

# The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER  
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The Mission of  
FBCWR:  
*Connecting People to  
God's Life-Changing  
Power*

*We've Got  
Connections!*

The free gift of God  
is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus  
our Lord.

Romans 6:23

## INSIDE

Christmas Encounter	1
What's News at F.B.C.W.R.	2
Calendar	3
Ministry Spotlight	4

## A Christmas Encounter

A Christmas story I do not have, but a story about Christ came to my classroom two months ago and I believe it was one of those encounters that brought me face to face with the Christ child.

Cielo, my 8 year old student, came strolling into my room with her arms crossed and her eyes squenched—a tear running down her eye. She was mad... “Matt just said he hated me, now I am in trouble because the teacher thinks I said I hated him. He lied. I hate him”.

There was no way we were going to do any class work so I gave that up and started to tell her how boys sometimes say mean things when they like a girl. (All my wisdom on the opposite sex was coming into play). She let me know that I was really wrong.

Next try, “Did you say you hated him”?

“No!!! But I do”.

Okay, now I wanted to go into the invisible world with an 8 year old child. “Do you think you could forgive him and trust your teacher will do what's right”?

“No, I will never forgive him. Why should I forgive him, he lied?”

“I know he hurt you, but Ceilo you told me you did hate him. God sees your heart even if your words do not match and you know what, God forgave you”.

(Now this was going to be my encounter with Christ.)

She looks me straight in the eye and

says, “Why did God forgive me, I didn't do anything to Him”?

“Cielo, He died on the cross for you”.

She stood up and said, “I wasn't even born when he died. I did not do anything to him. That is a sad story. He did not have to forgive me, I didn't do anything to Him and I wasn't born then.”

The invisible truth was having a hard time getting through to the concrete mind. I realized this classroom lesson was going to take a lifetime to learn. She ended up

picking up her pencil and said, “That dying on the cross stuff is sad, let's do our ABC's”.

Boy, did I get the message God was giving me... “Terri, so often you are hurt and you just keep going, (shopping, eating, watching TV, sleeping). You miss

My Christmas gift to you. You miss My Christ Child given to you. You did not see me die on the cross for your sin and others—you weren't there. Every time you hurt someone and someone hurts you, the gift of Christmas comes into that room. Take it and give it. It's a year round celebration of my birth and death”.

*-Terri Fornear*

P.S. Just to let you know Cielo and Matt are best friends now and I tutor both of them at the **same time**. (I still think he likes her, she doesn't see it).

