

Torrance First Baptist Church
the Proclaimer

December 2015 Volume 28 Issue



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*December 13
 6:00 p.m.*

Come enjoy a concert featuring our Worship Choir (under the direction of Randy Stager), our own Colossians Kids, and special guest Gospel pianist and entertainer, Jerry Nelson.

You won't want to miss this special tribute to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*"The Root of Jesse" Christmas Musical
 December 18 & 19 (Friday & Saturday)
 7:30 p.m.*

Your whole family will enjoy this original musical, "The Root of Jesse," that shows how God worked through the human lineage of Jesus to foreshadow His ministry and ultimate sacrifice on the Cross. Listen to the story of Ruth and Boaz, King David, and many other Messianic ancestors as they sing and portray God's faithfulness to provide a Savior.

Doors open at 7 p.m. with show time at 7:30.



Candlelight Service

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.tfbelife.org

From the Pastor's Heart



We are now officially in the Christmas season. For some of us, our hearts are full of praise and thanksgiving for all God has and is doing in our lives and in our families. This past year has been good. Our health is strong, our income is steady, our relationships are in a good place and our walk with God has grown.

For others of us it has been a tough year. We have lost loved ones, our own health has suffered, our income has been shaky while our bills have increased, we have struggled with relationships and maybe our walk with God has been somewhat distant.

What Christmas tell us is that whether in good or tough circumstances, there is a God in heaven Who loves and cares for us; a God Who invades time and space and works in our lives. And there is an eternity we are moving towards where all the struggles will end, and we will experience total joy and peace forever in the presence of God.

So we all can celebrate this Christmas—celebrate God, His goodness, His salvation, our future with Him and His incredible patience and love for us. Celebrate all that is good in our lives. God tells us to: *“Fix your thought on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise”* (Philippians 4:8, NLT).

My prayer is that your heart will be full of God’s presence, comfort and joy during this season.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Charlie

Reflections

by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

His name was Toyohiko Kagawa. He was an author (150 books), a teacher, a poet a scientist, and . . . an evangelist.

During World War II, he was imprisoned for his pacifistic views. Because of this, he suffered a great deal of sorrow and anguish, but he never ceased to love and serve God. While in prison, he often repeated three meaningful requests in his prayers: “Father forgive;” “God, let me live to serve;” and “O God, make me like Christ.”

From these 3 short requests, we can observe the spiritual depth of this dear man. He

desired his life to count for Christ even though he was hidden away in a dark prison cell, and he didn’t treat his captors as enemies. Yes, in the midst of a very difficult situation, he took to heart the words of our Lord in Luke 23:34: *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”* And in Matthew 30:82, our Lord said, *“He did not come to be served but to serve.”* How difficult this must have been for this dear man, but he persevered keeping his eyes on the Lord.

As I contemplate the life of this dear Christian, it’s clear to me that his requests need to be



on my lips as well. It’s so easy to get caught up in our own “little” world and forget that our lives really do impact others—negatively or positively. Though this man was locked up in a lonely prison, he gave a very positive testimony for the Lord to his guards. I wonder how I would have reacted under the same circumstances?

So many people are lost spiritually and they need to hear of the Lord Jesus. Will we tell them?

Women's Ministries

*3-in-1 Christmas Event
December 7, 6:45 p.m.*



&



Ladies, bring 2 dozen cookies, an ornament to exchange and some of your own special decorations to add to your live Christmas wreath. The cost is \$10. Sign up in the patio.



**Wednesday, December 16
6:00 p.m.**

Everyone is invited to join us for dinner (heavy hors d'oeuvres) and a Hanukkah Party. "Hanukkah," from the Hebrew word for "dedication" or "consecration," marks the re-dedication of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration by the forces of Antiochus IV and commemorates the "miracle of the container of oil." According to the Talmud, at the re-dedication following the victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucid Empire, there was only enough consecrated olive oil to fuel the eternal flame in the Temple for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, which was the length of time it took to press, prepare and consecrate fresh olive oil.

