



THERE IS
Always, Always, Always
SOMETHING TO
BE *Thankful* FOR

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Beats by Dre

By Alex Perez

This month's theme is "Giving Thanks," this month is Thanksgiving ... yeah, that makes sense. But let's be honest, when you think "Thanksgiving" do you really think about giving thanks? Or does your mind go straight to thinking of food? Or, are you totally blindsided by the media influences and just can't wait for Black Friday? I would be in the same long line of people who want a new flat screen TV. Let's take something teens our age want. I mean, yes, we want a new flat screen but that's probably something our parents would be buying. Beats by Dre sell anywhere from \$189 to \$299; however, on Black Friday Radio Shack, WalMart, and

Fry's Electronics were selling them for \$70. Yes please, sign me up for that sale, Beats by Dre are awesome. They don't fall out of your ears or off your head when working out. They block out all extra sound which is perfect for blocking out little siblings. The only con is they are too noticeable and big to wear through-out classes which, don't lie, we all do. Overall, it's a good product. However, think of this: you finally have them. Everyone has been wanting Beats, and you have them but do you wake up every morning and pray to God that you are thankful for them? Probably not. Even that flat screen, you probably just add it into your schedule and watch the



USC game or the newest Walking Dead episode. You don't think about waking up to thank the Lord about it. In 1st Thes-salonians 5:18 it says, "*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*" Let's not only remember that verse in November when it is socially acceptable or common to give thanks, but let's use it in our everyday lives, practicing to thank God even for the little things, or something as crazy expensive as Beats.

Think About It.

"You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the concert and the opera, and grace before the play and pantomime, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip the pen in the ink." — G. K. Chesterton

Welcome to the first edition of “The Burn”!

This publication is designed by First Baptist Church of Downey’s Student Ministries. This newsletter seeks to be an avenue for students and members of FBCD Student Ministries (Adult Leaders, Pastors, and Parents) to connect and express. We would like this to be a place to get information on upcoming events, review past experiences, and be a place where students can train, be equipped and learn ways not only to express themselves, but grow in the learning and development of bridging their talents and gifts to God and people.

This first edition is pretty jam packed with a great deal of information and insights from FBCD Student Ministries. We have a ton of pictures and a great number of thoughts from middle schoolers, high schoolers, college students and adults. As a developing work in progress, we’d love to get your thoughts.

You may or may not always see ‘eye to eye’ on everything that is compiled here. That is OK! There may be some things that you might feel that you can do better and you are PASSIONATE about it. We invite you to connect with us, join us and submit your work! We are looking for articles, devotionals, artwork, games, reviews, photographs and, well, let God inspire you to come up with more options.

Here are the general parameters:

Each ‘month’ we’ll be providing a theme or topic to cover. We ask that all submissions connect with the topic, a past event or a current event. This issue’s topic was simply ‘November/December’.

We are asking for all articles and devotionals to connect with a passage of scripture. For the detailed listing of requirements and guidelines, you can pick up a copy of the guidelines in Room 214 or check online at FBCDowney.com

Alex Perez has happily agreed to be our student editor this year. She has a pretty intense passion about this project and she is not only motivated, but very gifted. I encourage you to express your support to her and keep her in prayer as she works on this paper throughout this upcoming year.

I’ve worked with a number of youth ministry/church newsletters in the past and I am very excited about the possibilities that I see. God has gifted the students in the Student Ministries at FBCD in some amazing ways. The possibilities are pretty mindboggling. But that’s the kind of God we serve that loves us. In Exodus 34:10, God is speaking to Moses and he talks about the marvelous things that He desires to do that will surpass His previous creation. This is a beautiful reminder of the possibilities.

If you are interested in helping for future editions or submitting work, you can contact Alex Perez (alex_renee_perez@yahoo.com) or myself (JacksonF@FBCDowney.org)

Three specific things we are looking for are: staff writers (people who will commit to writing 6 articles or more a year), staff photographers (people who will commit to submitting at least 12 photos a year) and proofreaders (people who might be a little ‘obsessed’ with grammar, but are free enough to allow for a person’s ‘character’ to shine.) If God has given you a passion and a gifting in any of these areas, this might be YOUR place to SHINE!

