

Torrance First Baptist Church  
**the Proclaimer**

December 2014      Volume 27 Issue 12



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*Women's 3-in-1  
 Christmas Event  
 December 1, 6:45 p.m.*

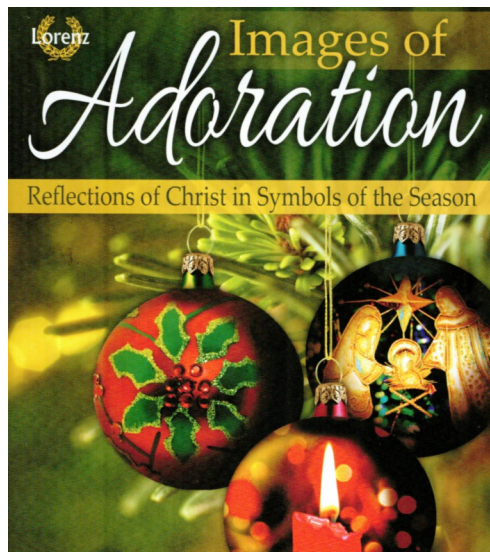


*Cost:  
 \$10  
 Sign up  
 in patio.*

*Kidz' Choir  
 Presents . . .*



*Sunday  
 December 14  
 6 p.m.  
 (right before the  
 Worship Choir Concert)*



*Christmas Choir Concert  
 December 14  
 6 p.m.*



*Christmas Eve  
 Candlelight Service  
 6:30 p.m.*

Bring the family to worship and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Who came into the world to save us from our sins. What an awesome God!

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

# From the Pastor's Heart



## Turning Our Hearts To God

Thanksgiving is a time to express gratitude — a time to appreciate what you do have. In truth, Thanksgiving Day is to be our type of day every day of the year. I don't mean the turkey and stuffing and football games, etc. I mean the attitude and perspective.

In Philippians two we read: *"In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing"*(v. 14). Wow, wouldn't that seriously change some of the dynamics in family life. The previous verse, thirteen, tells us that God is at work in us to give us both the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. It must be that God is highly pleased with us when we decide to stop complaining and arguing. But that is not easy to do because there is a lot to complain and argue about.

The very next verse, fifteen, tells us that we need to stay away from such talk because this dark world needs to see the light of God. Truth is, if we want to please God and help others come to God, then

we can't be bitter, negative, grumpy, whining, arguing types of people. That is why I said Thanksgiving Day is to be our type of day every day of the year.

So how well are you staying away from complaining and arguing? How would your family and friends describe you regarding this? We each have our baggage, so if this is your particular piece of luggage, then start asking God to give you the desire and the power to change — to become what He wants you to be, a person that shows the light of God's love, forgiveness and grace toward everyone around you.

Happy Thanksgiving,  
Pastor Charlie

## Turning Our Hearts To God

# Reflections

by Pastor Rog



Dear Church Family,

Of the many people upon whom God's hand rested is the man, Joseph. As we consider his life, we can learn much about walking in obedience to God's will for our lives. Please consider the following truths as found in Genesis 39:2, 3:

<sup>2</sup> *"The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian..."* <sup>3</sup> *And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand."*

Success — everyone seems to pursue it, but relatively few are

able to define it. At first glance, it appears that Joseph was successful because the Lord rewarded hard work. Closer examination, however, reveals that Joseph was successful before and after being promoted in Potiphar's house. You see, through years of heartache, disappointment and suffering, Joseph remained faithful to the Lord, and the Lord blessed his faithfulness. The key phrase in the verse is, *"The Lord was with Joseph."* Interestingly, this statement appears in this passage, while he was in slavery, and in Genesis 39:21-23, after he was demoted to prison.

There is a great spiritual truth here for us. Joseph's "success" was marked not by his position in life, but by the presence of God strengthening and encouraging him during this time. This shows us that knowing the Lord personally was more important than serving Him powerfully.

This is where many of us miss it. The world we live in measures success largely in IMPACT rather than on INTIMACY. What do I



*We Get Mail*

Dear Church Family,  
 Thank you for all your cards, phone calls, emails, flowers and prayers, during the death of my Mom. She enjoyed a full life and went to be her Lord only 44 days before her 103rd birthday. What a blessing she was to each member of her family and her many friends. She was an inspiration and spiritual witness until the very end of her long life. She will be missed, however we praise the Lord she is now enjoying the fruits of heaven.

