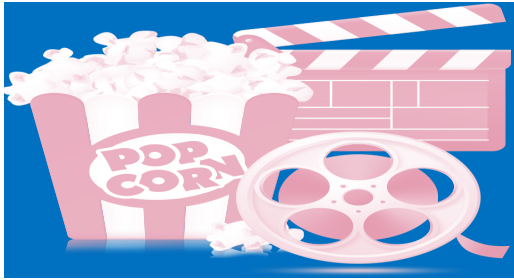
*Meal Train*

If you ever need to have a meal(s) provided for you because of illness, injury, hospitalization, new baby, or bereavement, you may contact **Gloria Pedersen, our new Meal Train Coordinator**, by email: [gloped@earthlink.net](mailto:gloped@earthlink.net), or by phone: 562/505-4495. We also have request forms in the office you can fill out.

If you would like to be on a list of those who can be contacted to provide meals to those who need them, you can also contact Gloria Pedersen and let her know that you would be willing to do so.



## & Kids' News



### *HIGH SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT MAY ?? ~ 6 P.M.*

Check with your leaders to find out when the next movie night will take place.



### *AKA PARENT'S DATE NIGHT FRIDAY, MAY 17 ~ 5:30-9 P.M.*

Kids can enjoy dinner and a movie while parents attend the Marriage Night for a donation of only \$3/child.

Parents: see front page for details of the Marriage Night, and don't forget to register online:

<https://events.rightnowmedia.org/attendee/site/996>

### *For Colossians Kids*



### *Saturday, May 4, 2-5 p.m.*

Ship ahoy! Calling all kids K-5th grade to come to the gym at TFB and float your boat. Boat kits can be picked up between now and May 4 from Dave Fleming for \$3.00 each. Use the easy-to-follow instructions to build your boat and then race it against others. You will navigate it just by blowing on the sail.



### **GET READY FOR:**



### **JUNIORS' LIGHTSEEKERS CAMP JUNE 24-28**

#### **AT MILE HIGH PINES, \$200**

(To inquire about attending or about available scholarships, contact Karla Gaines at [karlatfb@yahoo.com](mailto:karlatfb@yahoo.com) or 310/922-5652)

### **JR. HIGH CAMP AT THOUSAND PINES JULY 21-26, \$399**

(Contact Jay Kim at [jay.joon.kim@gmail.com](mailto:jay.joon.kim@gmail.com) or 213/705-7002 to inquire about attending or about available scholarships.)

### **HIGH SCHOOL CAMP AT THOUSAND PINES JULY 7-12, \$400**

(To inquire about attending or about available scholarships, contact Matt Strand at 626/824-0179 or [surfwithstrand@gmail.com](mailto:surfwithstrand@gmail.com).)

Sign up with a \$50 deposit.

**Space is limited.**

If anyone would like to help a young person go to camp, you may donate to the Camp Scholarship Fund.



## Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship



**Dinner Night ~ Saturday, May ??, 6:30 p.m. ~**  
Contact Gloria Pedersen at the phone number below to get date and place for May.



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



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

### TFB Academy

*"We Are a  
Kingdom of Priests"*

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

Relevant Scripture: 1 Peter 2:4-10 (with Exodus 19:1-6); 1 Peter 4:7-11; Revelation 1:4-8

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9, ESV).*

We live in an increasingly divided and irreligious culture in which people are ever more in need of good news and real connection with something bigger than themselves. God is good news, and he definitely offers something bigger. How can we help?

**Kingdom of priests.** God has formed the church as a kingdom of priests, a community of persons who spend their lives offering sacrifices to God and proclaiming his excellence. We, the church, are being built into a spiritual house so that as priests we might demonstrate God before others and bear others before God in prayer.

**We offer sacrifices.** We offer sacrifices to God as individuals and community, serving as he sees fit and distinguishing ourselves as servants who are seeking to know and obey him. We offer praise to him, worshiping through the voices of our various cultures. We offer our material wealth to him, supporting our local church and our sisters and brothers in Christ.

**We proclaim.** As those whose home is God's presence yet who sojourn here, we are called to live in God's ways so that others might see our good deeds and praise our Father. In our gatherings, this means ministering to one another with everything we are for the good of the community and the glory of God. It means recognizing the South Bay as the home base for our dispersed priestly work. It means focusing on Jesus and his priorities amidst a politically divided and post-Christian culture that makes our work as priests difficult, yet ever more important.

**Why this matters.** Each believer and each local church is called to use their God-given abilities and ministries to serve one another for the glory of God. As TFB works toward health, it is crucial that all the believers in this local church live out their work as priests, both in the gathering and in the dispersing.

