

the Proclaimer

March 2014 Volume 27 Issue 3



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*Journeyman
to Forest Lawn
March 15
(Saturday)
8:45 a.m.*

All men are invited to meet at the church at 8:45 a.m. and join us as we go to the Forest Lawn in Glendale to see the magnificent Crucifixion and Resurrection Paintings that are housed there. After that, we will see the "Last Supper Stained Glass Window."

We will then have lunch together in Glendale and be back at the church at 2:30 p.m.

Sign up in the patio or contact Bill Harenburg at



*Ladies' Event
March 22 (Saturday)
5~7:30 p.m.*

This event will be an hors d'oeuvre potluck, so each lady is being asked to please bring a heavy appetizer to share. We will also be exchanging "like new" items that are worth \$15-20. You may have something taking up space in your closet or cupboard that you have only used once or twice or maybe never. Now is your chance to pass on that "special item" to someone else who may love it **and** actually use it. (No chipped or broken items please.)

From the Pastor's Heart



Turning our hearts to God.

By now most of you might be aware that our Children's Ministry Director, Levana Condon, is stepping down from her position to attend nursing school full-time. She has been a wonderful member of our staff, very successfully ministering to our children. She will be missed.

Jesus clearly placed children as a high priority when He said, "Let the children come to Me. Don't stop them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).

This is why we here at TFB are committed to offering an active children's ministry. The Bible also teaches that parents and family life are the key piece used by God to reach and grow children. Our role as a church is to assist and support parents in that effort.

So to enhance our role in this very important area of ministry, we are changing our current Youth Pastor position to be Pastor of Family Life. This new position will oversee all our ministries to our children and their parents from nursery through Junior High.

Our current Youth Pastor, Jay Cordova, will take on this new position as our Pastor of Family Life. He has extensive seminary training in this area, with a Masters in Christian Education, has a high level of skill in administration and working with teams, and has "in the trenches" experiences as a parent, with two children ages 16 and 18. He also has a skilled partner in his wife Teresa, who in

the past was on a church staff as their children's ministry director.

We will continue to offer an effective Senior High ministry by hiring a seminary student to lead our team of very capable, experienced and committed volunteer leaders.

The month of February will be our transition month with this change becoming effective March 1, 2014. Please pray for this transition, for Jay's new ministry focus, and for finding God's choice of a leader for our Senior High Ministry.

I also want to thank Kelli Mullin, our bookkeeper, for her seven years of faithful service and introduce our new bookkeeper Karen Davis. Along with our part-time bookkeeper position, Karen serves at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in their bookkeeping department. We are happy to have her join our staff.

Serving Christ together,
Pastor Charlie

Reflections

by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

If you're like me, there are times that you take a good look at the condition of your closet and garage and realize that "clutter" has been allowed to take hold and cause problems. Spiritually speaking, this can also be true in our life of discipleship with the Lord Jesus. Negative attitudes have been allowed to take hold and hinder God's working in our lives. One of these negative attitudes is the lack of forgiveness towards fellow believers. God's Word makes it very clear that this attitude needs to be dealt with,

confessed to the Lord and forsaken. The apostle Paul reminds us of these truths in Ephesians 4:31-32:

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice... Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (NIV).

To some people what the Holy Spirit gave to Paul to share with us is radical, but **radical forgiveness** is at the heart of the Christian Gospel. It is virtually inexplicable that a holy God



would send His one-of-a-kind, sinless Son to die for the sins of the world so that we might receive forgiveness of sin and have a way to be reconciled to Him, but that's exactly what He did. Yes, the **forgiveness** that God has extended to the world is perhaps the most profound thing the human mind can ponder. It is also the basis for why we

(Continued on page 11)



Re-Introducing Fellowship Meals

Here is how it works:

1. You sign up (in the patio **through March 9**) to attend dinner 2 times in the months of March through May.
2. You will be contacted by the host (organizer) of your group to schedule the first dinner. (If you'd like to be the host of your first dinner, please put an asterisk [*] by your name.) A host and date for the second dinner will be determined by the group at your first meal.
3. You will then have lots of fun getting to know each other.

We encourage you to give this a try and see what God will do.



*22-hour
Discipleship
Retreat
March 21-22*

Any men who would be interested in our upcoming Lock & Talk event, please call the office or sign up in the patio.

We meet at 6 p.m. on Friday evening, spend the night, and stay until 2 p.m. on Saturday.

You can get more information and sign up at the Men's Ministry table in the patio. Space is limited for this event, so sign up as soon as possible.

Annual Dinner & Fundraiser



"The Power of Love"
A fun-filled evening of
Music & Mystery

**Silent Auction &
Entertainment by
Opera-Kadabra**

Saturday, March 15
5:30 ~ 9 p.m.
(Dinner served at 6:30 p.m.)

