

the Proclaimer

May 2015

Volume 28 Issue 5



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*Saturday, May 9
9:00 a.m.*

This is our annual breakfast to remind our men about the Thousand Pines Men's Conference. This year the conference will be held **September 18-20**. The speaker, Christopher Day, is on staff at Thousand Pines and will lead the men in a discussion of the temptations that men face throughout their lives. Christopher will also be available to answer questions about the Camp and plans for this year's conference. \$5 donations for breakfast will be much appreciated.

Sign up in the patio or call Bill Harenburg, 310/534-4439, or email him at wharenburg@aol.com.

*Mother's Day Tea
Saturday, May 9
2-4 p.m.*



We are having a "Tea Time with Mom" event here at the church. This is not only an in-house event but an outreach. So invite your friends and their moms, daughters and grandmas. The cost is \$5 per person and includes, tea, light sandwiches, desserts, a devotional and activities and crafts.

If you need more information or to sign up, contact Karla Gaines, 310/922-5652 or kardelg101@yahoo.com

You can also sign up in the patio.

From the Pastor's Heart



Sometimes it is hard to know exactly how best to stand for Jesus in a world where more and more seem to oppose Him and His followers. Even here in the U.S., we see more of this anti-Jesus, anti-Christian attitude out in the open. Each circumstance requires us to receive wisdom and discernment from the Holy Spirit to know how to respond. There is no same three-step response for them all. I recently read of one incident that occurred in the Iowa State Legislature that truly encourages me, and I hope it will encourage you too.

A Wiccan priestess was scheduled to give the opening prayer at the Thursday session of the Iowa State Legislature. So for the many Christians in this

legislature, the question was how to respond. Do they walk out in protest when the Wiccan priestess starts to pray? Do they protest in advance trying to get her dropped from the schedule? Do they go public—go to the press with their complaint? Obvious there is no “right” answer, but I personally am impressed with what they decided and what was reported.

About half the law makers decided to hold their own opening prayer in a different room at the same time. They took a stand in a peaceful manner. Here is a part of the interview the Muscatine Journal conducted with the leader of the alternative prayer gathering.

"As a Christian, I have to stand in faith for her salvation and pray for her. Not pray against her, but pray against principalities and more so for her salvation," he told the Muscatine Journal. "I personally don't believe that Christians came here to stand against the Wiccan priestess. I believe that we came here united to stand for her salvation."

They took a stand with the right emphasis and focus, to see

this priestess saved. They understood where the battle really lies. That she was not the real enemy.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12, NIV).

Although this priestess, along with others, may decide to reject Jesus, or ignore Jesus or live life on their terms, they are not the real enemy. Our real enemy is Satan and the spiritual forces of evil. So the Wiccan priestess, along with every other unsaved person, desperately needs God's grace and truth to penetrate their minds and hearts. And they need us to earnestly pray for them and reach out to them.

May God help us see those hostile to Jesus, those indifferent to Jesus, and those trapped in a life of sin, deception and self-indulgence not as our enemies but as people needing rescuing by God's love and grace.

Pastor Charlie

Reflections

by Pastor Rog

Dear Church Family,

How thankful I am for my mom and dad. They both have been gone now for some time, but my memory of them remains strong in my heart. They both loved the Lord and faithfully served Him. Today, April 14, is the 20th anniversary of my dad's homegoing to Jesus. As I reflect upon his life, a psalm comes to mind... Psalm 78:1-8 (please read it now).

The writer of this psalm, Asaph, was concerned that the

truth of Almighty God, which had been handed down to him and others (vv. 1-3), would not stop with them, but be passed on to the next generations (vv. 4-6).

We all live amid a hurried lifestyle and our schedules are full, but we must not let our busy lives keep us from personally passing on God's Word to those who are the most dear to us. Sadly, this passing on of God's Word to the next generation is missing in many families today.

Our family was not much



different than others. My dad worked three jobs when I was home sick with heart trouble as a boy. He taught school, was minister of music at a large Baptist church and unloaded box cars at night. (Even back then in the early 1950's, medicine was

Continued on p. 11



a.k.a

**PARENT'S
DATE
NIGHT**

Friday, May 15, 6-9 p.m.

Kids (infants through 5th grade) will have dinner and a movie, while the parents get an evening to themselves (after viewing a brief couples' devotional video, if they'd like). This is a once-a-month event on the 3rd Friday of each month.



