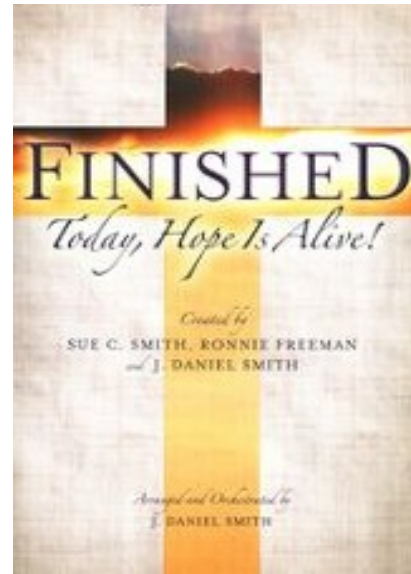


the Proclaimer

April 2014 Volume 27 Issue 4



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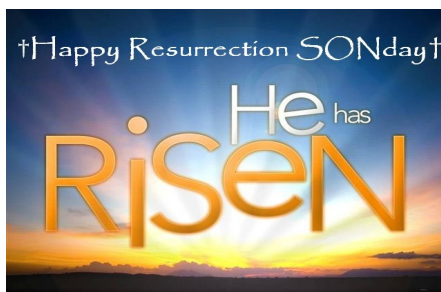


*Easter Cantata
Palm Sunday
April 13, 6:00 p.m.*

When Jesus cried "It is finished!" on the cross, it meant the work for our redemption had been accomplished for all time. *FINISHED—Today, Hope is Alive!* focuses on this redeeming grace given by God when He sent His Son to pay the price for our sin. These powerful new songs have been dramatically and brilliantly arranged and orchestrated for this musical taking a fresh look at the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection to create an exciting Easter celebration which will speak to you like never before! Hope is alive...it is FINISHED!

Bring your friends and family as our Worship Choir, under the direction of Randy Stager, presents this exciting Easter Cantata.

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



*April 20
Have a very blessed
Easter day!*

From the Pastor's Heart



Turning our hearts to God.

Once a year we followers of Jesus, and even some who are not followers of Jesus, celebrate a miracle of gigantic proportions. That miracle is Jesus, Who was buried in a tomb on a Friday afternoon and walked out of the tomb on Sunday morning. The obvious conclusion from this is that Jesus is more powerful than even death itself. For us mere humans, death is unavoidable, but not for Jesus.

Today, our culture is obsessed with living as long as possible. There are new treatments and products claiming that they can help people live until they are 100+. But no one is claiming that they can keep people from experiencing death. Everyone dies and everyone knows that. It is an undisputable fact.

That is what is so amazing about Jesus. He actually conquered death. So when He says that if you give your life to Him, He will adopt you into His family and give you everlasting life, He can actually do that. In fact He is the only One Who can.

In John, chapter eleven, Jesus says, *“I am the resurrection and the life”* (note: that is what He proved by walking out of the tomb). *“He who believes in Me will*

live, even though he dies;...” (v.25). Even if you have been given eternal life by Jesus, some day you will most likely physically die. But that death is simply a transition from your temporary life here on earth to your permanent eternal life with Jesus in heaven. That is what Easter tells us Jesus has to offer. That is not only good news it is great news!

So this Easter, I invite you to join us for a very special Easter concert on Sunday night, April 13, and then join us Easter Sunday, April 20, to celebrate the best news anyone can hear: Jesus Christ conquered death and offers His indestructible life to all who surrender themselves to Him.

Pastor Charlie

Reflections by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

The prophet Jeremiah was a man uniquely used of God, but that doesn't mean that everything in his service for the Lord came easily to him. Far from it! He had many questions and he knew a lot of discouragement as well, but he kept at it. How did he make it through the tough times? See what he says in Jeremiah 1:6-8:

“Ah, sovereign Lord,’ I said, ‘I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.’ But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am only a child.” You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of

them, for I am with you and will rescue you.’ declares the Lord” (NIV).

Qualifications: some have more than others, and life seems to reward an extensive résumé. Yet, in the economy of God, this principle seems inverted. Our Lord challenged man's thinking by saying, *the first will be last* (Matt. 20:16); *the greatest must become like the least* (Luke 22:26); and *the meek are blessed* (Matt. 5:5). You see, no amount of preparation, no matter how extensive, qualifies a person to serve God. In fact, asserting such appears to be a form of self-idolatry that accomplishes just the opposite. And so, when Jeremiah protested his calling



from God because of his inability to speak and lack of experience, he unknowingly demonstrated exactly why he was the perfect candidate for the task at hand. From this incident, the following perspective emerges: our inabilities provide the right platform for God to place His abilities on display.

