



# First Edition

## May 2015



First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

### Genuine Prayer Embraces Our Cross

By Doug Andrews

At the Cross, at the Cross  
I surrender my life  
I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You  
Where Your love ran red  
And my sin washed white  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You, Jesus.

- Chris Tomlin

We sang this song over Easter and it continues to minister to me. This song expresses what happens when we truly come to the cross. Coming to Jesus through the cross, demands we surrender our lives to Him. We recognize that the decisions we've made and the way we've run our lives have left us bankrupt and empty. We are filled with sin, strife, fear, insecurity, anger, self-centeredness, loneliness, and lost. So we come, and yield control and leadership to Him, seeking a better way, His Way! The result is that we receive His forgiveness, love and righteousness, which leaves us in awe! At least it should. If we've truly come to Him, we can't help but be changed.

Once He's brought us through into new life in Him, we enter into a new way of living and functioning that is to be totally distinct from the way we lived before. Paul, describes it in these terms:

*"Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead."* (Romans 6:11-13)

So we no longer live like we did before, and we are to no longer see life and our circumstances like we did before.

*"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles*

*are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."* 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So not only did Jesus save us from our sin, but He rescued us from a life lived enslaved to sin. However, our fleshly sin nature is still present in us. But even with this situation, God has given us everything we need to live the new free life in Him. He's given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms AND He's given us the greatest gift of all! Himself!!! Through the power of the Holy Spirit's very-present work in our lives, we can live the new spirit-led and spirit-filled life. But it doesn't just 'happen.' There is a powerful and transforming work that God does to bring us more and more into this Spirit-led and filled and powered life.

#### He uses trials and suffering.

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* James 1:2-3

We have learned that God is working in our trials to mold us, shape us, refine us, so that we are more and more conformed to His image in us. So we should rejoice in these, because we know that God is doing an amazing work in us, to more and more free us from the fleshly sinful nature. And so because of our understanding of God's refining work through trials, it should radically change our view of the circumstances of life and therefore change the way we pray. C.H. Spurgeon writes: "May we have no burden to carry, because, though we have a burden, we have rolled it upon the Lord. May we take up our cross, and because Christ has once died on the cross, may our cross become a comfort to us.

May we count it all joy when we fall into divers trials, knowing that in all this God will be gloried, His image will be stamped on us, and the eternal purpose will be fulfilled, wherein He has predestined us to be conformed unto the image of His Son.

"Lord, look upon Thy people. We might pray about our trials and troubles. But we will not; we will only pray against our sins. We might come to Thee about our weariness, about our sickness, about our disappointments, about our poverty; but we will leave all that, we will only come about sin. Lord make us holy, and then do what Thou wilt with us."

Too often I am praying for the trials to end, for the pain to cease, for the circumstances to change around me in my life. When I pray simply for the trials to cease I am actually praying for God's will to stop in my life. I'm praying against what He is doing and desires to do in me. He has allowed these trials to teach me, refine me, mold me, shape me, and I am praying for the end before these trials have done their perfecting work. I've sinned! I've rebelled against God's will and work in my life. Like the clay, I've desired to jump off the wheel before the Potter has finished His work. Like the silver, I want out of the fire before all the impurities are removed. What a lack of faith and trust in the Perfect Potter.

No more shall I pray for trials to just end, until they have accomplished their just end. Like Spurgeon, let's keep praying, "Lord make us holy, and then do what Thou wilt with us." But we can only pray this if we trust Him, we love Him, and we KNOW Him.

If Christ carried His cross, He will enable us to carry ours. So therefore, we can embrace our cross, because we know that He is in us, His perfect purpose is being realized, and it's all happening because of His great love for us.

# Youth Activities

By Doug Andrews

## April Review and Summer Preview

Since our winter retreats in February and March we have seen God do some really great things in the hearts and lives of our youth. We planned a fun event during spring break for kids to reach out and bring their friends to CAD and TNT. Many new kids came and we're seeing God work and they are still coming. We are continuing in our teaching series for each of our ministries. Here's what the Lord has been leading us through this year since January:



## Current Events

TNT - Junior High - Thursday  
@ 7:00 - 8:45pm

Experiencing God Series: We are examining how you grow in your relationship with God so that you can truly KNOW HIM and experience Him in all the ways that are possible in your life.

## CAD - High School - Tuesday @ 7:15 - 9:00pm

Foundations Series: We are learning the basic and foundational truths that the Bible teaches. Though we are born in sin, Jesus came to pay the price and give us life through the Holy Spirit living in us to overcome sin, and experiencing Him and His amazing love.