GIVE BLOOD ~ SAVE LIVES



*Sunday, May 17
8 a.m. until 2 p.m.*

- Make plans now to donate blood this month. Remember:
- You must be in good health & weigh at least 110 Pounds
 - Bring a valid photo I.D.
 - You can only give blood once every 56 days
 - Drink plenty of fluids
 - No tattoos within the last 12 months
 - Must be at least 17 years old (or 16 with a signed **Hospital** Parental Consent Form).

A free certificate for 1 pint of Baskin Robbins ice cream will be given to all who donate.
A free movie ticket will also be given to any teen 16 (with consent form) or older.

Reservations requested but walk-ins welcome. Call the church office, 310/328-5030.

FREE hot dog, chips, and soda provided for church members.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Thursday, May 7

Join in prayer around your school
flagpole at 7 a.m.

Sunday
May 17
7 p.m.



YOUTH PRAYER

Usually every 3rd Saturday but will be on the 4th Saturday in May

Saturday, May 23, 10~11 a.m.

PRAISE REPORT:

After we talked about having the right humble attitude in prayer one Sunday morning, I gave in and told God that I trusted Him to be in charge, but I still wanted to understand why my mom is so strict. Within two hours of praying, God answered me through a conversation with a random guy I know. He said, "It's because she loves you." I had heard people say that a million times before, but for some reason, it just clicked this time, and I understood."

—a young member of Torrance First Baptist

A PRAYERFUL MONTH OF MAY

Along with National Day of Prayer, the High School students at TFB will be focusing on prayer through Sunday school discussions, secret prayer partners and more time during our regular meetings for individual and small group prayer. Please join us in prayer as we ask God to increase our faith and relationship with Him and that He would bring us into a stronger unity as the Body of Christ.

—Daniel



BEACH DAY (Clean-up & Fun) Saturday, May 30 10 a.m.

After helping to clean-up, we will enjoy the sun & surf. (Location depends on the swells.)

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JUNIORS



Vacation Bible School
July 6-10
6~8:30 p.m.
\$10

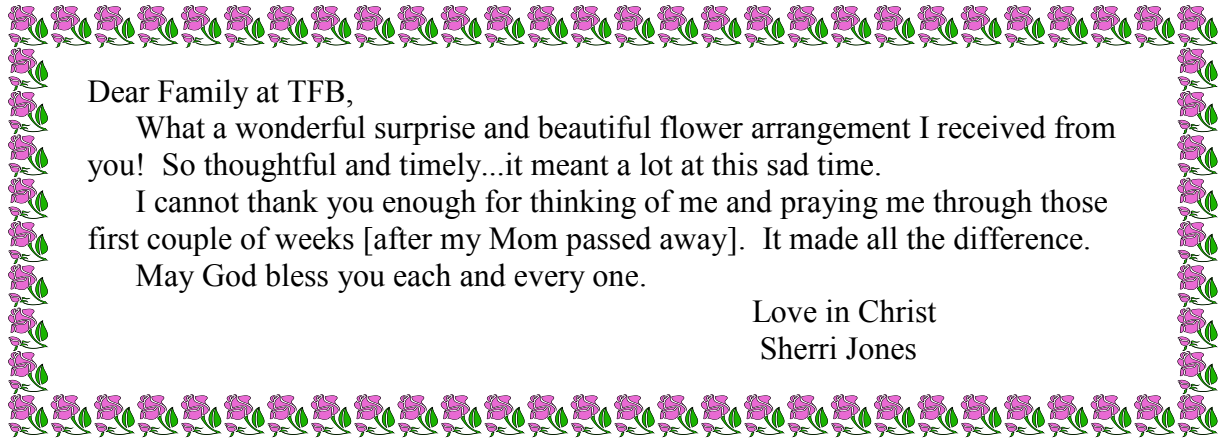
This is for all pre-schoolers through 5th graders.
Invite your friends to join in for a fun time!

LightSeekers Junior Summer Camp
July 13-17, \$295.00

All 3rd through 6th graders are welcome to sign up for summer camp. Anyone who would like to help with scholarships for those who can't afford it but want to go, please mark your envelope, Camp Scholarship Fund.



We Get Mail



Dear Family at TFB,

What a wonderful surprise and beautiful flower arrangement I received from you! So thoughtful and timely...it meant a lot at this sad time.

I cannot thank you enough for thinking of me and praying me through those first couple of weeks [after my Mom passed away]. It made all the difference.

May God bless you each and every one.