The due date for the next edition is Sunday, December 21st, 2014. This will give us time to compile and edit so it can be ready in January. The theme is simply—January: New Year, New Beginnings, and New Goals. Please email your submissions by Midnight on Sunday, December 21st.

Excited for what God may have as we Turn the Page,

Jackson

Jackson Fong
Student Ministries Pastor
First Baptist Church of Downey

“And he said, “Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD, for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.”
Exodus 34:10 (ESV)

The BURN is a Publication of First Baptist Church of Downey (FBCD) Student Ministries

You can find out more about our church at

FBCDowney.com

You can also find us on Twitter and Facebook

Oxygen 3 Weekend Review

Interview with Brianna Garcia
Wrap-up with Alex Perez

"I am very thankful for the opportunity I had to attend Jill's House in November. I am thankful that I was able to share the love of God with the children and become a friend to them. It was a great experience, it taught me to appreciate the little things I subconsciously took for granted. I recommend it to everybody, you won't regret it."

- Brianna Garcia



Oxygen 3 Weekend is a weekend away, not for us, but for the parents or guardians of children with special needs. For 3 days we do the best we can in showing God's love to these children. The days are filled- literally with activities, songs, Bible stories, and one of the best things, a talent show ... and nap time. I will say, you need a lot of energy to keep up with the kids, they love running around and just having a good time. I can per-

sonally say you will be giving a lot; your time, your energy, your love, but; you will also take a lot more from it. I learned so much from the children at Jill's House; they live life in the moment and bring in good things and happiness in every scenario. You can't help but smile when they do, as Brianna said the experience was unforgettable and I recommend it to anyone.

- Alex Perez

** Be sure to sign up soon for December's trip back to Jill's House!!

Happy 1 year Jackson!

By FBCD Ignite Youth Group

Below are the thoughts about Jackson from some of our students and leaders:

Jackson has opened my eyes to how the Bible can be interpreted and how many crazy, weird, disgusting, and strange things are in there. I have enjoyed every minute of youth group with Jackson at its head. I am so thankful for his coming to First Baptist. – Mary Emma Guier

Jackson is my Sensei - Jonah Garcia

Jackson is AWESOME and a great teacher - Brianna Garcia

You're so funny!! - Riley Werner

I like that Jackson is funny and he's a good leader - Emily Garcia

I love Jackson's love and passion for the kids. I appreciate how he does eve-

rything he can for both leaders and students - Mauricio

I'm thankful for him because he has been a mentor and a blessing – Mykayla Shangraw

I appreciate Pastor Jackson's desire to equip students who truly seek to grow in their relationship and knowledge of God's plan for their lives. He sees a variety of avenues for learning and development and makes opportunities for students to explore these avenues. I pray more students recognize and take advantage of these opportunities for growth. - Katie Tritz
Jackson is like the best ever. Because he's just the best. Yea.

- Matthew Brady

Remember the difference between a boss and a leader: a boss says go - a leader says "Let's go!"

- E.M. Kelly



Happy 1 year Jackson!! FBCD Ignite youth and leaders love you!!

November Thoughts

By Jackson Fong

³⁰ With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD;

I will praise him in the midst of the throng.

³¹ For he stands at the right hand of the needy one,

to save him from those who condemn his soul to death.

Psalm 109:30-31

English Standard Version (ESV)

I Will Recount Your Wonderful Deeds

⁹ I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;

I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

² I will be glad and exult in you;

