

# the Proclaimer

May 2016

Volume 29 Issue 5



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*Saturday, May 14 ~ 9 a.m.*

All men, Junior High and older, are invited to join us for our quarterly Men's Breakfast here at Torrance First Baptist Church. Our speaker will be from 1000 Pines. We are asking for a \$5 donation per person. Sign up in the patio.

*Ladies' Tea Party  
Sunday, May 22  
2:00 p.m.*

Calling all mothers, daughters, and grandmothers to join us. There will be tea and cakes and games to play.

Dress up in your hats and gloves (if you'd like—it's not mandatory, but fun!).



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

## From the Pastor's Heart



### Allowing God's Grace to Flow through You

Isn't God's grace incredible? Not only is God's grace great and wonderful, God's grace is also central for us to accurately reflect God to others. The decision to give others love, kindness, patience, encouragement, gentleness, support, a second or tenth chance—even if they do not deserve it—are just some of the

qualities and actions that grace brings to life. One person said, "Grace is the love of God made visible." We all need that love of God in our lives—so do our spouses, our children, our neighbors, and our co-workers.

We all are concerned about right and wrong, about justice, about the destructive nature of evil, about poor use of God's money—about lots of things. But God's grace tells us not to allow those concerns and worries to override or sidetrack us from choosing to live by grace.

In John 3:17 it says, "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it." Neither did He send us into the world or to TFB to condemn but rather to show each other and the world the light of God's amazing grace.

In a grace-filled environment, gossip, jealousy, manipulation,

power plays, turf wars, stinginess, criticism, backbiting, apathy and the like, rear their ugly heads only on rare occasions.

In a grace-filled environment, there are lots of kind words, encouragement, support, people helping others succeed, people praying for each other, people taking the initiative to meet needs, people working together, and a passionate concern for the lost.

My prayer is that our guests and our community will see the grace of God in action as they watch us worship and work together.

May God give each of us His passions, His values, and His heartbeat, so that His grace will be seen for miles.

Serving Christ together,  
Pastor Charlie

Allowing God's Grace to Flow through You

## Reflections

by Pastor Rog

We live in a fast-paced world, and oftentimes we get so preoccupied with our own personal needs and situations that we fail to see the needs of others. Those who do not personally know Christ would say, "That's just the way it is. I have my hands full of just taking care of myself."

To us who do know Christ personally, our response should be entirely different, as we realize that our lives are to be patterned after Christ (Philippians 2:5-8).

As I realize that this is true,

the Holy Spirit reminds me that there is still much improvement needed in this area of my life. It became clear to me that I need to see others through His eyes rather than my own. Why? Because my life, too, tends to be centered around that which just concerns me rather than noticing how I can minister to others. Perhaps this is true of many of you as well.

We need to view people and events around us from God's perspective. When the Lord brings someone across our path, we could look to see if He is convicting that person of his need



of salvation. Or we might notice that a friend is in need of comfort due to hardships in his or her life. Perhaps we will see that another is facing a strong challenge, and a word of encouragement would do wonders for that person. Sometimes I ask myself, "How did I not see this need, Lord?"

I cannot speak for anyone else, but it seems that the Lord is saying to me, "Rog, your focus too

*Seniors & Friends Luncheon*  
 May 20  
 12 noon

it's a  
**POTLUCK**

Bring something to share!

We will enjoy food and fellowship and a speaker from SAFE coalition, who will give us ideas on how to feel safe in our homes.

*Parents*  
**KIDS NIGHT OUT**  
 Friday, May 20  
 6-9 p.m.

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



*Colossians Kids Grand Prix*  
 Saturday,  
 June 4  
 2-6 p.m.

All kids, kindergarten through 5th graders, and their families are invited to join us for this exciting event. Reserve your car kit now and get ready to make your very own design racer. The cost is \$5/kit.

After the races, we will have pizza and soda for a donation of \$3/per person.



*King's Karate*  
 New Classes Begin  
 Monday, June 6

Ages 6-12: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Ages 13-Adult: 7:10-8:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Daniel Marion, 310/349-7647, or at [kingskaratetfb@gmail.com](mailto:kingskaratetfb@gmail.com)



*New Face in the Office*  
*Nhung Norman*

My name is Nhung Norman. My husband's name is Robert. We have 3 children, Amanda (27), Jacob (14), and Joshua (9). We started attending TFB when I was pregnant with Joshua, about 10 years ago.

I was born in Vietnam but left the country when I was 10-years-old due to the war. I spent my teenage years living in Berlin, Germany. My mother, brother and I relocated to Sacramento, California, and then to Torrance.

