

# the Proclaimer

April 2016

Volume 29 Issue 4

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We know as Christian women, your days are filled with busy schedules, commitments and responsibilities. Take a break from the busyness and plan on going to Thousand Pines' Women's Retreat for a weekend to re-charge both spiritually and physically. Take this opportunity to hear some great teaching, spend time relaxing, listening for the Lord, and reflecting amidst the beauty of the mountains. Be pampered with gourmet meals, professional massages, afternoon tea, and other special activities.



[www.fayanna.com](http://www.fayanna.com)

### Our Speaker will be Fayanna Worrell.

Fayanna has been speaking for 23 years. She feels so blessed to encourage others to live life to the fullest and it is her prayer that at every chance she gets to inspire and challenge women; it will make them think hard about what really matters most: their relationship they have with Jesus Christ and what they plan to do with it.

**Tori Dawn will be our Worship Leader.** Tori is a worship leader at Sandals Church in Southern California and is passionate about leading God's people into authentic times of worship through song.



### Cost:

- Rustic Housing - \$154 per person, restrooms in cabin, and shower house a short walk away
- Standard Housing - \$169 per person, cabin includes full bath
- "Glamping" - \$185 per person. Must be booked by 4 person groups

*Registration price includes a video of your weekend!*

**Sign up in the patio.**

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

## From the Pastor's Heart



When I was a freshman in high school, a friend of mine and I decided to try out for the basketball team. So in preparation we agreed to practice together. But my friend kept having things come up that interfered with our practices. I ended up spending most of the time practicing the various skill drills alone while being frustrated with my friend.

Well, my friend never made the team. He, of course, gave

numerous reasons why and said that next year would be different. But I could see that he was not all that interested in playing basketball. It was in truth simply just a game to him—a fun activity. He never was passionate about the game.

On the other hand, I was. I spent lots of extra hours developing my game. Why? Because I was passionate about the game. I loved the game. I wanted to be the best I could be. No one had to try to motivate me when it came to basketball. I was already highly motivated.

Recently God has shown me an area in my spiritual life that is in need of help. And He has shown me that I am not very motivated in that spiritual area of my life. In that area, I am more like my friend: interested, yes; agree with God He wants this in my life, yes; motivated, not so much.

If I were to ask you in what areas of your spiritual life are you motivated, what would you say? And then if I would ask, how is it obvious in your life that you are spiritually motivated in those spiritual areas, what would be your answer? Would your answer to the first question change as a result?

God has shown me that in the areas of our spiritual walk that are lacking, one way to increase the motivation starts with a heart level honesty with Him. The beauty of this is that you and I can be this honest without any fear of judgment or rejection because of God's love and grace towards us.

This level of open honesty with God truly invites God to work in us. So I invite you to open yourself up to God-directed honesty with Him and see how He increases your spiritual desires and motivation.

Pastor Charlie

## Reflections

by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

You and I will probably never know how the Lord may use our lives to impact others, but use them, He will.

Recently, while on Facebook, a notice popped up that one of my former students was having a birthday. *Blake* (not his real name) was a great kid and though he had a tender heart, he had a “chip” on his shoulder. I not only taught this young man but also coached him. He had tons of potential but that “chip” on his shoulder always got in the way. To make it short, *Blake* is

now 38 years old and has lived a wasted life. He's been in and out of jail and currently is incarcerated. Out of the blue, as we say, his mom contacted me. We hadn't talked since the 1980's. As you can imagine, her heart is beyond broken. *Blake* has been on the street for so long (drugs, gangs, jail, near death experiences), she's almost beyond caring. It was my privilege to reach out to her once again with words of encouragement, God's Word and prayer.

It's in times such as these



(when all seems hopeless) that we can come alongside others and remind them that there is One Who truly desires to stand by them and lift them up. His name is Jesus. In thinking of this dear mom, I earnestly desired her to know the truth of Psalm 34:18:

*“The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in Spirit.”*

Continued on p. 9



## *Cupcakes Needed for Sunday, April 3*



Sign up in the patio or call the church office if you can bring some cupcakes to help celebrate March and April birthdays during the patio fellowship time.



