

Torrance First Baptist Church

the Proclaimer

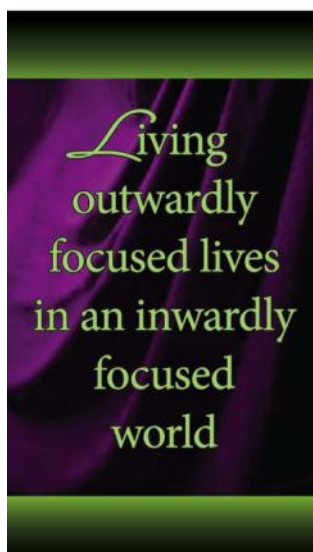
February 2012

Volume 25 Issue 2



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Our new 2012 Theme



Check out our new website:
www.tfbclife.org

to see the latest activities
and even hear missed sermons
on-line.

Community Blood Drive

February 12, 2012



8 a.m. ~ 2:30 p.m.

Walk-ins Welcome . . .

Appointments preferred

ALL DONORS RECEIVE
A COUPON FOR A PINT OF
BLOOD

ICE CREAM
Our goal this year is 35 units.

Before Donating:

- ♥ Be in good health
- ♥ Bring valid photo I.D.
- ♥ Eat a nutritious meal
- ♥ Be at least 17 years old (16 with hospital parental consent)
- ♥ Weigh at least 110 lbs.
- ♥ Drink plenty of water
- ♥ No tattoos within the last 12 months

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:16).

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

From the Pastor's Heart



Living Outwardly Focused Lives in an Inwardly Focused World

Ray was a backslapping, idea-a-minute salesman who had come up with yet another scheme that he was absolutely certain would make a million dollars. The concept: a new-fangled restaurant. The investment: just \$950 per franchise.

My dad was among those approached by this entrepreneur but he was skeptical. That night he chuckled about the venture

when discussing it. “A hamburger stand! How does he expect to make any money selling hamburgers at such low prices?”

So a few days later my dad politely told Ray Kroc that he didn’t think it would be prudent for him to invest in this questionable fast-food business that he was planning to call McDonald’s.

Risk-taking can be a scary and dangerous endeavor. We have heard too many stories of people that have taken risks of one kind or another with painful or tragic results. For many of us, spiritual risk taking can also fill us with fear and anxiety. So we play it safe and stay within our spiritual comfort and control zones of life.

But spiritual risk-takers don’t focus on the risks, but rather on God’s vision, God’s heart, and God’s goals. Sure, they consider the potential struggles, failures

and pain, but they are willing to risk it because they believe God’s mission is more important than their comfort or their personal success.

Our theme for 2012, “Living Outwardly Focused Lives in an Inwardly Focused World” is probably one of the highest spiritual risks we can take. The risk of rejection from others and failure in our efforts is very real.

But I am convinced that for the sake of God’s Kingdom and His cause, we need to become risk takers—to be willing to hear His voice and follow His lead to places outside our comfort and control zones.

My prayer for each of us is that we desire to honor God by being used of Him in life-changing ways, and that we will overcome our tendency to stay comfortable and safe.

Serving Christ together,
Pastor Charlie

Reflections by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

Many times things come into our lives that we don’t understand or agree with. We are at a loss as to what the Lord might be doing in our lives. In saying this, I remember a man by the name of “Don.” He was a successful businessman who had a lovely family and basically enjoyed life. He attended the most thriving church in his area as well, but in his heart, he felt restless. In a conversation with one of his trusted friends, he said, “There’s got to be more. I’m tired of the status quo.”

Interestingly this “restlessness” is experienced by many Christians. Our lives are full of activity and we have much to look forward to, but we are not fulfilled. Like Don, others are saying: “There’s got to be more.”

Pastor Bill Hybels refers to this experience as “spiritual restlessness.” Yes, we are thankful for what the Lord has done in our lives, but we want more than the status quo...*we want to experience a “freshness” in our life of discipleship with Him.*

For many disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, this “spiritual



restlessness” preceded a gracious touch of Him upon their lives. Well, how did they work through this experience—this hungering for more?