I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

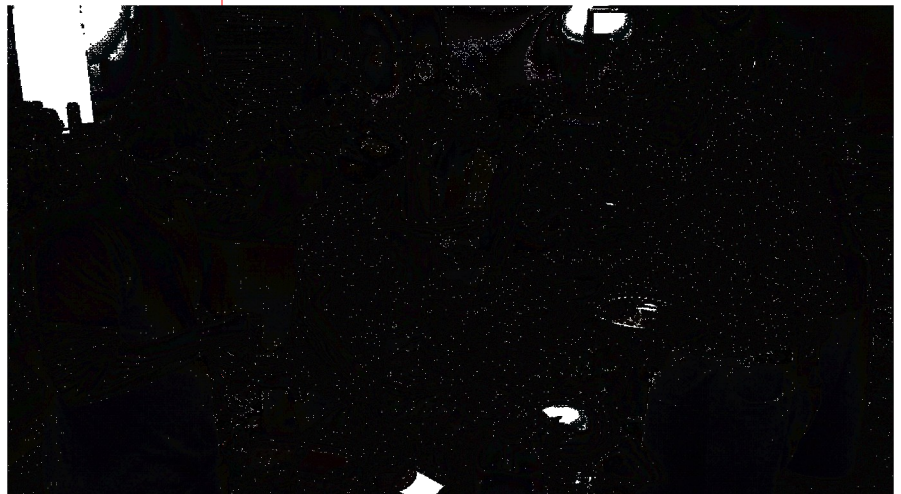
Psalm 9:1-2

English Standard Version (ESV)

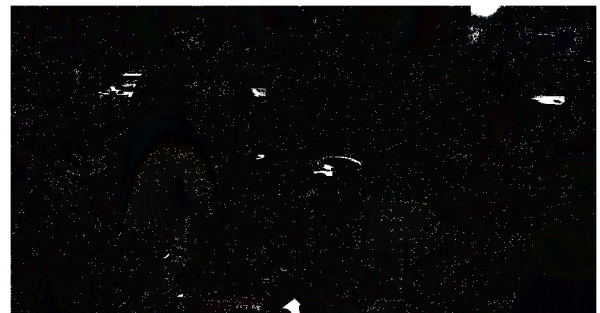
This past November there are countless things to be grateful for. There are traditional things as the ability to breathe, being able to live in America, having a roof over my head and food to eat. For my family and I, it would be easy for me to get overwhelmed by God's goodness. God has brought our family to First Baptist Church of Downey and it has been a *Most Incredible Ride*. I cannot express how much our family has felt the love, the support and encouragement from the congregation and its' staff. We are greatly appreciative of how God is building us all up together as family and is broadening our horizons together. I know that for myself, it not only shows me God's goodness and grace, but also it gives me a small glimpse of what God might have for us in the future. Think about some of the things God has brought into your life. Think about some of the people God has blessed you with. You can also think about some of the people and circumstances that are in your life you might not be necessarily pleased about, but they have made you stronger. Think about all of the characteristics of who God really is. When was the last time you thanked God for that? The Middle School and High School groups at FBCD (IGNITE) took some time to do that this last November for a *Potluck of Praise* Gathering together, we took some time for worship, a Thanksgiving dinner and sharing. Good food, good friends and good fellowship.

Below is a small list of some of the people and things our group is thankful for:

