

Torrance First Baptist Church
the Proclaimer

March 2017 Volume 30 Issue 3



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Men:
We are hoping you can SPARE an evening in March and STRIKE out with us as we head down the LANE to the Bowling Alley. The date and time have not yet been confirmed. Look for information in upcoming bulletins and then get ready to ROLL!

Women's Ministry
St. Patrick's Day
BINGO
Saturday, March 18
2-4 p.m.

Ladies, join us for a fun afternoon of Bingo. Wear something green and bring a green snack to share. Also bring a \$10 gift to be used as a prize. Sign up in the patio.



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

Sunday Brunch
March 19, 10:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited to join us for brunch at **10:30 a.m.** during Fellowship Time

From the Pastor's Heart



In my prayers about our church family recently, I kept coming back to a great need I see in my own spiritual journey and in the spiritual journey of many others—it is the need to frequently be renewed in our love and devotion to God and Christ. One key reason for this need is that it seems fairly easy for us to

become sidetracked from our devotion. I think most of you would agree with me that it is easy to be preoccupied with so many other things in life that walking with and serving our Lord can dwindle in priority from time to time.

Of course God is not surprised by this struggle of ours, but I know in His love for us He wants us to experience the abundant life which comes through a passionate love for Him and zeal for serving Him. With this truth on my mind and heart, I want us to spend some time exploring the experience of a renewed spiritual vitality.

So on Sunday mornings beginning this Sunday,

February 26, we will be looking at the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah. These two books record the events of some of God's people coming back from captivity in Babylon to reestablishing the temple and worship of God and reestablishing the nation of Israel.

Since from time to time we too need to reestablish our relationship and worship of God, I felt we could learn some valuable insights from their experience.

Hope to see you on Sunday mornings.

Pastor Charlie

Reflections

by Pastor Rog



Dear Church Family,

How thankful I am that God uses **ordinary** people to work through as He accomplishes His will here on earth. We oftentimes think that He can only work through the exceptional ones—those highly educated or those who are well-connected with influential people, but that's not the case. Please notice what the apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29:

“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak

things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are. So that no one may boast before Him.”

May we never forget that our Heavenly Father still uses ordinary people like you and me to accomplish extraordinary things. As Paul said, God does not call the wise, influential, or the noble to work through. Why? Because He desires our lives to show the touch of the King. In other words, He makes the foolish wise; He makes the weak strong; He makes the despised a blessing.

Many years ago, the Lord called a young man to go to China to share the Gospel of Christ in the far regions of that vast country. This young man's name was Hudson Taylor. He was not your **usual** missionary. He was not a pastor or a teacher or a doctor when he first went to China. He was looked down upon by the other missionaries as a person of no consequence but...God used him in a wonderful way. He called others, just like himself, to join with him in reaching those who had never heard of the Lord Jesus Christ. Together, they ventured to the far away cities and

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NOW AVAILABLE to you online!

Our church’s Bible Study Library is digital and gigantic. Why not take advantage of this great resource available to our TFB family? If you are not familiar with **Right Now Media**, it consists of literally thousands of videos specializing in:

Bible Studies	Small Group Studies	Women’s Studies
Men’s Studies	Leadership Training	Marriage
Parenting	Youth & Kids	And much, much more!

It’s so easy to sign up! Just fill out one of our **Right Now Media** membership cards that are in the foyer, drop the card in the box, and you will be emailed a personal invitation which allows you to log in.

Try it and you will be pleased with what a valuable resource you have at your fingertips! No matter where you are on your Christian walk, there is a blessing waiting for you in **Right Now Media**.

KIDS' NIGHT OUT

AKA Parents’ Date Night

*Friday, March 17
6-9 p.m.*

Parents, bring your kids (infants through 5th grade) from **6-9 p.m.** to have dinner and a movie with us while you enjoy a night out together. \$3 donation per child, please.

W O R K D A Y

*Saturday, March 25
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

Join us to help keep the Lord’s house in good repair. Come anytime and stay as long as you can. A Continental breakfast will be available as well as lunch for all workers.



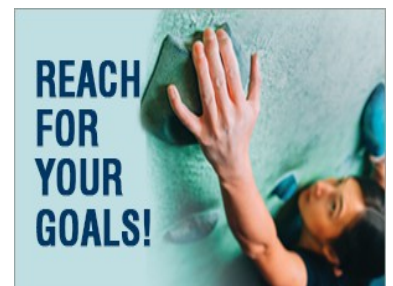
Scholarships from Christian Community Credit Union

CCCU’s 2017 *Scholarship for Success* Program is awarding \$60,000 in scholarships. Awardees will receive multi-year scholarships of \$1,000 per year!