You see, God's response to Jeremiah encourages us to serve without hesitation *when the Lord leads*. In verse 8, God promised Jeremiah, “I am with you.” There was no promise that the

(Continued on page 11)



We Get Mail

Dear TFB:
 I have been back in Ohio several years now but thank you for sending me the *Proclaimer*. I enjoyed so many services and trips with TFB people.
 Wish I were able to again be a part of TFB activities.
 Thanks and God bless,
 Oma Northamer

Thank you to all the congregation for the tremendous gift card to O.S.H. and other gifts, well-wishes and the beautiful flowers. They were a wonderful surprise, and I will have a lot of fun using all the gift cards I received.
 Planning to continue serving alongside you
 Levana

**Thank
 You**

Blessed Church Family,
 In my time of need you overwhelmed me with your outreach of concern, support and love. Words cannot adequately express my thoughts. From the bottom of my heart I wish to thank and bless each and every one of you. Special thanks and blessings are offered to the church staff and all of the volunteer workers who gave of themselves to reach out and accomplish marvelous works, seamlessly and unobtrusively. Their obvious mission being to join in making this time as easy on my family and me as possible.
 Thank you and may His face shine on you and may He bless each and every one of you.
 Frank Spinney

Dear Prayer Warriors of TFB,
 Last May, I put my friend's son, John, on the prayer chain. He was hospitalized with encephalitis and put into an induced coma for 2 weeks. When he came out of the coma, he could neither see nor walk. The doctors said 75% of people with this do not survive and of the 25% that do, only 2.5% come as far as John has.
 God has now restored 20-20 sight in one eye, he is no longer in a wheelchair, and today he is out cutting his grass.
 John and his family want to say thank you for your prayers, and we all praise God for this miracle.
 Ester Adams

Dear Church Family,
 I just want to thank you for the awesome 60th birthday "party" and gifts that you gave to show your love for me. Karen and I are very much looking forward to our special weekend "get-away" in Dana Point that was given to us. Your generosity was beyond what I could ever think or ask.
 Thanks again so much,
 Pastor Charlie

Dear Friends,
 We just want to thank you so much for your cards and best wishes for our 56th wedding anniversary on March 21. We have a lot of family celebrations in March, including 6 birthdays, and have just added another as our 4th great-grandchild, Madeline Musser, was born on March 9.
 Thanks for your friendship,
 Wayne and Eleanor Musser

Revive high school ministries NEWS

where faith comes alive



Introducing our new

High School Director

Hi, my name is Cristian Jerez. I am 23 years old and am married to my beautiful bride Gennesis. I have been married to Gennesis for 17 months and we now have a 3-month-old son named Lucas.

I was born in Los Angeles but was raised in Guatemala for some of my childhood and returned to the States when I was 8 years old.

I first received Jesus in my heart at the age of 13 and have been involved with Youth Ministry ever since. I began leading Bible studies for youth groups, both at my church and at my High School, at the age of 16 when I was a Junior.

After I graduated from Fairfax High in 2008, I went to Cal State Northridge and studied Sociology. I began my Seminary studies at Talbot School of Theology in the Fall of 2013. I am currently on my second semester and am perusing a Masters of Divinity.

I have a heart for Youth Ministry and have been able to connect very well with younger individuals although I am growing older. I have been a strong believer in the importance of building friendships with our youth and then leading them to a relationship with The Lord Jesus Christ.

It is my prayer that I will be able to continue loving God while loving our youth here at TFB. My wife and I are excited to be on this journey and look forward to being a part of the TFB community.