- My life
- Having a pet
- Botany Class
- My house
- A roof over my head and food on the table
- My Phone
- For swimming
- Missionary Opportunities
- Health and Happiness
- A bed to sleep on
- My Life
- My dog Lola
- The supportive people in my life
- Thankful for the life I have
- My job
- FBCD, my Job
- The Bible
- Video games
- School, TV, House, TV, ipod, food, church, clothes
- School, water, iPhone, In-n-Out, tv, Panda Express, iPad, church, clothes, shoes, house, food
- Friends and family
- Family, friends, coworkers
- My family, and friends, and anyone that has been there for me
- My youth group, family, friends and God
- My Mom, Dad, bro, Jesus and a loving Church family
- My dad and my family
- My family and friends and anyone else who has had a positive impact or influence on my life
- My family, My friends, Jesus!
- Yvonne, Dani, Jesi
- Grandparents, mom, dad, my cousins, aunts, uncles
- My family, friends, blessed enough to have a home with a loving family
- My parents, Joshua Garcia, Brianna Garcia, Mounia, Eveyln, Nabila, Jessica, Victoria, Jesus, Jackson, Katy
- Brady, Jackson, Liz, Vanessa, Ayla, Tony
- Christine Sipos. She has helped me through the last seven years, even though she lives thousands of miles away, she still inspires me today.
- JESUS! My dad, My mom, My best friend Kayla, My best friend Matthew, My sister Dannie, My sister Alex, My brother Michael, My sister – in – law Cristal
- Mom, Dad, Emily, Sister, Jesus, Jessica, Victoria, Evelyn
- Amanda, John, Jackson & Family, Friends, Family
- Aurelia, Carolyn, Matthew, James, Steven, Kathy, Bella, Kathy, Hans, Natalie, Molly, Camila, Coco, Bandit, Isabel, Ashley, Tyler, Ava, Emma, Jr, Janelle, Jesus, God
- Lisa, Brownie, Jasmine, Jessica, Jenevieve, Erica, Molly, Sergio, Xochitl, Jamie, Vianna, Christian, Liam, Harry, Zayn, Louis, Niall, JESUS
- Mom, Dad, Brother, Grandpa, Aunts, Uncles and Cousins. Best friends Justice, Elizabeth & Yasmine. My Dog, EVERYONE!
- Parents, siblings, extended family, friends, co-workers, past students, current students, my wife, my kids, teachers, Adult Leaders, Student Leaders, God, Christ, God's Love, GRACE, patience, mercy, forgiveness.



Pancake Breakfast



Past Events from November

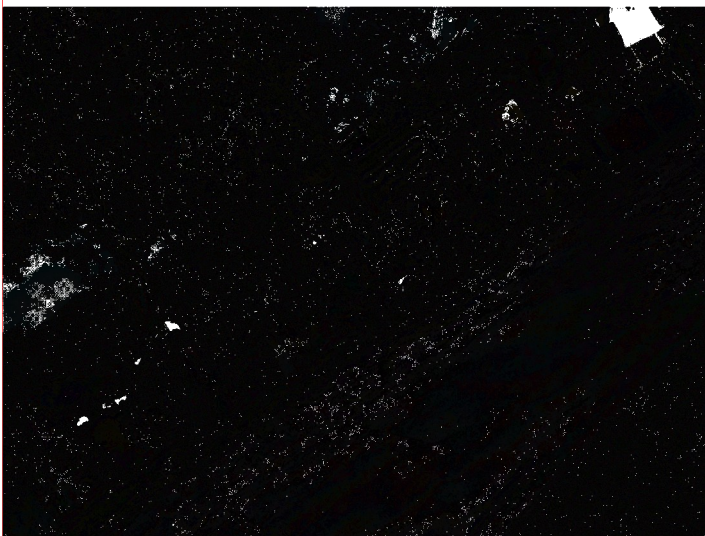
Ignite Teams @ Biola University



Registration was really packed.



Great time of worship.



Great opportunities for fellowship.



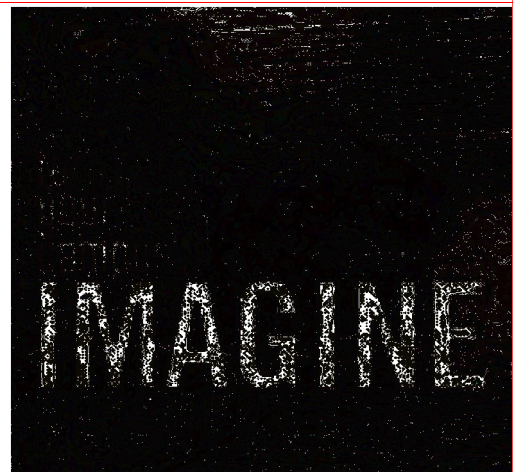
Hands on training.

If you missed out on this, not to worry!

Join us as we return to Biola for
TURN YOUR CAMPUS!

More Seminars and Workshops, and Artists
Featuring Naomi Chavez, Goodie Goodloe,
Propaganda, DJ Icy Ice, Josh Chavez Band and MORE!

