Torrance First Baptist Church

the Proclaimer

September 2011

Volume 24 Issue 9

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

Wanna get away? Thousand Pines Men's Conference September 16-18, 2011



 Spiritual Growth Relax Gourmet Meals Fellowship

This weekend is designed to help you regain your spiritual edge, or maybe to develop one for the first time. Go deeper into your relationship with Christ, challenging yourself in chapel times as well as rubbing elbows with other men who have come to take their relationship with God to the next level.

Reserve your spot today!



Guest Speaker

Dr. Deryl Lackey Director of Missions at the Inland Empire Baptist Assoc.



Comedian

Mark Fitter Capo Valley Church San Juan Capistrano, CA



Worship Craig Wilson Band

Murrieta, CA

The cost is **\$160** for the weekend. Bring extra **\$**\$ for Paintball (\$10); Mountain Bikes (\$5); Rec Equipment (\$2); Confidence Course (\$5); Frisbee Golf (\$2 deposit); Tippi Taxi (\$0.25); Malt Shop (by the item); Arte Shoppe (by the item); Big Oak Café (by the item). Also available: swimming pool, recreation tournaments (foosball, air hockey, ping pong, basketball, board games) and more!

Sign up in the patio or call Bill Harenburg, 310/619-5629, or e-mail him: wharenburg@aol.com.





"Each Person Actively Expressing A Heart of Worship For Jesus Christ"

Recently I have been reminded of the necessity and value of prayer. When I heard about my brother-in-law Paul's tragic accident, I immediately knew this was way beyond me and I needed to pray. But then that raised once again the question, what should I pray? In James 5 it tells us to pray for the sick, so I pray for Paul's healing. But then I asked myself, what would God pray for? So one day I spent some time looking at the prayers recorded in the Bible. Since God wrote the Bible, it

makes sense that these prayers would certainly be among the ones He would pray.

Here are the ones that were very meaningful to me. I hope they will help guide you in your prayers.

> "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13, NIV).

> "I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you mighty inner strength through His Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand ...how wide, how long, how high, and how

deep His love really is. May you experience the love of Christ...Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God" (Ephesians 3:16-19, NLT).

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1:9-11, NIV).

"...we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way; ... " (Colossians 1:9-10, NIV).

(Continued on page 3)



Failure is something we all are acquainted with personally, with family and friends, in our finances, on the job, etc. The sting of failure can be harsh, and devastating effects touch our lives as a result of this. Though some people claim they've never personally failed/sinned, the Bible makes it clear that we all have (Romans 3:23). Even some of God's most faithful servants have walked in our "shoes": Abraham (Genesis 12:14-20), Moses (Numbers 20:6-12), David

by Pastor Rog

(2 Samuel 11:2-5), and Peter (Mark 14:66-72). Oftentimes when we've failed, we forget that our God is a **merciful** God Who delights in forgiving us of our sin. Of course, there is one who wants us to live in a **continual state of defeat** and that's the devil. He delights in reminding **us** and **God** of our failures (Revelation 12:10). When he comes accusing us, we need to take **refuge** in God's Word. How thankful I am for Psalm 13:3-4:

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who



could stand? But with You there is **forgiveness**; therefore You are to be feared."

Now, how can a perfect God **forgive** such a sinner as me? Lamentations 3:22-23 gives us the answer.



We Get Mail

Dear TFB, Pastors, and Staff, Thank you so much for your prayer support this past year as my aunt battled a cancer recurrence. I know your prayers and God's Hand gave her peace at the end.

Thanks also for the gorgeous, fragrant bouquet for my family after we lost her. It meant a lot.

In Christ, Michelle Fisher and Fam-

Thank you one and all for your prayers and concerns during Don's recent surgery. The meals were great and very much appreciated!