Journey of Faith Church
1243 Artesia, Manhattan Beach
Advance cost per person: \$45; at the door, \$50.
RSVP by March 7: 310/831-5683, ex. 104,
or by email: cmontijo@loveincsb.org.

2ND ANNUAL TRANSFORMATION MINISTRIES GOLF TOURNAMENT SAVE THE DATE

Monday, March 24, 2014

Sierra La Verne Country Club ~ La Verne, CA



for more information ~ contact George Shinsky

951-805-3202

golftournament@transmin.org

Proceeds to Benefit Church Planting



www.transmin.org

Reporting from CPC 2014...

As many of you have already heard/read, this month I begin my new role as TFB's Pastor of Family Life. After over 20 years of serving students and their families, I'm excited about the new journey God has for me and our church.

As of this writing, I have just completed my second day at the Children's Pastors' Conference and have made some observations over the last 48 hours that I would like to share.

The first one, although not a surprise, was still mind-blowing when confronted with it head on: women dominate Children's Ministries. Worshipping during our general sessions, sitting down at one of our meals, or simply walking around the convention center, I wonder if I wandered into the wrong event. Don't get me wrong, I have been warmly welcomed by all, even with my "rookie" status. But this observation highlights for me the fact that God has blessed our Children's Ministry at TFB with a good number of men serving kids and their families—yet we would certainly welcome more men...AND women!

Another observation is that many churches, like us, want to do a better job at serving the parents of the kids that God brings to us. The fact that the exhibit hall is filled with numerous resources solely designed for parents, underscores that such a need exists. As we move forward, I certainly want us to come alongside our parents as they train and raise their kids to know God and grow in Him. In the coming months, I hope to get some of those resources into your homes.

Finally, as my head is swimming from information overload (with another day and half to go), I recognize that even after being in ministry this long, God is still wanting to teach me new things. Being a "rookie" again is not such a bad thing. I'm experiencing a mix of familiar ground and new frontiers, which is both comforting and daunting at the same time. So please join me in prayer as God leads us in the days and weeks to come.

Pastor Jay



vs.



Saturday, March 22
(5:00-10:30 p.m.)
Cost: \$25

Join us for this great opportunity to bring a friend as we watch the first place L.A. Clippers at Staples Center. Bring your money to sign-up with Pastor Jay.

Need money for college?

\$50,000 in Scholarships!



NEW! Multi-Year Scholarships of \$1,000 per year

Applications due 03/31/14



Christian Community CREDIT UNION

> Apply Today!

Christian Community Credit Union Offers \$50,000 in Multi-Year Scholarships

Christian Community Credit Union's 2014 Scholarships for Success Program is giving \$50,000 in scholarships. Plus, the Credit Union is now awarding multi-year scholarships of \$1,000 per year! The scholarship program is open to members of Christian Community Credit Union with a Checking Account (newly-opened or existing).

To apply, students need to be attending a college, university, or seminary for the 2014-2015 academic year. Also, students need to be enrolling (per semester/quarter) with 12 units or more for Undergraduate students; six units or more for Graduate students. For membership eligibility requirements, please contact the Credit Union. Application for membership and scholarship can be submitted at the same time. The scholarship application deadline is **March 31, 2014** and scholarships will be awarded by mid-May.

Christian Community Credit Union offers Student Advantage Banking — a money saving program exclusively for students age 16-24. The Credit Union also offers Student Choice — a private loan solution to help fill educational funding gaps. Contact the Credit Union for details.

With assets over \$570 million, Christian Community Credit Union serves over 30,000 members nationwide and has served as a financial partner of Christian churches, ministries, and their members for over 56 years. **For a scholarship application and/or Credit Union membership information, please call [800.347.CCCU \(2228\)](tel:800.347.CCCU) or visit myCCCU.com/scholarship.**

Scholarships from TFB also available for anyone pursuing a degree in Christian Ministry. Please contact the church office for more information and to get an application.



Flower Calendar for 2014

We still have dates available if you would like to celebrate a special event in your life or honor a loved one. Please call the office to reserve any of the following dates that are still open: August 3 & 10, October 12 & 19, November 30, and December 28. The cost is \$50 per arrangement — one sign-up per date, please. Payment may be made any time before your chosen date.