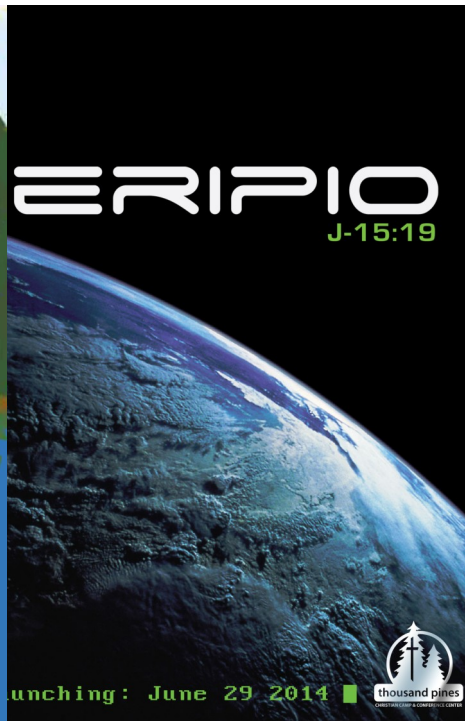


Summer Camps 2014

Lightseekers Junior High High School



July 14-18



June 29-July 4



August 10-16



**TORRANCE/
LOMITA**

Meals on Wheels is a non-profit organization serving the home-bound in the Torrance/Lomita area since 1973. They are now taking applications for new clients. If you know of anyone who is convalescing, handicapped, aged or frail, and unable to shop and prepare meals for themselves, they may call the MOW's office M-F between 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at 310/542-3434 for more information.

Meals are currently prepared, cooked and packaged by St. Vincent's Meals on Wheels. Each delivery consists of 2 meals: one hot meal to be eaten at midday and a cold meal for the evening. The meals are delivered between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., five days a week, Monday through Friday, except on holidays. Meals are planned by a registered dietician and are nutritionally balanced to include each of the 4 main food groups and provide two-thirds of the Recommended Daily Requirement. Experienced volunteers donate their time as well as the operation of their vehicles to deliver the meals. The meals are delivered 5 days a week by volunteers.

We serve approximately 110 housebound residents of Torrance and Lomita. More than 50,000 meals are delivered every year. More than 200 volunteers provide meal delivery and other support.

If you would like to volunteer to help deliver meals one day a week (or on an "as needed" basis), you may also call 310/542-3434.

Torrance First Baptist member Ester Adams is on the Torrance/Lomita Board of Meals on Wheels.

Easter Lilies

If you'd like to have a part in providing Easter lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, \$10 donations will be taken in the patio through April 13th for this purpose.



*Sunday
April 6
7:00 p.m.*

Please plan to attend our next All Church Business meeting after Worship & Witness on April 6.

There are several issues that need your input and vote, including confirmation of Sonja Sealey as Assistant Treasurer.

*Journeyman
22-hour
Discipleship
Retreat
April 4-5*



Any men who would be interested in our next Lock & Talk which is scheduled for **April 4-5**, please call the office or sign up in the patio.

We meet at 6 p.m. on Friday evenings, spend the night, and stay until 2 p.m. on Saturday. This is an open forum format where men spend extended time together discussing and studying spiritual issues. Any and all spiritual subjects are welcome, using the Bible as our source of truth.

Space is limited for this event, so sign up as soon as possible

Attendance & Giving

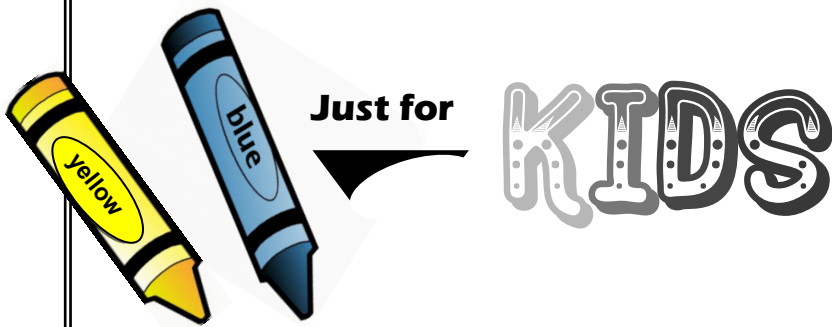


ATTENDANCE

AVERAGE WEEKLY
ATTENDANCE = 273
FOR FEBRUARY



Thank you for giving approximately \$42,646 in the month of February.



HE HAS RISEN!

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were surprised to meet an angel at Jesus' empty tomb.

Directions: Use the word shapes to complete the angel's message, in Mark 16:6 (NIV).

for be crucified risen Don't is Jesus He
 looking where not the place who here
 the laid alarmed Nazarene they was him

1. [Word shape]

2. You are [Word shape]

3. [Word shape] has [Word shape]!

4. He [Word shape]

5. See [Word shape]

Answer: 1. Don't be alarmed. 2. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. 3. He has risen. 4. He is not here. 5. See the place where they laid him.

Easter Cake

Celebrate our risen Lord with this uniquely decorated cake.

