

CHURCH FOCUS

January 2025



Pastor's Message:

REJOICE EVERMORE

We stand on the precipice of 2025. My mind recoils to the historical narrative in Deuteronomy where Moses stood on the 'the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the Lord shewed him all the land... of Judah.' Moses stood on the precipice of the promised land. I wonder what Moses thought or how he felt. But as the inspired Scripture tells us, Moses remained on that precipice. In fact, the Lord told him, 'I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.' 'So Moses the servant of the Lord died there [being] an hundred and twenty years old.'

Of course I'm not saying I'm going to die, or any of us, is going to die on the precipice of 2025! My point is: 'the Lord shewed him' and the Bible says, 'I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes'—we have a vision of 2025. I have a vision of 2025. And I don't mean a prophetic vision or a dream from

the Lord. We have all the prophetic visions from the Lord that we need in this Book! We don't need extra or 'fresh' revelation from any so-called New Testament prophet or modern apostle. I'm a pastor and when I say Vision Sunday I mean we have #1) hopeful and prayerful expectations for the coming year! I heard of a polling done recently of Americans about New Year's resolutions. Over 70% they're not making any New Year's resolutions for 2025! It's sad to hear that. A new year should represent new beginnings! And resolutions are a great way to start your new year afresh!

What are my hopeful and prayerful expectations? That my family and I will not miss a Sunday service in 2025. That all of you—my church family—will not miss a Sunday service in 2025. I said a couple of Sunday nights ago: attend all the services that you can for it is one way you grow

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This Month at RBC

1 New Year's Day
(Church office closed)

5 Communion 10am

8 Adventure Club Resumes 6:30pm

9 Men's Bible Study Resumes 7pm

12 Installation of
Church Leaders 10am
Leaders Meeting 5pm

18 Outreach 10am

20 MLK Jr Day
(Church office closed)

26 Workers Meeting 11:15am

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9AM | BEGINNING NOVEMBER 3RD



PLEASE SEE BRITTANY TORRES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Women's Bible Study

Ladies, join us every Sunday at 9am for Women's Bible Study!



**SKYLINE BAPTIST CHURCH
HAWTHORNE, CA
SPECIAL OUTREACH HELP**

Church Help Day

Please join us as we help Skyline Baptist Church in Hawthorne, CA prepare for their Grand Opening. Date and time TBD.

RBC WORKERS MEETING

SUNDAY | JANUARY 26 | 11:15AM

Please plan to attend this important meeting for all serving at Riverside Baptist Church.

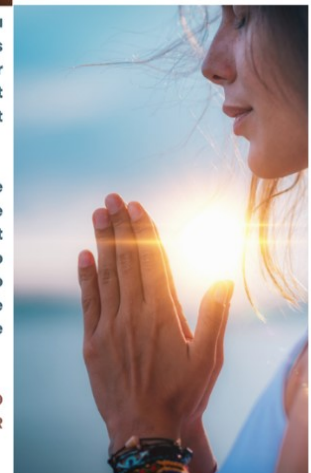


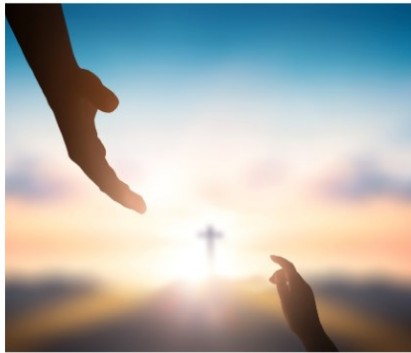
BE A PRAYER WARRIOR 2025 PRAYER CORE

It's a new year and that means a new Prayer Core! This is one of RBC's most vital ministries; when a prayer request or praise report comes in it is sent out to multiple people to lift up to the Lord right away.

If you would like to be part of the 2025 Prayer Core, please see the signup sheet in the foyer or contact the church office. Remember, we do not carry names over from year to year so you must signup to receive notifications. The 2025 Prayer Core will take effect on February 1st.

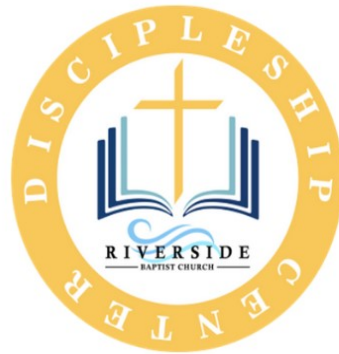
ANYONE IN NEED OF PRAYER SHOULD CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE OR PASTOR TORRES.





Gospel Outreach

Join your church family Saturday, January 18th at 10am as we share the "Good News" with our community!



Discipleship Center

Come check out the DC! Books, Bible Studies, and more...there's something for everyone!

