

LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, January 5

- 9:00AM Morning Coffee
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration
- 11:15AM Foundations Class: Session 3: Week 1
- 4:00PM Health Talk

MISSIONS

<http://www.lbac.org/missions>

GROWTH GROUPS

<http://www.lbac.org/gg>

Mid-week Adult Bible Studies

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/children>

Sunday Mornings: Gospel Project @ 9:30AM
Fun N Funky @ 11:15AM

AWANA

<http://www.lbac.org/awana>

Wednesday Nights September through May

YOUTH MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/youth>

The Process High School~ Tuesdays @ 7:00PM
Junior High Live ~ Thursdays @ 7:00PM

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/women>

Women's Ministry Event Information
Contact: deya@charter.net

Lydia House Meals Ministry
Contact: mcoliver789@msn.com

Women Connecting with Missions
3rd Tuesday of each month @ 7:00PM

Crafty Women

2nd Saturday of each month @ 10:00AM

MEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/men>

Contact: mensministry@lbac.org

Monday, January 6

- 6:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous
- 7:00PM Pure Desire Ministry
- 7:00PM Survivors of Incest Anonymous

Tuesday, January 7

- 10:00AM All Staff Team Meeting
- 6:00PM Student Leaders
- 7:00PM The Process-High School

Wednesday, January 8

- 6:30PM AWANA

Thursday, January 9

- 7:00PM Junior High Live

Friday, January 10

- 6:30AM Men's Bible Study on Campus
- 8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, January 11

- 8:00AM Men's Breakfast
- 9:00AM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous
- 9:00AM Deaconess Meeting
- 10:00AM Crafty Women

Sunday, January 12

- 9:00AM Morning Coffee
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration
- 11:15AM Foundations Class: Session 3: Week 2
- 12:30PM Hume Parent Meeting
- 7:00PM Golf Tournament Committee Meeting

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts

long beach alliance church offices

3331 palo verde avenue • long beach, ca • 90808-4113

phone: 562.420.1478 • office@lbac.org • www.lbac.org

church office hours: tuesday-thursday, 10:00AM-5:00PM

church staff team

meghan brearley, children's director
562.708.9261 • megan@lbac.org

jesse duckett, youth pastor
562.454.7122 • jesse@lbac.org

tina rand, receptionist & treasurer
562.420.1478 • tina@lbac.org

scott trickett, associate pastor
562.972.5306 • scott@lbac.org

michelle crammer, office manager
917.288.3424 • michelle@lbac.org

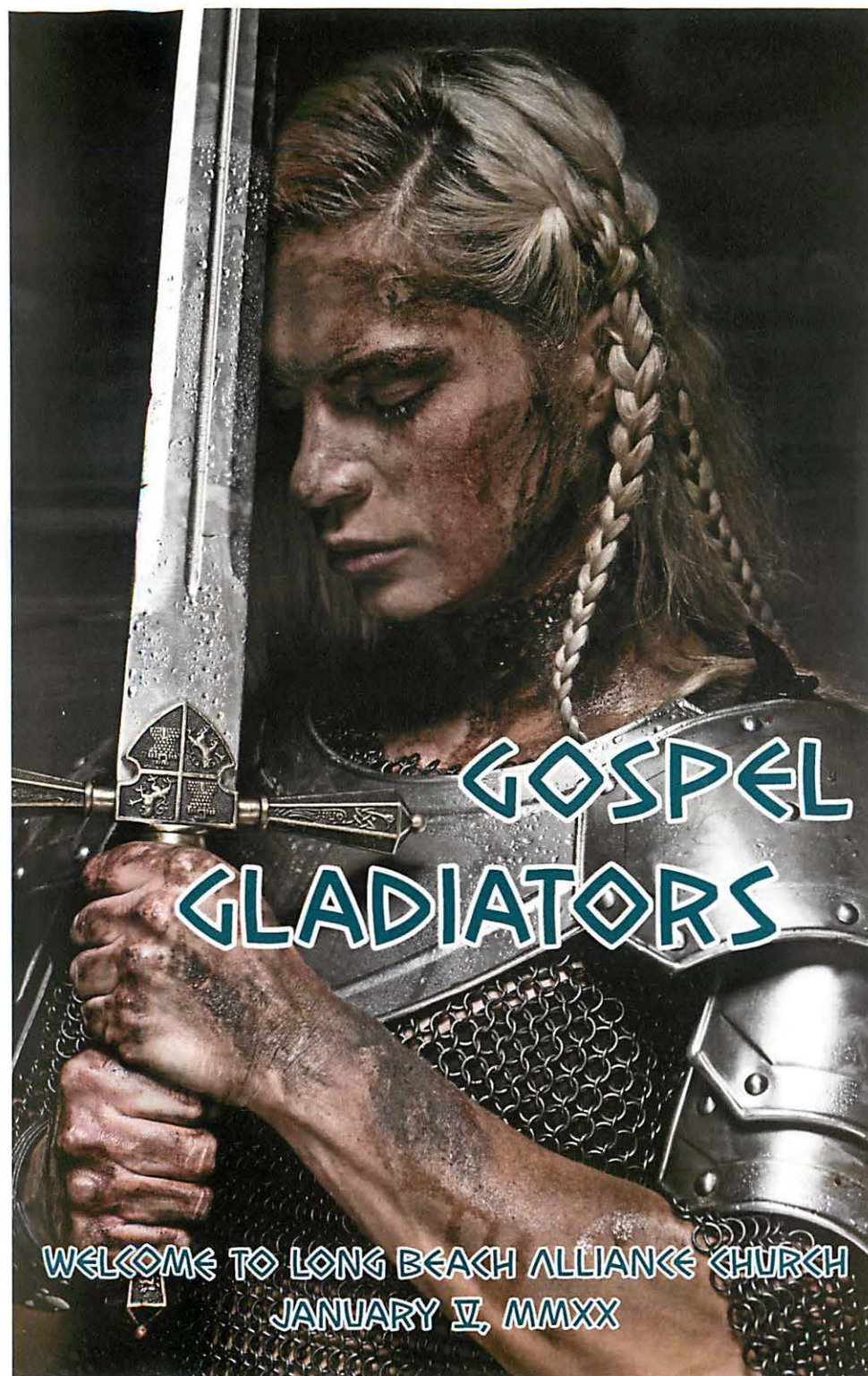
chris lankford, lead pastor
562.685.4132 • chris@lbac.org