Attendance & Giving



AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE FOR JANUARY = 284



Thank you for giving approximately \$53,049 in the month of January.

| Recurring Weekly Events: | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| | | | | | | 1 Jrs. at Winter Camp 11a Loaves & Fishes |
| 2 2p Sing @ Royalwood Jrs. home from Winter Camp | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 10:30a Circle of Friends | 7 | 8 |
| 9 5:20p Prayer Gathering | 10 7p DiscDev | 11 | 12 | 13 7p Beacon Light | 14 7p Young Marrieds @ Duvall's | 15 8:45a Men to Forest Lawn 6:30p Singles' Game Night 7p Share & Care |
| 16 | 17 7p Facilities Team Finance Team | 18 6p Mnstry Teams: Fellowship, GO, Outreach & Wor. 7p Deacon/ess | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 5p Ladies' Second-Hand Rose Event 5p Crux to Clippers' Game 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out |
| 23 5:20p Prayer Gathering | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 7p Young Marrieds @ Duvall's | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

Sunday
Worship Services: 9:15 & 11 a.m.
Adult Sunday School, 9:15 & 11 a.m.
Children's Church, 9:15 a.m.
Patio Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.
Children & Youth S.S., 11 a.m.
Worship & Witness, 6 p.m.
New Covenant Children's S.S., 11 a.m.
New Covenant (Korean) Wrshp, 12:45 p.m.
New Covenant (Korean) Fellowship, 2 p.m.

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

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

Wednesday
Bible Study Fellowship, 9:15 a.m.
TFB (K-6th grades), 6:45 p.m.
Jr. High QUEST, 6:45 p.m.
Small Group Bible Study, 6:45 p.m.
Choir Practice, 7 p.m.
New Covenant (Korean) Bible Study, 8 p.m.
Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday
Ladies' Bible Study, 2 p.m.
Worship Band Practice, 6:30 p.m.
Next Step Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Upcoming April Events:

- 4/13 (Palm Sunday) ~ Easter Cantata, 6 p.m.
- 4/20 ~ Resurrection Sunday





Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

Please invite anyone of any age to join us.



Game Night ~ Saturday, March 15, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at the home of the Bundoc's, 23146 Audrey Avenue, Torrance. Bring games and snacks to share. Need more info? Call Jude, 424/800-1910.



Dinner Out ~ March 22, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at Paddy-O's, 20320 S. Western Avenue at Del Amo Blvd.



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

"When life is drab, dark, and confusing... God"

Psalm 119:129-136 The Pe Strophe
by Laura Springer, M.Div., Th.M

"Your testimonies are wonderful." So begins the Pe strophe of Psalm 119. The psalmist declares that God's word is wonderful (v. 129), light-giving (v. 130), and satisfying (v. 131). Life on the other hand, is not always wonderful. The psalmist knew this all too well.

*"...God's people cannot
experience God's best, when
they turn their back on him
and follow their own way."*

But the psalmist's life was dark and in the second section, the psalmist turns his heart to his situation and his need. He asks for God to turn toward him in kindness (v. 132), to guide him (v. 133), to rescue him (v. 134), and to bless him (v. 135). He is able to ask boldly because he knows God. He knows God treats his people with kindness. The psalmist also knows himself; he desires to follow God, not merely to be rescued by him.

As he ponders God's blessing and his own situation, his mind turns from himself to God's people. Hope turns to sorrow as he remembers that the people of God do not follow God (v. 136). He is overwhelmed by this realization and his eyes "shed streams of tears." He knows that God's people cannot experience God's best when they turn their back on him and follow their own way.

Sometimes life is bright and all is well. Most days, we hit bumps in the road and keep going. Sometimes, the bottom drops out and life becomes drab, dark, and confusing. In each of these times, God remains good and kind. In each of these times, God longs to hear our heart--even if it is messy in there. God's heart is always for his people and his care is written across the pages of Scripture.



Smile Awhile!



Don't forget!
Turn your clocks
forward one hour on
**Saturday night,
March 8.**
Daylight Saving Time
officially begins Sunday
morning at 2 a.m.

*TFB Global Outreach
Missionary News*



We Get Mail

Dear Project Leader,

Thank you for all your partnership with Operation Christmas Child last year. We are very grateful for the opportunity to join with you to spread the love of Christ through the power of simple shoebox gifts.

Your service was critical in the collection of more than 7.5 million gift-filled shoeboxes in the United States that will create avenues for local churches to share the Gospel and begin Operation Christmas Child's discipleship program called *The Greatest Journey* with millions of children. Together, we are seeing God work to impact the lives of children and families all over the world. We could not have done it without faithful partners like you!

Thank you again for your partnership and commitment to this global ministry. May God bless you.

Samaritan's Purse



Dr. Paul R. Gupta (Bobby) and wife Linnet.

**From the Gupta's with
HBI Global Partners**

You will not believe this! Your prayers and investment to our last year's Pastors Conference made a significant difference to help open the iron door for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the state of Kashmir. One man's imprisonment resulted in 9 Muslim men becoming followers and ambassadors of Christ in Kashmir.

The jailor and the officer were so astonished with the way Singh carried himself in the prison. He was joyful, singing and at peace. God gave Singh the opportunity to share the Gospel with the jailor and the officer.