At our party here at TFB, we will learn the meaning of Hanukkah and celebrate with crafts and games that depict the Jewish culture of that day.



*"My Beloved
Widows"*

"Loving, Honoring and Caring for God's Beloved Widows."

*Luncheon
December 10 ~ 12 noon*

Widows of any age are invited to meet here at TFB at 12 noon on Thursday, December 10. You will be treated to a special luncheon that day. RSVP to the church office as early as possible.



a.k.a

PARENT'S

CHRISTMAS PREP

NIGHT

*Friday, December 18
5~9 p.m.*

Kids (infants through 5th grade) will have dinner and a movie, while the parents get four whole hours to themselves for shopping, wrapping, decorating, etc. while your children have a safe place to be entertained.



*December 27
10 a.m.*

**Combined
Worship Service**

Join us for a combined worship service led by Pastor Rog as Pastor Charlie will be on vacation. There will be Children's Church but no Sunday School.



The High School and College groups will join together at Sleepy Hollow on Tuesday night, **December 22**, to walk through the neighborhood and sing Christmas carols on street corners. Meet in the Tulita Elementary parking lot at 6:30 p.m.



December 15 ~ 7 p.m.



Praise the Lord

The College NeXus Retreat in Lake Arrowhead was blessed in fellowship and community last month. Seven young adults and four leaders spent time together discussing what it means to serve one another, and to BE THE CHURCH instead of just coming to church. Praise God for His faithfulness!



Jr. High QUEST

December 11

Junior High students will enjoy a FREE Christmas party on Friday, December 11, here at the church. Contact Peter Fuqua for time and more info.



Juniors' Christmas Pajama Party December 9

We'll have our regular family dinner at 6 p.m. but with a little twist. It will be **breakfast for dinner!**

Wear your favorite P.J.'s and join us for a Birthday Party (Christmas Edition) with games and lots of fun!

Parents can head over to Pastor Charlie's Bible Study.

WINTER CAMPS



Juniors ~ January 29-31 at Forest Home ~ \$165

Jr. High ~ February 5-6 at Thousand Pines ~ \$164

High School ~ February 12-15 at Thousand Pines ~ \$219

Sign up now with a \$50 deposit.

If you'd like to help a youngster go to camp, who could not otherwise afford it, you can donate to the "Camp Scholarship" Fund.



**SONSEEKERS’
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**December 5
6 p.m.**

Sonseekers’ Sunday School class attendees past and present are invited to join together at the Bundoc home. The cost is \$7 per person. Bring a gift for the gift exchange (maximum \$15) and a side dish. Contact Theresa by TEXT 310/936-9642 to RSVP or phone call if you have questions.

Christmas Giving Opportunities

Missionary

Christmas Offering
We give because He gave.

Each year we take an offering to help two or three of our missionary families at Christmas. This year’s honorees are Chuck & Elouise Corwin of Tyrannus Halls and Nick & Denie Bailey with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Make these TFB Missionaries’ Christmas a bit brighter with your gift.



Knit2Gether Group

From l. to r.: Irene Hardy, Beverly Broadstone, Pam Metz, Donna Hester, Isabel Springfield, Alicia Spitzer, and Anita Johnson. (Peggy Moore was absent for the picture.)

Pictured above, are many of the scarves our TFB Knit2Gether group made this year. Approximately 53 scarves were made and donated to Doors of Hope. The group meets together once a month (the last Tuesday of the month) at 6:30 p.m. to knit, crochet, or any other needlework you choose to bring. We always have a good time working and visiting with each other.

We would love to have any of you join us. We will begin again in January. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet—we will be glad to help you learn. For more info contact Pam, 310/320-9239.

A Gift for our Pastors



The Deacons have set up a special fund for the congregation to show their appreciation to the Pastoral Staff, which includes Charlie, Rog, and Daniel, and Karla through December 20. Please mark your envelope “Pastor Appreciation.”

