

# First Edition



## April 2018

First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 [www.fbcsanmateo.org](http://www.fbcsanmateo.org)

### Your Opportunity - - if you will ask Him

By Senior Pastor Marc Heinz

Have you ever wondered how God might want to use you to further His Kingdom? Is it possible that He might want you to serve Him at work, or school, or even in your neighborhood? I often talk to people who want to serve the Lord but they don't know how to do so outside of the church.

When I first became a Christian, I thought the only way to serve the Lord was at church or in a mission organization. It never even occurred to me that I could serve God where I worked, or in the community in which I lived. Then one day I was having lunch with my pastor and he asked me the strangest question: "How are you serving God at work? What kind of ministry do you have at U.P.S.?" I really didn't know how to respond. That day my pastor helped me understand that God wanted to use every aspect of my life to further His Kingdom. And he gave me some great advice, "Grow and bloom where God has you."

Over the years, I have learned that God intentionally plants His people in places where they can grow and serve Him. It is God's desire that we, His people, stand out and make Him visible to those around us, whether at work, school, home or even the grocery store. The reality is God has a unique ministry for each of us. He wants to work through us and He promises to supply all the power and strength we

need. All He asks is that you make whatever you have available to Him. And if you are willing to do that, He will take it from there and the adventure of a lifetime will begin.

Recently a friend of mine began to pray and ask God to show him someone at work with whom he could share His love and grace. It didn't take long for his prayers to be answered and God began to direct him to more people than he could have ever imagined. It has been exciting to hear about the people the Lord has brought his way! And he has been given more and more opportunities to minister to the lost, the lonely and the hurting, simply because he allowed God to work through his life. You should also know that he hasn't found this ministry to be a distraction from being a good employee. Instead, it is a two-fold opportunity for him to serve God and his employer at the same time. My friend is blooming where God has planted him. And since he sees his workplace as one of the special mission fields God has prepared for him he looks forward to going to work and being used by God.

So let me ask: Are you blooming where God has planted you? How might God want to use your life? Is it possible that He could use you to make Himself visible to a world that is hurting and desperately needs to know that God loves and cares for them?

I encourage you to pray and ask God to show you someone at work, school, the neighborhood or the grocery store with whom you can share His love, and grace. Look for opportunities to connect with other people. Ask God to help you recognize the mission field that He has uniquely prepared just for you.

If you want to serve the Lord, and be used by Him to make an eternal impact in this world, all you have to do is make yourself available. Let God use you right where you have been planted. As you do that, God will be glorified and you will be blessed!

"Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee; Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy Love, at the impulse of Thy Love.

"Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee; Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King, always, only for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages for Thee; take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold, not a mite would I withhold.

"Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee, ever, only, all for Thee.

# HOPE . . . . . By Doug Andrews

1 Peter 3:15-16a

*“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience.”*

To our world today hope is an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one’s life or the world at large. It’s an emotional outlook; a want for something desired to actually be true or to happen. Psychologists have accurately concluded that hope is absolutely essential to someone’s mental health.

“Hope is a psychological necessity, and perhaps it is a distinctive mark of humanity too; for alone among animals, human beings have foresight which, informed by memory, would seem to give a truly rational individual good grounds for steeling himself against hope as much as possible – and yet most of us do exactly the opposite most of the time.” - A.C. Grayling

Popular media have also correctly ascertained that hope is critical. From Star Wars to The Shawshank Redemption, there is an understanding that hope is indispensable. In our world, people place their hope in all kinds of things: leaders, political movements, new laws, careers, 401k’s, technologies, etc. Families place their hopes in the success of their jobs, being more organized, their vacations, or their kids G.P.A.’s. And each of these hopes may promise beneficial change, but none can deliver on the greatest need of all... hope within the human heart that speaks to our deepest questions and needs.

Without hope people despair. We become easily depressed, agitated, lost, and dejected. There is a spiraling downward into worsening cycles of discouragement, anger, blame, frustration, and failed

unhealthy efforts to cope. THAT is what we are seeing in our world today. THAT is why there are so many who take up violent means to express their feelings of anger over their hopelessness. New laws, regulations, or even community group programs will not solve this problem. They may deal with some of the expressions of hopelessness, but the real change that must happen needs to be on a deep spiritual level. And right now what we are seeing in our world is either feeling that we are losing or have lost hope in the future.