## All Youth Service - Sundays @ 11:00 - 12:15pm

Through the Bible: We are currently teaching our way through the bible as it lines up with the calendar events. We just finished teaching through the gospels about the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. Now we are beginning the rest of the New Testament teaching in Acts and continuing into the letters to the churches by Paul, Peter, James, and John.

## Youth Bible Reading Plan:

We are reading through the Bible together based on a plan that we've developed that parallels our Sunday teaching. If you are interested in joining us you can download it by going to [fbcsanmateo.org/youth](http://fbcsanmateo.org/youth).

## Youth Parent Night

Friday, May 1st @ 7:00 pm (See next page.)

## Summer Events

We have some great events we're working on and will reveal in the next First Edition...

## Summer Kick-off Park Night

June 11 @ 5:00 - 9:00pm. Beresford Park and Church.

## CAD Summer Camp

(Hume Lake - Ponderosa Camp)  
Sunday - Saturday, July 26 - Aug 1 - \$495  
TNT Summer Camp (Hume Lake - Meadow Ranch Camp)  
Sunday - Saturday, July 26 - Aug 1 - \$495

## Daily Bible Readings - May

The following Bible reading is provided by [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)

Fri.	1	2 Chronicles 7-9
Sat.	2	Chronicles 10-12
Sun.	3	2 Chronicles 13-15
Mon.	4	2 Chronicles 16-18
Tues.	5	Chronicles 19-21
Wed.	6	2 Chronicles 22-24
Thurs.	7	2 Chronicles 25-27
Fri.	8	2 Chronicles 28-30
Sat.	9	2 Chronicles 31-33
Sun.	10	2 Chronicles 34-36
Mon.	11	Ezra 1-3
Tues.	12	Ezra 4-6
Wed.	13	Ezra 7-10
Thurs.	14	Nehemiah 1-3
Fri.	15	Nehemiah 4-6
Sat.	16	Nehemiah 7-9
Sun.	17	Nehemiah 10-13
Mon.	18	Esther 1-3
Tues.	19	Esther 4-6
Wed.	20	Esther 7-10
Thurs.	21	Job 1-3
Fri.	22	Job 4-6
Sat.	23	Job 7-9
Sun.	24	Job 10-12
Mon.	25	Job 13-15
Tues.	26	Job 16-18
Wed.	27	Job 19-21
Thurs.	28	Job 22-24
Fri.	29	Job 25-27
Sat.	30	Job 28-30
Sun.	31	Job 31-33

# KIDS & TECHNOLOGY

## FBC Parent Night

The world with all it's beauty and goodness,  
AND ugliness and evil has found it's way in to  
the palm of your kids hands.

Are they ready to handle it ALL?

Do YOU know what's going on?

Do you have a plan to help them  
make the right choices?



**Friday,  
May 1, 7pm**

For our next FBC Parent Night we are discussing the critical topic of what's happening in the world of technology, social media, youth culture, actual threats and very real issues your kids are facing right now. You will want to make this a priority and bring other parents to this informative and helpful night of learning, sharing, and prayer for our kids.



### *Special Guest Presenter:*

**Mr. Vincent Chan - Vice Principal of  
Dawn Christian Academy, San Mateo.**

Mr. Chan spent 5 years working in the high tech video gaming industry as a programmer and a business analyst, before God called him to become a full-time teacher and administrator. He now has served God in Christian education for the last 9 years ministering to students and families with Dawn Christian Academy (formerly Alpha Beacon School). With his experience and background in Silicon Valley, specifically in the video gaming industry, he has unique knowledge and insight into current technologies. And with his experience as a teacher he has insight into child development and youth culture and the impact technology is having on teens and children today.

He will be sharing with us effects technology has on brain development, current applications parents should be aware of, and practical ways we as parents can protect and safeguard our kids.

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# WORKSHOP



## Get Real

By Pat Coffey

When you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do. Matthew 6:7

Tommy was a National Guard Reservist called into action during the Gulf War. On the last Sunday before his actual deployment, the church he attended had a special time of prayer, sending him off with their promise of support and encouragement.

As you can imagine, the prayers for Tommy's safety were thick with theology and high-sounding words (as churchy prayers often are): "Sovereign God of the universe, we trust that You will protect this young man on his mission, O Lord, and that You will keep him within the shelter of Your wings." All very sincere, I'm sure, but quite flowery and unoriginal.

Then a little eight-year-old voice piped up from the back, "Dear Jesus, don't let Tommy get killed, okay? That's all. Okay. Amen." The sanctuary fell silent, as everyone suddenly knew that the prayers they had encrusted in adult euphemisms had really been grown-up attempts to say this one thing: "Don't let Tommy get killed, okay?" It took a child to express what adults couldn't.