## *Passover Seder Wednesday, April 27 6 p.m.*

In conjunction with our Wednesday Night Family Dinner, we will be having a Passover Seder as a way to connect with the heritage of our own Christian beliefs and to see how the practices of the ancient world are still relevant to Christianity today.

The Seder plate (above) is a special plate containing six symbolic foods used during the Passover Seder. Each of the six items arranged on the plate have special significance to the retelling of the story of the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt.

Learn what each food represents to the Jews and taste some of the elements. You will also:

- see how Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us;
- see the Lamb of God pictured in the Old Testament and revealed in the New;
- appreciate Communion, its roots in the Last Supper and the significance of God's promise, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you";
- and ➤ have the opportunity to bring family and friends to a clear presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Please make a reservation by signing up in the patio or calling the church office.**



a.k.a.

## **Parents' Date Night**

*Friday, April 15  
6-9 p.m.*

Leave the kids (infants through 5th grade) to have dinner and a movie with us while you enjoy a night out together. We are asking for a \$3 donation.

## *Believe Series*

*Coming in  
April & May*



## FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

love,  
joy,  
peace,  
patience,  
kindness,  
goodness,  
faithfulness,  
gentleness,  
and self-control



Galatians 5:22-23

## **Flower Calendar**



# 2016

Our Flower Calendar for 2016 has several dates still available. If you would like to celebrate a special event in your life or honor a loved one, please call the church office 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. The following dates are still open: 8/21 & 28, 9/4, 10/16 & 30, 11/13, 20, & 27, and 12/18 & 25.



News

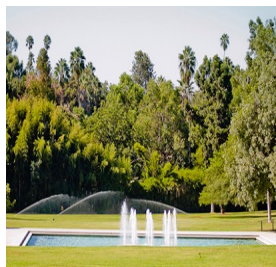


• **High School Girls Retreat:** On the weekend of **April 1-3**, at Ann's cabin in Lake Arrowhead, the high school girls will enjoy fellowship, Bible study, board games, and food. See Ann Pursche or Jenny Marion for more details.



• **High School Lock-in:** On **Friday night April 8**, the high school students will spend the whole night on the church campus, watching movies, playing tag, and having fun! This event is open to all high students and their friends.

• **Photowalk at L.A. Arboretum:** For any photographers (of any age or experience level), we're taking a morning walk around the L.A. Arboretum in Arcadia. On **Saturday, April 23**, meet at TFB at **10 a.m.**, then carpool over. Admission is \$9/person, and we may go to lunch afterwards (return around 2 p.m.?) We'll walk the grounds, share photo and camera tips and tricks, and fellowship together.



April Events



**MOVIE NIGHT**

**April 8 (Friday) ~ 6:30-8:45 p.m.**

Meet at Peter & Ellie's, 25529 Cypress in Lomita



**Build-a-Fort Night**  
**April 22 (Friday)**

Meet in the Jr. High Room  
from **6:30-8 p.m.**  
Bring your Nerf gun.

## Check your Blind Spot...

By Daniel Marion

I go to church on Sunday, I stand up during the music and praise time, and I have a Bible app on my phone. I have all my bases covered, right? Maybe not. Try to honestly and thoughtfully ask yourself: "WHAT WOULD IT REALLY TAKE FOR ME TO BE THE KIND OF CHRISTIAN I WANT TO BE?"