What you need:

- Adult help
- Box of cake mix (any flavor)
- Tub of brown frosting
- Shredded coconut
- Green food coloring
- Chocolate Hostess Ding Dong cupcake
- Donut hole
- Pretzel sticks
- M&M's candies

What you do:

1. Bake cake in rectangular pan. When cool, frost it.
2. Pour coconut into bowl. Add drops of green food coloring. Mix until coconut resembles grass.
3. In one corner of cake, set Ding Dong upright to resemble a tomb. Place donut hole in front of it, to one side.
4. Make three crosses with six pretzel sticks and some frosting. Arrange on opposite corner from tomb.
5. Use brown M&M's to make a path from the crosses to the tomb.
6. Use other colors of M&M's to spell out "Jesus lives!"

Recurring Weekly Events:

Sunday
 Worship Services:
 9:15 & 11 a.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.
 Worship & Witness, 6 p.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.

Monday
 Ladies' Prayer, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday
 BSF Leaders, 9:15 a.m.
 High School Revive, 7 p.m.

Wednesday
 Bible Study Fellowship, 9:15 a.m.
 TFB (K-6th grades), 6:45 p.m.
 Jr. High QUEST, 6:45 p.m.
 Small Group Bible Study, 6:45 p.m.
 Choir Practice, 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.
 Next Step Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.

Friday
 Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m.

Saturday
 New Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 10:30a Circle of Friends	4 Anx reserved all day for Loaves & Fishes 6p Journeymen Lock & Talk starts	5 11a Loaves & Fishes 2p Journeymen Lock & Talk ends
6 10:30p March/April Birthdays 2p Sing @ Royalwood 7p All-church Business Mtng.	7	8	9	10 7p Beacon Light	11 7p Young Marrieds @ Duvall's	12 6:30p Singles' Game Night
13 6p Easter Cantata	14 7p DiscDev	15 6p Mnstry Teams: Fellowship, Finance, GO, Outreach & Wor. 7p Deacon/ess	16	17	18	19 7p Share & Care
20 Happy Resurrection Sunday!	21 7p Facilities Team	22	23	24	25 7p Young Marrieds @ Duvall's	26 8:30a Journeymen's Study 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out
27 5:20p Prayer Gathering	28	29	30			

Upcoming May Events:

- 5/2-4 ~ Ladies' Retreat @ Thousand Pines
- 5/10 ~ Men's Breakfast; 9 a.m.
- 5/10 ~ Angel Ayala Memorial Service ??
- 5/16 ~ Seniors & Friends Luncheon; 12 noon
- 5/31 ~ Sue Miller Birthday Party; 2 p.m.





Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please invite anyone of any age to join us.



Game Night ~ Saturday, April 12, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at the church in the gym. Bring games and snacks to share. Need more info? Call Jude, 424/800-1910.



Dinner Out ~ Saturday, April 26, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at King's Hawaiian, 2808 Sepulveda, in Torrance.



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

"In the midst of death, real life"

by Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M

Death happens. It's part of life, or so they say. But the pain at the loss gives a hint that this is not how it should be. Deep down, we know that something has gone horribly wrong and our hearts long for how things should be.

I am reminded of King David, praying over his son, sick unto death (2 Samuel 12). While his son lived, David cried and fasted. As soon as his son died, David got up and ate. This confused the servants and they asked, "What is this thing that you have done" (v. 21)? David answered, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me" (vv. 22-23).

Viewed from under the sun, death is a one way street: one enters it and does not return. Viewed from the upper story, from God's perspective, death is not the end. David knew the truth his servants had missed. We are temporal, yet we are eternal.

For many, eternity does not lead to life, but to death.

True life, eternal life, a life with no seeds of death in it, is only available in a loving, trusting relationship with the One who is life. Life lived in the flesh, however marvelous, is but the barest reflection of life in Christ, for in him there is forever life in eternal relationship with the one who knows us best and loves us most.

For us who trust Christ, this life is viewed through a glass darkly (1 Corinthians 13:12), but the fact of forever-life bought by Christ's death and resurrection provides hope. Life here will never be the same, for we know that the something that went horribly wrong is made right and whole in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

*"Life lived in the flesh,
however marvelous, is but
the barest reflection of life in
Christ..."*



Smile Awhile!



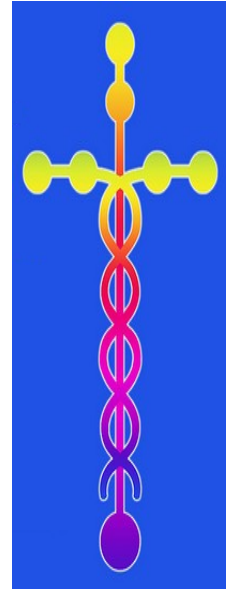
Holding Us Together

As evangelist Louis Giglio was winding down a Passion Movement tour in Texas, a molecular biologist came up to introduce himself. Giglio mentioned he was heading home to Atlanta to preach some sermons about the glory of God in the human body.