➤ They got alone with the Lord and shared their thoughts and hearts with Him. The psalmist, David, said in Psalm 37:7a: “Be still before the Lord

(Continued on page 11)



We Get Mail

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank everyone for the cards and concern when Wayne's brother, Frank, passed away.

We felt your love,
Wayne and Eleanor Musser

Thank You to Our Church Family,

We want to thank you so very much for the VERY generous offering you gave to us for Christmas! We were blown away by your kindness to us and praise God for your worship here at TFB. We pray that God would bless you abundantly in the coming year.

With humble thanksgiving,
Charlie, Rog, Jay and Levana



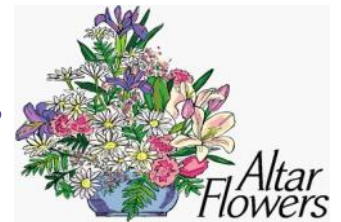
Hiking & Backpack Ministry

February 4

Our next hike will be on **Saturday, February 4**. Actual destination and time is unknown at this time.

Contact Dan Rollino, 310/328-3320, or email: dtrollino@yahoo.com for specifics.

Flower Calendar 2012



There are a few dates still available on this year's Flower Calendar. They are June 3, August 5, September 23, October 14, and December 30. If you would like to celebrate a special event in your life or honor a loved one by providing the altar flowers, please call the office to reserve any of those dates. Cost is \$50 per arrangement — one sign-up per date, please. Payment may be made any time before your chosen date.

Attendance & Giving



ATTENDANCE

AVERAGE WEEKLY
ATTENDANCE
FOR DECEMBER = 307



Thank you for giving approximately \$68,945 in the month of December.

Baby Shower February 4 2~4 p.m.



Christina Martin is having a baby boy! Ladies, you are invited to join us in welcoming this new little one and showering him with gifts of love.

She is registered at Target and Babies R Us.
Call the church office to R.S.V.P.



At Winter Camp, we were reminded how important it is for God's people to walk in the "light." Our speaker, John "Boss" Botic, put it this way, "*May God's light invade your life.*" Imagine what our lives might look like to the world around us if that became a reality for each of us. How much easier might it be to live "outwardly focused lives" if God's light shone through us? Please continue to pray for our high school students, and our church as we strive to walk as children of light.



Jr. High Winter Camp at Thousand Pines February 10-12 (\$150)

Sign-up with Trev while spaces are still available. A \$50 deposit will hold your spot. Don't wait too long—space is limited.



**Monday, February 20
(Presidents' Day)
7:00 P.M.**

We will be leaving the church and going to P.V. Ice Chalet to play Broomball. The cost is \$15 per person. We will also stop at Yogurtland on the way home, so bring \$\$ for that too.

Parents can pick you up at 9:30 p.m.



Sign up now for "BIG" Jr. Winter Camp which will take place **February 24-26** at Forest Home. The cost is \$145. Reserve your spot (which is limited) with a \$50 deposit.



Camp Scholarships

If you have a burden for our young people and would like to give to the Camp Scholarship Fund to enable youngsters, who may not be able to afford it, go to camp, it would be very much appreciated.

Just mark your envelope **Camp Scholarships**. Those who benefit from your donations will be extremely grateful!

Could this be your hand?



We are in need of a volunteer (or two) to run the sound at Worship & Witness on Sunday evenings. You would be part of a rotating schedule. It's not a difficult task to learn as the evening service uses minimal equipment and no video. It requires that you open the sanctuary by 5:30 p.m. and then close it down after the service. You will be finished by 7:20 p.m. most of the time. Please contact Ann Pursche or the TFB office if you have any questions.



Basketball Lovers

Anyone, High School and older, who wants to play basketball, join us in the gym on

Monday nights from 6:30-9 p.m.

Any questions? Contact:

Steve Johnson, 310/791-9770

Volleyball Wednesdays 8:15~Midnight

Anyone High School age and older is invited to join us in the gym for volleyball.