As long as I can remember, I have believed in God, but I didn't know Jesus as my Lord and Savior. It was while attending a Ladies' Retreat at Thousand Pines with the women of TFB that I accepted Jesus as the Lord of my life.



News



This is what you think you look like...

But maybe...

you are more like this.



## Formal Night for H.S. Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.

Show up in formal wear and join us for a small “banquet,” as we learn basic etiquette at formal events. Invite your friends!



May Events



Service Project  
Friday, May 27  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Join us in the Jr. High Room as we spend the evening working on a project that will bless others.



## The “Big C” Church by Daniel Marion

Jesus calls us His “Church.” We can let this idea go too far without realizing it, separating all of God’s children into sub-families, instead of the One family that is called by One name by One Spirit, under One God (Ephesians 4:3-6). Even though the various congregations around the world each have their own name, culture, and leadership, we are still His “Church.”

If you’re having the following thoughts, maybe you’re losing the sense of unity in the Church that Christ intended us to have (John 17):

1. **“I wish our church had a better (website, holiday program, etc.), like that other church.”**

The reason that congregation has those things is that God gave someone over there a particular talent, and willingness to use it to serve the Body in that location. Praise God for what He’s done in that congregation, which is part of the “Big C” Church.

2. **“I hope that person leaves our church and goes somewhere else.”**

If you find someone to have a theological or character shortcoming, it’s easy to hope that person would move to a different congregation so that you don’t have to deal with him. However, if a clot moves from one part of your body to another, have you solved the problem? No. The problem must be resolved. The Church is one body (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

3. **“I wish our church had more people.”**

This is a tough one. We want to make as many disciples as we can, but Sunday morning attendance is not necessarily the only sign of a successful church. It’s more important that people come to salvation than whether or not they land at TFB. We’re going to be in heaven together forever; congregation names are temporary.

In his letters, Paul refers to people in other cities/congregations as “your brothers in Philippi,” or to the whole church as, “joint heirs with Christ.” He says in 1 Corinthians 12:13 “There is no slave nor free nor gentile nor Jew nor man nor woman, but all are one in Christ Jesus.”



## *Enjoy Time with the Singles' Fellowship*

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

**Dinner Night ~ Saturday, May 7, 6:30 p.m.** ~ Meet at Veggie Grill, Rolling Hills Plaza, 2533 Pacific Coast Highway, in Torrance (near AMC parking structure).



**Game Night ~ Saturday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.** ~ Meet at Church. Bring games and snacks.



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

*"God is Unique and Pure (Holiness)"*

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

We humans are worshipers, and we will always find something or someone to worship. We may worship ideas or possessions. We may worship strength or wisdom. We may worship spiritual powers or physical prowess. Try as we might to make gods of ourselves or gods of other things, there is only one God, and he alone is worthy of worship.

In Isaiah 43 to 48, a repeating phrase drives home a fundamental idea of holiness.

"I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior" (Isaiah 43:11, ESV).

"I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god" (Isaiah 44:6b, ESV).

"I am the Lord, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:6b, ESV).

"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me" (Isaiah 46:9b, ESV).

God is God; there is no other. So why was this so important for Isaiah's readers to know? First, the nations that surrounded Israel needed to know that Israel was God's chosen witness. Second, Israel needed to know, for she had chosen to worship other gods. Finally, these declarations echo the name God declares in Exodus 3:14, "God said to Moses, 'I am who I am.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you''" (ESV).

*"God is the only god. Believers are called and made to be like him, but he is not like us. God is unique."*

Now, what does this tell us about holiness?

God's holiness is his uniqueness: he is wholly other than his creation. He is Creator, not creation. He is Sovereign, not subject. He is free, not contingent. His holiness is characterized by his divine perfections. God holds every attribute in complete perfection. He is always exactly who he claims to be. His holiness is also characterized by his moral purity. He is completely pure. In him there is no moral insufficiency. His moral purity is necessary to his being and requires no effort.

God is the only god. Believers are called and made to be like him, but he is not like us. God is unique. He is holy. He alone is worthy of our worship, and personal and communal holiness are crucial aspects of that worship.

