

Art Thoms

by Jane Thornell

A good crowd gathered on Sunday evening, July 24 to meet former Oakland Raider Art Thoms. He brought a number of sports memorabilia items for a silent auction, and several people purchased some of his treasures.

Art shared his testimony, which was very interesting. When he was first drafted by the Oakland Raiders he was not a Christian, but through the prayers and witness of his wife he came to know the Lord. He and his wife worked with youth at Central Baptist Church in Alameda for a number of years. They now live in Moraga and are faithful members of Calvary Baptist Church in Lafayette where he serves as an usher and greeter.

Art answered all our questions and spent extra time with our boys – Oscar, Gabriel and Quentin. He brought along his Super Bowl ring, which we were able to examine, and he took pictures with each boy. While they don't remember him so much as a sports star, some older folks in attendance enjoyed reminiscing with him from his playing days in the 1970's. It was an exciting evening for young and old.

Afghan Back Packs

by Diane Varady

Last year our church was challenged with buying school supplies and packing 75 backpacks for Tim F. to give to Afghan children in Fremont. This year, he challenged us to pack 100 backpacks. Praise the Lord! We Succeeded!

Our summer missionaries, April, and Tim have been delivering backpacks to families. This show of love is opening doors for Christ to be shared. A HUGE thank you for helping with buying, donating or helping pack the 100 backpacks!

California Mission Offering

WHY?

The Great Commission Begins HERE!

September 2011

State Goal: \$ 350,000

Our Church Goal: \$1,200.00

“For everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? Romans 10:13-14 (New Living Translation)

CMO Banquet & Speaker

September 14th

5:00 p.m.

Come join us for dinner at 5:00 p.m. followed at 6:00 p.m. with our guest speaker Howard Burkhardt. He will be sharing how the CMO offering impacts his ministry in planting churches to special groups like the deaf community.

Howard is a very interesting speaker, so I know you will want to make every effort to attend. This is your opportunity to talk to a “real missionary” and ask questions so you know how to pray more effectively.

Solid Ground Trio

Sunday, September 4

6:00 p.m.

Come join us and invite your family and friends for a night of music and worship.

Solid Ground is an exciting trio from Sacramento who enjoy sharing Jesus Christ through songs. They enjoy singing and preaching. They speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.



Dear Church Family,

After much prayer and seeking the wisdom from above, I have decided to retire as your pastor effective August 31, 2012. After this retirement I plan to relocate to Rwanda and lead the Kim Foreman Bible Institute.

This calling has been on my heart ever since Kim's death, but I thought it prudent to put on hold all major life decisions for a full year while grieving the death of my lovely wife. One year has passed and this call on my life remains as strong as ever.

Believe me when I say that I have absolutely no issues with my church family at First Southern. You have always been very kind and supportive of me and of my late wife Kim. Yet I believe that God has set me apart for this work in Rwanda, for which I am uniquely qualified.

Consider how God has prepared me. He has granted me good health and provided me with financial resources. He has filled me with teaching gifts that coincide with the Gospel need in Africa. He has built for me a ten-year deep relationship with African co-workers. Truly my “cup runneth over”; and the season has come for me to tip the cup and to pour out my life as a drink offering to God. [Also -and this is difficult to utter- our sovereign Lord has seen fit to prepare me with a life of singleness. Without the blessing of a wife, I can pursue His work with a single-minded focus.]

Consider this as well. The Kim Foreman Bible Institute is housed in a facility that is costing one-half million dollars. Yet this investment alone cannot yield success. Quality leadership and sustained commitment are also required; and there could be no one in the entire world more committed to the success of this institute than I am. I must go to Africa and build a legacy for Kim.

I am telling you of my retirement 12 months in advance, because I must start the long process of relocating and I did not want to do anything behind your back. I promise to work faithfully for you until the day of my retirement, or until you hire someone to succeed me as senior pastor. Thank you for your understanding.



Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:45 am
Evening Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday Morning Bible Study
11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Family Fellowship
5:00 p.m.

“Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform”

Devon Henesley - Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch - Navy - Rank - Petty Officer 3rd class
Assignment - Overseas

September Calendar

- 4th - Solid Ground Trio - 6:00 p.m.
- 5th - Labor Day - Office Closed
- 7th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 10th - Women on Mission - 10:00 a.m.
- 12th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m.
 - Banquet Table Support Group - 6:30 p.m.
- 14th - CMO Banquet & Speaker - 5:00 p.m.
- 18th - Lord's Supper - 6:00 p.m.
- 19th - Banquet Table Support Group - 6:30 p.m.
- 21st - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.
- 22nd - Open Door Mission - 6:15 p.m.
- 24th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
- 26th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 a.m..
 - Banquet Table Support Group - 6:30 p.m.
- 28th - Wednesday Dinner & Fellowship - 5:00 p.m.

Happy Birthday

- 1st - Sean Kelleher
- 2nd - Justine Hillard
- 4th - Elliott Seigal
- 6th - Ken Hillard
- 8th - Justin Smith
- 9th - Laureen Escobedo
- 14th - Mike Fortner
- 16th - Ed Kelton
- 25th - Esmeralda Bocar

Happy Anniversary

- 23rd - Steve & Shirley Halbach
- 27th - Edsel & Pauline Ford



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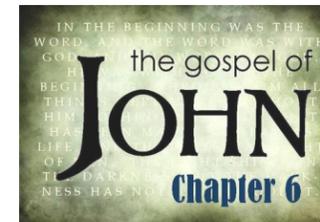
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September 2011

Sunday Morning Messages

Come join us on Sunday Morning at 10:45 a.m. as Pastor Chris is continuing a series of messages from the Gospel of John, Chapter 6.

- ~ September 4 ~ The Bread of Life ~ John 6:30-36
- ~ September 11 ~ The Will of the Father ~ John 6:37-40
- ~ September 18 ~ The Living Bread ~ John 6:41-52
- ~ September 25 ~ Real Food and Real Drink ~ John 6:53-60



Sunday Evening Messages

You are invited to join us on Sunday Evenings at 6:00 p.m. as Pastor Chris continues from the book of Judges followed by a video journey of Samson & Delilah.

- ~ September 4 ~ Solid Ground Trio
- ~ September 11 ~ Later Judges ~ Chapters 9-12
- ~ September 18 ~ Samson Video 1 ~ Chapters 13-16
- ~ September 25 ~ Samson Video 2 ~ Part 2