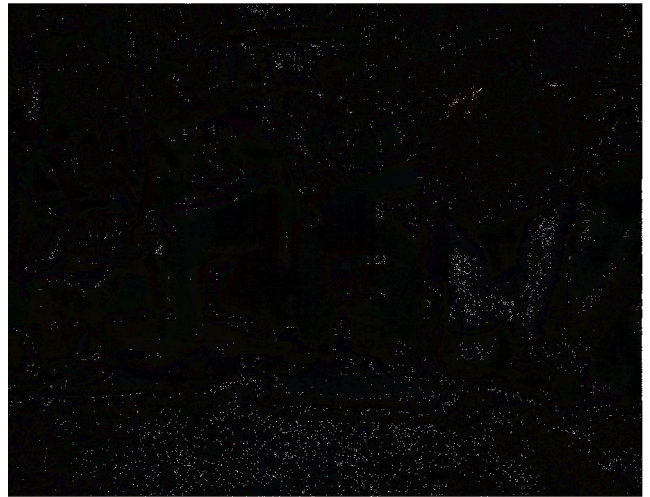
January 17th 2015
\$20 per Person
\$15 if you PAY by January 7th



Oxygen 3 Weekend



Simple Team Building



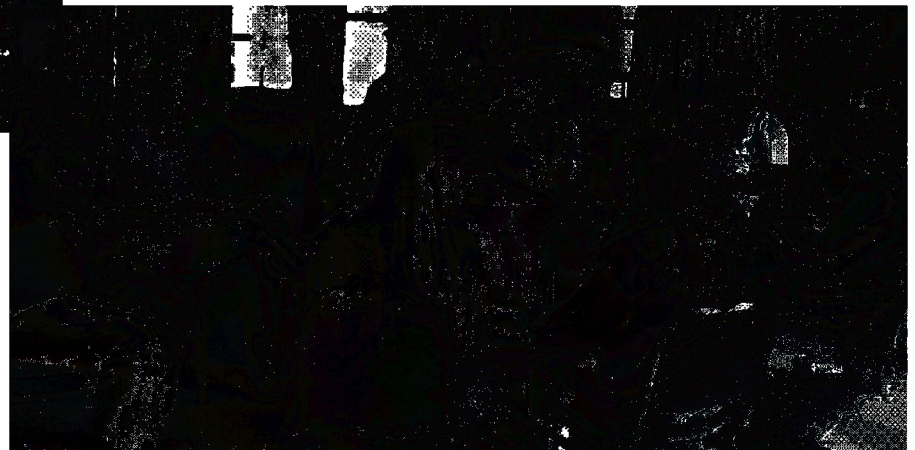
Training and briefing



One of the children
from Jill's House