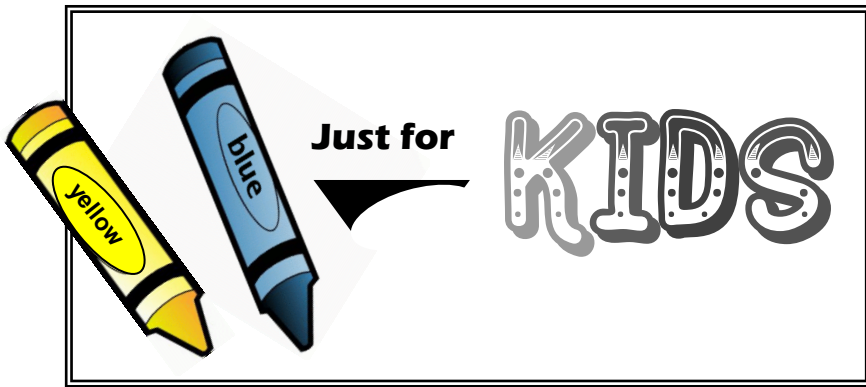
Pick up one of the beautiful 2016 calendars for yourself or as a gift or both. The cost is \$8.

God's Creation
2016 APPOINTMENT CALENDAR

SAMARITAN’S PURSE NEWS



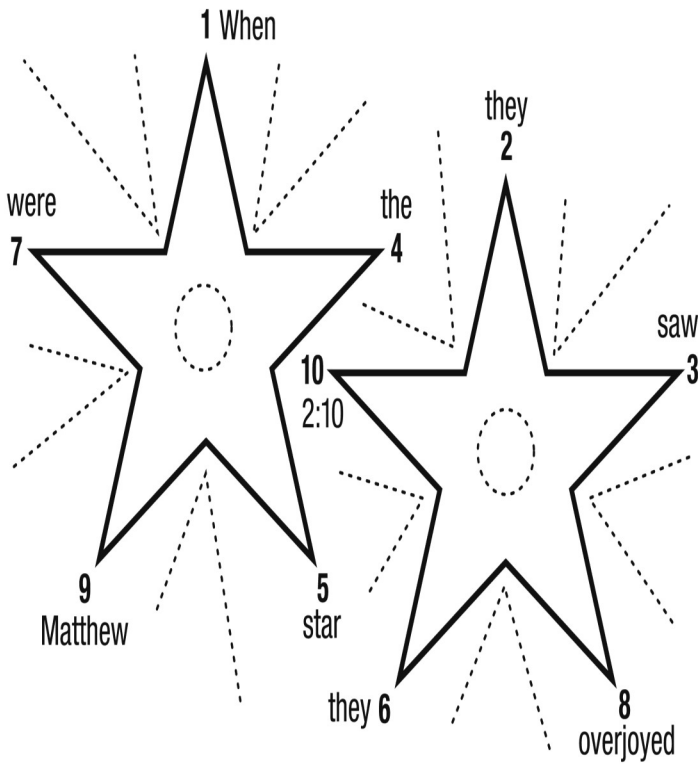
Thank you so much for giving to the shoebox ministry this year. We collected 210 shoeboxes to send to underprivileged children around the world!



The star of Christmas

When Jesus was born, a star led the wise men to him.

Directions: Place the words in order, by their numbers, on the blanks below to complete Matthew 2:10, NIV.



“ _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ ”
 _____ : _____ , NIV

Answer: “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” Matthew 2:10, NIV

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Make a mobile to remind you of Jesus' birth.



What you need:

- Paper plate
- Hole punch
- Thin blue ribbon
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Yellow craft foam
- Marker

What you do:

1. With the paper plate upside down, punch evenly spaced holes along the rim. Gently fold the plate and punch a hole in the center.
2. Cut pieces of ribbon, thread them through the holes as desired and tie the ribbons securely.
3. Trace several small stars and one larger star on the foam and cut them out. Punch a hole atop a point of each star.
4. Tie one small star to each outer-rim ribbon.
5. Thread a longer ribbon through the center hole and tie the large star to the other end.
6. Write a verse on the plate or large star. Hang the mobile from the ceiling with another piece of blue ribbon.

