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**First Baptist Church
of Downey Student
Ministries**

Check out FBCDowney.com

Entrench

Sunday Mornings 9:30 am

An Opportunity to dig a deeper
foundation

An Opportunity to Rest

A Safe place to Share

Ignite

Wednesday Evenings 6:30 pm

An Opportunity to Spark up
Questions and Conversation

An Opportunity to ignite a
renewed Passion for God

An Opportunity to reignite your
Joy

May Greetings By Lorelei Hart

*Hi everyone! Thanks for coming to **Entrench** and **Ignite**!*

As you know, April is over, but it was a GREAT month! A few things that happened this month included EASTER! We had our own Passover feast and we celebrated how Jesus died so that we could live. Several of us also went to a Community night of Worship. Hope you enjoyed it. Family Camp was also a part of this last month. We learned how to "Let Your Light Shine" for God.

When I think of spring, I am reminded that new life is very important. Flowers start to bloom, babies are born, and that reminds me that Christians have become new in Christ.

Thanks for taking the time to read this article.

Don't forget to pray for others.

Here's an FYI (For Your Information):

Youth Group is looking for at least 2 students and 2 adults to help with the newsletter. If you are interested in helping, please see Pastor Jackson or Lorelei Hart.

Thank You!

Bye!

May Thoughts

It seems like this past year has been flying by. We have had some great times of training and learning. Adult and Student Leaders have attended Turn Your Campus, Be Still Weekend, The C.M.T.A. Convention, The C.M.T.A. Summit. Our College Students were able to attend a Listen Weekend Retreat. Our college students have also enjoyed time of connection through a Nerf War as well as time of gaming and bowling at 'Round 1'

We have had opportunities for the guys and girls to take a break and do stuff just for them. We've had the girl's Movie Night, the girl's Chocolate/Scrapbook night, the guy's *Iron Gut* night and the men's breakfast with Doc Ed Pepping from Easy Company 101st Airborne and Phil Reed. These were opportunities to discuss gender concerns and issues. We have had several opportunities for service and outreach with *Beacon Light Mission*, *Family Sundays* and the church wide *Easter Eggstraveganza*. We have enjoyed partnership with a number of churches and ministries in community nights of worship as well as our seventh year with *Downey March 4 Jesus*. We have been challenged with our "*MeToMorphosis*" (Metamorphosis) Series as well as a 40 Day Prayer Challenge. Our college students have had several sessions on prayer and have taken time to study several passages of scripture concerning the End Times.

We have been reminded of God's Love and faithfulness through our *Agape Feast*, *Seder*, and *Passion Week* Specials. We have been blessed to have had *Lee University's Kingdom Players* join us for a night. This year we have formed a new worship team and have had more students and leaders participating. We have 8 people currently working on learning instruments. The possibilities can be pretty exciting.

With many adjustments and changes, I think that it can be easy to move from excitement to anxiousness. It is during these times that we face a choice. We can give in to fear or anxiousness, or we can lean in closer to God, listen more intently for His voice and focus more on His calling. This month we begin a church wide series on "The Story". This is an opportunity for us as a whole church to simply focus on God's Story. A beautiful thing about God's Story is that there is a common thread throughout all of time that God is designing and shaping. Another beautiful and intimate thing is that the story that God crafts, affects and impacts us all personally and individually. As we begin this series, we each now have the choice to participate, engage and embrace this or to miss out on the possibilities that God has for us. This month we will also be taking a look at "What makes us tick?" We'll see how God has gifted us and how that affects our relationships with each other. As we look into this, we will see the possibilities of where God may call us to participate and lead. This will take us out of our comfort zone and some days this may lead us to consider the difference between just giving to God and being willing to sacrifice for God.

This month we will have our first Jill's House Mission Trip for the year. We will also take some time to celebrate and appreciate our senior class. This will be a great time to remember, to encourage and to set goals and choose direction for the future. I am excited for the future and for the possibilities.

Ephesians 4 says, "4 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. 2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. 3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. 4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all. 7 However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. 8 That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people."

⁹ Notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world.¹⁰ And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

This passage was brought up in a staff meeting, but I don't think it was by accident that it also was the kick off passage for the current Gifts series. Three things that pop out to me are the following:

We are called to be UNIFIED.

We are all gifted and have a place.

We are called to ACTION.

As the Month of May is a time of Spring and Growth, I'm looking forward to how we might grow as a church.

Praying God would show us new ways to grow,

Jackson

Student and College Ministries Pastor

For My Mother

By Frankie Fong

In the beginning, I was not even born yet. I was waiting to be born when my mom was at work changing a light bulb on one of the lamps used in the photography studio.

As she was changing it the lamp was still plugged in and the bulb broken and in a brief moment a shock went through her whole body. Time stood still for her as her felt for any sort of kick from me. A long minute passed but there I was kicking.