But, if you think about it... This is GOOD! Our world is waking up to the fact that things are broken and can’t be fixed by working harder in unspiritual ways.

As disciples of Jesus, we have a powerful and unique opportunity, to shine the light of REAL HOPE. Because our hope is not just an emotional state that we create by placing it in worldly ideals or aspirations. The Bible makes it clear that our HOPE is something very different and is placed somewhere very different. The nature and object of our hope is totally different than what is going on in the world. Everyone knows that our world is broken and needs to be fixed. The reason people are searching for answers and pushing for new methods, is because this world is all they know. We need to show them *“the Way, the Truth, and the Life”*: Jesus (John 14:6).

The college group has been working through an interactive series on how to share Christ with people put together by Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. This last Sunday before holy week, the topic was the “Apologetic Assumption of Hope.” What we learned was that, the essential gospel message is a message of hope. And while many would call our belief in Christ, wishful thinking, we know that it is not. We know that our hope lies in

the true historically verified crucified and risen Savior Jesus. This makes our hope in Him a sure and solid trust in the forgiving and redeeming work of Jesus and His demonstrated power over death to grant eternal life to whomever He chooses. That is why Paul said,

*“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him”* (1 Thess. 4:13-14).”

Henry Blackaby writes, “Hope in the Christian’s life is not wishful thinking. It is confident expectation. Those without Christ may wish things were different and wish they knew someone who could change their situations. The Christian is personally related to the Lord of the universe, who is sovereign not only over all creation but also over every circumstance we experience. We can live with confidence because our hope is in One who is faithful. When God speaks, He stands by His word to see that it comes to pass (Isaiah 55:11). When God speaks a word to you, trust Him completely, for God never deceives His children. Our hope is not mere speculation in what God might do. God has given His word on many areas of life regarding things He will do. We can have confident hope in everything that He has promised.”

So are you holding out that word of hope for people to see? Are you shining out like stars in this dark generation (Phil 2:12)? Are you distinct and different because you are living in the true and powerful hope of the resurrection? Are you prepared to tell people about the HOPE that is in you, and WHO that hope is? What a unique and amazing opportunity we have to be His light in this dark and hopeless world.

## The Cross That Made Me a Believer

By Clay Minter

The cross to some may be a decoration, a piece of jewelry, a way to look religious. It is misunderstood, scoffed at, mocked, rejected, made fun of, hated. Much like the God man who was nailed to it. For true believers in Jesus Christ it stands for so much more. The forgiveness of sin was accomplished there. The Lamb of God was sacrificed on it. Victory over Satan despite all his efforts was achieved on the cross. And on the third day death was defeated through it. He is Alive, Hallelujah!!! For me, the thing that stands out the most about the cross of Christ is Love. What amazing love our Lord demonstrated for us by leaving Heaven and His Father to come down here with us, for us, to love us.

Our beautiful Triune God revealed Himself and His love for me through what I perceived to be a cross. As a non believer who never went to church I still knew a cross represented God somehow. During a time of extreme grief over the inevitable end of my wife's time here on earth and a war going on in my mind if God was real or not I cried out to Him to show me something to know if He was real.

Granted there were many other factors leading up to this such as seeds being planted by friends and family. Witnessing faith that I had never seen before. Thoughts entering my mind (specifically, "I am bringing her home and it is OK") which would not normally be in my thought pattern. And probably more that I was not aware of. But on a day that I had to get away from it all (knowing now that it was His plan and timing) I went for a ride and "happened" (again divine intervention) to stop at a turn out by Crystal Springs reservoir. There is where I asked him to show me something. With tears flowing, looking out of the driver side window He reached down and turned my head from the east to the west and my eyes went directly to the cross pictured below. What better thing to show me. That cross that made me a believer.



After that experience I have become what I call cross eyed. I see crosses all over the place. Power poles, signs, buildings even the lines on my ceiling at home. I have since learned so much more about the Cross of Christ and fall, more in love with my Savior every time I really think about His Cross. For those who were led by God to our Good Friday Service and those that did not, I pray that you make the choice to take up your cross which is Gods will for you and then follow Jesus.

The cross that God turned my eyes to has a sign stating that it is a perch for birds of prey but I know what my Savior intended it for and I am forever thankful. You are Mighty to Save, My Lord.