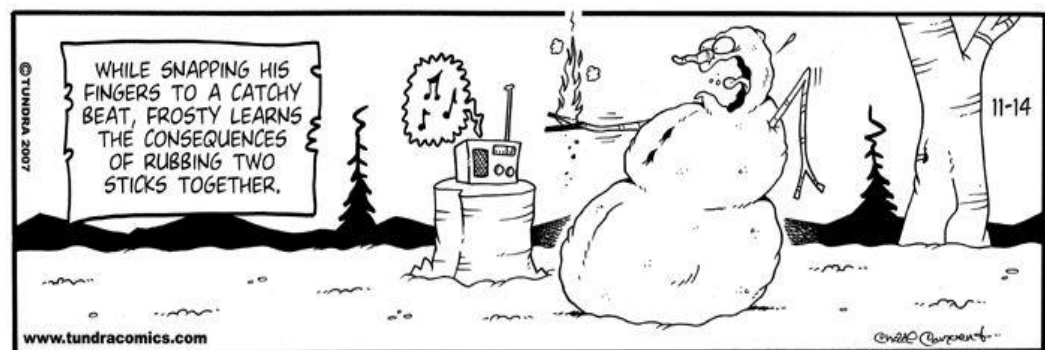
Any questions? Contact:

J.J. Plock, 310/324-6583



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FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

• • • • DIRECTIONS • • • •

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each
ot _____ d _____ give
_____ e an _____ if _____ y
of you h _____ grie _____ ce
a _____ st some _____ .
For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13, NIV

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the “music person,” who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.

Recurring Weekly Events:

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			1	2	3	4	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): 6 p.m.
5	6	7 7p Lauran Bethell Circle	8 10a Srs. & Friends to Ripley's "Believe It or Not" & "Wax Museum"	9 7p Beacon Light	10 1p Jr. High to Winter Camp	11 6:30p Singles' Game Night	
12 1p Jr. High back from camp 5p Prayer Gathering	13	14 7p Committees: Outreach, GO and Worship	15	16	17 12noon Seniors' Luncheon	18 7p Share & Care	Monday Ladies' Prayer: 11 a.m. Open Basketball: 6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study: 7 p.m. (off-site)
19 4p C. E. Committee	20 7p Ad Ops and Finance Committees	21 6p Fellowship Committee 7p Deacon/Deaconess Mtng.	22	23	24	25 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out	Tuesday BSF Leaders: 9 a.m. High School Revive: 7 p.m. Bible Study: 7:30 p.m.
26 5p Prayer Gathering	27	28	29				Wednesday BSF: 9:15 a.m. Children's Program: 6:45 p.m. 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. Worship Band Practice: 6:30 p.m.
							Friday Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst.: 9 a.m.
							Saturday New Covenant (Korean) Prayer: 6 a.m.





Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please invite anyone of any age to join us.



Game Night ~ Saturday, February 11, 6:30 p.m. ~

Meeting place: Brandon Kroelinger's, 1666 W. 257th Street, #3, Harbor City. Don't forget to bring snacks to share.



Dinner Out ~ Saturday, February 25, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at

Lazy Dog Cafe, at Del Amo Mall, 3525 W. Carson Street.



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

Hearing God in Chunk Reading

by Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M.
[http://www.facebook.com/
pages/TFB-Sanctify-Academy/
166588986702549](http://www.facebook.com/pages/TFB-Sanctify-Academy/166588986702549)

Let's start with an important assumption: the Bible is the Word of God. We start here because though we agree with this statement, we too often do not live as if it were true. Mind you, I count myself fully in the "we." It is too easy to read the Bible--or, as is too often the case, not read it--for our own purposes. Since the Bible is the Word of God, we must read it as if we were standing before God, who loves us more than we know and is holier than we can imagine. As we stand before God in our reading of his Word, we stand as whole persons of intellect, emotion, and will. We bring all these to bear as we seek to hear

and understand his voice.

This month, we will look a bit more deeply into chunk reading. A "chunk" is loosely defined as at least whole chapters, better as whole books, and best as whole sections of Scripture. (One way to make this part of an already busy schedule is listening to an audio Bible.) Chunk reading has both head and heart components.

Head-Chunk Reading:

In head-chunk reading, we seek to understand the big picture. Intellect is the key tool. This means dredging up some of those skills learned in English and History class and applying them to whole books and large chunks of books. It means answering who, what, when, where, why, and how questions. Who wrote this book? What is the author's main idea? When was it written? Where did the original readers live? How does the author go about making his point?