My mom is awesome, amazing, and even in the tough times that shock me she has been there for me. I can not claim that she is the world's best mom but she is the best mom for me for all the time, love, and patience she has invested in me.

Words do not do her justice and I could write a whole book about her and it still could not capture everything that makes her, her. A little cliché but it is the truth and she did not raise her children to lie.

When I look at her I think of all that she has been through in her life and think how could anyone make it through all of this. I look at all the crafts and projects she is able to craft her in her head and think "How can I be that artistic?"

When I hear all the information that she has learned and speaks with such authority on numerous subjects, I think "How can I be that intelligent?"

When I see how gentle she is with those who come to her for advice and wonder "How can I do that?"

I look at dedicated she is with her walk with God and wonder "How can I have that?"

I have come to realize that I can not do it like she does because God has given her so many unique gifts that when they are stirred together and frozen at -49F degrees (The average temperature of the Antarctic where her favorite animal: Penguins live) is what makes my mother her and no one else can be like her.

I am proud to say that I have cried on her shoulder, danced wildly on the dance floor, laughed like madman, and enjoyed every sad moment that has drawn us together. I could go on about so many memories of us bonding, like doing the California Mission Models, Boy Scouts, Jazz Festivals, School Field trips that have help me better understand the woman that is my mother, however, you will have to ask her as she has the memory of an elephant.

I love her with all of my heart and I praise God to have such a magnificent mother in my life.

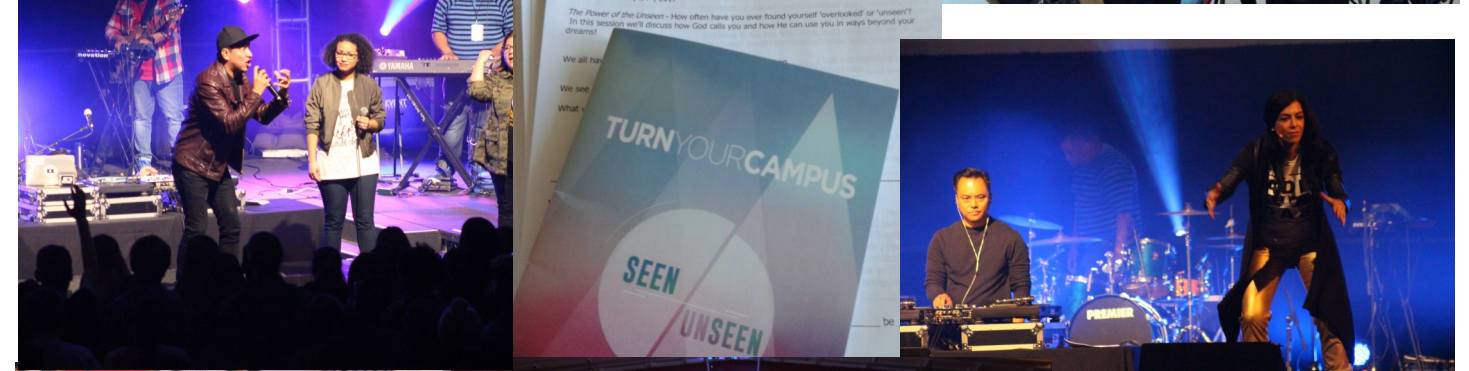
Mom I love you and never forget and anytime you are feeling down remember that my little hands will always be reaching underneath the door looking for your help.

-Love, Frankie

January Highlights



Small Groups



The Power of the Unseen - How often have you ever found yourself "overlooked" or "unseen"? In this session we'll discuss how God calls you and how He can use you in ways beyond your dreams!

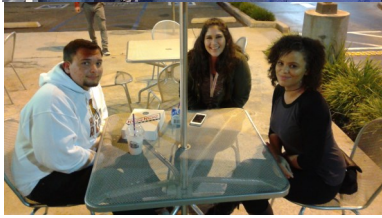
We all have
We see
What's
TURN YOUR CAMPUS
SEEN
UNSEEN



January Highlights (Continued)



****Don't forget if you'd like pictures to be shown in our newsletter hash tag it to: #FBCDowney**
Or just email it to Jackson. (more info pg 11)