## What a Friend

Joseph Skriven

Charles C. Converse

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit,  
O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in Prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Excerpt from

### "Day by Day with J.C. Ryle

Submitted by Doris Waddell

*"And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of th Lord, how he had said unto him, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice." Luke 22:61*

### **The infinite mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

We are told that when Peter denied Christ the third time, and the cock crew, "the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter." Those words are deeply touching! Surrounded by bloodthirsty and insulting enemies, in the full prospect of horrible outrages, an unjust trial and a painful death, the Lord Jesus yet found time to think kindly of His poor erring disciple: even then He would have Peter know He did not forget him. Sorrowfully no doubt, but not angrily, He "turned, and looked upon Peter." There was deep meaning in that look. It was a sermon which Peter never forgot.

The love of Christ towards His people is a deep well which has no bottom. . . . it exceeds all other love, . . . There is about it a mine of compassion, and patience, and readiness to forgive sin, of whose riches we have but a faint conception. Let us not be afraid to go on trusting it after we have once believed. No man need despair, however far he may have fallen, if he will only repent and turn to Christ. If the heart of Jesus was so gracious when He was prisoner in the judgment hall, we surely need not think it is less gracious when He sits in glory at the right hand of God."



# FBC Women's Ministry Retreat 2018

"Encountering God" by Sandy Murray

On Friday afternoon, March 16, 2018, 17 women from FBC began to gather at Redwood Glen in Loma Mar, California to attend the annual Women's Retreat. The goal of our weekend was for each lady present to "Encounter God". We began on Friday night with a game provided by Tami Strang and were led in worship by Janet White and Mara Prieto.

After worship there was a talk on Isaiah 6, a passage which relates how the prophet Isaiah encountered God. When Isaiah saw his vision of the Lord, he was overwhelmed with God's holiness and glory. In response to both he was immediately convicted of his own sinfulness. We were reminded that our sin separates us from God and in order to relate to Him we must be cleansed. God graciously and mercifully cleansed Isaiah so he could remain in His presence. Following that pattern, Candace Heinz led us in our first session on Saturday morning. After a time of worship, Candace sent us off to spend time in confessing our sins. We returned to share what the Lord had showed us.

On Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, we also spent time in worship and then Mara Prieto directed us again to find time alone with God. We were provided with specific scriptures and

a set of questions to meditate on. The scriptures focused on God and were from the Old Testament, New Testament and Revelation. When we returned we shared what the Lord had taught us about Himself.

We ended with a very powerful time of sharing, communion, and more worship. Stenya Strang asked all who wanted to participate in a prayer ministry for each other. We exchanged requests and hope that this will be the beginning of an ongoing prayer ministry. All in all it was an incredible weekend. We "got out of God's way" and His presence was felt throughout.

We would like to keep the spirit of the retreat going and plan to offer two sessions on April 15, and June 3. Both are Sundays and we will be meeting in the chapel from 12:30-2:00. The title of both Sessions is "Encountering God" -Equipping and Encouraging Women Through His Word". In each session we will focus on a different name of God (much like we did on the retreat). After looking at who God is through His Name, we will go off to meditate on some scriptures about that particular name of God. We will then return to share. If you went to the retreat and were impacted, please come and if you weren't there we would love to have you come and "Encounter God". Please bring your own lunch and we are looking to provide childcare.





## OUR MISSIONARIES AT WORK

### A Letter from Tom and Maddy Hardeman Who Knew?

I never dreamed I'd be appearing in front of a Philippine Senate Committee representing Faith Academy, yet that is just what I did recently.

Since arriving at Faith Academy in the year 2006, I've been on a journey of discovery for the school's official identity. When Faith was founded over 60 years ago, the Philippine government was quite different than it is today. We had an agreement with the Department of Education that gave us the right to operate as a school. Over the years, our standing as a school became less sure and clear. I made several unsuccessful attempts to discover a concrete document that outlined our status with the government as a missionary school.

different today than in 1957 when the school was founded.

