

welcome

We are a church made up of imperfect people from all walks of life who have found hope, healing, and meaning through the transformational love of Jesus Christ. We desire to be a community where people can hear God’s truth, experience His love and grace, and respond to Him with freedom. There are countless ways to connect with others. We’re glad you are here today.

insight

In the final analysis, forgiveness is an act of faith. It is the belief that God can take care of the fairness problems. It is not fair just to pretend that something doesn’t happen. It did happen. It still hurts. It still stings. Forgiveness is not fair, but forgiveness is a way of taking that burden from us and giving it to God who is fair.
— Philip Yancey

make a difference

Easter Eggs Needed for Children’s Easter Services
4000 plastic, candy filled eggs (no chocolate or nuts please) to be used Easter weekend in Children’s Ministry.
Please tape and drop them off at the special “Egg” table on the patio or at the church office.

Additional volunteers are also needed at each Easter weekend service to work with the children. Please sign up at the Children’s Table or any area of Children’s Ministry if you can help during one of the services.

missionaries of the month

Joe & Clara Pent Sr.

Latin America Assistance, Costa Rica

Joe & Lori Pent Jr.

Latin America Assistance, Costa Rica

financial update

january	<u>vtd</u>	<u>monthly</u>
Budget	\$1,007,417	\$143,917
Income	\$950,971	\$131,672
Expenses	\$924,268	\$131,889
Balance (expense/income)	\$26, 703	-\$217

kids’ choir spring season

Sermon on the Mound: Registration is happening now through March 21 for children ages 4 (as of April 1) through grade 8. Rehearsals are Sundays, from 9 – 10:15 a.m. Performance dates are June 5 & 6. For fees and registration, visit the Children’s Ministry Table on the patio or contact Gloria at gneedham@bfconline.org or x252.

harvest—adult Bible study

We are studying Ray Vander Laan’s, *Fire on the Mountain*. All adults are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings, 10:45 a.m., in the 300 Building for a stimulating DVD and discussion group study. This is an opportunity to learn what the Bible teaches us through the Israelites’ trek through the desert. Study is led by Joe Hood.

preschool priority enrollment

Week-day Preschool has priority enrollment for BFC members, continuing students and siblings; happening now. Register at the Preschool Office Window.

teen/parent Bible study

Join us on Friday nights for a great Bible study that focuses on the challenges that teens and their parents face every day. We’ll view a 25 minute video, *True U* (from Focus on the Family Truth Project), and have discussion and “hang-out” time to finish. Begins Friday, March 12, 6 – 8 p.m. at the Eckstrom’s home, 108 Stockton Ave., Ventura. For more information call Jason, x233.

marriage enrichment class

A marriage class is being offered to take you on a path toward greater relationship satisfaction and fulfillment. This six-week class begins next Saturday, March 13, 6 – 7:25 p.m., Room 206. Fee is \$30.00 per couple. Sign-up at the Community Life Center or contact Sandy Moe at 479-9980 for more information.

happening now

side-by-side dessert

Side-by-Side pairs women together in mentoring friendships which are a source of support, growth, and strength. To participate as a mentee or mentor, please attend this free informational gathering. At the dessert, you will complete a confidential profile. Within a few weeks of the gathering, we will prayerfully match you with a mentor or mentee. Meets Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Hood, 1288 Martha’s Vineyard Court, Ventura 93001.

grief share

This is a Christ-centered group for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one and will be held Tuesdays, March 23 – June 29, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Room 302. Registration is required, and materials are \$20. The class is led by Certified Grief Counselor, Debi Dixon. Please call x251 to register.

how is your marriage?

Life has a way of overwhelming a marriage. Most good marriages take work. It’s easy to lose our focus on each other. Family Life’s *Weekend to Remember* marriage conference is a chance for you to make a change and rediscover each other again. Join others from BFC at the Ventura Beach Marriott on March 26 – 28 or April 9 – 11. Save \$80 when you register through BFC. Don’t wait until your marriage is in crisis. Contact John & Becky Burton at 671-9267.

compassion child sponsorship

Children in developing countries are among the world’s most vulnerable to diseases, malnutrition, and preventable deaths. Children under age 5 account for only 10% of the world’s population, yet suffer 40% of the diseases worldwide. Many of these diseases could be prevented with access to clean water or vaccines that cost less than \$1. You can make a difference through child sponsorship. Visit the table at the back of the Auditorium or go to compassion.com/arlonnemonroe

praying for each other

There are three ways you can communicate your prayer needs:
Stop by our Prayer Area located in the back of the Auditorium after any of our weekend gatherings.
Fill out a Prayer Request Card located in the Auditorium seat pockets.
Go to bfconline.org to submit your prayer requests.

please

Silence your cell phone.
Take advantage of our nursery and children’s classes during our weekend gatherings.
Recycle the inserts/envelopes by placing them in the baskets as you leave.

subscribe

Sign up at bfconline.org for IGNITE and ENCOUNTER NOW e-bulletin, our weekly updates about what’s happening at ENCOUNTER.

weekend messages

CD or DVD available at the Media Center on Sundays or download weekly podcasts on iTunes or at bfconline.org

weekend gatherings
Saturday 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

ENCOUNTER

first time visiting?

Fill out the CONNECTIONS CARD

Take a VINEPRESS from the seat pocket
Stop by the Community Life Center
and pick up a coupon for a FREE DRINK at
Compass Coffee Bar & Media Center

Right after ENCOUNTER today, link up with
us for a quick *10 Minute Connection*
next to our Community Life Center.
Someone will be waiting there to
welcome you!

Stories to live by

Part 8: MERCY

Les Misérables

Matthew 18:21–35 — Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Pastor Daniel Hahn

When it comes to granting forgiveness...

1. It is _____ to release others from the grip of our resentment
when we ourselves have been forgiven for so much.

2. It is _____ to freely forgive so that we ourselves can be the
recipients of God's continued mercy.

3. It is _____ that we adopt a spirit of grace across the board,
otherwise we ourselves are the ones who will ultimately suffer.

ENCOUNTER

NOW

03.06.10–03.07.10

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH

6950 Ralston Street
Ventura, CA 93003
805.656.7766
bfonline.org

CD's and DVD's of weekend messages are available in our Media Center
All scripture is taken from the New International Version unless otherwise indicated.

encountering God
encouraging each other
engaging the world