No one thought he would be out of the prison, but God brought him out. Praise the Lord! Singh was sure that God took him to Kashmir but could not understand how God was going to unfold His plan of redemption in that place.

Just two days before he left Kashmir, he met a Muslim man and found out that he had become a follower of Christ but did not know how to grow in the Lord as no one disciplined him. He told this new believer how he could be trained through the non-formal training program of HBI. Within a month, this man brought his cousin to HBI for one month training. As soon as they went back, one of them led 7 men to the Lord and sent them to HBI for training. These 7 men came and were disciplined. Amazingly one of these men landed at HBI last month with another two young men whom he led to Christ.

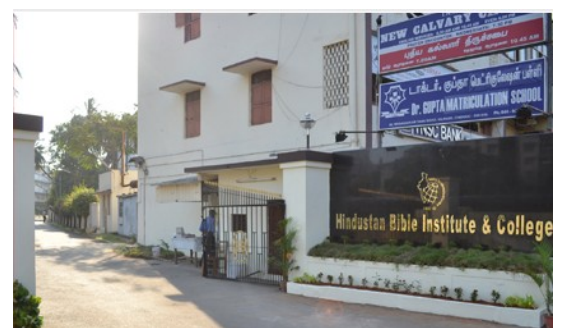
The ripple that was started by one man's imprisonment, keeps going on...reaching men and women for Christ Jesus! This could be possible only because Brother Singh could attend the Pastor's Conference....

...Friends, your involvement through prayers and supporting these simple village church planters is truly resulting in plenteous harvest and raising up harvesters...

We want to thank you so very much for joining us in the great task of discipling India to Christ.

Bobby Gupta, President

Hindustan Bible
Institute Campus
Chennai, India



Reflections

Continued from p. 2

forgive other people. You see, we are to forgive others as God, in Christ, has forgiven us.

What Paul writes in Ephesians is not new. It is clearly an amplification of how our Lord taught His disciples to pray. In Matthew 6:12, He said this:

“Forgive our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (NIV).

It is clear to us, then, that our Lord teaches us to pray in such a way that as we ask our Heavenly Father to forgive us, we ask Him to forgive us *in the same way we forgive others*. We then are presented with a choice — to forgive or NOT to forgive.

Let’s face it, forgiving others can be difficult, but it is important that we do it. This kind of radical forgiveness magnifies Christ. It teaches us that this kind of forgiveness is to be an ongoing posture of our hearts. And finally, it keeps us from locking ourselves into a self-built jail where bitterness, rage, anger, slander, and malice are our cell mates.

Tell me, is there someone you/I need to forgive? If so, may we forgive them as the Lord Jesus has freely forgiven us.

Help me here, dear Lord Jesus,
Pastor Rog

NEW



Damon & Stephanie Chastain announce the birth of Penelope Lily born on February 17, weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz. and 19” long.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sympathy

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

Long-time member Fern Watkins is now with the Lord; TFB member, Angel Ayala, loving husband of Yolanda, is also with the Lord; and Levana Condon lost her grandfather.



ATHERTON ^{RT}



Renewing the Call

On March 3, 1914, Hannah Atherton Baldwin met with the Executive Committee of the Southern California Baptist Convention to

propose building a home for aged Baptist ministers and missionaries. She was accompanied by her architect, who had already drawn the plans, and she had a check for \$40,000 which would provide the initial funds for building, maintenance and endowment of the facility. From Hannah's vision and resources, the ministry of Atherton Baptist Homes was born. This year we are celebrating our 100th Anniversary!

With this achievement comes a celebration and season of thanksgiving for God's faithful guidance and provision. On **Thursday, March 6, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.**, Atherton will host its **100th Celebration Banquet** at the **Alhambra First Baptist Church**, located across the street from Atherton, at 101 South Atlantic Boulevard, Alhambra, CA.

Tickets for this night of celebration are \$30 each, and are available through March 1, or until seats are filled, by contacting Karlyn Flesch, Executive Assistant to the President, or calling 626.863.1722. We look forward to having you join us for this time of celebration and thanksgiving!



View of the courtyard of Atherton Baptist Homes.

Make Plans for These Upcoming Events:



*Helping Hands Family Camp
May 23-26*

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



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

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

Kids (3-11) \$40

Kids (under 3) Free!

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

The Proclaimer is a monthly publication of the First Baptist Church of Torrance, California, located at 2118 West Carson Street (6 blocks east of Crenshaw). Sunday services: 9:15 a.m. Worship Gathering (Contemporary Service); 11:00 a.m. Blended Service (with Sunday School for all ages); and 6:00 p.m. Evening Service. Mid-week events for children and students: High School *Revive*; Jr. High *Quest*; and *Task Force Bravo* for children.

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