With love for you all, Don and Diana [Bunting]

* ⋇ To My Friends in Christ at Torrance First Baptist Church, · * * * Since my fall on Mother's Day, resulting in a partial hip * replacement, your outpour of prayers, best wishes, flowers and * ***** * thoughts have been much appreciated. ********* Every time I receive a card in the mail, I know that God's love is working to get me better...and I am getting better! Small steps have gotten me back to the Friday morning breakfasts at Denny's where I was welcomed back so graciously and last week, I made it back to church! ** Thank you all for your love. I and my family appreciate ** all of you! May God bless you all, ⋇ Anabel Mael ⋇

To My Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers that you sent at the time of my cousin Olga Acevedo's death. Thank you also to all who sent cards and came to help me celebrate my 80th birthday! You are all very special to me.

Love, Evelyn Hernandez





Continued from p. 2

I do not know what God has in store for Paul's physical life. I would love for him to be completely healed, and of course God could easily do that if He chose to. But what I do know is that I can pray with confidence the prayers expressed in these verses.

I would encourage you to pray these prayers for yourself and others.

Living in dependence on Jesus, Pastor Charlie

P.S. One other Scripture text that has meant a lot to me and guided my prayers for Paul is in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18: *"That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day...So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever (NLT).*

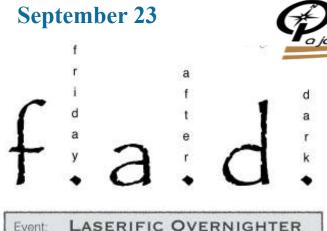




Who will you bring?? **Crux Student Ministries** wants to fill our bus on **Saturday**, **September 10**, with those who need to hear the life-changing message of the gospel in an environment that is entertaining, yet nonthreatening.

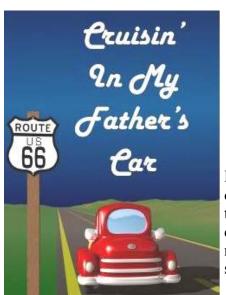
The cornerstone of every Harvest event is the presentation of the gospel by Pastor Greg Laurie. Biblically sound and culturally relevant, Pastor Greg brings a clear gospel message, providing an opportunity for people to make a decision to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Prayerfully consider who you will bring. We will meet at TFB at 3:30 pm (gates open at 4:30 pm, event starts at 6:00 pm). For more information or to reserve a spot on the bus, contact Pastor Jay or Trev.



PUC intervention

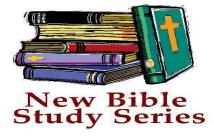
Quest will be meeting at Gable House Bowl at 5:15 p.m. on Friday, September 23, for a two-hour laser adventure + pizza/drinks, then traveling back to TFB for a overnighter. This event costs \$18 for everything and requires an 8:30 a.m. pickup the following day (Saturday). This is the school year kickoff event and is an AMAZING time for sharing the Good News with the friends you have at your school!!! Bless on!



Wednesday Night Children's Program Resumes September 14, 6:45-8:15 p.m.

All kids, Kindergarten-6th grades, are invited to cruise on down Route Romans 6.6 in our Father's car. This series will teach children to develop a Biblical worldview. The foundations of the Christian faith will be taught using zany characters and fun toys from the 1950's. The lessons contain drama, interactive Bible stories, fun applications, games, worship music, and Bible memory activities. A PowerPoint presentation will be shown to complement each lesson.

Parents should promptly pick their children up at 8:15.



New Study Begins September 14

There will be a new study at the **7:00 p.m. Wednesday** night Bible Study led by Tom Witherill starting in mid-September. It will be an in-depth look at

First John, which has only 5 chapters but is extremely powerful in content. We will start by looking at some commonly *misused*, but very significant, verses in the beginning and then launch into some very "meaty" Scripture. We will learn what it means to be a child of God, what the expectations for God's children are, and how a true disciple of Christ should live; learn about the nature of God; and learn scriptural "tests" to help us determine where we stand in our relationship to God and our discipleship to Him.

Please consider joining us. This study is designed to strengthen your walk with God and to help you become a strong disciple of Christ. We will learn to incorporate the disciplines of Jesus in our day-to-day walk to become more like Christ and to serve and glorify Him with our lives.

Love INC Goes Country! Saturday, September 24 6:15~9:15 p.m.