February Highlights



A Krispy Kreme Pitstop after Beacon Light Mission



Inspecting shoes for Mosseyfoot



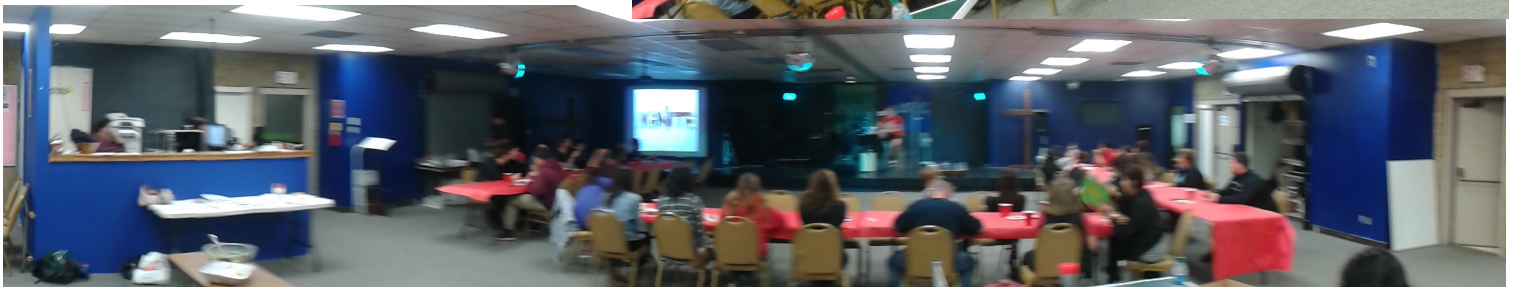
Kim Sharing her Testimony



Jeremiah Sharing his Testimony



Agape Feast



March Highlights



Downey March 4 Jesus



Kingdom Players from Lee University



April Highlights



April Highlights

In the midst of all of the Darkness ...
Against all Odds ...
The Son Rose Anyway

A Readers Theatre of the Trial of Christ:

4 Gospels 1 Story

"There is *No Body* Here."

In the midst of all of the Darkness ...
Against all Odds ...
The Son Rose Anyway

God Looks at You
(Good Stuff ... Bad Stuff ... Crazy Stuff ...)
and He says

"I LOVE YOU."

You can Pray over
Every Day Issues

Jesus' Final Prayers
He Prays Over Food
He Prays Under Intense Pressure
He asks for Prayer Support
He Prays in His Darkest Hour

When Jesus Died on the Cross ... He
ALLOWED Himself to be Taken ...
Nobody TAKES Jesus' Life. He Gives it Up.

We can ask for
PRAYER SUPPORT

Students making decisions

If God is calling you ... Take care of Business.

We can Pray Under Extreme Pressure

Easter
Sunday

Stay Informed!

Check out FBCDowney.com

Find our Student and Parent Facebook Pages

Find us on Twitter and Instagram!

Text Updates

Middle School—Text JHS to 33733

High School—Text HSGroup to 33733

College—Text FBCA to 33733



Metamorphosis (A Recap)

METAMORPHOSIS
A 40 Day Journey in Growing and Changing from ME to MORE

"A Lighthouse can look Beautiful, but functionality is way more Important."

"We were designed to be in community - to share, care, inspire and encourage. Intentionally include others in a way that you would want a loved one included. Be flexible and patient in a way that you would want people to do that for you."

"Open the gates to all who are righteous; allow the faithful to enter."

"And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ."

Daily Opportunity to Thrive

"... I was a Stranger and you invited me in..."

"Don't use foul or abusive language; let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

"But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant. If and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

"How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word"

"Seek strength in purity, Seek Strength in Peace, Seek Peace in Purity."

"I give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. If you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

"Forgive as a person who has been forgiven."

"But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."

"Mom, I realize that must have been crazy carrying me month after month, but I did not realize what it was like to carry so much additional weight. I'm still learning about the emotional weight you carry when I begin to cry. It's like I'm being held in your arms, but I'm not being held. I'm just being carried. I'm just being held as a child. May I learn those better and pass more on. Thank for reminding me of the weight God carries for me."

"Identify your Gifts, then take them out. It all starts with God and five smooth stones."

"Don't use foul or abusive language; let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."

"If I can take seconds to cause a mess on a lifetime to repair it. Speak and Act Wisely"

"We know to much, We have experienced so much, We have received a tremendous amount of forgiveness, mercy, grace and freedom. Why is it that we forget those things for ourselves? When we've chosen to pass them on?"

"A March is DELIBERATE and with PURPOSE, otherwise it's just going for a stroll."

"We all have options to choose - What we hang on to, what we let go of, what we trade off. Make time to choose who and what will Last. Be free to let everything else go."

"I was in prison and you visited for me..."

"Changing the world begins one life at a time. May it start with mine."

"A March is DELIBERATE and with PURPOSE, otherwise it's just going for a stroll."

"What will you hang on to and what will you let go of?"

"People need to be responsible. That may mean we will be asked to serve."

"There in the United States, we have been blessed with a great abundance. Most of it is way more than we need. But I am reminded that there are a great number of people, both outside the US and States as well as inside, who are in need. I am reminded that there are people who are in need, who are in need to be cared for. What if we could find a way to encourage, support or minister to people in those situations?"

"And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I will say to you that you are Peter and upon this rock I will build My Church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

"That evening the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves."

"But Jesus said, "That isn't necessary—you feed them."