**Recurring Weekly Events:**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Ladies return from 1000 Pines 2p Sing @ Royalwood	2	3	4	5	6 Anx. reserved all day: Loaves/Fishes 7p Young Marrieds	7 11a Loaves & Fishes 6:30p Singles' Dinner Out
8 Mother's Day	9 5p Men's BSF Dinner & Share	10	11	12 7p Beacon Light Mission 7p Contemporary Vocal Practice	13 7p NeXus (college)	14 9a Men's Breakfast
15	16 7p Finance Team	17 6p Ministry Teams: GO, Fellowship, Outreach, Worship, Disc. Dev. & FMT 7p Deacon/ess H.S. Formal Night	18	19	20 12n Sr. Luncheon 6p Kids' Night Out 7p Young Marrieds	21 8a Karate Test 6:30p Singles' Game Night 7pm Share & Care
22 2p Ladies' Tea Party 7p Movie Night for HS/College	23	24	25	26 7p Contemporary Vocal Practice	27 7p NeXus (college)	28
29	30 Memorial Day Office Closed	31				

**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.  
 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.:  
**[only through 5/9]**

**Tuesday**

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

**Wednesday**

Family Dinner, 6 p.m.  
 Colossians Kids, 6:30 p.m.  
 Jr. High QUEST, 6:30 p.m.  
 Small Group Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.  
 Choir Practice, 7 p.m.  
 Covenant (Korean) Bible Study, 8 p.m.  
 Open Volleyball, 8:15 p.m.

**Thursday**

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

**Friday**

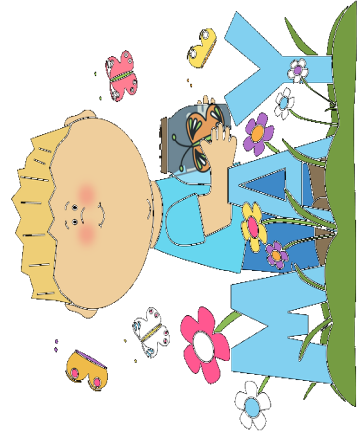
Ladies meet @ Denny's for Bkfst., 9 a.m.

**Saturday**

Men's BSF Leaders, 6 a.m.:  
**[only through 5/7]**  
 Covenant (Korean) Prayer, 6 a.m.  
 H.S. Guys/Gals Bible Study, 10 a.m.

**Upcoming June Events:**

- 6/4 ~ Loaves & Fishes, 11a
- 6/4 ~ Colossians Kids Grand Prix, 2p
- 6/6 ~ New Semester for King's Karate
- 6/11 ~ Girls' Night Out [offsite], 5p
- 6/17 ~ Kids' Night Out, 6p
- 6/18 ~ All-church Work Day
- 6/25 ~ Men to Forest Lawn
- 6/27-7/1 ~ Lightseekers' Jr. Camp



**2016**

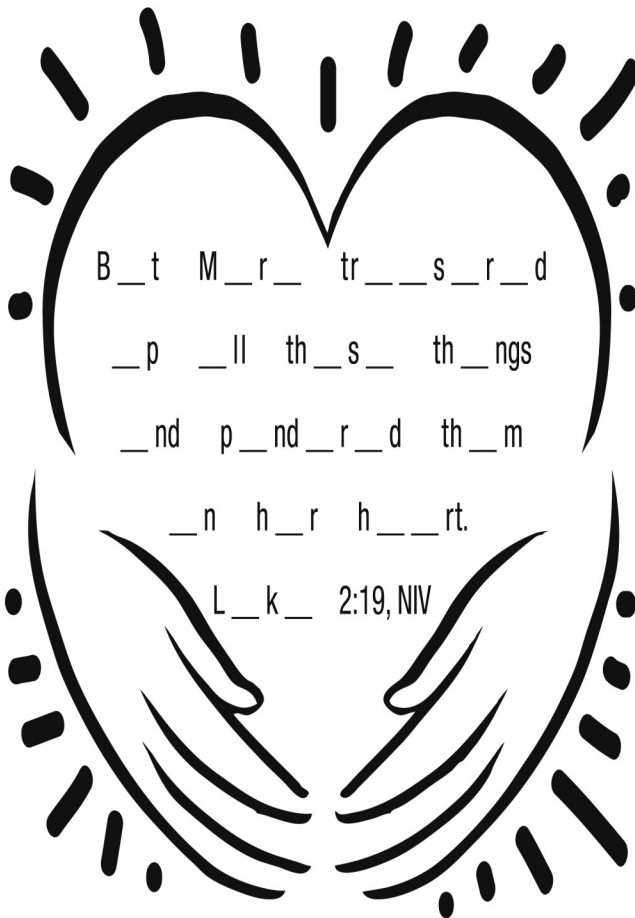


# A mother's love

At age 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. His parents later found him in the temple, discussing Scripture. What did Mary, Jesus' mother, think about this?

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible verse.

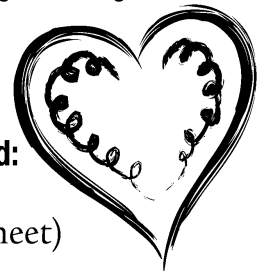
A E I O U Y



Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV

# A heartfelt felt heart

On Mother's Day, express your love for your mom or another special woman by giving her this gift from the heart.