Heart-Chunk Reading

In heart-chunk reading, we seek to enter the story, exploring what biblical persons may have felt and experienced as they lived life with God. Imagination is the key tool. This type of reading is best used after one has a good grasp of head-chunk reading, since the study in that type of reading provides details for the imagination. Here we enter the story and ask what the participants may have been feeling and thinking. In heart-chunk reading, we also listen inside our own hearts for the voice of the Spirit who dwells in our souls, fully expecting him to illuminate this Word of God, shining its light on our hearts and uncovering what must be uncovered.

Next month, we will look at Portion Reading.

Next Events for Seniors & Friends



Wax Museum in Hollywood & Ripley's Believe It or Not February 8 (Wednesday)

We will be leaving the church at 10 a.m. and heading to Hollywood to experience two interesting museums. Get your own little slice of Hollywood and catch a glimpse of your favorite stars in rare form—wax, that is. Here, with a showcase of over 100 stars, you'll be surrounded in all the glitz and glamour tinseltown has to offer. The Hollywood Wax Museum prides itself on the authenticity of its representations, and you're sure to notice it too!

Then we will escape from the ordinary and step into the shockingly odd world of Ripley featuring Crazy Animals, Extreme Sports, Body Oddities, Strange Places, Incredible Feats, Weird Foods, Unusual Customs, and all things unbelievable - but 100% true!

The cost is \$17.00 per person plus money for lunch. We will be back at the church at about 4 p.m.

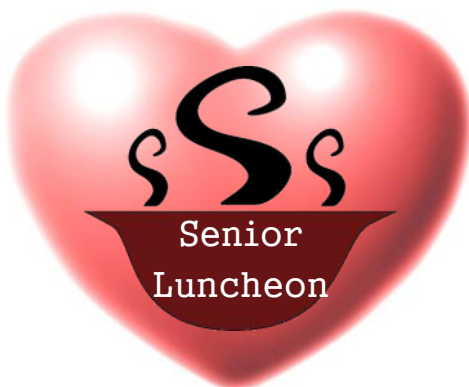


San Juan Capistrano Mission March 27 (Tuesday)



We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m. and head for San Juan Capistrano to visit the historic landmark and museum. We will enjoy experiencing culture and history in many ways—from audio tours to educational tour booklets, fun exhibits and historical re-enactments. See a snapshot of California's history by touring the museum exhibits in both the museum rooms and throughout the 10-acre grounds of gardens, fountains and adobe preserved architecture. Most of the on-going events and exhibits are included in the price of admission. A new exhibit features precious and rare paintings, religious artifacts, and documents related to the Mission's history that have not been seen for decades, if ever. The cost is \$9. Also bring money for lunch on the way home.

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.



Senior Luncheon February 17 12:00 noon

You are invited to attend a luncheon to celebrate our love for one another as members of the Body of Christ. Bring a friend and enjoy a time of food and fellowship and special music.

Sign up in the patio to let us know if you will be able to attend for a suggested donation of \$5 each.

TFB Global Outreach

by Pastor Rog



BWERA, Uganda, January 17 (CDN) — A 15-year-old Christian girl in western Uganda who lost the use of her legs after her father locked her in a room for six months because she trusted Christ for salvation and left Islam, has begun to take tentative steps.



NEW DELHI, January 13 (CDN) — Attacks on Christians accelerated over the Christmas and New Year's holidays in the south Indian state of Karnataka, which was identified as the most unsafe place for the religious minority for the third consecutive year in 2011. With 49 cases of violence and hostility against Christians in 2011, Karnataka remained the state with the highest incidence of persecution, according to the Evangelical Fellowship of India's annual report, "Battered and Bruised."

On Sunday, November 13, 2011, during the Worship and Witness service, we joined with Christians around the world in prayer for THE PERSECUTED CHURCH. This special call to prayer was organized by OPEN DOORS MINISTRY so that our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering for their faith would know that we are ONE WITH THEM.

The Bible has a lot to say about persecution and, as we study God's Word, we discover our Heavenly Father's compassion for those who suffer for their faith in Christ. These dear people are in the midst of a difficult journey and we want them to understand that they are not alone. We are reminded of this truth in 1 Corinthians 12:26, 27:

"And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually."