"We were designed to be in community - to share, care, inspire and encourage. Intentionally include others in a way that you would want a loved one included. Be flexible and patient in a way that you would want people to do that for you."

"Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them."

"Administrators have an incredible amount of responsibility. Pray for them to be wise, to be diligent, to be protected and supported in doing well and doing right."

"Right Relationships are more important than sacrifices"

When there is Darkness, you can respond TANGIBLY

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"... I was a STRANGER and you invited me in..."

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"Seek strength in purity, Seek Strength in Peace, Seek Peace in Purity."

"Forgive as a person who has been forgiven."

"Bring them here," he said. "Then he led the people to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up toward heaven, and blessed them. Then, breaking the loaves in pieces, he gave the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people. They ate as much as they wanted, and afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers."

"Mom, I realize that must have been crazy carrying me month after month, but I did not realize what it was like to carry so much additional weight. I'm still learning about the emotional weight you carry when I begin to cry. It's like I'm being held in your arms, but I'm not being held. I'm just being carried. I'm just being held as a child. May I learn those better and pass more on. Thank for reminding me of the weight God carries for me."

"Winning doesn't always mean what is biggest, loudest, or most PROFESSIONAL or most BAHOUS."

"Speak in a way to reconnect to God, to bring unity, to inspire relationships and to bond families."

My experience at “Rainbow Acres”

by Lupe Lopez

This place exists because someone had a dream. A dream to offer adults with learning disabilities a place where they could live to their fullest potential with dignity and purpose.

Being there felt like visiting a little piece of Heaven. Everyone was so nice and loving towards each other and welcoming towards us. The founder wanted the adults living there to be called “Ranchers”.

My goal was to go there and help the ranchers with special needs. But my contribution was so little compared to all the blessings I received by simply being there and spending time with the Ranchers.

They are incredible people and you can see and feel God's hands on this facility and people's lives.

On my first day, I was so impressed to see Susan one of the ranchers raising her hand every time someone wanted a prayer request - she speed walked over them eager to pray I thought to myself I want to be like Susan (her disability is not stopping her from serving God). I had to ask how many times have I not prayed for someone for fear of messing up – I want to be more like Susan.

Next day I met wonderful Greg, so full of information I felt he was like Google search engine in a person – you could ask him anything and in a few minutes he had the answer but that's not what impressed me about him but his heart he talked about how his father had hurt him and made him cry when he was young. But he wasn't angry at him anymore for he had forgiven him. We visited his home and one night he said, thank you for coming and getting to know us and please tell others that people with disabilities deserve to live too, some people think we shouldn't exist. We live in a special place and we are happy here! How many times have I held grudges against those who have hurt me but not Greg.

Then there was Daniel who had just watched the movie “The Shack” and wanted me to help him to understand whether it was a dream or an out of the body experience. I said, Daniel, if I could only be as smart as you I could help you but I'm not. I don't know - He later asked me what I thought of those with Autism, he shared that he believed that some think that people with mental disabilities are evil and he assured me that he was not. I can't wait to see him again and find out what movie he has seen next.

I forgot to mention my experience with Harold, he was a super friendly and had an incredible memory. I met him when we had lunch with the Ranchers and in one of our conversations he shared that he had memorized all the books of the bible so we agreed while I was there he would help me memorize the books of the bible too, so every time we saw each other he would recite them to me and I would recite some them back. I came back memorizing more books than I've ever known before. I can't wait to go back and see him again and learn more books and see his never ending smile.

And at last but not least there was this awesome lady who upon hearing the founder's sermon took a year off work and left beautiful Hawaii to go to Arizona for one year, after that year she never went back to Hawaii. She felt her job there was so rewarding she loved what this Rainbow Acres does for the ranchers. she's now in her late 60's she retired and volunteers every day for 4 hours. People can't seem to leave this place.

My advice to everyone if you haven't been there? Go and be blessed!

Upcoming Events!

May

- Student Leader Selection (All Month) - Grab a Leader Packet if you are interested.
- Jill's House Mission Weekend—Friday—Sunday May 12-14 (\$75 per person)
An Opportunity to care and minister to students with Special Needs. Space is Limited.
- Grad Night—Wed May 17th 6 pm—8 pm Room 214
A Night to Celebrate and celebrate with our Graduating Senior Class.
Please bring a food item to share.

Full Summer Calendar will come out in June.

June

- Midweek Mashup Kickoff—June 21

July

- Summer Camp—June 9-14
- Manhood Camp—June 28-29

August

- Jill's House Mission Weekend #2—August 18-20
- Parent Night—August 30

September

- Reflections of Beauty—September 16
- Dare 2 Share Live—September 23

Submissions wanted!

June Theme: Graduation, Summer, Dads

Submissions Due May 28

Email submissions to Jackson. jacksonf@fbcdowney.org or drop them off at the Church.