Kathy and Dick Hills

*You put a song in my heart...  
 thank you!*

Dear TFBC,  
 Thank you for the beautiful hydrangea plant! It's gorgeous!  
 Thank you for your prayer, calls, cards, etc. [when Bill's sister passed away].  
 We really appreciated the calls from Pastor Charlie and Pastor Rog.  
 Our love,  
 Bill & Nona [Morgan]



**You are invited:  
 December 14, 2014 ~ 1:00 p.m.  
 to Randy Rudé's 90th Birthday Party  
 In the Rec Room at their condo:  
 18325 Van Ness Avenue in Torrance  
 RSVP: 310/324-1387**



*Widow's Tea  
 December 12, 11:30 a.m.*

Widows of any age are invited to meet here at TFB at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 12. You will be treated to a special luncheon that day. Space is limited so RSVP to the church office as early as possible.

*Loaves & Fishes  
 Update*



Our **Christmas meal** will be served on **December 6**. Spiral hams (3) and **cooked** turkeys (7) as well as casseroles & salads (green beans, sweet potatoes, 3-bean, etc.) would be appreciated. Praise the Lord, we have all the items for the hygiene bags and also have enough socks to give out to our guests. We still need toys (\$15 value) and/or \$15 Target gift cards for children and teens. If you are able to provide any of the above, we need them before the end of November.

Please contact Linda Stratton, 310/328-5371, with any questions and/or to volunteer to help.

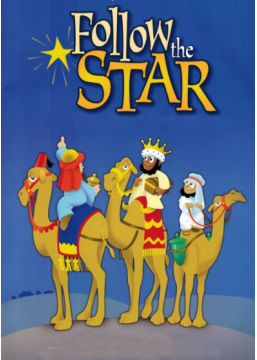


*Combined  
 Service*

*December 28 ~ 10 a.m.*

There will be one combined service for everyone on Sunday, December 28, at 10 a.m. Pastor Jay will be preaching since Pastor Charlie will be on vacation. There will be Children's Church but no Sunday School.

# TFB December Kidz Ministry



## Christmas Musical

Hey Kidz! it's not too late to join us on Wednesday nights (6:45-8:15 p.m.) as we prepare for our upcoming musical.

**Dress Rehearsal**  
(December 13 – Time TBA)  
**Performance**  
(December 14—6:00 p.m. )

Following our performance, ALL TFB Kidz are invited to our Christmas Party in the basement while the Celebration Choir performs.

# Quest

**Christmas Party**  
**Wednesday,**  
**December 17**  
**(6:45-8:15 p.m.)**

Snacks, Gift Exchange & Christmas Fun fill the evening as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!



Make plans to be with us,  
and bring a friend!

## High School Happenings



**Saturday**  
**November 29**  
**11 a.m.**



**Sunday**  
**December 21**  
**6 p.m.**

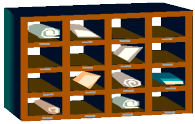


**Help with Loaves & Fishes**  
**Saturday**  
**December 6**  
**11 a.m.**

**Tuesday**  
**December 23**  
**7 p.m.**



# CAROLING



## Christmas Card Exchange

The box is in the foyer as a courtesy to all who attend TFB. You may put your Christmas cards to other current TFB attendees in the box which will save you the expense of mailing them. Put cards in the slots which correspond to the recipient's last name. The office will not be able to mail any cards that are not picked up, so be sure and check to see if there are any for you.



Pick up one of the beautiful 2015 calendars for yourself or as a gift or both. The cost is \$8 each or 2 for \$15.

2015 *God's Creation*



## Flower Calendar

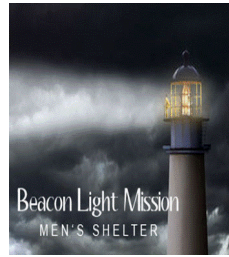
For 2015

Our new Flower Calendar for next year is available in the foyer. If you would like to celebrate a special event in your life or honor a loved one, please sign up to reserve your preferred date. The cost is \$50 per arrangement—one sign-up per date, please. Payment may be made any time before your chosen date. Please choose one date per family until all have had an opportunity to sign up.

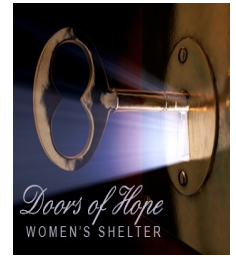


## Gifts for Needy Children through Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has give us 30 “angels,” each marked with the name, age and request from one needy child, who would like a Christmas gift this year. If you are interested, you may choose an “angel” in the patio today, fulfill the request and return it to the office.