The current government created a new type of recognition for international schools called "Educational Institution of International Character," or EIIC. This is the correct label we should have. To that end, we have embarked on a journey that feels impossible. We need to have a bill sponsored in both the Philippine House of Congress and the Senate, and once it makes it past those, then the President needs to sign it into law. A major milestone in this journey was achieved in February when I, along with seven others from the school, was able to appear in a hearing before a subcommittee of the Senate to promote our bill for consideration. The Lord granted us favor, and



**The Faith Academy team visiting the Philippine Senate to appear in the hearing.**

Another significant part of the equation is that Faith Academy has also morphed over the years. In the early days, Faith Academy was nearly 95 percent American missionary children. In the early 1980s there was a major influx of Korean missionary students, to the point that five years ago, Korean MKs (missionary kids) became our number-one demographic. The landscape of missions from the west has shifted and there are not as many western MKs coming to this region of Asia. In addition to this, starting in 2005, we were able to begin accepting Filipino Christian ministry and business families. Filipinos have rapidly become our third largest population and are growing annually. Finally, as of this year, we are starting to take in the children of pastors in mainland China as students at Faith. We look quite

the bill was approved to move to the next phase where it will be presented for approval to the entire Philippine Senate This should take place in the next few months. In the meantime, we will continue to work on getting our bill sponsored in the House as well.

Zechariah 4:6b reads "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty." We could not have orchestrated the events that led us to appear before that Senatorial committee. Clearly, God was working on behalf of the school. This is both a thrilling and intimidating journey.

Thank you for praying for us. We need every single one of those prayers if we are to stay the course here in Manila!

Serving the Lord together,  
Tom & Maddy

### A Letter from Alan and Audrey Dianich

As we have mentioned before, Sacramento State University has many students from India. We met many of them outside the International Students Orientation, gave them a Welcome Gift and invited them to our activities. Our regular Thursday Talk Time meeting has had 17 students from India visit! This past Saturday, we held our annual Golf Day and several Indian students joined us. On Thursday night this week, we will have our first South Asian Social of the semester. The South Asian Social will have food prepared by local families from India who attend churches in our area.

Earlier this month, I joined staff from the Bay Area and Los Angeles for an outreach to the international students at USC and Santa Monica College. It was fun to work together with them on these campuses. In the few hours we were on campus, we connected with 196 students from 30 countries, met 58 spiritually open students and 18 Christian students. Please pray that this would lead to "lasting fruit" at these two campuses.

Next week Audrey and I will be in Southern California for my sister's wedding and to see some of our dear supporters. Please pray for our safety and also for Zach (18) and Brianna (17) home alone. They both have cars!

### Please pray for:

- Nicole and her baby, due April 20th.



- "Lasting fruit" from our outreach at USC and Santa Monica College.
- Our safety as we travel and also for Zachery and Brianna while we are away.
- The safety of the 5 Sacramento international students who are doing Hurricane Harvey relief work in Texas during spring break.
- Pray that the students from India will continue to come to our activities.

Thank you so much!  
Alan & Audrey

# FBC Youth

## FBC YOUTH Service- Sunday Mornings 11:00 - 12:15 pm

Games, fun, worship, and our next teaching direction for our Sunday youth group meeting is going to focus on Exploring God's word and integrating knowing Christ into our daily lives.

## College/Career Fellowship - Sundays 12:30-2:00 pm

Part 3 of our "True University Series" - Who is Jesus? As always, we have great discussions together about the topic we are discussing but are relating it to our own personal relationship in knowing Jesus. Lunch provided.

## FBC YOUTH Mid-Week - Combined CAD and TNT (High/Jr. High) - Tuesday Nights 7:15 - 9:00 pm

Our teaching direction for our mid-week youth group meeting focusing on "Walking with the Lord" in our lives.



## **Men's Breakfast**

**April 7, 8:30 a.m.**

**In the Chapel**

**ALL MEN are welcome.**



Have you ever considered honoring a loved one by providing a bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary? Several dates are available. Sign up in the notebook on the counter in the narthex. We ask and appreciate a \$40 gift for each arrangement.

The office staff will order your bouquet to be delivered -- so convenient, and so appreciated by your loved ones.