Love in Christ
Sherri Jones

*Life is a lovely garden, an ever-growing thing,
Where thoughtfulness and kindness bloom like flowers in the spring.*

Pastor Charlie and First Baptist Church Family,

Thanks be to all for your kindness, financial support and prayers for Austin and our family during this difficult time. We greatly appreciate you and all you have done.

Many thanks,
The Rayners
Jon, Susette, Jessica & Austin

P.S. The flowers were beautiful! Thank you

Loaves & Fishes Update

As most of you know Loaves and Fishes is a big part of TFB outreach. We have been serving the homeless, low income and seniors for over 25 years now. The number of guests we serve each month is going down a little, but the need is just as great. We serve a potluck lunch and make up a lunch bag to take with them for later in the day. This ministry requires volunteers to operate. We are in need of volunteers. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, pray first, then call me.

We will have a sign-up sheet in the patio for various times and opportunities for you to get involved. Maybe your small group, Sunday school class, youth groups here at the church, or a family might like to help? Stop by our table in the patio during the month of May and we can give you more information.

Thank you and God bless,
Linda



Dear Church Family,

I...finished reading Tom Witherill's* book, *Be Like Christ*.

...It is a very thought-provoking book. Tom takes us to Scripture to show us what is possible in Christ. While the book deals with a weighty subject, it is an easy read. It is more of a "get-out-of-the-rut" book than a "how-to" book.... He shows his readers that through the power of the Holy Spirit in us, being like Christ is achievable here and now.... That being like Christ will result in a more satisfying life....

Blessings,
Kent Meyer

*Tom surrendered his life to Christ while attending TFB and was baptized by Pastor Charlie. He has gone on to get a Master's Degree from BIOLA in Christian apologetics.

*Thanks for being who you are . . . A shining light,
a beacon of God's warmth and love.*

On behalf of all the people we help, thank you for putting smiles on people's faces.

God bless,
John Hernandez
New Challenge Ministries



Just for

KIDS

Spring has sprung!

God created all the seasons, and each brings unique visuals that remind us of him.

Directions: Unscramble each phrase to complete Song of Solomon 2:12, NIV. Use the pictures as hints.

earth on appear the Flowers

“ _____ ;



singing come the of has season



the _____

_____ ,



heard the land our in is of cooing doves

the _____



_____”



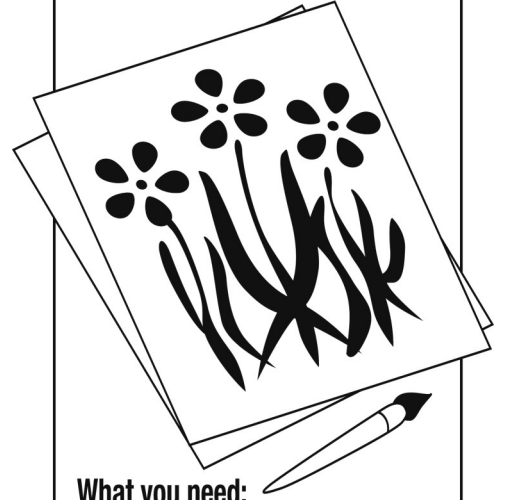
SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12, NIV



Answers: “Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”

SPRING

Make this beautiful craft to remind you of God's gift of new life at springtime.



What you need:

- White 11" x 17" paper
- Acrylic paint (various spring colors, including green)
- Paintbrush
- Empty two-liter plastic bottle
- Paper plates
- Paper towels

What you do:

1. With the paper placed vertically, paint stems and leaves with green paint.
2. Pour a different color of paint onto a paper plate. Then place the bottom of the bottle into the paint.
3. Using the bottle as a stamp, press it onto the paper to create a flower atop a green stem.
4. Repeat with different colors on different plates, cleaning the bottle each time, to create a beautiful spring bouquet.

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.

Monday
 Ladies' Prayer, 10:30 a.m.
 King's Family Karate, 6:30 p.m.
 Men's BSF, 6:55 p.m. **[only 5/4]**

Tuesday
 Women's BSF Leaders, 9:15 a.m.
[only 5/5]
 High School Revive, 7 p.m.