## Christmas Items Needed for Beacon Light Mission & Doors of Hope



525 N. Broad Avenue  
Wilmington 90744  
310/830-7063

**Food:** Turkeys (20 lbs. or larger), large canned hams, Mrs. Cubbison's Dressing, instant mashed potatoes (largest box), whole milk (gallon jugs), Ranch Dressing (gallon jugs), Swanson's chicken broth, poultry seasoning (large jar), olives (black & green), cranberry sauce, corn starch, celery, onion, carrots, and salad mix.

### Unwrapped Gifts

**Men ~ 100 each:** razors; travel size shaving cream, deodorant, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, handkerchiefs, nail clippers, T-shirts (L-3X), sweatshirts (25-L; 45-XL & 45-3X); and assorted gift items.

**Women ~** shampoo, combs/brushes, nail sets, P.J.'s & T-shirts (M to XXXL), socks, bar soaps, deodorants, and assorted gift items.

**Kids ~ 10 each:** Clothing for babies to teens, games, & toys. No stuffed toys, please.

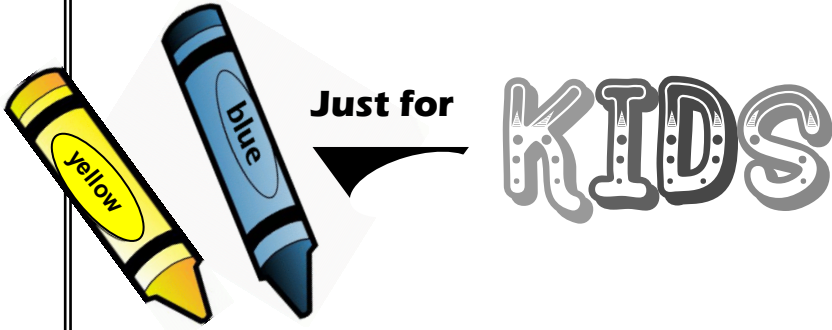
**Miscellaneous items:** blankets, jackets, jeans, sweaters, caps, gloves, belts, tennis shoes, candy bars, apples & oranges.

**Please take your items directly to Beacon Light at least 7 days before Christmas. Monetary donations are also appreciated.**



Due January 5

**Attention all Committee Chairmen and Group Leaders,** please note that your reports are due on or before January 5, 2015, so they can be included in the 2014 Year-End Report that will be made available to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2015.



# Born king of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-2 says that after Jesus was born, wise men came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" Complete the puzzle to discover what they found in Bethlehem.

*Directions: In the grid below, draw lines by starting at the first number in each list and stopping at the last.*



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|-------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 16-17       | 28-17-6  | 61-50-39     | 8-7-18   | 106-96-85-97-107-106 | 42-41-52-63-64-53           |
| 3-14-25     | 36-47-58 | 104-105-106  | 38-49-60 | 89-100-111-123       | 107-108-109-120-130         |
| 2-3-4       | 5-16-27  | 19-18-29-30  | 69-79-89 | 80-92-103-104        | 125-135-134-124-123-133-134 |
| 40-51-62-39 | 37-47-59 | 105-95-84-96 |          | 124-125-126-127-128  | 69-80-91-102-103            |
|             |          |              |          | 129-130-142-141-129  | 141-140-128-129             |

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
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34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
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45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
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56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
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67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
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78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
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89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
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100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
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111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121
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122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143

# "Away in a Manger" PLATE



Make this special plate as a gift to give this Christmas.

### What you need:

- Clear glass plate
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush and water
- Black permanent marker

### What you do:

1. Turn plate upside-down on table. Paint one of your palms brown, and press it on the center of the plate.
2. Rotate the plate so fingers point down. Using yellow paint, make a straw bed in the palm.
3. Mix white and brown paint for Jesus' face. Use white paint for a swaddled body.
4. Paint a yellow star above Jesus and a yellow border around the plate rim.
5. When paint is dry, turn plate over. With the marker, draw dots for Jesus' eyes and write the words of Luke 2:12 around the plate rim.





## *Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship*

*Please remember that game night and dinner night are great opportunities to invite friends, whether they attend TFB, go to another church, or don't go to church at all.*



**Game Night:** Meet at Gloria Pederson's, 817 Amapola Avenue, Old Town, Torrance, on **Saturday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m.** Bring games and snacks to share.