*"To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 1:5b-6, ESV).*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Recurring Weekly Events
5 10:30a Bus. Mtng. 12:30p SLT Mtng w/lunch 2:30p Sing at Royalwood Lady campers back	6	7	8	9 7p Beacon Light Mission	10	11 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out ?? (check with Gloria Pedersen)	<b>Sunday</b>  <b>Worship Services:</b> 9:15 a.m. & 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School, 9:15 & 11 a.m. Worship & Witness, 6 p.m. Children's Church, 9:15 a.m. Patio Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. Children & Youth S.S., 11 a.m.  <b>Monday</b> Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m. Men's BSF, 6 p.m. <b>(last day 5/6)</b>  <b>Tuesday</b> C4 High School Leadership, 6 p.m. C4 High School, 7 p.m.  <b>Wednesday</b> Men's Lunch @ Sizzler, 12 noon Family Dinner, 6 p.m. Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m. <i>Knowing God</i> Small Group, 6:30 p.m. Small Group w/Pastor Alex, 6:30 p.m. Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice, 7 p.m. <b>[not on 5/8]</b> Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.  <b>Thursday</b> Ladies' Bible Study, 2 p.m. C4 College Group, 7 p.m. 7th Day Baptist Bible Study, 7 p.m.  <b>Friday</b> Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m. Small Group @ Greteman's, 6:15 p.m.  <b>Saturday</b> Men's BSF Ldrs., 7 a.m. <b>(last day 5/4)</b> 7th Day Baptists, 9 a.m.
12 <b>Mother's Day</b> 5:20p Prayer Gathering	13	14 12n Shut-in Team Mtng. 7p Deaconess Mtng.	15	16	17 6p Marriage Night Seminar & Kids' Night Out	18 8:30a Walk for Life 9a All Church Work Day 1:30p Armed Forces Parade 7p Share 'n Care	
19 12:30p Membership Class w/lunch 6p H.S. Movie Night (ck. With leaders)	20 6p FacMan Team	21 6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, Disc. Dev. 6:30p Finance Team 7p Deacon Meeting	22	23	24 12n Srs. & Friends Potluck	25 6:30p Single's Game Night	
26 5:30p Prayer Gathering	27 <b>Memorial Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	28	29	30	31 All Day set-up for Loaves & Fishes		



### Upcoming June Events:

- 6/1 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 6/8 ~ Singles' Dinner Out, 6:30p
- 6/21 ~ Kids' Night Out
- 6/22 ~ Singles' Game Night, 6:30p



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.

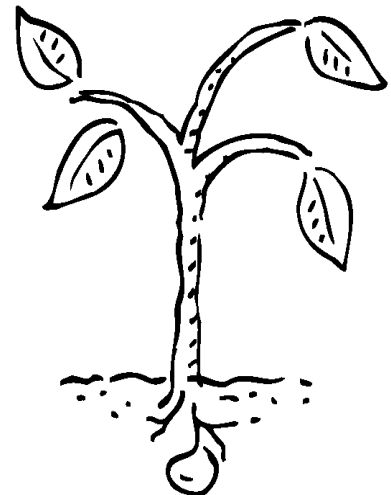
Plant 3 or 4 seeds about half an inch deep.

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.*



## Newsletter from Stephen & Cindi Barrett



After a long, hard winter it looks like Spring may be arriving in Missouri!

Thomas, a Swiss friend from many years ago emailed last fall and asked if his 19-year-old son [Daniel] could come stay with us for a month before his service in the Swiss Army. Thomas came 2 summers ago and spent time with us and other AIA families in the early 1990's.

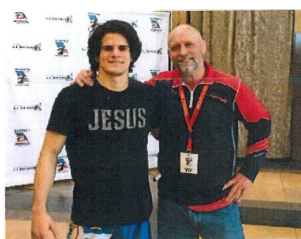
His son, Daniel, arrived in early March and will be with us and other families until the end of May. Since Daniel's arrival, we've heard tales of his dad's experiences in America. Little did we know the impact our lives had on Thomas. We are thankful to hear these stories, and it makes us want to be more intentional in all we do and say.

Lord willing, in the days ahead I will be with two different teams of Kazakh junior wrestlers here in the US. The first group will be in Ohio, and I'll help my director Rob as he hosts them. Having a team in the US is always a great opportunity to show them through both word and deed who Christ is. We [were] together April 19-26.

The second group is applying for visas to the US. If they receive visas, they will come to Missouri, and I will host them for several days before going with them to Chicago. Again, this is a great time to expose them to the Gospel through hospitality and sharing God's word.

In February I attended the regional wrestling tournament for the University of Central Missouri and the NAIA national wrestling tournament with guys from Missouri Valley College. I enjoy working with these athletes and have seen many of them grow in their faith. I like mentoring athletes during their college years!

Dom, a wrestler from my UCM Bible study recently started a new group study on the book of Philippians. He invited friends and is excited to be sharing what he knows with other college friends!



Stephen coached Joey  
in the Brawl at the Border

In early April, I coached my friend Joey LaValley who graduated from the University of Missouri in 2018. He took part in a friendly match called Brawl at the Border, which was held at Union Station in Kansas City. I'm happy to report that Joey won 10-0! He went with us on the AIA 2018 summer tour to Kazakhstan. Joey is a great young man who uses his gifts and talents in wrestling to bring glory to the Lord! He recently started a Bible study with the wrestlers he trains with in California.