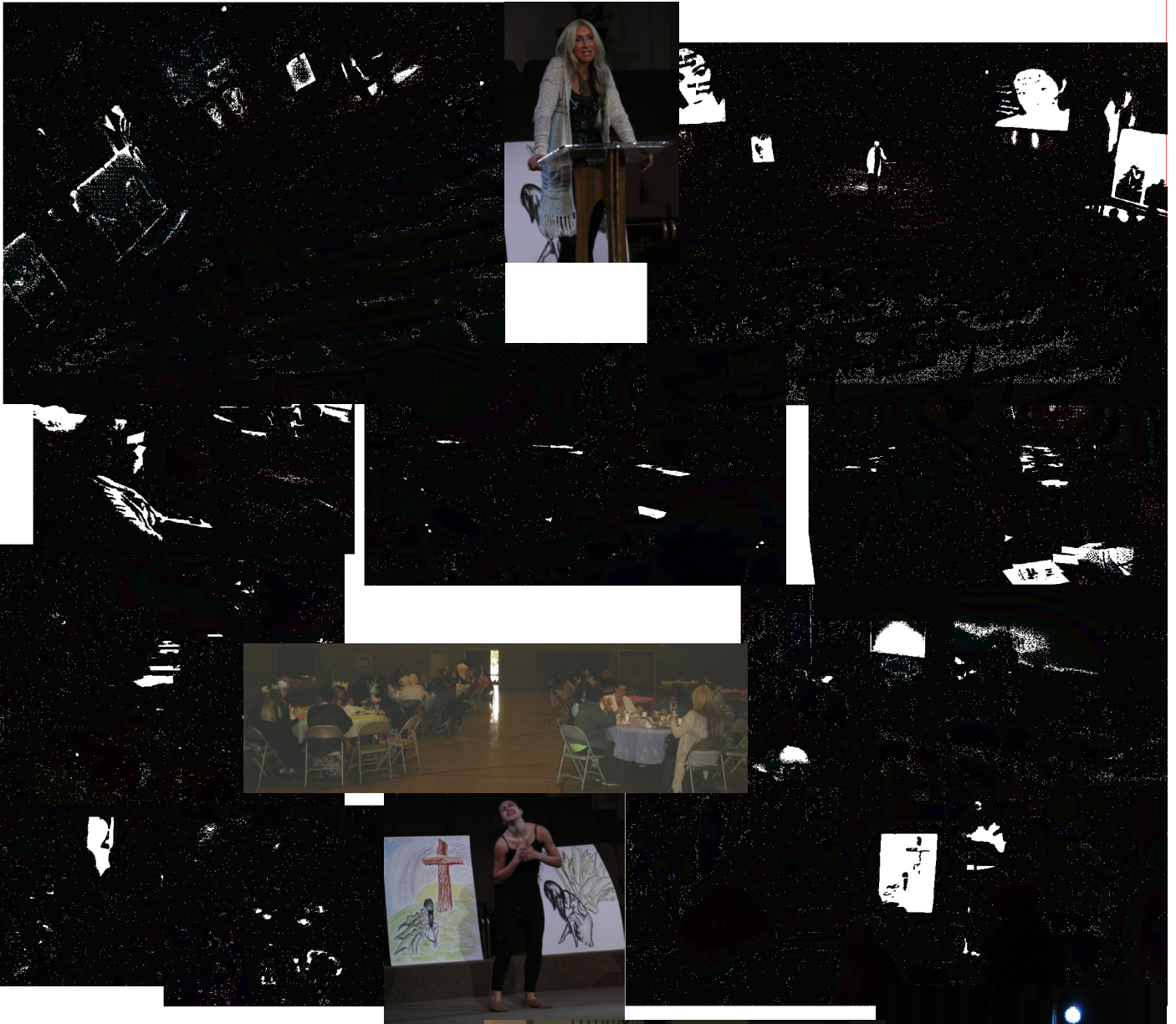
Going over the weekend's events



Wrap of our experience.

In

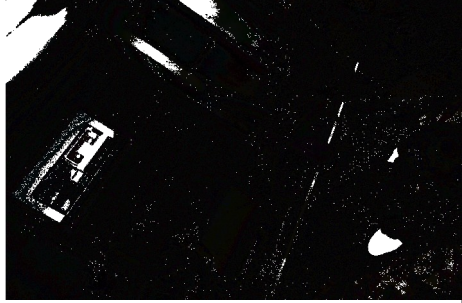
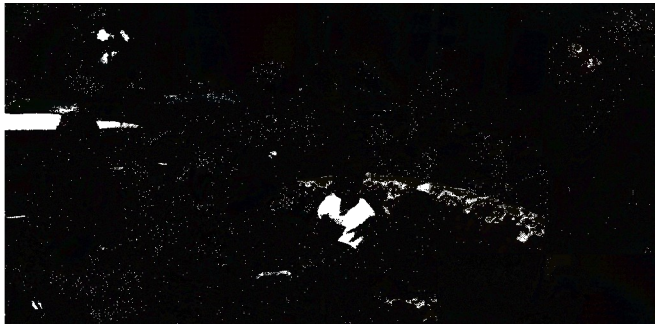
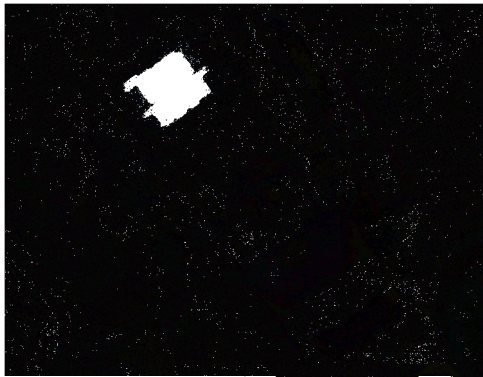
Reflections Of Beauty Girl's Conference