**Dinner Out ~ Saturday, December 27, 6:30 p.m. ~** Meet at Szechwan Chinese Restaurant, 2107 Pacific Coast Highway in Lomita.



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

## *O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.  
We'll praise His Name forever, Christ the Lord.  
We'll give Him all the glory, Christ the Lord.  
For He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord.

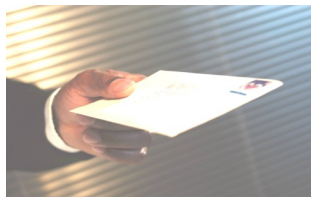
**Adore Him.** Gaze upon His attributes and just allow yourself to be in awe of Him in all of Who He is.

**Praise His Name.** Sing and shout praise for those attributes, and what a blessing they are to you, forever!

**Give Him all the glory.** He is the reason for every good thing - no one else deserves any glory.

**For He alone is worthy.** He is the only one without sin. The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. Our Maker, Redeemer, Healer and Friend.

Yes, let us adore and praise Him, giving Him all the glory for **He alone** is the only one worthy!



*We Get  
More Mail*

Thank you to my church family for all who sent cards, flowers and some of themselves with dinners and just a pat on the back. A special thanks to Debbie Nawa, Terri Mullin and Sue Hetticher, for their help in bringing Sue home from New York & caring for her in her final couple of weeks. And the planning of Sue's memorial service was a true labor of love.

The Lord has truly blessed our lives.  
Steve Miller and family



## *More Christmas Giving Opportunities*

### **Pastor Appreciation**

The Deacons have set up a special fund for the congregation to show their appreciation to the Pastoral Staff, which includes Charlie, Rog, and Jay, through December 21. Please mark your envelope “Pastor Appreciation.”

*“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching” (1 Timothy 5:17 ESV).*



Each year we take an offering to help 2 or 3 missionary families at Christmas. We will be letting you know soon who the monetary gifts will go to.

Make a TFB missionary’s Christmas a bit brighter.

### **Christmas Food Baskets**

Please call the church office with the names of anyone in our church family that is in need, and who you know would appreciate a Christmas Basket provided by our Deaconesses.



## *Smile Awhile*



## *Upside Down?*

Even amid increased secularization, God makes the core Christmas message known. Take, for example, the story of a “winter pageant” a mother attended at her son’s grade school. Songs of reindeer, snow and Sana included one titled “Christmas Love,” in which the youngest performers held up letters as the song progressed: “C,” “H,” etc.

When a little girl unknowingly held her “M” upside down, the older kids snickered and the adult audience smiled acceptingly. But as the song drew to a close and all the letters were revealed, surprised recognition struck the Christians in the room.

“CHRISTWAS LOVE,” read the string of student-borne letters. God’s truth had penetrated the human clutter and confusion around Christmas — as it has power to do throughout our lives: “Christ was love.” And of course, He still is.

## News & Prayer Letter from the Meyers

### TFB Global Outreach News



Andrew with his biological parents.



Sonja bravely tastes stuffed grape leaves.

### Reunion in Turkey

Nearly 40 years after giving us legal custody of their son, Andrew's parents are reunited with their 3rd child. His father told us, "I don't regret doing it."

We made a 2-week trip to Turkey in October, taking Andrew and his wife, Sonja, to meet Andrew's biological family living in Istanbul and Adana.

Umut the youngest brother, took us to the Covered Bazar. Andrew speaks no Turkish, so Kraig was the translator for all the bargaining.

Sonja handled some pretty tough cultural situations very well with the Lord's help.

All of Andrew's ten siblings were welcoming, loving and gracious to us. Each thanked us for bringing Andrew *home*. It seemed they had given up hope of seeing him again. His older brother, Genghis, showed unabashed affection to the brother he said he had *lost*.

Sister, Perihan, who found Andrew on Facebook, prepared a Turkish wedding party for Andrew and Sonja. She's wearing a traditional red bridal veil (left) as we all dance.



We had hoped to visit a Turkish evangelical church with some of Andrew's family members. In fact, there was no time at all to do this, but where would we have gone? Istanbul has 14.1 million people; while there are churches for Russians, Greeks, Assyrians, Germans, Armenians, Catholics, Anglicans and many others, only a handful of congregations use the Turkish language for worship. Most of them are small. In Adana, where much of the family lives, there are 2 small, struggling congregations, and Adana has 4.1 million people. **Turks in general—like Andrew's family members—have almost NO ACCESS to an evangelical church.**

Pray for the Christian TV channel broadcast from Cyprus, Christian radio programs and books, Christian websites and Internet Chat rooms, and for those who serve in Turkey for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for Turkish pastors and evangelists and for ordinary Turkish brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for Andrew's continued testimony among his Muslim family members. God hears and answers our prayers beyond what we ask or imagine!