kyle rand, facility needs
562.900.0921 • kyle@lbac.org

ben shaw, worship & celebration intern
562.420.1478 • ben@lbac.org



THE
ALLIANCE



WELCOME TO LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH
JANUARY II, MMXX

**Q UESTIONS
&
A NSWERS**

W/ PASTOR CHRIS

FOLLOWING THE MORNING CHURCH SERVICE EACH WEEK,
FRONT 3 ROWS OF SANCTUARY, BEGINS @ 11:15AM

Men's Breakfast

FREE CHILDCARE PROVIDED!

Saturday, January 11
8:00AM
LBAC Gymnasium

Got Questions? Call Greg Coles @ 310.293.9318

GROWTH GROUPS

START THIS WEEK!
CONSIDER JOINING A GROUP!

Sign-ups on our website, www.lbac.org,
or contact Luke Schaub via email: schaublj@gmail.com for info!

Health Talk

Meets TODAY!
4PM-5:30PM, Room 203

Come share experience, resources,
and support for living strong, healthy lives.

This month's topic: YOGA with Mercedes
(regular and chair options available)

Have Questions? Dawn Trickett dtrickett@icloud.com
Barbara Garrett msclmom@gmail.com

**NEW FOUNDATIONS CLASSES
BEGIN TODAY!**

The Minors

See how God uses the minor prophets to teach about
Himself as they attempt to lead God's people into
deeper relationships with Him.
Pastor Jesse Duckett, Room 202

Confronting Christianity

The world has questions about Christianity and we go over
the answers to those questions.
Pastor Scott Trickett & Vince Palacios, Room 102

Working the Soil of the Soul

Understanding why the human heart struggles
with living in alignment with the Scriptures
Kou John Wang, Room 203

Fun N Funky

Nursery & Kids' Activities for all ages!
Parents Check-in Kids at Nursery & Gymnasium

LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget %</u>
Weekly:	\$12,715.40	\$28,857.58	226.9%
Month-to-Date:	\$63,577.00	\$71,320.20	112.2%
Year-to-Date:	\$228,877.20	\$231,756.51	101.3%
Disbursed YTD:	\$205,856.00	GF Balance: \$25,900.51	



GOSPEL GLADIATORS

"FATHER ABRAHAM HAD MANY SONS..."