Recurring Weekly Events:

Sunday

Worship Services:

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.
[except on 12/27 Combined Service]
 Covenant Children's S.S., 11 a.m.
 Covenant (Korean) Worship, 12:45 p.m.
 Covenant (Korean) Fellowship, 2 p.m.

Monday

Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m.
 King's Family Karate, 6:30 p.m.
 Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m. **[12/8 only]**

Tuesday

Classical Conversations, 8:30 a.m.
 High School Revive, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Family Dinners, 6 p.m.
 Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m.
 Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m.
 Small Group Bible Study, 6:45 p.m.
 Choir Practice, 7 p.m.
 Covenant (Korean) Bible Study, 8 p.m.
 Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.
[not on 12/16 & 12/23]

Thursday

H.S. Band Practice, 7 p.m.

Friday

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

Saturday

Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m. **[12/5/only]**
 Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m.
 H.S. Guys/Gals Bible Study, 10 a.m.
[Please note that all scheduled events will not take place the last week of December due to Christmas.]

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		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
27	28	29	30	31		



December 2015

Upcoming January Events:

- 1/4 ~ Annual Reports Due
- 1/10 ~ Kids' Fundraiser, Spaghetti Lunch, 12n
- 1/16 ~ HS Scavenger Hunt, 2p
- 1/21 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 1/24 ~ Women's Kick-off Luncheon, 12:30p
- 1/29-31 ~ Juniors to Winter Camp



Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

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



Dinner Out ~ Saturday, December 5, at 6:30 p.m. Meet at Szechwan Chinese Food, 2107 Pacific Coast Highway, in Lomita. Any questions, call Brenda-Jean Shephard, 310/901-0816.



Game Night ~ There will be no Game Night in December. Contact Gloria, 562/505-4495, if you have any questions.



Singles, please note: Dinner Out will now be on the first Saturday of the month and Game Night will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

TFB Academy "Looking Ahead to Now"

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

The Church is the People of God, the New Humanity, the Fellowship of the Holy Ones, and the Body of Christ. Our identity is sure (Ephesians 2:11-22; 4:11-16; 1 Peter 1:13-21). But becoming Christ-like as persons in community takes time. Developing the skills and habits of unity and diversity takes time (Ephesians 2:17-22; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26).

We look ahead to Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of the life of trust (Hebrews 12:1-2). By looking ahead to Jesus, we are looking ahead to now. He keeps us on course and teaches us what real life looks like. He is the Lord, the Last Adam, the Holy One, and the Head. He is the one to whom we look in our process of becoming.

"...mutual imitation happens as we spend life together."

What is this process? In Philippians 4, Paul gives his readers two commands as guidance: think and practice (vv. 8-9). Each command is plural, given to persons in community. Paul instructs his readers to think together on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise. The Books of Scripture and Nature are replete with such things.

Paul also instructs them to practice what they have learned, received, heard, and seen in Paul. He called them to follow Jesus by imitating fellow believers as they follow Jesus. This mutual imitation happens as we spend life together.

As a community, TFB has created spaces in which we can think and practice together. The three Sunday worship gatherings, Sunday School, weekday small groups, workdays, and outings offer spaces to think and practice as community. These opportunities are the starter set, the foundation for a daily life of thinking and practicing among fellow Christians.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:8-9, ESV).



*Smile
Awhile*

The Lord Is My Shepherd

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible — Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

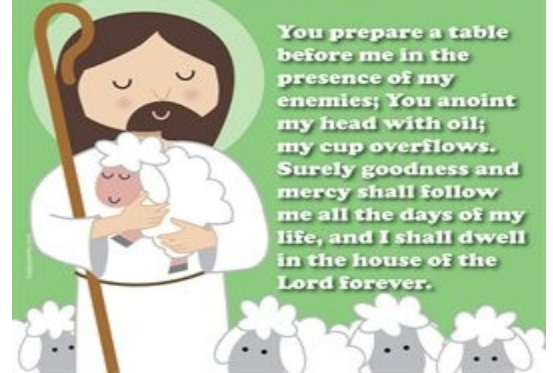
Little Rick was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.