If you're having a hard time coming up with something solid, maybe one of these will stand out to you:

1. Personal Discipleship – Is there someone you really respect as a mature Christian that has qualities that you'd really like in your life? Find someone who has a similar spiritual gift set, similar personality, and similar challenges, and meet them for lunch at least once a month.
2. Christian Fellowship – Have regular conversations with your Christian friends where you don't just ask, "How's it going?" Instead, ask them questions centered on Christ, like, "Is there a scripture/sermon/song that you've been thinking about lately?" or "How can I pray for you?"
3. Serving the Body of Christ – Do you have a regular commitment to serve in children's ministry, sing/play on a worship team, or lead/host a fellowship group? No?! Well, get to it! The Body of Christ desperately needs every one of its members, and you need the rest of us!
4. Bible Study – Simply reading the Bible doesn't do anything. What's important is meditating on it, discussing it in a fellowship group, and asking the Spirit of God to teach you how to apply the truth of God's Word in your life.

Did one of these stand out to you? Mentally highlight it. That might be the Holy Spirit's way of giving you some specific, timely direction on how to grow in your relationship with God and with His people. If you're not sure how to do it, ask a pastor, elder, or deacon, and we'll pray with you that God will lay out a clear path for you. He honors those who diligently seek after Him.



## *Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship*

*Please invite anyone of any age to join us.*

**Dinner Night ~ Saturday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.** ~ Meet at Tantalice Thai, 23770 S. Western, in Harbor City (the south end of "The Skating Edge" ice rink).



**Game Night ~ Saturday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.** ~ Meet at the church. Bring games and snacks to share. Contact Sue, 310/534-0995, if you have any questions.



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

### *"God is All Knowing (Omniscience)"*

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

What could happen? It's a question often asked right before we do something foolish. The truth is there are many things that could happen, and we do not know what they are. We can plan and make projections, but we cannot know what tomorrow brings. We can be caught off guard. God cannot be caught off guard.

God's knowledge of reality is limitless. He knows what happens and what could happen. God's knowledge of himself is limitless. He always knows his motivations and purposes; his decisions and actions are intentional. His awareness cannot be hindered, and his attention cannot falter.

God's righteous knowledge perceives and understands the actual about us. Every creature comes before him to be judged (Hebrews 4:11-13). His knowledge increases fear when we sin because we cannot hide from his justice. His knowledge also increases rest, because his discipline can only be understood in the context of his constant, loving attention.

God's compassionate knowledge understands and redeems, even when our hearts do not understand it (1 John 3:19-22). He is tender with us, for he remembers we are dust (Psalm 103:13-14). He knows we forget that salvation covers everything. He knows we tend to see our sin before we remember his mercy and grace.

*"God's compassionate  
knowledge understands and  
redeems, even when our  
hearts do not understand it."*

Christ's experiential knowledge of temptation informs and shapes his knowledge of his people (Hebrews 4:14-16). Because Jesus is God, we may think that it was easy for Jesus to withstand temptation. But Jesus is also fully human. He lived a righteous life on earth by trusting his Father and the Spirit. In reality, Jesus understands temptation more deeply than any other human because only he endured it to the end without ever giving in. He alone has felt temptation's full force, and he understands our plight.

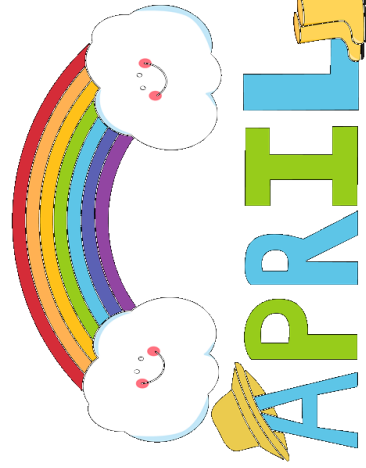
We don't know everything. A quick look at Wikipedia reminds us that there is a good deal more to know than any one human ever could. The good news is that God, the one with limitless love and power, also knows absolutely everything. In him we are safe.