Wednesday
 Women's BSF, 9:15 a.m.
[only 5/6]
 Dinner & Colossians Kids, 6 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.
[except 5/13]

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. **[only 5/2]**
 New Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2p Sing @ Royalwood	6:55p Last Men's BSF until Sept.	9:15a Last Women's BSF Leaders' until Sept.	9:15a Last Women's BSF until Sept.	7 National Day of Prayer 7p Contemporary Vocal Practice	7p Young Marrieds @ Duvall's	9a Men's Bkfst 2p Mother/ Daughter Tea 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day				6:30p Band Practice 7p Beacon Light Mission	12n Seniors' Potluck 6p Kids' Night Out	8a Karate Testing Armed Forces Day Parade 7p Share & Care
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8a Blood Drive 7p H.S. Movie Night	7p Finance Team	Ministry Teams: GO, Fellowship, Outreach, Worship, Disc. Dev. & FMT Check w/Chairmen		7p Contemporary Vocal Practice	7p Young Marrieds @ Duvall's	10a HS Prayer
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
5:20p Prayer Gathering	Memorial Day Office Closed	7p Deacon/ess		6:30p Band Practice		10a H.S. to Beach 6:30p Singles' Game Night

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Upcoming June Events:

- 6/19 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6-9 p.m.
- 6/20 ~ Men to see Dead Sea Scrolls at Calif. Science Center
- 6/21 ~ Father's Day
- 6/27 ~ All Church Work Day



Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship

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



Dinner Out ~ Saturday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. Meet at Lupita's Mexican Grill, 234 S. Pacific Coast Highway in Redondo Beach



Game Night ~ Saturday, May 30, 6:30 p.m. ~ Meet at the Bundoc's, 23146 Audrey, Torrance. Bring games and snacks to share. Call Jude, 424/800-1910, if you have any questions.



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

"We Are the People of God"

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

"For persons and congregations centered on Christ, their identity as the people of God has the most influence on how they live in the world."

"We stand for individual rights."

Some version of this statement may well be a core belief in our culture. Don't get me wrong, individual persons are important. Jesus died to save individual persons. But community is at least as important, for he saves us to a community, the church. From the beginning when God took a bunch of dirt and made a human, God himself declared that it was not good for the human to be alone. In

response to his own declaration to the man, God created a woman and the communal nature of humanity was formed.

Every community, whether a family, a town, or an entire nation, shapes us. This can make it difficult to communicate across communities and results in division. This is the case in humanity as a whole and in the many peoples of the world.

Among the many peoples there is one people that stands as unique: the church. The church is the people of God, formed in Christ and by the Spirit, for the Father's glory. She is the only people wholly formed by the Trinity. Whatever our natural communities may be, Christians also belong to the people of God. For persons and congregations centered on Christ, their identity as the people of God has the most influence on how they live in the world. We can fellowship with siblings from other languages and cultures because we share a bond that unites us as one eternal people. Cultural hurdles will still exist. Focusing on Jesus, who is the head of our eternal community, puts life's hurdles into proper perspective.

"For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility" (Ephesians 2:14-16, ESV).



Smile Awhile



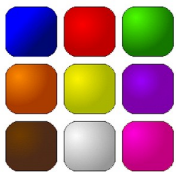
Animal Pictures to Lift Your Spirits



Sunday, after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, “Don’t be scared, you’ll get your quilt.”

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning’s Sunday school lesson was about.



I didn’t know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, “Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!” —copied



*TFB
Tithes and
Offerings*

Thank you for giving approximately \$66,025 in the month of March.

Need for Austin



Jean Rayner’s 4-year-old grandson, Austin, has cancer. He is undergoing very expensive medical treatments and the family has incurred a lot of debt.

If the Lord leads you to help, you can give to Jean directly or go online to www.gofundme.com/oqotlw

Your prayers are also needed for this very serious situation. Thank you for your love and support.



**From our Missionaries,
Carlos (Chuck) & Ramona Shawvers,
serving in Mexico**

Puebla, México

Dear Friends,

This week we are taking a few days to celebrate a college graduation. Matias Perez graduated from the School of Psychology at the University of Michoacán last Saturday evening. His mother Pascuala and other family members arrived in Puebla on Thursday morning after an all-night bus trip from Chiapas, their home. After a rest in our home, we packed up the van and headed for Morelia, a five hour drive. By Friday we were rested and the celebration began with visits to the tourist sites of this beautiful colonial city.

What a story! Pascuala is a single mom who was determined to help her son get his education. She left their village in the mountains of Chiapas when Matias was five and found a job as a housekeeper in the larger town of Yajalon where she knew the



Ramona & Chuck

schools would be better. She worked seven long days a week at a wage of fifty dollars a month until Matias finished primary school...her only goal that he would have the chance for a better life. Looking for a better middle school she moved again for Matias' 7th grade year. In Ocosingo she supported herself and son cleaning homes, taking in laundry, anything she could do. Matias was bright, enthusiastic, and appreciative and usually near the top of his class.