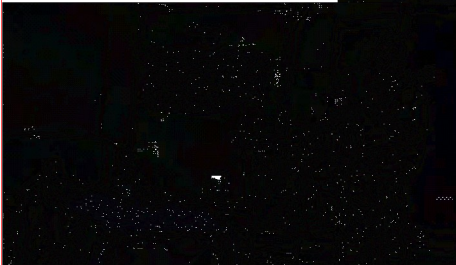
'After' Concert



Video Game Night



Students Sharing



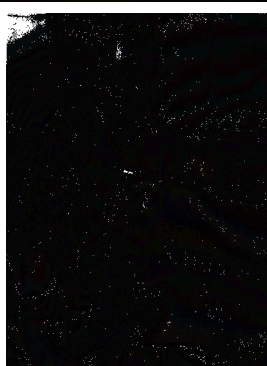
Trent Fuenmayor's Mission Sharing



Flag Football— ‘After Lunch’



Packing Cases for Operation Christmas Child



SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

Next Month:

*January: New Year,
New Beginnings, and New
Goals*

Submissions Due by
MIDNIGHT, Sunday, December
21st 2014

Please email submissions to
Alex
alex_renee_perez@yahoo.com
or Jackson
JacksonF@FBCDowney.org

Night of Catan



Trunk or Treat



#FBCDowney

As you instagram and post pictures. We'd love to connect your pictures. As you hashtag, please let Alex or Jackson know so we can be sure to get your submissions.



Christmas Thoughts

I have always loved Christmas. I enjoy family get togethers, caroling, decorations and yes, the presents. My family was 'all in' when it came to Christmas. I remember after Thanksgiving my family would begin the process of making Christmas presents for family and friends. I learned tons about crafts (more than I ever thought possible or that I would ever need.) In the midst of the flurry of activity, I discovered something. I discovered that not only do I enjoy the process of creativity, I enjoy giving.

I believe that is a natural extension of how God created us. John 3:16 is so familiar to us, I think sometimes we overlook the beauty of what is right in front of us. "For God so Loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

God GAVE.

He GAVE because He LOVES.

This Christmas, don't only take time to give to those you love, make time to really think about the ONE who Already gave because of love.

This December, we'll have some time to give. We will have time to give of our time and energy. Saturday, December 6, we will have a group go to Beacon Light Mission to serve food and lead a worship service. Please meet in the church parking lot at 5 pm.

We'll also take time to give of ourselves December 12-14 as we participate in our second trip to Thousand Pines to work with Jill's House for an Oxygen 3 weekend. This will be a great opportunity to serve families with special needs children. God has been very gracious in providing finances so that attendees save \$300 per person. This will be our last opportunity to get this discount.

Wednesday, Dec 17th we will be hosting our Christmas party. We'll be asking everyone to arrive at 6pm and bring: 1.) A dessert to share; 2.) A wrapped gift \$10 (no more than that please. Let the 99 cent and Dollar Store be your Friend!) and, 3.) A friend. We'll take this time to give and to love on each other.

Sometimes the holidays can be stressful. Sometimes they can also be lonely. Please make the time to pay attention to those around you. Remember you are NOT ALONE. We will be closing off our "IMMERSE NOT ALONE" series with the message, "NOT ALONE When you feel you have nothing to offer." We will also take a week to look at Christ's background, from Legacy through Darkness.

Because family is important to us, we will not be meeting Wed., Dec. 24, or Wed., Dec. 31. Because we also want to bless our leaders and give them time to rest, we will also not be meeting for our Immerse service Dec. 21 or Dec. 28. We invite you to instead, join us for the Christmas Program Dec. 21 at 7pm or for our Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24 at 5 pm.