Serving with you and the Holy Spirit,  
Kraig and Susan Meyer



We received over 300 filled shoeboxes (including several from the El Segundo United Methodist Church) which will be on their way to children all over the world.

Thank you for participating in this wonderful outreach to children who will receive gifts as well as hear the Gospel message. Pray for them.

# Reflections

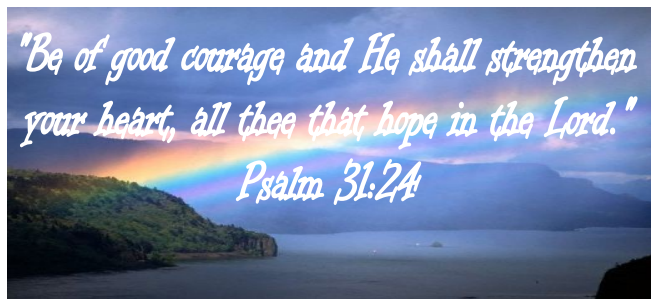
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mean by this statement? The fact is that being known by others seems to drive us more than being known by God. Sadly, too often we long to be the main character of our story, when what makes us “successful” is having the Lord with us. The fact is often forgotten that the pain which Joseph endured was instrumental in preserving the nation that would bring forth the Messiah. This godly man’s trials were indications of God’s presence with him, not His absence.

Here’s the point we need to consider... Are we willing to serve the Lord faithfully when everything is falling down around us? Will we be faithful to our Lord when we don’t understand how He is leading us? If we judge “success” in terms of achievement alone, we will be tempted to rebel against the Lord when times of hardship and disappointment come.

Certainly there are moments of reward and victory along the way, but life affords many difficulties as well. The bottom line in our service for the Lord is that He looks for FAITHFULNESS...not success, and so our eyes must be on Him and our lives yielded to Him. This was true of Joseph. May it be true of us as well.

Looking only to Him,  
**Pastor Rog**



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

- Des Birmingham lost his step-dad, Ivan Swartz;
- Bill Morgan lost his sister, Betsy Easton; and
- long-time member Carol May is now with the Lord.



*2015 Envelopes Available Now*

New envelopes are available in the patio for those who already have assigned numbers. Please be sure and pick yours up for the upcoming new year.

Anyone who does not have numbered envelopes and would like them for next year, you too can stop by the table in the patio and put in your request or call the office to let us know.

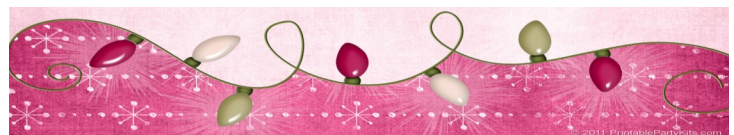


*Sonseekers' Christmas Party  
December 6 ~ 6 p.m.*

Sonseekers, past and present, are all welcome to attend our Annual Christmas Party at the Bundoc home on Saturday, December 6. The cost will be \$7.50 per person with an optional \$10 gift exchange.

Please sign up to bring a side dish to share and pay in the patio by November 30.

Any questions? Contact Teresa Bundoc at 310/373-1313.



*TFB Tithes and Offerings*



Thank you for giving approximately \$51,657 in the month of October.

## *Operation Bake & Take* Ministry Opportunity to our Shut-ins

The holiday season, which is so joyful to many, is actually a time of sadness for those who are shut-in and alone. “Operation Bake and Take” will give you a chance to reach out to others. You may bake cookies (frozen cookie dough will be available at the church for your convenience) and take them to a shut-in. Can’t bake — no problem. The visit is the most important part of this gift. Please consider spreading holiday cheer by visiting one of our shut-ins in December. If this is something that the Lord would have you do, please stop by the Outreach Table in the patio and sign up, pick up cookie dough (if needed) and get helpful instructions.



*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 *TFBKidz* for children.

For more information, contact the church office: 310.328.5030 or [info@fbclife.org](mailto:info@fbclife.org) or visit us on the web at [www.fbclife.org](http://www.fbclife.org)