*A BIG THANK YOU  
to all the artists  
who helped with the banner for  
Resurrection Sunday*



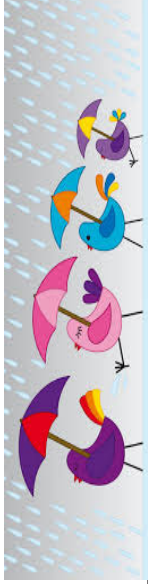
*Janet White  
Maxine Yip  
Javiar Morales  
Stenya Strang  
Tami Strang  
Laurie Olson*



April 12: Clay Minter  
April 14: Gina Geitner  
April 18: Lori Yamane  
April 23: JOrge Cardenas  
April 24: Norma Hinderlie  
April 25: Myrian Neciuk



Happy Anniversary  
April 19  
Pat and Regina Coffee



# April 2018

| SUN  | MON | TUE  | WED                                      | THU | FRI   | SAT                         |   |
|--|-----|--|--|-----|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1<br>Resurrection Sunday<br>Sunrise Service<br>Communion | 2   | 3<br>7:15pm FBC Youth  | 4<br>6:30pm Bible Study<br>6:30pm AWANA  | 5   | 6<br>5:30pm Youth Band Rehearsal                        | 7<br>8:30am Men's Breakfast |   |
| 8  | 9   | 10<br>7:15pm FBC Youth   | 11<br>6:30pm Bible Study<br>6:30pm AWANA | 12  | 13<br>5:30pm Youth Band Rehearsal                       | 14                          |   |
| 15<br>"Encountering God"<br>Group<br>12:30pm             | 16  | 17<br>7:15pm FBC Youth   | 18<br>6:30pm Bible Study<br>6:30pm AWANA | 19  | 20<br>5:30pm Youth Band Rehearsal                       | 21                          |   |
| 22   | 23  | 24<br>7:15pm FBC Youth   | 25<br>6:30pm Bible Study<br>6:30pm AWANA | 26  | 27<br>5:30pm Youth Band Rehearsal<br>6:30pm Movie Night | 28                          |   |
| 29   | 30  | <p><b>SUNDAY MORNINGS:</b><br/>           9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults<br/>           Contemporary Style Worship<br/>           11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth<br/>           Classical Style Worship<br/>           After Church: College/Career Study &amp; Fellowship</p> |  |     |   |                             | <p><b>All Events Are Subject to Change.</b></p> |



First Baptist Church  
 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas  
 San Mateo, California 94403

## Daily Bible Readings

The following Bible readings are provided by [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) for our use.

### April

|        |    |                    |
|--------|----|--------------------|
| Sun.   | 01 | 2 Samuel 10-12     |
| Mon.   | 02 | 2 Samuel 13-15     |
| Tues.  | 03 | 2 Samuel 16-18     |
| Wed.   | 04 | 2 Samuel 19-21     |
| Thurs. | 05 | 2 Samuel 22-22     |
| Fri.   | 06 | 1 Kings 1-3        |
| Sat.   | 07 | 1 Kings 4-6        |
| Sun.   | 08 | 1 Kings 7-9        |
| Mon.   | 09 | 1 Kings 10-12      |
| Tues.  | 10 | 1 Kings 13-15      |
| Wed.   | 11 | 1 Kings 16-18      |
| Thurs. | 12 | 1 Kings 19-22      |
| Fri.   | 13 | 2 Kings 1-3        |
| Sat.   | 14 | 2 Kings 4-6        |
| Sun.   | 15 | 2 Kings 7-9        |
| Mon.   | 16 | 2 Kings 10-12      |
| Tues.  | 17 | 2 Kings 13-15      |
| Wed.   | 18 | 2 Kings 16-18      |
| Thurs. | 19 | 2 Kings 19-21      |
| Fri.   | 20 | 2 Kings 22-25      |
| Sat.   | 21 | 1 Chronicles 1-6   |
| Sun.   | 22 | 1 Chronicles 7-9   |
| Mon.   | 23 | 1 Chronicles 10-12 |
| Tues.  | 24 | 1 Chronicles 13-15 |
| Wed.   | 25 | 1 Chronicles 16-18 |
| Thurs. | 26 | 1 Chronicles 19-21 |
| Fri.   | 27 | 1 Chronicles 22-25 |
| Sat.   | 28 | 1 Chronicles 26-29 |
| Sun.   | 29 | 2 Chronicles 1-3   |
| Mon.   | 30 | 2 Chronicles 4-6   |



Disney•Pixar welcomes back everyone's favorite forgetful blue tang Dory, who's living happily in the reef with Nemo and Marlin. When Dory suddenly remembers that she has a family out there who may be looking for her, the trio take off on a life-changing adventure across the ocean to California's Marine Life Institute. In an effort to find her parents

**Movie Night**  
**Friday,**  
**April 27,**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Popcorn, Hot dogs  
 and drinks  
 are provided.  
 Please bring a salad  
 or dessert to share.

**Movie at**  
**7pm**