### What you need:

- Red felt (8" x 11" sheet)
- Dark pen
- Fabric scissors
- Pillow stuffing
- Straight pins
- Embroidery thread (pink, red or black)
- Needle
- An adult to help

### What you do:

1. Fold the felt in half and draw a heart on it. Cut out the heart so you have two of the same size.
2. Place the hearts on top of each other, add stuffing and pin the hearts together.
3. Thread the needle with a long piece of thread. Knot the end.
4. Sew the hearts together. Knot the thread and trim the ends. Remove pins.
5. Give the gift — and a hug!



From our missionary Bobby Gupta,  
President of HBI Global Partners



Linnet & Bobby Gupta

Greetings from Chennai India!

Thank you sooooo much for generously giving, praying, supporting the vision and encouraging us each month. Your involvement enables us and empowers us to do His mission. Thank you!

We were able to do a medical camp in one of the flood-affected areas in which we are working. We also did a base line survey in this community to move forward in our effort of rebuilding the community. We have identified children that need help with their studies. As most of their parents are non-literate, the children are struggling to do their homework and make any progress in their studies.

We are planning to start a special tutorial for these children so we can work with them and help them with their studies. We also identified many young women who are interested in learning a skill. We are inviting them to our tailoring school to learn the sewing lessons. Please pray that our efforts will result in empowering them with a skill and also in discipling them to Christ.

We had a short-term team from Northbrook Church and the Pastor of Christ Church, Lake Forest, were part of the efforts in Siliguri, West Bengal. We praise God the team was able to minister to 110 children through two day camps, 20 community women and young people from the slums [teaching them] a skill to do jewelry-making from trash bags and plastic bottles, 14 next gen young people training them as church planters, and teaching 8 of our orphanage children to play [the] ukulele and 101 people in [the] community through medical ministry. Praise God!

I had the privilege of traveling to Moreh, Manipur, to firm up the boundary for a property that we bought for a Regional Center. More on this in the future, but it was a great miracle that we got the boundary set up.

We want to thank you so very much for your continued prayers and support. You enable and empower us to become effective in serving the Lord in India.

Paul (Bobby) Gupta



# Reflections

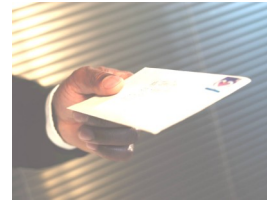
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narrow. You are looking at life as if you are looking in a mirror (your own needs and hurts). You need to look at life as if you are looking through a window (noticing the needs and hurts of others). When you do this, you will be looking at others from My perspective.” Thank you, Lord.

Now, how can our perspective be changed? By spending time alone with the Lord and sensing His “heartbeat” as we spend time with Him in the Word and prayer. We need to be like the boy, Samuel, who said, “Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10). And as we sense His “heartbeat” and see others through His eyes, our lives will be lived differently.

Today my heart-felt prayer is “Lord Jesus, please do your work in me that I may see others as You do.”

I’m needing His touch upon my heart,  
*Pastor Rog*



## We Get Mail

I just want to thank my church family for your prayers, flowers, and cards that I received after the home-going of my brother, J. L. Scroggins. All were greatly appreciated.

Vivian Sisco

Dear Church Family,

Your thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated in the home-going of Tom’s father, Andy Cochran. We loved the colorful flowers that were sent. Most of all, your prayers, thoughts, kind words, and cards were so appreciated as well. God has richly blessed us with a wonderful church family.

Love and friendship in Christ,  
Carol, Tom and Julie Cochran

Dear TFB Family and Friends,

Kathy and I want to thank you for all your cards, hospital and home visits, and your continued prayers during my recent back surgery. The procedure was a bit more than we anticipated and therefore the recovery has been rather slow. However, the Lord has been so good to me and I am making improvement every day. I look forward to being back to normal soon.

Love in Christ,  
Dick Hills



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, Joy Pierson, Darlene Purdom, Penny Rahmeyer, Jean Rayner, Nellie Rizzi, Barbara & Randy Rudé, Ralph Schatz, Mary Schultz, Bill & Gerri Stoodley, Norma Vinsonhaler, Tammie Wakefield, Betty Wallace, and Gertie Wissinger.



## TFB Tithes & Offerings

Thank you for giving approximately \$73,746 in the month of March.



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

Robin Fisher, beloved husband of Pam, is now with the Lord;



Vivian Sisco lost her sister, Charlesetta;

Dutchess Gattis lost her sister, Mary; and

Dave Pierson, who had been the longest surviving TFB member and beloved husband of Joy, is now in the arms of Jesus.



*Smile*



*Awhile*



This is what SORRY looks like.



This is what TIRED looks like.



"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" Psalm 23

This is what COURAGE looks like.

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