To qualify, applicants need to be: 1. A member of Christian Community Credit Union with a Checking Account (newly-opened or existing); 2. Attending a college, university, or seminary for the 2017-2018 academic year; and 3. Enrolling (per semester/quarter) with 12 units or more for Undergraduate students and six units or more for Graduate students.

The scholarship application deadline is **March 31, 2017**, and scholarships will be awarded by mid-May.

For more information please call 800/347-CCCU (2228) or visit myCCCU.com/scholarship.





Now meeting on Sunday nights at 7 p.m.



All High School students are invited to attend:

High School
Movie
Night



Sunday, March 12 ~ 6 p.m.



In March, the Jr. High Group will have a BBQ at the home of Jay and Keoun. Watch for exact date & time in upcoming bulletins.



A Message from Ann

I promised last month that I would tell you about the *Rooted* material that we are doing with some of the High School students.

Rooted is a method of discipleship that started at Mavuno Church in Kenya. There, where it was called *Mizizi* (Rooted), it was developed as “a first step into the spiritual journey of becoming fearless world changers.” Their goal was to turn those who choose to follow Jesus from complacent to consumer (of the Gospel), from consumer to connected, from connected to committed, and from committed to compelled—in which followers of Christ seek to reach the lost and change our world with the love of Jesus.

Mizizi was brought to the U.S. by Mariners Church in Newport Beach, and it is from there that Pastor Charlie and a few of us were introduced to the *Rooted* experience. After being in the adult pilot group, I felt this might be something for the students to try. I asked the student leadership group what they thought and told them that we wouldn't do it unless all of them were “in” to participate. They agreed. There are some requirements: They must be in *Rooted* to be in the leadership group, but it is open to any student who is interested. The course requires weekly attendance, assigned devotional reading (3x per week), and Scriptural memorization is encouraged.

As I am writing this, we have been doing the *Rooted* book for three weeks, but already we are seeing fruit from it as God uses what we are studying to speak into our lives. At least one student now has a new relationship with Christ, and others are enjoying a more consistent walk with Christ. There is a new-found desire to bring friends to Tuesday night and to our events. Praise God!

Please continue to pray for the youth group, especially the *Rooted* ones—that we continue to grow in our relationships with Jesus, that we reach out to our friends that don't know Him, and of course, for the search for a new High School Director. We will continue to have fun in the process of being a youth group, but our main goal is to be more and more like Jesus.

Ann (Interim High School Leader)



Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please invite your single friends.



Dinner Night ~ Saturday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Joey's Smokin' BBQ, 25308 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance (in AMC Rolling Hills Center near California Pizza Kitchen).

Game Night ~ Meet at Gloria Pedersen's, 817 Amapola Avenue in Torrance, on **Saturday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m.** Bring games and snacks to share.



For additional questions, suggestions, or more information, call Gloria, 562/505-4495.

"Jesus Is the Son of Man"

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

Some think Jesus is a good teacher, while others believe he is a prophet. Still others consider him to be one of many useful spiritual leaders. But Son of Man, the title Jesus used most often when speaking of himself, does not allow for such limits to his identity. The Son of Man demands response.

This title has various meanings regarding Jesus. The Son of Man is he who is from the beginning (John 1:51; 3:13; 6:27, 62; 8:28). The Son of Man is he who, while remaining fully God, is fully human (Mark 2:27-28; John 5:27; 6:27). The Son of Man is he who suffered, died, and resurrected to bring salvation (Matthew 17:22; 20:18, 19, 28; 12:40). The Son of Man is he whose coming ushers in the Kingdom (Matthew 16:27, 28; Mark 8:38; 13:26).

The title focuses on his humanity but reaches far beyond. The Son of Man came to sacrifice himself for us and glorify his Father (John 12:28). Through this sacrifice, he drew all to himself (John 12:32-33). The Son of Man is the light that shines in the world (John 12:35-36). While his identity as the Son of Man demands response, when Jesus stated his purpose and the Father verified that purpose, the crowds could not—or would not—hear (John 12:29). When Jesus declared why he came, the crowds questioned his understanding of Scripture (John 12:34). Jesus, the Son of Man, proclaimed his identity as the light, called the crowds to walk in the light, and warned them about the threatening darkness (John 12:35-36). Only a few trusted and followed.

How will we respond? Will we hear his voice and the voice of his Father? Will we understand the truth of who he is? Will we walk in his light and trust him to keep the darkness from overtaking us?

"How will we respond? ... Will we understand the truth of who he is?"