♥ BBQ dinner (served at 7 p.m.) ♥ Raffle Prizes

Live Music by Living Sacrifice

Line Dancing Wear your country gear

Cost: \$30 (Adults); \$10 (kids 12 & under) RSVP by September 20, 2011 Call: 310/831-5683, ext. 104 or email: cmontijo@loveincsb.org

The event will be held at: Torrance First Christian Church 2930 El Dorado Street, Torrance





Fellowship Brunch

September 25

The Fellowship Committee would like to invite everyone to join for brunch between services on the morning of September 25.

It is a good time to greet and mingle with fellows TFBers who may attend a different service. See you there!



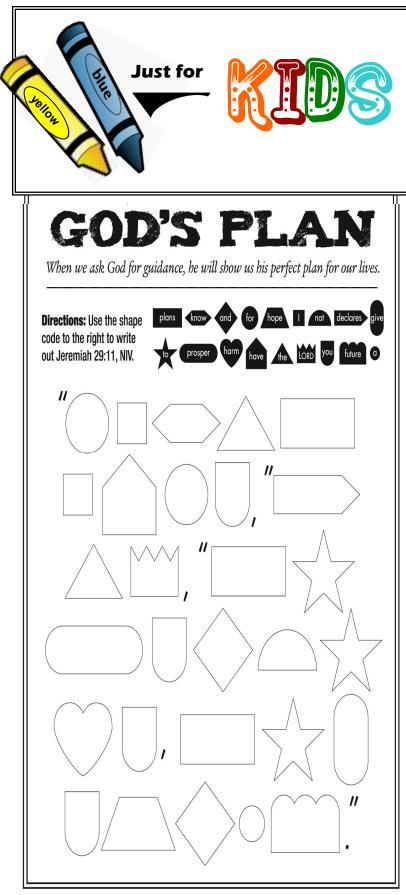
Sunday, September 11, 7:15 p.m.

We will be heading to the George F. Canyon Preserve trail in Rolling Hills Estates. The trail is well-established with stops along the way noting aspects of God's creative beauty. It is a lovely trail with 400 feet of elevation gain over the complete two miles. On a clear night, along with the full moon, both Mts. Wilson and Baldy can be seen across the Los Angeles basin. Please

invite your neighbors, friends and family—even bring your dog who is welcome here.

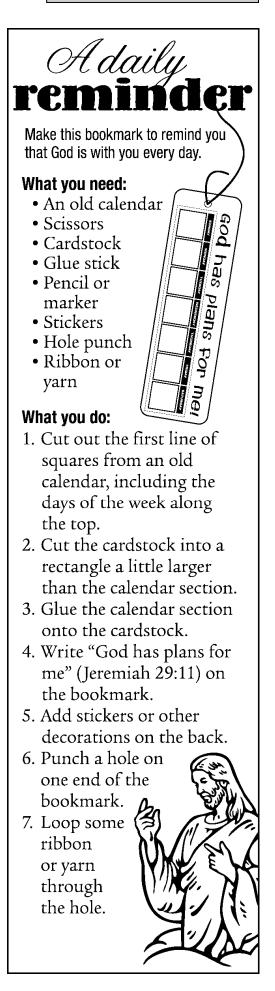
The trail is located at the corner of Palos Verdes Drive North & East, on the southwest corner, with ample parking available.

You can meet there or if you would rather, you can join the caravan, which will be leaving TFB at 7:15 p.m. arriving at the park about 7:30. Please bring a flashlight, water, and snacks (sometimes the poor guide has a craving to satisfy his sweet tooth O). Any questions, contact Dan Rollino, 310/328-3320.