You might be interested to know that over 100 million Christians in almost half of the countries of the world are persecuted for their faith in Jesus. Though the numbers are stunning, they should not be surprising since our Lord warned His disciples that they would *"be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and hated by all nations because of Me"* (Matthew 24:9).

Our persecuted brethren cry out for our prayers—not for comfort and escape—but for others to stand firm and testify with their suffering.

To help us in our prayer time for these who are suffering for their faith in Christ, we handed out prayer bracelets shaped like barbed wire and a prayer sheet which highlighted four countries where persecution is presently taking place. We hand out a new prayer sheet every Sunday night during the Worship and Witness Service. [We are out of the prayer bracelets and are trying to order more.]

As you spend time alone with the Lord, please remember your family in Christ who are experiencing deep trial and hardship because of their steadfast faith in Christ. If we were in their shoes, we certainly would want them praying for us.

We are so thankful that even though we may never see these brother and sisters of ours face to face this side of heaven, we most certainly are ONE WITH THEM through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Prayer brings us together and our Lord most certainly will minister to their needs on our behalf. Thank you for praying!

"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap and on behalf of the land" (Ezekial 22:30).

Reflections

Continued from p. 2

and wait patiently for Him” (NIV).

➤ They reached out to Him in faith, once again realizing that He loves them and desires a close relationship with them which is far deeper than they could imagine. One again, David reminds us in Psalm 57:10: *“For great is Your love reaching to the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the skies”* (NIV).

➤ And then, they invited the Holy Spirit to speak to them through His Word. It is amazing how God’s Word comes alive to us when we are HUNGRY to hear from Him! As part of my regular Bible reading, I’ve been reading through the Psalms multiple times every year. As I came to the close of 2011, the Lord spoke to me in a “fresh” way through Psalm 143:10: *“Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; may Your good Spirit lead me on level ground”* (NIV).

I was so excited and couldn’t wait to share it with Joyce. We have both chosen this as our YEARLY verse for 2012. Oh, how thankful I am for our personal, loving Lord.

May this new year find you learning of Him in a new and fresh way as you serve Him with a loving spirit.

I’m continuing to learn from Him,
Pastor Rog



the following families
who have recently lost
loved ones:

Carol Cochran lost her mother, Lila Ogren;



Ruth Dixon, shut-in TFB member, is
now with the Lord;

Casie Duvall’s step-father, John Wilbanks,
passed away;

Sue Collins lost her father-in-law, Don; and

TFB attendee, Liz Hassoldt, is in
her heavenly home.



Curren Paul Domingo was born on 11/14/2011.
He weighed in at 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 20" long.
Mom and Dad are Amy & Jason (pictured above
with big sister, Caliana Joy, and baby Curren).

Proud Grandma and Great-grands are:
Sue Domingo and Earl and Jean Forman.



Alfred Antonio Gonzalez
was born prematurely
on 12/26/2011.
He weighed in at 5 lbs. 4 oz.

and was 16" long.

Mom and Dad are
Michelle and Julio,

and big sisters are Brianna and Rita.

Grandparents are: Richard and Rebecca Darrow.

Pray that little Alfred quickly overcomes some
kidney and heart issues.

Don't Forget . . .

*Men's
Breakfast
January 28
(Saturday)
9:00 a.m.*



All men, Jr. High age and older, are encouraged to join us for a delicious breakfast and time of fellowship. Pastor Charlie will be our speaker and his subject is: "How Can You Focus Your Actions Outwardly in an Inwardly Focused World?" Suggested donation is \$5 per person. Sign up in the patio or call Bill Harenburg, 310/534-4439, or e-mail to: wharenburg@aol.com.

*Annual
Meeting
& Potluck*



*January 29
5:30 p.m.*

"There in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you" (Deuteronomy 12:7).

Join us as we review the year that has passed and give thanks to the Lord for what He has done and focus on the vision He has given to us for 2012.

For the Potluck, those with last names that start with A-L, please bring a main dish & dessert; those with last names beginning with M-Z, bring a main dish & salad.

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 Task Force Bravo for children.

For more information, contact the church office: 310.328.5030 or info@fbclife.org or visit us on the web at www.fbclife.org