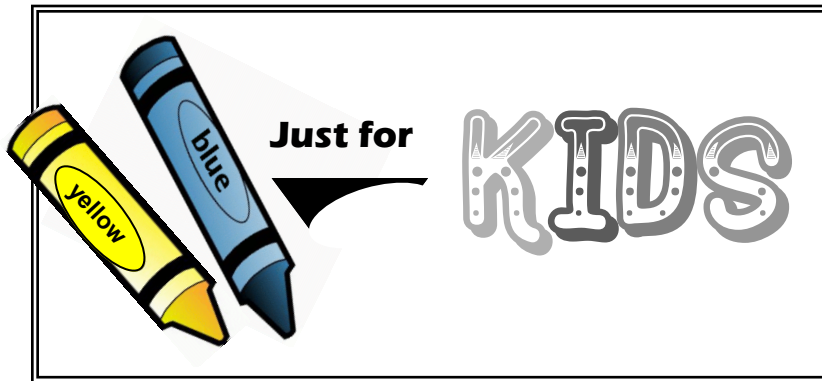


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Recurring Weekly Events:
					1 April Fool's Day Anx. reserved all day: Loaves/Fishes 7p Young Marrieds H.S. Girls' Retreat	2 11a Loaves & Fishes 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out H.S. Girls' Retreat	<b>Sunday</b> <b>Worship Services:</b> 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Adult Sunday School, 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. Covenant Children's S.S., 11 a.m. Covenant (Korean) Worship, 12:45 p.m. Covenant (Korean) Fellowship, 2 p.m.
3 2p Sing @ Royalwood	4	5	6	7 7p Beacon Light Mission	8 6:30 Jr. High Movie Night 7p NeXus (college) 7p HS Lock-in	9 9a End of H.S. Lock-in	<b>Monday</b> Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m. King's Family Karate, 6:30 p.m. Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14 7p Contemporary Vocal Practice	15 6p Kids' Night Out 7p Young Marrieds	16 6:30p Singles' Game Night 7pm Share & Care	<b>Tuesday</b> Classical Conversations, 8:30 a.m. High School Revive, 7 p.m.
17	18 7p Finance Team	19 6p Ministry Teams: GO, Fellowship, Outreach, Worship, Disc. Dev. & FMT 7p Deacon/ess	20	21 7p Contemporary Vocal Practice	22 6:30 Jr. High <i>Build-a-fort</i> 7p NeXus (college)	23 10a HS & Others Photo Walk @ L.A. Arboretum	<b>Wednesday</b> Family Dinner, 6 p.m. Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m. Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m. Small Group Bible Study, 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice, 7 p.m. Covenant (Korean) Bible Study, 8 p.m. Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m. [No volleyball 4/27]
24	25	26	27 6p Passover Seder	28	29 2p Ladies leave for 1000 Pines (until 5/1)	30	<b>Thursday</b> H.S. Band Practice, 7 p.m.
							<b>Friday</b> Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m.
							<b>Saturday</b> Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m. Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m. H.S. Guys/Gals Bible Study, 10 a.m. [No HS Bible study 4/23]

## Upcoming May Events:

- 5/7 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 5/14 ~ Men's Breakfast, 9a
- 5/14 ~ Mother's Day Tea
- 5/20 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 5/28 ~ Colossians Kids Grand Prix





## A SPECIAL GIFT

Give thanks to God for this amazing planet, which he filled with people, animals and plants.

*Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



The \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, and  
 \_\_\_\_\_, the  
 \_\_\_\_\_, and  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 24:1, NIV

Answer: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1, NIV

# SHAVING CREAM EARTH

God created this wonderful world and told us to care for it. Remember that by making a unique painting.



### What you need:

- A cookie sheet
- White shaving cream
- A wooden craft stick
- Paint (blue and green)
- A straw
- A paper plate

### What you do:

1. On the cookie sheet, spray shaving cream in a circle (the same size as the bottom of the paper plate). Smooth it out with the craft stick.
2. Squirt the blue and green paint on top of the shaving cream in loopy, squiggly patterns. Swirl the paint around with the straw.
3. Place the bottom of the paper plate on top of the paint. Press it down gently so the whole plate bottom is covered in paint.
4. Lift up the plate and gently remove excess shaving cream with the stick.
5. After the painting dries, hang it on your wall.