Regular Schedule

Sundays:

- Discipleship Class 9am
- Women's Bible Study 9am
- Morning Worship Service 10am
- Children's Discipleship (2nd & 4th Sunday)
- Choir Practice TBA
- Evening Worship Service 6pm

Tuesdays & Fridays:

- Men's Prayer 4:30pm

Wednesdays:

- Adventure Club 6:30pm
- Youth Discipleship 7pm
- Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 7pm

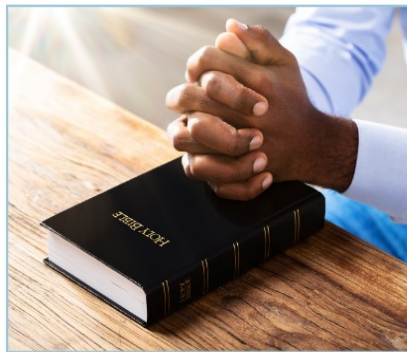
Thursdays:

- Men's 7pm



Discipleship Class

Come grow in your faith! Under the direction of Jose Duran, the Discipleship Class meets every Sunday morning at 9am in the DC.



Men's Prayer

Come be a part of this very special time of prayer and fellowship every Tuesday and Friday at 4:30pm.

Three Ways to Give



At Church



Online



By Mail



CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP

2nd & 4th Sundays
Ages 3-11

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

9015 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, California 92503
(951) 687-6106
www.RBCSoCal.com
Pastor: Christian Torres

HOMEBUILDERS

All About Attitude

"The way you say 'representative' to an automated system reflects the real you," a friend told me. After we laughed at that truth, I realized everything I say matters. Someone is always listening, whether the words and tone are positive or negative.

Ephesians 4:29 (KJV) says our language shouldn't be "corrupt" but good, edifying. Whether I'm peaceful, hurried, joyful, empathetic, frustrated, celebrating or hurting, I can carefully choose my words (and the attitude behind them). When I'm not ready to speak wholesomely, may God shut my mouth. When a friend needs encouragement, may I listen to God's prompting. When I need to confront, may I do so lovingly.

Changing how we think — that is, how we speak to ourselves — can be tough. But God wants to transform our reactions and motives, dispelling pride, a lack of confidence and anxiety. In this new year:

- I'm alone can become God is with me.
- I can't do this can become Anything is possible with God.
- I'm failing can become Just because I'm struggling, it doesn't mean I'm failing.
- I'm not enough can become I'm God's beloved child.
- I'm tired can become God will give me rest.

Don't stop there. Consider the concerns in your heart and let God give you new words and attitudes.

—Janna Firestone

A Prayer For Spiritual Growth

When my spiritual vision is foggy, help me to find my way.

When my understanding is incomplete, open my mind and increase my patience.

When my indifference blocks my senses, touch my heart.

When worry or fear raise their voices, speak to my faith.

Let your Spirit permeate my longings as well as my living and my loving. Amen.

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from front page)

Rejoice Evermore

spiritually! Make everything possible in your life, in your work, so that you're able to come to all Sunday dinners of the spiritual food of the Word of God! If you're traveling, make sure you're at a biblical church service! If you have to work on Sunday, then make sure to catch the sermon online ([YouTube.com/@rbchurch](https://www.youtube.com/@rbchurch)). Do it right away. The sermon online may be like a microwave dinner; but it's better to have a microwave dinner than to have nothing at all for your spiritual feeding!

Moreover, a number of you have come to me and said, you know Pastor, it's so much better to be in-person for church services! And so, I agree with you. We're thankful for the online technology because we have church family members that just can't make it to in-person services, like our dear sister Betty who is 98 years old as we speak!

Another hopeful and prayerful expectation I have for 2025 is: that we, as a local church, would practice nouthetic counseling one with another. Nouthetic is a fancy word for biblical counseling. You may say, Why did you use it? To get your attention, that's why! Why are you using a fancy word? It's all Greek to me! To test your attitude how godly you'd react to something 'new.' To challenge you and stretch you. Or would you rather stay comfortable in your current stage of Christian growth? You need to grow up, you know? The Apostle Peter said, "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

You're right, nouthetic is Greek. Look at 1 Thessalonians 5:14. Paul commends them for comforting themselves together and edifying one another; building up one another! And then he uses the word "warn them that are unruly" within the confines of their local church. To warn is from the Greek word noutheteo, which means "impart understanding," "to set right," "to lay on the heart", "to admonish," "to warn," "to remind," and "to correct." This is the idea of biblical counseling; to correct one another's wrong by the standard of the Scripture!

Anyway, I have more hopeful and prayerful expectations as we set foot into 2025. Of course, we do not assume God is going to automatically allow us to do that. Our attitude is: we'll do this, we'll do that, God willing! Pastor James corrects us, "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (4:13-15). So, I say, Lord willing, we shall set foot into 2025 with great expectations!

With Sincere Love In Christ,



Christian Torres
Pastor-Teacher