

CURRENT

AT TAFT AVENUE COMMUNITY CHURCH



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CHALLENGE TO MINISTER

It's hard to wave my magic wand and predict; however, there will be some challenges in the 21st Century that we need to be aware of and prepared for. In fact, most of these have already reared their heads and will only become more menacing as the decades unfold.

Here are my top ten areas of concern that Christians must be aware of and prepared to address:

1. *The attack on the family.* Here is an agenda against God's design that includes same sex marriage, and an easy, convenient divorce. The results are often the absence of fathers and mothers and the role modeling of good parenting and marriages. 2. *The impact of the internet, movies, television.* In short, the media influences and the anti-Christian culture that it promotes. The effect it has on the ability to think and the resultant emotive-driven thinking that fuels self-centered lifestyles. 3. *An increasingly materialistic lifestyle:* massive personal debt, financial pressures, a shallow busy-

ness, and substance abuse including alcoholism. 4. *The volatile world of politics.* It blinds us to the spiritual warfare and struggle for the gospel in our nation and around the world. 5. *Ethics of abortion, euthanasia and bio-engineering.* 6. *The environment – being green.* 7. *Globalization, travel, information melding of cultures and religions.* The pluralist cultural environment on Southern California. 8. *Moralistic, therapeutic, materialism.* This is a not-so-rare combination that is sweeping the world. Being a "good" person is good enough and we can be very good if we try very hard. It all revolves around me and my happiness and some form of therapy is the route to get there; money and things are the end. 9. *The decline of the church in spite of the recent writings of George Barna and others.* The lack of church – specifically, body of Christ, gospel preaching, discipline and interpersonal relationships which we need in order to serve, grow and fulfill the Great Commission.

10. *The lack of gospel clarity.* There is immense pressure in America to sand off the difficult corners of biblical truth – the proclamation and wholehearted trust in the exclusive claims of Christ, without compromise, in spite of spiritual and religious pressure to accommodate.

That's a formidable list, and I'm sure there is more where that came from. So what do we do? We could list mounds of practical and common sense daily fixes: throw out the television, live like a monk from the 13th century, handcuff men and women together making divorce impossible!

But those fixes would be superficial (maybe not such a bad idea though) and would never capture anyone at their core. Here are my three foundational fixes:

1. *The gospel.* We arm ourselves with the gospel. We must know what it is and isn't. We must know and love it in our minds, our hearts and our souls. It is time to read the Scripture with the gospel and Jesus in



CONTRIBUTORS:

- *Challenge to Minister*
Pastor Bob
- *Charting our Mission to India, Orange and the World*
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- *Call to Worship*
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- *Charge to Action*
Ministry Leaders
- *Changing and Growing*
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CHALLENGE TO MINISTER CONTINUED

mind on every page. How is God relating to us in the wonder and glory of the preparation for Him in the Old Testament Scriptures; how is He presented in the gospels as the perfect Son of God and Son of Man; and what does the early church do with the wonderful news of His rule and reign? Read, answer these questions, and act. 2. *The church.* Make the church the most heavenly place on earth, not only every Sunday, but Wednesdays and in every place and every time we meet: small groups, service projects, singing at the

Village, Bible studies in homes, youth camp experiences – in every place and every time where two or three of us are gathered - with no apologies and no concessions, with cultural sensitivity, grace and gospel assurance and clarity – let us be the church! A gospel church. We must, because of the great mercies of God, give ourselves over to worship and serving God with all that we are and have. The future promises a great Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and our Sundays must be a predictive

piece of that reality – a little piece of heaven. 3. *Our commission.* Take the church and its gospel to all the nations. Our mission work around the world and the expertise we are gaining in India will transfer to our efforts in Orange. Our message to the world is that we have a King and a choice.

The first 50 years at TACC/EFCO were gospel filled years. May the next 50 be so even more.

“THE FUTURE PROMISES A GREAT MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB, AND OUR SUNDAYS MUST BE A PREDICTIVE PIECE OF THAT REALITY...”



Staff members with the Leadership Training Center

CHARTING OUR MISSION TO INDIA, ORANGE AND THE WORLD

The TACC missions team continues to work on putting together the details of a long term commitment for taking the gospel to, and planting churches in, India. We are working directly with our friends at the Leadership Training Center in Siliguri, and hope to have an agreement worked out in the next few months. We feel that this agreement will set the framework for our going to the Adivasi people for many years to come. We believe God has called us to this wonderful part of the world, and are firmly committed to taking the gospel of Jesus Christ to these unreached people. Please continue to pray for our work there, pray for our financial commitment, and ask God if He is calling you to go.

In the meantime, TACC's commitment to our existing missionaries continues. We hear from many of them on a regular basis, and believe God is working through them throughout the world.

Bill Petersen and Mark Menashe continue to go to the neighborhood around TACC soliciting prayer requests. Through this ministry, we hope our neighbors will see that we are truly a community church, and that we care for them. See Bill or Mark if you want to know more about this ministry.