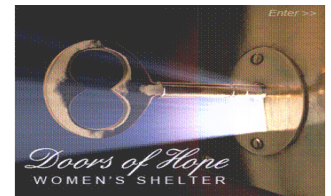
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.



You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



**Christmas Food & Gift Items Needed for
Beacon Light Mission & Doors of Hope
525 North Broad, Wilmington, CA
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, **underwear briefs (30-50),*** T-shirts (M-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 and toys. (No stuffed toys, please)

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

***Men's underwear is especially needed all year long. Beacon Light has been giving out around 1000 pairs each month.**

Donations of money are also gladly accepted.

Please have donations at Beacon Light at least 7 days before Christmas.

Big Changes for the Feltons

*TFB Mission
News*



**GoYe
Fellowship**

Our passion is to see people of all nations surrender to Jesus Christ and His life-giving grace.

We are excited to announce as a family that we have been accepted as missionaries with Go Ye Fellowship! We began the application process in May, sensing that it was time for a change. Special thanks to those who participated in writing recommendation letters and helping! We were privileged to meet with the board in July and then again this past Thursday where we were formally accepted. I was especially honored to have my dear friend and former boss John Lindsley, founder of Christian Surfing Federation, there as well. The years I have worked under John have been immeasurably valuable and I have immense respect for him as a disciple of Christ, lover of surfers, devoted family man and minister of the Gospel. It means so much to leave with his blessing and I am so thankful and honored that he gave me the opportunity to serve with CSF [Christian Surfers' Federation] for these past 5 years. He also was able to give the board a history lesson in surf ministry in the US, having been the founder along with Jerry Dow of the North American Christian Surfing Federation, the first surf ministry in the US!

The backstory to this is that this is the second time we applied to Go Ye. Back in 1999, after I had graduated from BIOLA, I was exploring missions agencies and met with Go Ye and actually finished an application process and was accepted. However, we took a U-turn that we didn't foresee and really felt that the timing wasn't right, and instead I applied to Fuller Seminary and spent the next 3 years there. It's funny how things can sometimes come full circle, and as we know, God's timing is perfect. It was especially neat to see some of the same office staff and board members some 16 years later! None of us are any younger, that's for sure. But still all serving our beloved Savior.

So what is next? For the time being, ministry-wise, everything will remain the same. Our primary focus will continue to be reaching surfers with the Gospel. I will be enrolling, along with Allison, in the Perspectives course as part of the requirements for Go Ye ministry so we are looking forward to that. I will continue to work locally with the Ventura group, reaching out to surfers with the Gospel using the same methods and means that I have been using for the past 12 years since starting out. We will continue our weekly Bible studies, camping trips, surf days, Surf and Share Saturday mornings, evangelism, worship, text prayer chain, etc. However, we as a family would appreciate prayers as we seek over the next several months for direction in ministry, location, etc. Thank you!

Recently we had our first "South" campout... We were privileged to have a couple of unbelievers attend as well as 2 new believers and one other first-timer.... San Mateo campground is a really neat campground on the road to the Camp Pendleton Marine base.... Most everyone surfed for hours on Saturday then came together for grilled chicken and fish tacos. We all gathered at 7:30 Saturday night, and I shared a Gospel message with 3 points: Who God is, what sin and holiness are and finally, what salvation is. We especially spent some time on Romans 2:15 and how God has written the law on every heart so that we all have a similar standard of behavior that testifies against claims of "being good." I had a different message prepared until about 4 days or so before the campout and really felt that I needed to prepare and give this instead.

It is so good to see continued spiritual growth in the group, more passion for the Lord, for the Word of God, boldness to share the truth of the Gospel with others, God is good!