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.
 New Covenant Children's S.S., 11 a.m.
 New Covenant (Korean) Worship, 12:45 p.m.
 New Covenant (Korean) Fellowship, 2 p.m.
 NeXus (Young Adult/College), 7 p.m.

Monday

Ladies' Prayer, 10:00 a.m.
 King's Family Karate, 6:30 p.m.
 Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m.

Tuesday

Classical Conversations, 8 a.m.
 High School Rooted, 5:30 p.m.
 High School Revive, 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Family Dinner, 6 p.m.
 Colossians Kids, 6:45 p.m.
 Jr. High QUEST, 6:45 p.m.
 "Crazy Love" 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.

Friday

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

Saturday

Men's BSF Leaders 6 a.m.
 New Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m.

	1	2	3	4
	Ash Wednesday		Anx. reserved all day: Loaves/Fishes 7p Young Marrieds	11a Loaves & Fishes
5	6	7	8	9
2p Sing @ Royalwood		7p Beacon Light Mission		6:30p Singles' Dinner Out
12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Savings Time Begins 5:20p Prayer Gathering 6p HS Movie Night			St. Patrick's Day 6p Kids' Night Out 7p Young Marrieds	2p Ladies' St. Patrick's Day BINGO 7p Share & Care
19	20	21	22	23
10:30a Sunday Brunch	7p Finance & FacMan Teams	6p Ministry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach, Worship, & Disc. Dev. 7p Deacon/ess		9a All Church Work Day 6:30p Singles' Game Night
26	27	28	29	30
5:20p Prayer Gathering			HS Girls to Retreat	

Upcoming April Events

- 3/31-4/2 ~ HS Girls' Retreat
- 4/1 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11 a.m.
- 4/8 ~ Singles' Dinner Out. 6:30 p.m.
- 4/9 ~ Easter Cantata
- 4/21 ~ Kids' Night Out (Date Night), 6 p.m.
- 4/16 ~ Easter Sunday
- 4/22 ~ Singles' Game Night, 6:30 p.m.





HELP!

Wouldn't it be nice if we never had to make any hard decisions or choices, or face any big challenges? Sometimes we just don't know what to do! But there is help!

Read James 5:13-18.

What do these verses tell us to do?

Use the graph to find the answer.

	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y

P _____

Pray in faith. Pray for each other. Pray earnestly.

Make a



You will need:

- 30 unlined index cards
- markers
- stickers

How to make:

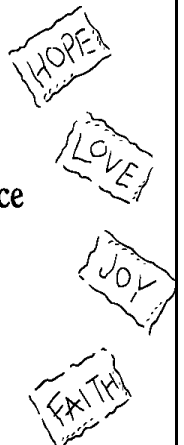
Write each of the words from the list below on its own card. Make a second set. Decorate with stickers or markers.

Play:

The object of the game is to find cards that match. Shuffle all the cards. Lay them face down in 5 rows of 6 cards. Choose 2 cards. Keep them if they match. If they don't, return them to their places face down. Continue until all cards have been matched.

Words to write:

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| Faith | Love |
| Healing | Help |
| Jesus | Patience |
| Kindness | Mercy |
| Gentleness | Peace |
| Generosity | Hope |
| Prayer | Joy |
| Grace | |





Update from Stephen & Cindi Barrett Athletes in Action



Dear Friends,

Sometimes when we go into a country that is closed to the Gospel and carry out a project, we leave without really knowing how the Lord has worked. In August of 2015, I took my friend Pat, who is a basketball coach, and a basketball player, Matt, to Uzbekistan. We

worked with a local Athletes in Action staff member to hold a coaches' clinic and clinics for men's and women's national teams, as well as junior and cadet teams. We sowed seeds and shared what we could with different members of the Uzbek basketball world [see picture of team below].

[Recently] I received a letter which encouraged me, and I hope encourages you. It's about a young woman named "A" who spent a good deal of time with us while we were in Uzbekistan in 2015. She seemed interested in our message but didn't come to faith.

Her family history is difficult. Her father and two brothers have died and now she and her two children live with her younger brother and mother who are alcoholics. She plays on the women's national team and helps coach a girl's team to support her family.

Our friend and AIA volunteer in her country invited her to attend an AIA basketball coaches' academy in Ohio and helped raise the funds for her to go. Lisa, an AIA member from another Central Asian country, joined her in Ohio to help translate and here is her report:

We were roommates and one night "A" had a nightmare where she felt all alone in a thick darkness and began to panic—calling out for me. As she shared her dream, I felt God working. I prayed all night that God would work on her heart.