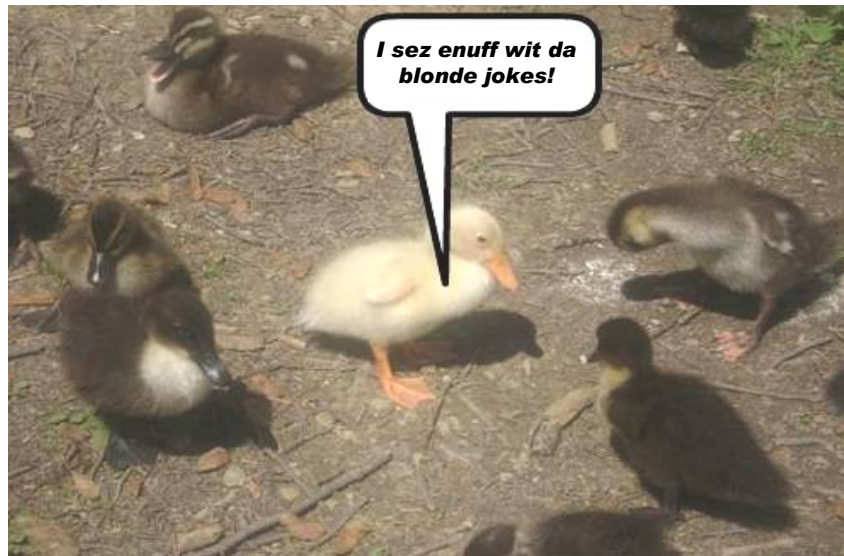
When the scientists discovered that Giglio still needed a big “hook” for the talks, he began describing laminin, a cell-adhesion molecule that holds the body’s membranes together. The scientist encouraged Giglio to go home and look up laminin on the Internet.

When the image appeared on his screen, Giglio was amazed. The molecule that literally holds peopel together is in the shape of a cross! Giglio immediately thought of Paul’s words about Jesus in Colossians 1:17: “in Him all things hold together.”

The next time your life seems to be falling apart, look up an image of laminin. Then remember that Jesus holds you together through His victory over death on the cross!

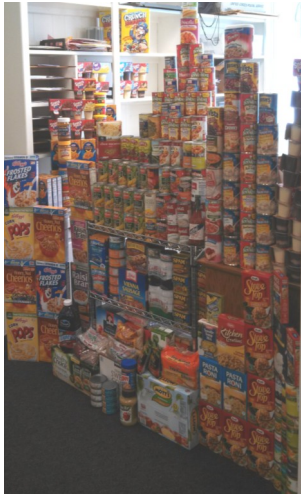


laminin





*TFB Global Outreach
Missionary News*



Food Drive

Thank you to all who gave to make our food drive such a great success. It is helping New Challenge Ministries reach out to the needy in our neighborhood.

We collected over

Personal Message from Paul Pillai, founder of India National Inland Mission

Unlike all demonic, man-made world religions and belief systems, the blessed Kingdom of the living God is not advanced by physical violence but through a higher battle strategy which we call on our mission field “Violent Faith.” Over 50 years preaching the Gospel in this very spiritually dark mission field has taught me well that expanding the Kingdom of God was never meant to be accomplished by intentionally going to aggravate and agitate the “unbeliever” through mean-spirited verbal abuse, terrorist bombings of abortion clinics, public burnings of their religious books like the Koran or Bhagavad-Gita or even remotely encouraging the bloodshed of a non-Christian.

There is something to be said about having “Violent Faith.” In the eternal words of Jesus in Matthew 11:12, “...*the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*” This “Violent Faith” certainly seems to be unreasonable, irrational and illogical to the world, perhaps even to some among the brethren in our churches.

From the earliest days of church history until today, kingdom-minded people have suffered unthinkable physical and external violence from the enemies of God, but the Kingdom of God has always powerfully pressed on because of humble Christ followers that have intentionally and quietly exercised “Violent Faith” against the very gates of Hell and not mere mortals, as Apostle Paul declares in Ephesians 6:12, “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*”

This “Violent Faith” is accomplished by “turning the other cheek,” “overcoming evil with good” and walking boldly into the darkness and holding forth the Glorious Light of this precious Gospel, as lambs to the slaughter.