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH • JANUARY 7, MMXX • ROMANS 1:16-17 • PASTOR CHRIS LANKFORD

I) LIGHT ALWAYS ILLUMINATES WHAT'S HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS

- A. Strangely, Paul (the writer of Romans), expresses unabashed confidence in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16-17) before launching into an extended section about God's terrible wrath against "all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men" who sinfully "suppress the truth" (1:18).
- B. Paul exhaustively establishes that all of mankind, even those who feel they are 'basically good people,' are guilty of sin and deserve God's wrath (Romans 1:18-3:20). This group is universal, including all mankind without partiality based on 'religion, race, ethnic origin, gender, or intelligence' (note Galatians 3:28-29).
- C. Paul, who grew up as an exemplary Jewish man, a dedicated follower of God, and Jewish leader (note Philippians 3:4-6); shifts to a special emphasis on his 'own people' (Romans 3:27-4:12) in order to address their understandable objections, as well as confusion over the timeless 'rights' promised to 'Father Abraham's' offspring (note Genesis 17:1-8).
- D. Paul emphasizes these things to provide abundant evidence and clarity that justification ('right standing before God,' Romans 3:20) cannot be earned, is not inherited, and any effort to merit it is completely futile.
- E. Rather, justification can only be received by faith in the Gospel (the life, sacrificial death, and resurrection life of Jesus Christ, Romans 1:16-17). Essentially, the more you see the wonder of God providing "justification by faith in Jesus Christ" (Romans 3:22-26) the total futility of mankind's attempts to reject or reach God become more clear and absurd!



GOSPEL GLADIATORS - PAGE II

II) SELF-ILLUMINATION VS. CROSS-ILLUMINATION

- A. Continuing his focus on faith in God's promises (from Romans 4:1-12), Paul asserts that if salvation were based on working for it ('following the Law,' note especially 4:2-4), it would actually invalidate God's promises because if salvation had to (in reality) be earned, rather than received as a gift, it wouldn't actually be a gift (4:13-15).
- B. It is easy to miss the point here! Paul is not concerned with "Sola Fide" (lat., 'faith alone) or "justification by faith" (he did this already in 3:22-26), but rather says to the Romans, 'as Christ-followers, if you live by works rather than faith, you ruin/negate/invalidate God's promises and you are guilty of both misunderstanding and mishandling God's salvation promises.' Worst of all, this kind of living miscommunicates the Gospel to others!
- C. This begs questions! 'Why, since faith provides salvation, have I turned a relationship with God into rules-based-obedience, rather than faith-based-obedience? Do I really believe transformation comes by means of faith, or do I actually believe it comes by works?'
- D. Since salvation comes by faith in Jesus Christ, we should make every possible effort to continue in faith. The Law has been fulfilled in Christ (Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 10:1), thus we are called to live and work according to faith in what Christ accomplished, and not return to the limitations of rules. This is the example of Abraham, who by faith becomes our spiritual father and fatherly example of living by faith (Romans 4:16-21).
- E. Our sin is taken away by Christ's perfect sacrifice on the cross, and is completely sufficient to provide us with His righteousness, but is only obtained and sustained by faith (Romans 4:22-25; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Life in Christ is wonderfully captured by Paul as he concludes with both the beginning and ending of our faith, the wonder of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 4:25). Faith alone, or we have nothing at all!

Growth Group Guide

Gospel Gladiators:

Live By Faith

Week #1 • Romans 4:13-25

Ice Breaker

Welcome back! What did you do over the Christmas season that you've never done before?

In-Depth

- Read Romans 4:13-25
- Discuss what you learned from this week's sermon

1. Review

- A. Before we move forward, let's review what we've covered so far in Romans. What does Romans teach about:
1. God's Wrath
 2. Sin
 3. Justification

- B. In Romans 4:1-12, Abraham is given as an example to show what?

2. The Father of Many Nations

Read Genesis 15:1-6; Genesis 17:3-5; Genesis 21:1-3; Romans 4:18-22.

- A. In what ways was Abraham's faith noteworthy?

B. In what ways is Abraham the father of many nations?

3. *Live By Faith*

A. What does it mean that his faith was “counted to him as righteousness”?

B. Read Romans 4:13-15.; Galatians 2:20-21; Galatians 3:10-11. What does it mean to live by faith? Why is it critical that we live by faith rather than by works?

C. Read Romans 4:16-18; 4:22-25; Galatians 3:7-9. How is Abraham’s faith significant to us?

Making It Relevant

1. Have you, like Abraham, had (or currently have) a long period of waiting for God? How was your faith tested? Did your faith grow through the experience?

2. In what ways do a relationship with God differ for those who live by faith versus those who live by their works?

3. Scripture commands we live righteous lives. Does it contradict scripture saying to not rely on works?