When Robbie Castleman, author of Parenting in the Pew, told me that story, it reminded me of something I'd heard my friend Andre Kole, one of the top il-

lusionists in the world, say: "The hardest people in all the world to fool with your tricks are children." That's because children aren't as complex as adults in trying to figure something out. They just see it for what it is. They're not filtering the solution through so many possibilities.

The next time you pray with your spouse or with a child, get real. Get real simple. Be real honest. Get real with God. With total reverence for God, tell Him what you'd really like to tell Him.

I believe God breaks out in a big grin when we get real with Him.

### Discuss

How are your prayers duplicates of what you've heard others pray? Do you feel comfortable enough with God to be honest with Him? What is one thing you'd like to get real with God about in prayer?

### Pray

Whatever you pray for today, keep it simple. Just talk straight with Him.

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*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.*



**Studies in James Continue Tuesdays,  
May 5 & 19, 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.**

*Do you have a prayer request? The Prayer Box is available in the narthex. The Pastoral staff will pray for you.*



**FBC**  
**Consummate Man**



**ATTENTION ALL MEN:**  
**Men's Ministry Monthly Breakfast**  
**Saturday, May 2,  
8:30 a.m.  
in the Chapel.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

May 2: Harry Li  
May 7: Cathy Thomas  
May 14: Jose Corzantes  
May 22: Mayda Hernandez  
May 24: Brenda Corzantes  
May 24: Maria Triarsi  
May 27: Bruce Andrews  
May 29: Lee Hamady



Happy Anniversary  
May 23: Tim & Janine  
Dufficy

# Sunrise Service at Skylawn Park, GOD IS WITH US!





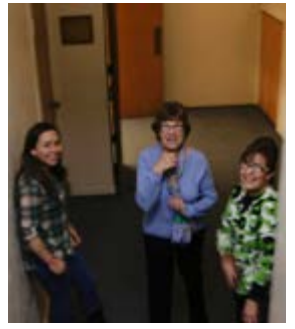
# ***Worship, Baptisms, and Communion -- All on One Beautiful Resurrection Sunday***



***Many thanks to our photographers!***

***GOD IS WITH US!***





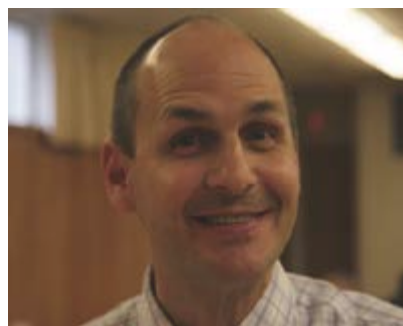
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***They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42***

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**Good Food, Good Fellowship, Good Friends - GOD IS WITH US!**




**Many thanks to the cooks!**





# LIFE OF THE CHURCH

# May 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<p><b>SUNDAY MORNINGS:</b>            9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults            Contemporary Style Worship            11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth            Classical Style Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>All Events Are Subject to Change.</b></p>					
3	4 7pm Scouts	5 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Women's Bible Study	6 6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	7 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	8  Kids & Technology See the full page ad. 7:00 p.m.	9
10	11 7pm Scouts	12 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm AI-Anon	13 6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	14 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	15	16
17	18 7pm Scouts	19 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm Women's Bible Study	20 6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	21 3pm Youth Band Reh. 7pm TNT	22	23
24	25 7pm Scouts <b>Memorial Day</b> Church Office Closed	26 7pm AI-Anon 7pm C.A.D. 7pm AI-Anon	27 6:30pm Midweek Service 6:30pm AWANAS 8pm Worship Rehearsal	28	29	30
	31					

*Grace Bible Church*  
*Women's Spring Tea - May 9th*  
*Registration Form*

*Speaker: Cynthia Heald*

*Topic: "Becoming a Woman Whose God Is Enough"*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Seating will begin at 10:45 am. We start promptly at 11:00am

Menu: Scones, Tea Sandwiches, Salad, Desserts,

Hot Tea, Ice Tea, Juice & Coffee

Cost: \$20

We are not accepting any registrations for ages below 18 years.

Please send in your registration before April 28th.

Registration is non-refundable.

Each attendee is required to fill out a registration form.

(Love offering will be taken for Cynthia's ministry.)

**Please make check payable to:  
Grace Bible Church (650-366-9923)**

Complete this form and mail with your check to:

**Grace Bible Church  
Attention: Ambica Converse  
2225 Euclid Avenue  
Redwood City, CA 94062**