“Violent Faith” is Joshua and the Israelites walking around the city of Jericho and watching the walls eventually crumble or Daniel and the three Hebrew men who humbly submitted to hungry lions and the fiery furnace, but being delivered by God through their faith. Others, such as Apostle Paul, ultimately were delivered to God through their martyrdom, also by faith. We are always delivered by God, either from death for the sole purpose of Gospel promotion or to God through our physical death. Regardless, we are assured to always win, because if we live, the world gets more of Jesus from us and if we die, we win even bigger because we get more of Jesus in His glorious presence for eternity.

The Bible, especially Hebrews 11, is a summary of “Violent Faith” practiced by lambs against lions. This is the faith that glorifies God. All through church history, we learn how God conquers through our weakness, death, and resurgence.

Revelation 12:11 declares, “*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*” In other words, that Kingdom is built only by the precious Blood of that Glorious Lamb and, if God so chooses, through the blood of His lambs.



Paul and Annie Pillai have been serving Christ together for 50 years. They have 5 children and 17 grandchildren.

Reflections

Continued from p. 2

people would listen to him—no promise that they would change their ways, or that he would be popular with the people. Actually, Jeremiah enjoyed none of these contemporary measurements of God’s affirmation of his ministry. But he did possess the one ingredient we still *need more than any other* to serve God effectively—the presence of the One Who sent us. This does not mean we should ignore our God-given gifts when we serve Him. No, we should remember, however, that personal skill is a poor substitute for *our heavenly Father’s presence*.

Dear friend, do you find yourself making excuses rather than serving God faithfully? Please know this, our heavenly Father is prepared to take full responsibility for and to work through the one who is wholly committed to Him. This was true for Jeremiah and it will be true for us, if we humbly place our lives and service in His strong hands. The Lord was faithful to this humble servant of His, and He will be faithful to us as well. Please don’t look at your inadequacies, but *look to Him*.

I’m ever looking to Him,
Pastor Rog



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

Jayne Spinney, beloved wife of Frank and long-time TFB member is now with the Lord;

Gloria Doyen lost her Mom

Ester Adams lost her brother-in-law, Buddy Adams;

Cynthia Renee lost her Mom, Shari Vaona; and Muriel Moore lost his brother, Hyatt.



BIRTHDAY CUPCAKES

On **Sunday, April 6**, we will be celebrating March and April birthdays with cupcakes in the patio during Fellowship Time. Please sign up if you are able to donate one or more dozen cupcakes for this occasion.



You're Invited

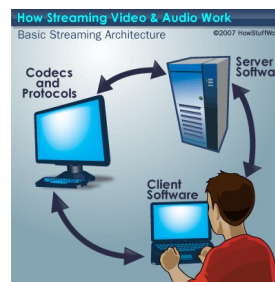
Saturday

**April 26
 9 a.m.**

This class is from 9 a.m. until 12 noon for anyone who is interested in becoming a member of Torrance First Baptist Church or who just want to learn more about what we believe.

This class is a pre-requisite for membership, but if you take the class, you are not obligated to join.

A light breakfast will be served, so please R.S.V.P. by signing up in the church patio or calling the office.



Coming to Your Home Soon

Rightnowmedia.org has compiled a library of over 3,000 Bible studies for all ages streaming to you on your computer, cell phone or tablet. Watch and learn for personal growth or hook it up to your TV and enjoy it with your friends. It is free to join and is for the whole family. Be looking for an invite in your email box soon asking you to join. Simply click on the “accept invite” button, fill out the information page and you will have access 24/7.

—from your Discipleship Development Team

Make Plans for These Upcoming Events:



**Ladies' Retreat at
1000 Pines
May 2-4**

**\$149—rustic cabin
(only 16 spots left)**

**Sign Up in the Patio!
(For those who have already
signed up, registration,
health and consent forms
need to be completed.)**

*Helping Hands Family Camp
May 23-26*

In lieu of Family Camp this year, some of you might want to consider bonding as a family over Christ-centered teaching and fun-filled recreation at Thousand Pines.



Enjoy camp-style family fun with paintball, bingo, bonfires and more! Give back to camp on Saturday, as we prepare for the busy summer season with family work projects. Help spruce up camp with gardening, painting and raking projects!

Pricing: Adults (12 & up) . . . \$55

Kids (3-11) \$40

Kids (under 3) Free!

For more information, call 888-423-2267 or email at info@thousandpines.com

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