This is the time of year when the push is on to recruit, plan and raise funds for several wrestling projects. I am helping plan the wrestling camps and tournaments for junior and cadet wrestlers in Ukraine and Mongolia as well as a tour to Georgia and Azerbaijan, and I'm helping my friend Giorgio plan a tour to Bulgaria and Moldova. There are literally hundreds of details to iron out before the month of June. Please pray that the Lord will be working in the hearts of teams who are going and the young wrestlers and coaches we meet in these places. This summer I will go to Mongolia and then on to Georgia and Azerbaijan.

The cost per camper is \$100 for one week of evangelistic wrestling camp in Ukraine. Please pray about sponsoring a few campers and coaches. If you are interested, I can send you the details on where to send donations. For fifteen years we have seen lives changed for eternity because young wrestlers heard the Good News at camp.

Cindi is enjoying meeting with international girls at the local university. They like to come to our house and see how typical Americans live. She is always happy to spend time with the girls and have good, spiritual conversations with them.

Thanks for your prayers and for your faithful support through the years!

Stephen and Cindi



Cindi invited international  
students over to cook!



## LOAVES & FISHES OUTREACH MINISTRY

Our Loaves and Fishes Ministry really appreciates the clothing items you donate for our low income guests. However, we do have some guidelines for donations: we ask that the items be clean, with no spots, rips, tears or broken zippers. If you would not wear it, please do not donate it. Thanks for your help.

Linda



# Reflections

continued from p. 2

As you face the days ahead and the cares of life would overwhelm you, look to Jesus. He is there for you. How do we know this? 1 Peter 5:7 tells us:

*"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."*

All that is needed is for you (us) to call out to Him. He's there waiting, ready to help, and carefully listening for our cries. How thankful I am that we can entrust our lives into *His* care.

I'm continually calling out to Him,  
Pastor Rog

## We Get Mail



Dear Church Family,  
Thank you all for your cards and for the lovely plant. I am truly grateful for your continued prayers and the love and support you have shown me since my husband Roy passed away.

Sincerely,  
Marge Young

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you so very much for your generous gift to help me with the bill from El Segundo Ambulance Fire Dept., and also for the thoughtful \$50 Ralph's gift card. I am so grateful for you!!

Your prayers and support have been instrumental in helping me get back on my feet after breaking my back. God has used you in a powerful way, and word of your generosity has been testified to many South Bay churches, and even churches in Yorba Linda and Tennessee have heard how you came to my rescue.

My dear sister, Brenda Jean, has been His hands and feet in a beautiful way to me in and out of the hospital.

Your whole church family has touched my life with His love and overflowed into the lives of everyone I tell of how you so graciously helped me. God bless you!!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,  
Tisha

Dear TFB,

Thank you so much for all your prayers during my recent illness and stay in the hospital. The cards, calls, visits, and beautiful flowers were so appreciated.

I feel so blessed, and I know the Lord was watching over me.  
Irva Smith

Dear Pastors, Deacons,  
Linda Stratton, & TFB Family,

Thank you so much for helping me to get my new glasses.

I also appreciate all of your prayers.

Josephine Joosten



Please pray for those of our church family who have lost loved ones recently:

Claudine Schultz' daughter Kathy lost her husband, Scott Sheridan;  
Former TFB member, Michael Medved, passed away;

Jude Musarri's father passed away suddenly, and TFB member Bill Johnson is now with the Lord.



Please pray for the following who need continued prayer:

Barbara Ashcraft, Bob Baker, Michael Banfield, Nancy Christensen, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Mary Crutchfield, Ruth Easley, Elle Estee, Dutchess Gattis, Janet Graves, Mary Jacobsen, Barbara Johnson, Josephine Joosten, Marci Messengale, Bill Morgan, Wayne Musser, Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Jean Rayner, Connie Reimer, Edna Hazel Ruth, Claudine Schultz, Mary Schultz, Jo Standifer, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Joan Vars, Tammie Wakefield, Gertie Wissinger, and Art Zeller.

## TFB Tithes & Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately \$48,451 in the month of March.

Dear Church Family,  
We want to thank you for attending our 61st wedding anniversary party. We appreciate you all.

Wayne & Eleanor Musser

## *In Honor of Mother's Day*



“The hand that rocks the cradle usually is attached to someone who isn’t getting enough sleep.” —John Fiebig

“I’d like to be the ideal mother, but I’m too busy raising my kids.” —Unknown

A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son’s memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, “I am the light of the world.” The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, “My mother is the light of the world.” —Bits and Pieces, 1989

The mother of three notoriously unruly youngsters was asked whether or not she’d have children if she had it to do over again. “Yes,” she replied. “But not the same ones.” —David Finkelstein

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day in a written test, she included this question: “My full name has six letters. The first one is M. I pick up things. What am I?” When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost 50 percent of the students answered the question with the word “Mother.” —Unknown



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