L to r: Daniel, Faith, Allison, Ryder & Quinn

Reflections

Continued from p. 2

Will we too be a loving, living witness for Him to them?

This coming month, we celebrate the birth of our Lord. What a joyous time this is for us, but for many others it's merely a time of earthly celebration without any spiritual significance. Though they don't realize it, they too are locked up in a "prison" . . . the prison of unbelief. As we interact with these dear people, may Toyohiko's requests become ours as well:

"God, let me live to serve."

"O God, make me like Christ."

During this time of celebration, you and I may be the only witnesses that these people come in contact with to reveal to them the real meaning of Christmas—"Immanuel, God with us." By our lives and lips, may these dear people learn of the real meaning of Christmas as the apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:15, "*Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.*"

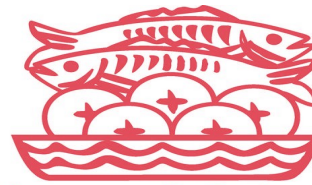
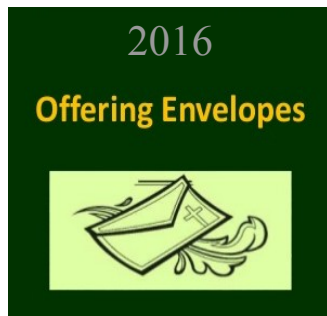
Hallelujah, what a Savior,
Pastor Rog



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

Kerry Kovach lost her mother, Kay Bennett; Margie Sweetland's grandniece (16), Mary Heim, lost her life in a car accident; and Rogelio Boston lost his brother, Leonardo.

New envelopes are available in the foyer for those who already have assigned envelopes. Be sure and pick yours up for the upcoming new year. Anyone who does not have numbered envelopes and would like some, please call the church office.



Loaves & Fishes

Just a reminder that on **Saturday, December 5**, we will be celebrating Christmas with a ham, chicken and turkey dinner.

If you can help out by donating a cooked ham, chicken or turkey, please let Linda Stratton know ASAP.

We will be giving hygiene bags to the adults and toys to the kids as we have done in previous years. If you would like to help with this outreach, following is a list of items needed for approximately 100 hygiene bags (everything in large sizes): shampoo, conditioner, hand cream, toothpaste, razors for men and women, socks, gloves, Kleenex, lip balm and deodorants. For the kids: toys priced at \$10-15 dollars. You can bring them to the church and mark them Loaves and Fishes Christmas items.

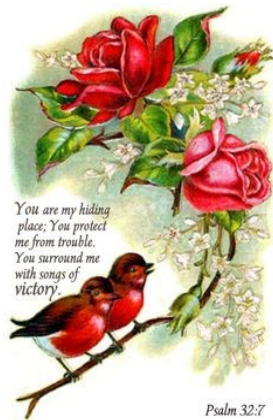
Thank you all who support Loaves and Fishes. I love you all.

Blessings,
Linda

TFB Tithes and Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately \$63,896 in the month of October.



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, Eugene & Mary Jacobsen, Joanne Jenkins, Helen Kessenich, Joan & Debbe Kindt, Mary Larsen, Doug Luden, Joy Moore, Dave & Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Austin Rayner, 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.



Christmas Card Exchange

The box is in the foyer as a courtesy for 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.



for the Needy

In addition to toys needed for Loaves & Fishes, we will be collecting toys for Pediatric Therapy Network, Love INC, Salvation Army, and New Challenge Ministries. If you'd like to help, please pick up a toy that is worth \$10-\$15 that a needy child would enjoy. There will be a box in the foyer where you can deposit it by December 20.



2015

ANNUAL
REPORTS

**Attention all
Committee Chairmen
and Group Leaders:**

Please note that your reports are due on or before **January 4, 2016**, so they can be included in the 2015 Year-End Report that will be made available to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on **January 31, 2016**.

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: College/Young Adult *NeXus*; High School *Revive*; Jr. High *Quest*; and *Colossians Kids* for children.

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