Praying you have an Incredible Christmas blessed and filled with Joy,

Jackson

Eye on the Prize

It has been a long season, but it now seems those double practices, that horrendous hell week, and let's not forget practically having no summer, is possibly all about to pay off. Your Downey High School football boys are going up against Crescenta Valley this Friday the 5th at 7 pm in the CIF Championship Game. Maybe you don't go to Downey High School, that's not a good enough reason not to go. Our very own Senior Matthew Ramirez and Freshman Eli Garcia will be participating in this Friday's Game. Let's show



our support as friends, as a youth group, as brothers and sisters in Christ. Eli and Matthew, win or lose give thanks that you have been given an opportunity to participate in a CIF Championship game, be thankful you have remind healthy and as uninjured as possible this season. As brothers and sisters in Christ, let's give thanks as well as pray for everyone's safety on the field; yes even the other teams safety. Let's pray for each other and that we all

keep our eye on the real prize, that we may reflect Christ in our everyday lives through words and actions and that we grow closer to and bring honor to Him.

Hebrews 12:2

Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed - that exhilarating finish in and with God - he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.

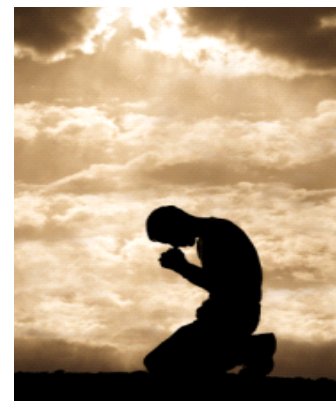
GO VIKES!!

Let's Leave Christ in Christmas.

Over the past years I remember always around the same time of year people would argue about using "Xmas" instead of "Christmas and weather it was right or not. "Why are we taking Christ out of Christmas?" That was the main argument, and they have a good point, why are we taking Christ out of Christmas? Forget the chaos of presents. Jesus was sent to save us simple as that; salvation is God's gift to us and God's gift to us is free; we don't need no "\$19.99 plus shipping and handling." As we transfer from Thanksgiving to Christmas and New Year's let's be thankful for everyday in between. The holidays are a crazy time, trying to get that gift for your best friend, your mom, or that special someone, well maybe this season the best gift you can

give them is the chance to hear of Jesus. Yes, it sounds cheesy and you can still go out and get them something, but you never know they could have appreciate a 5 minute story better then a \$20 charm bracelet. Also, I hate to put a damper on things but from now until the New Year, not everyday will be sunny. You'll have some dark clouds and maybe a full on thunder storm, but remember to praise God in every season. Times will be hard, but as that tumblr quote says, "You can't have a rainbow without rain." So let's remember to give thanks for every little thing.

*"When life is rough,
Pray.
When life is great,
Pray."*



Downey High School CIF Championship Game!!

Where: Glendale High School Moyse Field

When: Friday December, 5th @ 7pm

Why: Come support Matthew Ramirez & Eli Garcia

Cost: Roughly \$10 (just to be safe)



Upcoming Events!

December

- Sat Dec 6th Beacon Light {High School and College}
- Fri – Sun Dec 12-13 O3 Weekend Mission Trip (\$50 per person)
- Wed Dec 17th Christmas Party (Bring a Wrapped Gift)
- Wed Dec 24th No Group (Spend Christmas with Family!)

2015

January

Jan 2-9 All Nighter

Start at 8 pm. (Doors open at 7:30 pm. Eat Dinner ON YOUR OWN) Pick up at 9 am.

Things to Bring: Snacks to share, \$5 (For Breakfast), MULTI Player Games/Computers/Controllers

Jan 17th - Turn Your Campus (Biola U)

\$20 Per Person, \$15 if you PAY by January 7th

February

Feb 20-21- Dare To Share (San Diego)

\$70 Per Person

March

March 20 -21 Stuck in the Middle (Middle School Retreat @ Westlake Village)

\$85 Per Person