(VIN ,11:95 Abimiah 29:11, NIV)

Answers: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



	Recurring Weekly Events:	Sunday Worship Services: 9:15 & 11 a.m. Worship & Witness: 6 p.m. Adult Sunday School: 8:15 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. New Covenant Children's S.S.: 11 a.m. New Covenant (Korean) Wrshp: 12:45 p.m. New Covenant (Korean) Fellowship: 2 p.m. NeXus College Gathering: 6 p.m.	Monday Ladies' Prayer: 11 a.m. Open Basketball: 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study: 7 p.m. (off-site) Tuesday BSF Leaders [except 9/6] High School Revive: 7 p.m. Bible Study: 7:30 p.m.	Wednesday BSF [except 9/7] Children's Program, 6:45 p.m. [except 9/7] Jr. High QUEST: 6:45 p.m. Small Group Bible Study: 6:45 p.m. Choir Practice: 7 p.m. Life of Jesus Bible Study: 7 p.m.	New Covenant (Korean) Bible Study: 8 p.m. Open Volleyball: 8:15 p.m. Thursday Ladies' Bible Study: 2 p.m. [except 9/1 & 9/15 - see calendar] Worship Band Practice: 6:30 p.m.	Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst.: 9 a.m. Saturday New Covenant (Korean) Prayer: 6 a.m.
	SAT	3 10:30a Srs. To Glendale Theatre 11a Loaves & Fishes	10 3:30p CRUX to Harvest Crusade 6:30p Singles' Game Night	17	24 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out 7p Share & Care		
	FRI	2 Annx. Reserved all day for Loaves & Fishes 7p Family Movie Night ("Soul Surfer")	6	16 9:45a Doors of Hope Tour & Lunch Men leave for 1000 Pines	23 5:15p Quest Overnighter here at TFB w/laser adventure	30	
	THU	1 10:30a Circle of Friends	8 7p Beacon Light	15 12:30p Ladies' Bible Study resumes with luncheon	22	29	
	WED		7	14 9.10 BSF resumes 6:45p Children's Program resumes	21	28	tember
ier — Page 7	TUE		6 7p Lauran Bethell Circle	13 7p Committees: Outreach, Finance, Worship, GO	20 6p Fellowship Committee 7p Deacon/ Deaconess Boards	27	
First Baptist Proclaimer	MON		5 Office closed for Labor Day	12	19 7p Ad Ops Committee	26	
F	SUN		4	11 Missionary Lauran Bethell here 5p Prayer Gathering 7:15p Full-moon Hike	18 Men return from 1000 Pines 4p C. E. Committee	25 5p Prayer Gathering	

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Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please invite anyone of any age to join us.



Game Night ~ Saturday, September 10, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meeting place: Bob & Della Andrew's home, 17020 Daphne, Torrance. Don't forget to bring snacks to share.

Dinner Night ~ **Saturday, September 24, 6:30 p.m.** ~ Meet at Fish Bonz Grill, 2599 Airport Drive, Torrance (next to AMC Theaters).





For questions, suggestions, or more information, call Brenda-Jean Shephard, 310/901-0816.

What has Gospel to do with Culture?

by Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M. http://www.facebook.com/pages/TFB-Sanctify-Academy/ 166588986702549 Last month, we looked at the Story. This month, we look at Context. The context includes a deeper look at a Gospel to get to know Jesus and begin to grasp his heart. But our context doesn't stop there, for each of us is embedded in a culture that shapes how we see and understand the world. As Christ followers, we must participate in culture with open, biblically informed eves.

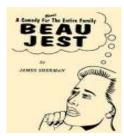


Context flows directly from Story, for the Gospel is the crux of the biblical Story and Culture is shaped by our continuing human story. But here we get more specific and more general. The Gospel focuses like a laser on Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection; his proclaiming the Kingdom and its being "at hand;" and his being fully God and fully human. The Gospel shows us the turning point of the biblical Story.

Culture casts a broader picture, showing us where our personal Story fits into the story of our people, whether family, city, nation, or world. Culture reveals our filters: how we might see the same thing quite differently from someone in a different culture. Culture reveals how our thinking, speaking, and behaving are influenced by the world around us—whether we realize it or not.

The intersection of Gospel and Culture is the intersection of the temporal and the eternal. Jesus came into this intersection when he was born as a human child in first century Palestine to Jewish parents. Jesus sent his twelve disciples into this intersection when he commissioned them to make disciples in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the World. He sends us into this intersection today, wherever we may live, to carry his Story in cultural language that others can understand.