Following high school he applied to the University of Michoacán where a special scholarship program was available for indigenous students. Passing his entrance exams and receiving the scholarship, he made the twenty-hour bus trip to a strange new world. His scholarship provided room and board in a small house shared by 80 other students. The bunk beds were three high with less the 24 inches between them. Rules were tough for maintaining the scholarship, but Matias persevered and by the end of the first semester, there were less than 60 students and a little more room. He quickly joined the Baptist Church and became active in the youth program.

I admit we groaned when Matias shared his decision to major in Psychology. Over these four plus years, through many talks and watching him work with the church, we are becoming believers...that God is calling him to a ministry of counseling and working with young people. He has the gift, the character, the confidence and the love.

Ramona and I are excited about Matias' future and feel privileged to invest in this special young man. Pray for him as he finishes his thesis and looks for a job and then for a graduate school. Thank you for supporting our work in Mexico. This story is partly yours so relish it!

For those of you who support us financially occasionally, or have not given, there is a window of opportunity to have your gift doubled. It must be received by International Ministries before the end of May or until matching funds are exhausted. Thanks for considering this and thank you so much for caring about Mexico and about us and for your prayers. God bless you! We love you and are so grateful for your amazing generosity and your powerful prayers.

—Ramona and Carlos



Matias and Pascuala

Reflections Continued from p. 2

terribly expensive). But one thing never changed—our daily family time of reading God’s Word and praying together. This so impacted my life that daily family devotions became a part of my family (v. 5, the next generation). We read God’s Word, sang and prayed together. Both David and Andrew asked the Lord Jesus to be their Savior during these times of family worship. What a glorious time this was.

Recently, David, now 34, and the father of 3 beautiful children, told me of an experience he and Bailey (8) had at a recent NASCAR race. They were in the huge parking lot having lunch. They call this “tailgating.” Thousands of people were in the parking lot with them also having lunch. During this time Bailey said, “Dad, this would be a good time to tell these people about Jesus.” David was taken aback by Bailey’s bold statement. He said, “That’s something Papa could do, but right now, I can’t.” Bailey really wanted that to happen.

As I think back on this occasion, a statement from v. 6 spoke powerfully to me,

“So the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.”

Yes, David told Bailey about Jesus and so the story of God’s love and redemption through faith in Christ has been passed on. Praise Him!

How important it is then for us parents and grandparents to keep planting the truth of God’s Word with our families and then watering this “seed” with our fervent prayers. There are many things we can teach our families but none more important than the glorious TRUTH of God’s Word. May we never stop sharing about him.

Praising only Him,
Pastor Rog



Former member, A.D. Rupe, is now with the Lord. Please pray for wife, Trudy, and family.

Prayer Requests

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

Della Andrew, Paul Ashcraft, Cecile Baker, Michael Banfield, Loretta Barnett, Reba Belcher, Julie Cochran, Tom Cochran, Lou Davis, Gloria Deering, Leah Douglas, Robin Fisher, George Fisk, Virgie Fletcher, Dutchess Gattis, Joanne Gertz, Barbara Harvey, Eugene/Mary Jacobsen, Joanne Jenkins, Shirley Kellogg, Helen Kessenich, Joan & Debbe Kindt, Mary Larsen, Doug Luden, Jane McKenzie, Joy Moore, Wayne & Eleanor Musser, Dave/Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Austin Rayner, Jean Rayner, Margaret Rentfrow, Nellie Rizzi, Barbara/Randy Rudé, Edna Hazel Ruth, Ralph Schatz, Mary Schultz, Gerri Stoodley, Kenny Veldheer, Norma Vinsonhaler, Tammie Wakefield, Aggie Williams and Gertie Wissinger.

56th
Annual **A** **rmed**
2015 **D** **orces**
Day CITY OF
TORRANCE
Celebration

Armed Forces Day Parade
Saturday, May 16, 2014

Our nation's men and women of the military forces have defended our country, insured our freedom, and upheld the beliefs and principles that this great nation was built on. In May, the City of Torrance will continue its long-standing tradition of hosting an Armed Forces Day Celebration and Parade to honor the sacrifices of our nation's military.

TFB will have a pop-up along the route and volunteers will pass out water, pinwheels, and fans. For more information and/or to volunteer to help, contact Nathan Montgomery, 906/367-4700.

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

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

DATED MATERIAL