## Newsletter Excerpts from the Feltons with Go Ye Fellowship



### Winter Campout

We visited Carpenteria campground this year for our winter campout after taking a year off and going to El Capitan last year. It was encouraging to have a good number show up, around 25-30 total. **Some of the highlights for me** was getting to meet Shawn, another recent Ventura County Rescue Mission graduate. Hearing stories of God's redemption,

deliverance from sin/addiction and ongoing sanctification never gets old. It was really good to have him come as well as Taylor and Michael, also from the Mission.

**Another treat was getting to spend time** talking to [a young man named] Daniel after I shared the message Saturday night. The message was about the commands of Christ that Jesus taught us to teach his disciples, fulfilling the Great Commission. It hit home for him and he wanted to talk about it afterwards. . . . He is 21 and a Christian. He is very focused, works a lot and spends his spare time apprenticing to be an electrician. It was refreshing to meet someone that is concerned for his co-workers salvation and committed to live a life honoring to God. I was able to encourage him to continue on that path as well as knowing that he is welcome at any of our meetings to continue to be mutually encouraged to pursue a life of holiness and obedience to Christ.

**Another blessing was getting to meet Tamara** . . . who was saved and subsequently freed from drug addiction and eating disorders. Now she works at a center to help others with these exact problems. Her stories of what she encounters on a daily basis with those suffering from these things were heart wrenching. Again it reminded me of all of God's people that day in and day out are on mission, loving others, making an eternal difference in this world.

**All in all**, a very encouraging time and a time where Christ was shared, the Word was opened, relationships were built and the Kingdom was advanced. Praise Him! Looking forward to the next one already!

### Surfer's Meals

We restarted the Surfers Meals at Olas de Carlos Surf Grill in January and it has been very good. Last month we met Taylor through the meal and this month we had Jeremy join us. I was especially blessed by the end of the meal last night when I got to know my friend Michael N. a little bit better (he works part time at Olas). He shared some of his story with Jeremy and I outside after the meal. It was awesome to hear about him serving the Lord by volunteering with troubled youth and youth in general. [By meeting with] Hardcore gang members with murder rap sheets, he is able to be a father figure and make a difference. We compared that to most surfers who we run across and how they are unable to see their need for God. Pride stands in their way. These bangers know who they are and where they are coming from, they have no pretenses about their need for God. James 4:6 says, "But He gives more grace. [That is why Scripture] says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'" We all need God, but it is only the humble who will see Him and experience His grace.

**In family news, the kids** are doing a good job in school, Allison continues her work and we have been enjoying having my parents here. They [just left] to go back to Alaska . . . . The kids have their next belt tests in Krav Maga . . . and are training for that. Our local church, Ventura Baptist, had an announcement that our pastor of nearly 40 years is retiring to go into missions full time. Please keep our local body, the new replacement and Pastor Lewis mission endeavors in your prayers.

### **From the Editor and Global Missions:**

We receive many interesting letters from our missionaries, but due to sensitive locations where they are based, we are unable to publish some of them. If you have a concern or an interest in any of our missionaries that we do not publish in the *Proclaimer*, you may come to the office to read their latest message to the church.



# Reflections

Continued from p. 2

This I know, the Lord Jesus loves *Blake* and desires to see him healed and made whole, but *Blake* must desire the Lord to work in his life and for Jesus to be the Lord of his life. Jesus will not force him, but He is earnestly reaching out to Him. As for his mom, she needs to realize once again, that Jesus is calling for her to give her BURDEN to Him. She cannot carry it alone. No one can!

Now, you may know someone, like *Blake's* mom, who is hurting and who is feeling all alone. Perhaps that someone is YOU. Please know this—the Lord Jesus is not only ready to help them, but you as well. Don't wait any longer. Get alone with Him and unburden your heart to Him. He can carry whatever you give Him. Psalm 55:22 tells us:

*"Cast your cares (burdens) on the Lord and He shall sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken."*

We serve a LOVING, LIVING, POWERFUL GOD Who desires to have a part in every area of our lives How thankful I am, though He is all powerful, that He bends low to minister to us in our time of need. What a blessing it is to know Him. Praise You, Jesus!