Next Events for Seniors & Friends



Glendale Centre Theatre September 3 (Saturday)

We will be leaving at 10:30 a.m. to go to lunch and then to see "Beau Jest," a light, sweet romantic comedy in which a young lady, Sarah, hires an actor (Bob) to play the Jewish doctor she has told her family she has been dating. His acting is so good that Sarah finds herself falling in love with him. The cost is \$20 for the play. Bring money for lunch.



Leo Carrillo Historic Ranch, Carlsbad, CA Coming in October

Hidden in a canyon and surrounded by houses is Leo Carrillo Historic Ranch. This former working ranchero was once owned by actor Leo Carrillo and has been restored by the city of Carlsbad to look much as it did over a century ago. Leo Carrillo Historic Ranch is a 27-acre historic park with hand-crafted adobe buildings, windmills and many other historic structures. **The date has not yet been set for this outing. Look for updated info in the October "Proclaimer."**

If you want to sign up and/or want more details for any of our Senior & Friends' outings, call Terri Mullin at 310/629-0396.



Smile

Awhile

The Lord's Ballgame

Freddy and the Lord stood by to observe a baseball game. The Lord's team was playing Satan's team.

The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the 9th inning with two outs. They continued to watch as a batter named 'Love' stepped up to the plate. Love swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because 'Love never fails.'

The next batter was named Faith, who also got a single because Faith works with Love. The next batter up was named Godly Wisdom. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass: Ball one. Three more pitches and Godly Wisdom walked because he never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were now loaded. The Lord then turned to Freddy and told him He was now going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Freddy said, 'He sure doesn't look like much!'

Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan wound up and fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone had ever seen! But Satan was not worried; his center fielder let very few get by.

He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head and sent him crashing on

the ground; the roaring crowds went wild as the ball continued over the fence . . . for a <u>home run</u>! The Lord's team won!

The Lord then asked Freddy if he knew why Love, Faith and Godly Wisdom could get on base but couldn't win the game. Freddy answered that he didn't know why.

The Lord explained, 'If your love, faith and wisdom had won the game, you would think <u>you</u> had done it by yourself. Love, Faith and Wisdom will get you on base but <u>only My Grace can get you Home</u>:

'For by grace are you saved, it is a gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast.' Ephesians 2:8-9

Psalm 84:11, 'For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.'

TFB Global Outreach



Lauran Bethall will be here at Torrance First Baptist Church on September 11 at both morning services.

Our missionary, Lauran Bethell, M.Div, D.D., has been working for more than two decades on behalf of and caring for women who have been

exploited and abused. Most recently, she serves as a consultant with grassroots organizations, encouraging the development of new projects dealing with the issues of prostitution, trafficking in persons and other forms of abuse and exploitation. While based in The Netherlands, she travels extensively throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas, teaching, training and consulting.



New Guest Relations Ministry Seeks Volunteers

Ecclesiastes 4:10: "For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up"!

TFB receives first-time visitors on a weekly basis, some are guests of current members and some are "church shopping"; meaning they're seeking out a new church home. We also have some people who might be stepping foot into a church for the very first time, seeking to learn about Jesus Christ.

We are blessed to have a strong team of greeters and ushers. They are the first faces and voices that visitors see at TFB. In their roles, they are assigned to the door or lobby to assist everyone who comes through. They do a great job but are often limited in the time they can spend talking with visitors and introducing them to TFB, our ministries and our desire to help them grow in their faith. This limitation is a void we would like to fill.

The Outreach Committee has created a new ministry to help fill this void; it's called the **Guest Relations Team**. The role of the GR team is to actively seek out and engage visitors prior to and following our Worship Services. Our goal is simple: approach visitors, introduce ourselves and give them printed information about TFB. Time is always limited so our interactions are brief, but the aim is to help people feel comfortable, welcomed and informed.

All GR members carry two items with them, our traditional *Visitors Packet* and our new "*Sunday Happenings*" flier. The *Sunday Happenings* flier lists all of the Sunday ministries that are available to them, like childcare, youth groups and adult classes. It even has a handy map of the TFB campus that shows where each ministry meets.