Our youth are involved in local mission projects, and many recently attended a seminar in Arizona to learn how to share their faith more effectively. Further, they recently spent time in Mexico with Pablo and Martha.

Amy Williams is coming home for a short visit, and will be at TACC for our 50th anniversary celebration. She will also have literature available at the mission's table detailing her ministry. Please make sure you say hello and thank her for being obedient to the gospel.

The Joneleit's will be returning to the U.S. in October. Please make sure you thank them also, for their service to God, and ask how we can make the transition back home as seamless as possible.

God has called us to be "missional minded", to be diligent in taking the gospel to Orange, California, the USA, and to the world. Keep this in mind as you pray for TACC.

CO-LABORER ON THE FIELD

Amy Williams is our missionary in Montefiascone, Italy, a rural community about a two hour drive north of Rome. She has served in Italy since the spring of 2006 and it is her objective to encourage Italians to embrace the gospel and then to serve God through evangelistic outreach in their local area and beyond.

Italy has a long and rich spiritual history with impressive cathedrals which are often the architectural centerpiece of the town. Most Italians are Catholic in culture, but deeply cynical of the Church, which has lost over 10 million members. The Protestant witness is small with only

1,500 of Italy's 33,500 communities having an established evangelical witness.

Amy serves at the True Vine Church, which is the first Evangelical Christian church in Montefiascone's 3000 year history. It was started in 2003 and has a regular meeting facility since the summer of 2005. There are few Bible teaching churches in the area and many members of the church travel up to an hour to attend.

Amy asks us to praise God with her for Francesco and Maria's baptisms, summer youth programs, and the third successful church retreat. She also asks us to join her in

prayer for the National Leaders Training and for God's continued leading and wisdom for the church in Montefiascone. Amy says, "there is no way I would have gotten through this year without your prayers! The Montefiascone Church continues to grow and move forward, so please continue to pray."

She will be visiting TACC for our 50th anniversary and maybe a time or two in October and November. Take advantage of her visit to speak with her and learn more about how you can best support her and the outreach in Italy.



Amy Williams

"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RUSH INTO GOD'S PRESENCE, CATCH UP ANYTHING WE FANCY, AND RUN OFF WITH IT..."

CALL TO WORSHIP

I love this quote by F.B. Meyer: "It is impossible to rush into God's presence, catch up anything we fancy, and run off with it . . . Nature will not unveil her rarest beauty to the chance tourist."

How many of us, in our private times of worship (if we

even have private times of worship) snatch up a biblical "sound bite" and hope it will carry us through the rest of the day? Don't raise your hands. Instead, try one or more of the following this month:

Turn off your car radio and

sing worship songs. Catch up on your "thank you's" to God during traffic. Save your announcement sheet in your purse or backpack. When you have down time, make up a tune to go with the memory verse. Put a genuine "praise" on your Facebook status.



Laura Baxter

CHARGE TO ACTION

Fall Outreach Opportunity
Our Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 31st, from 6pm to 8:30pm. Dinner will be served from 6 to 7pm for \$3/adult & \$2 for kids 12 and under. We'll host fun carnival booths, a bounce house, pumpkin carving contest, maze, candy and

lots of fun! We need folks to donate bags and candy for the event. Contact Marcia Lichte.

Gospel Exposure
This year's theme for Family Camp is "Preaching the Gospel to Yourself". Robert Campbell will be returning to

speaking. Join us at Oak Glen November 5th - 7th.

QBM
Our Quarterly Business Meeting will be on Sunday, October 24th, at 6pm.

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CHANGING AND GROWING

Truth Matters. How does that phrase strike you? How, exactly, does truth matter? And which matters of truth matter to you? If and when the things you believe to be true are challenged by others, how do you respond? Do difficult challenges cause you to question what you believe to be true? Truth Matters is a small group that meets each Sunday to wrestle with those questions. Please read the following quote from Jarrod Phipps, one of the members of Truth Matters.

“As disciples of Jesus, we have been commanded to go out into the world and share

what He has done for us with people that we meet. When we do this, it is important to know what Jesus did for us so that we can answer any questions they might have. Knowing the objections people have, having questions to help guide people to a correct understanding, and defending against allegations against our faith are all parts of the study of Christian apologetics. After service on Sunday mornings, a group of us has been meeting to discuss and practice how to best apply theology and logic to our daily conversations with people. I have found it to be a beneficial hands-on experi-

ence. Please come join us, and you too can be prepared for the next time someone challenges you with a tough question.”

I'd like to join in with Jarrod and challenge you to prayerfully consider joining our group. We recently finished a 10-week look at the question, “Does God Exist?”, and have just started our second series, “Tactics in Defending the Faith.” We meet on Sundays for an hour, starting 15 minutes after the worship service ends in the Upper Room of Children's House.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *We are celebrating 50 years of ministry at TACC.*
- *Outreach to our local neighborhood continues. Contact Bill Petersen.*
- *Amy Williams will be at TACC a few times this fall.*
- *Read about what's going on with the Truth Matters class.*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.TAFTAVENUE.ORG