Still casting my burdens on Him,  
**Pastor Rog**



*We Get Mail*

Dear TFB,

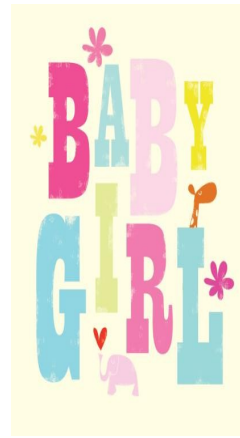
Bob and I just want to thank you so much for your prayers and cards following his recent surgery for prostate cancer. The procedure caused no pain at all, he was back to normal activities after only a week, and there is no more cancer! PTL!

Love in Christ,  
Andrea [Lavoie]

## TFB Tithes



Thank you for giving approximately \$43,176 in the month of February.



Jane & Gary McKenzie announce the birth of great-granddaughter Abigail Rose Reynolds born on March 16. She weighed 5 lbs. 13 oz. and was 18" long. Congratulations to mom, Katherine, and Grandma Sue Collins.

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

Paul Kim lost his father; the Salzer's niece, Audrey, is now with the Lord; Linda Stratton brother, Danny, passed away; and Gertie Wissinger lost her sister, Elsie Fells.



## Prayer Requests

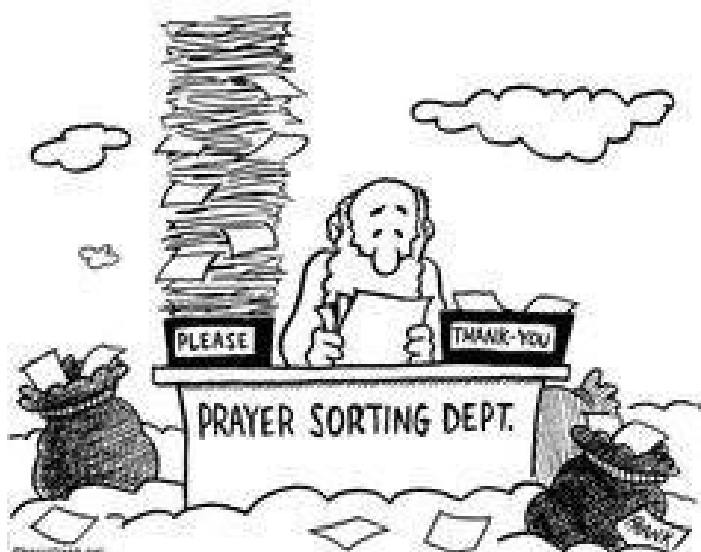
Please pray for the following from our church family who have on-going needs:

Michael Banfield, Loretta Barnett, Reba Belcher, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Gloria Deering, Leah Douglas, Robin Fisher, Virgie Fletcher, Earl & Jean Forman, Dutchess Gattis, Mary Jacobsen, Joanne Jenkins, Helen Kessenich, Joan Kindt, Mary Larsen, Doug Luden, Joy Moore, Dave & Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Jean Rayner, Nellie Rizzi, Barbara & Randy Rudé, Ralph Schatz, Mary Schultz, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Norma Vinsonhaler, Tammie Wakefield, Betty Wallace, Aggie Williams and Gertie Wissinger.



**CHURCH KEY INVENTORY:** We are trying to update our list of those with church keys. Please come by the office, call or drop us an email at [info@tfbclife.org](mailto:info@tfbclife.org) and let us know your name, what key(s) you have and what ministry you are using them for. If you wish to return unused ones, we'll take those too.

*Smile Awhile*



*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](mailto:tfbc@pacbell.net). Or visit us on the web at [www.torrancefirstbaptist.org](http://www.torrancefirstbaptist.org)