Basketball clinic in Uzbekistan, August 2015

That morning at the coaches' academy, Ryan, an AIA coach, shared the Gospel and then we had discussion groups. I met with "A" individually, and she told me she repeated the prayer Ryan had shared, and she asked God into her heart! We were both so excited, we hugged and tears of joy ran down our cheeks. She said she had felt closer and closer to the Lord the whole week. She felt her hardened heart become soft. She felt her pride and self-determination and her heart changing and realized she needed forgiveness for all these things. She felt at peace and a warmth in her heart.

The rest of the week, Lisa worked with "A" on assurance of her salvation and first steps in her Christian life. At the end of the week, she spoke at the chapel and gave her testimony in front of 50 people! Lisa says, "'A' was nervous, and we both knew we would cry tears of joy, and it was beautiful!"

Please pray for "A" [as she is now] home. We do have AIA volunteers and staff where she lives. In the words of Coach Pat who met and coached her in 2015, "Look at all the people and circumstances that came together to add another name to the heavenly roster!"

I go to wrestling practice weekly at University of Central Missouri and Missouri Valley. The new assistant coach at UCM wrestled at Missouri Valley but never went to the Bible study when he was a student. He decided to join us this year and told me he's learned more in our study than he did growing up in church. Please pray for these guys and my teaching!

On international trips, I throw invitations to coaches to bring their teams to America. Usually something works out every other year, but in 2017, six teams are asking me to host them in the U.S. I've spent a lot of time working on the details with coaches from Central Asia, Mongolia, and Ukraine. I especially like hosting international teams in America. When they see and experience our culture, this always prompts questions that I love to answer and opportunities arise to share the Gospel.

We thank you for your prayers and support...we pray the Lord will bless each of you!

Stephen (and Cindi)

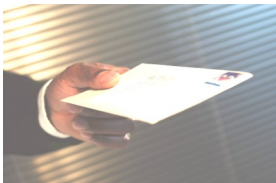
Reflections

Continued from p. 2

villages sharing the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ. This ministry became known as the CHINA INLAND MISSION. When the Communists kicked all the missionaries out of this country in 1945-1946, the groundwork for a strong national church had been laid. **It's influence is still being felt today.** Why? Because those thought unworthy of God's use made themselves **available to Him and placed their lives in His hands.**

May we never forget that God transforms the hearts of ordinary people to impact this lost and dying world. He loves us and has a purpose for us—we just need to submit to His will and be obedient to His voice? My friend, are you listening to His voice. Have you made yourself available to Him to minister through you as He sees fit? Please know this...you too can make a difference in this world as you place your life in His hands.

All praise to Jesus,
Pastor Rog



We Get Mail

I am a member of [Men's] BSF [Bible Study Fellowship] that meets/uses TFB facility on Saturday mornings and Monday nights.

Thank you to the leaders that give us access and use of your facility.

God bless this church,
Glenn



The following families have recently lost loved ones:

Former TFB member, Joy Sweetnam, is now with the Lord;
Karen & Charlie Rice lost their sister-in-law, Kathie Georgioff; and Gale Lee lost his sister and brother-in-law.

Please pray for each family.



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, Virgie Fletcher, Earl & Jean Forman, Dutchess Gattis, Mary Jacobsen, Joanne Jenkins, Helen Kessenich, Joan Kindt, Mary Larsen, Doug Luden, Joy Moore, Bill Morgan, Ralph Norsworthy, Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Jean Rayner, Barbara Rudé, Claudine Schultz, Mary Schultz, Lyle Smith, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Norma Vinsonhaler, Betty Wallace, and Gertie Wissinger.



TFB Tithes & Offerings



Thank you for giving approximately \$54,045 in the month of January.



1. **My goal** for 2016 was to lose just 10 pounds. Only 15 to go.
2. **Ate salad for dinner!** Mostly croutons & tomatoes. Really just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce. And cheese. FINE, it was a pizza. I ate a pizza.
3. **How to prepare Tofu:** A. Throw it in the trash. B. Grill some meat.
4. **I just did** a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.
5. **I don't mean to brag**, but . . . I finished my 14-day diet in 3 hours and 20 minutes.
6. **A recent study** has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.
7. **Kids today** don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.
8. **I may not be** that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented . . . I forgot where I was going with this.
9. **I love being over 50.** I learn something new every day . . . and forget 5 others.
10. **I think I'll just** put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.
11. **Senility** has been a smooth transition for me.

"A Merry heart does good, like medicine"
(Proverbs 17:22, NKJV).

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 NeXus; High School Revive; Jr. High Quest; and *Colossians Kids* for children.

For more information, contact the church office: 310.328.5030 or tfbc@pacbell.net. Or visit us on the web at www.tfbclife.org