We are seeking to build the team for all three of our Worship Services. If you would like to be a part of the Guest Relations ministry, please contact Angie Subala at 310-370-0123 or Mark Grindle at 310-386-4679. They will be happy to answer your questions and explain how the GR team interacts with each other on a weekly basis.



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Continued from p. 2 Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail—they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

Our God not only forgives our failures—our sins—because He is a God of love and compassion, but also because He **intercedes** for us in our time of need. The apostle John tells us this in 1 John 2:1-2:

The Lord Jesus not only died to pay the penalty for our sins (He is our **atoning** sacrifice), but He is also our legal representative before the Father (He is our **advocate**) as we repent of and confess our sin to Him. Oh, what a wonderful Savior is Jesus, our Lord!

As we are forgiven of our sins, our God restores us to **fellowship** with Himself. Unconfessed sin not only brings spiritual breakdown into our lives (Psalm 32:3-4), it also hinders our walk with Him (Psalm 66:18). A child of God who lives with unconfessed sin in his life does **not** lose his salvation (John 6:35-40) but he does lose the **joy** of his salvation (Psalm 51:12). How wonderful to know that upon confession of our sin, we are **cleansed** by God, **restored** to fellowship with Him, and, once again, **renewed** by the Holy Spirit to live for Him.

Dear child of God, if failure/sin has entered your life, don't put off making things right with your Lord. He desires your **restoration** more than you do and He's waiting at **His throne of mercy** to hear you call out to Him. He died for us, not only that we might receive His **forgiveness** of our sins, but that we might live in **daily victory** over sin.

Yes, Jesus is the FRIEND of SINNERS. Oh, how thankful I am that He is mine and I am His—all by His wonderful grace. This grace is yours as well. Rejoice in this and live daily in His strength.

So thankful for His grace, *Pastor Rog*

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD



Alyssa and MacKenzie Hetticher arrived on July 12. Alyssa weighed 6 lbs. 2 ozs. and was 19" long And sister MacKenzie weighed 4 lbs. 13 ozs. And was 18" long.

Mom and Dad are David & Natalie. Grandparents are Don & Sue!

Mason Edward Smith was born on July 9 to Brandon & Michelle. He was 19" long and 7 lbs. 9 ozs. He joins big brother, Tristan, and other proud family members include Granma & Grandpa Pam &



Robin Fisher, Great-grandparents, Gerry & Gertie Wissinger, Uncle Jeremy Smith, Aunt & Uncle Marla & Glen Dodd and cousins, Jen & Michael Dodd.



Long-time member and shut-in, Shirley Hudson, is now with the Lord.





AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE FOR JULY

Thank you for giving approximately \$54,065 in the month of July.



285

Don[®]t forget . . . *Rummage* & Bake Sale August, 26~27



We are looking for good, clean used (or new) items in good working order (no junk, please, and no clothing or hard-tomove large pieces of furniture) for our sale on **Friday and Saturday, August 26 & 27, in the TFB gym** to help the Doors of Hope Women's Shelter complete their building project.

Baked goods will be sold both days and hot dogs, chips and sodas sold on Saturday. **Please sign up to donate baked goods** for the sale and bring them to the church on Thursday afternoon before 5pm. **Volunteers are needed** to mark and sort items the week before the sale and help at the sale, and we will need truck drivers to get some of the items out of storage containers. If you can help or have any questions, please call Linda Stratton, 310/328-5371. Doors of Hope Women's Shelter Grand Opening September 16 & 17

All are invited to attend this FREE event at **525 Broad Avenue** in **Wilmington** from 10am until 2pm on Friday or 11am-2pm on Saturday. Lunch will be served both days, however the ribbon-cutting ceremony and speeches will be held on Saturday, the 17th.

Transportation will be provided on Friday, leaving at 9:45am and returning at 1pm. Please sign up in the patio beginning 9/4 if you want to use TFB transportation.

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: High School *Revive;* Jr. High *Quest;* and *Big* for children.

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