



NEWSLETTER

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

EIC: Wendy Powers

The Mission of TBF is to glorify God (Psalm 86:11-13; 115:1 and 1 Peter 2:12; 4:16) by actively participating in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) as a body of believers (1 Cor 12:13; 1 John 5:1-5) who collectively/individually (Phil 1:27) serve our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1-2) and one another (Phil 2:3-4) functioning as a spiritual Greenhouse (Eph 4:11-16) such that by our interactions together we are catalyzed to grow (Acts 2:42) and to reproduce (Acts 2:47) spiritually

Shekinah Glory

The word shekinah does not appear in the Bible, but the concept clearly does. The Jewish rabbis coined this extra-biblical expression, a form of a Hebrew word that literally means "he caused to dwell," signifying that it was a divine visitation of the presence or dwelling of the Lord God on this earth. The Shekinah was first evident when the Israelites set out from Succoth in their escape from Egypt. There the Lord appeared in a cloudy pillar in the day and a fiery pillar by night: "After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people" (Exodus 13:20-22).

God spoke to Moses out of the pillar of cloud in Exodus 33, assuring him that His Presence would be with the Israelites (v. 9). Verse 11 says God spoke to Moses "face to face" out of the cloud, but when Moses asked to see God's glory, God told Him, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live" (v. 20). So, apparently, the visible manifestation of God's glory was somewhat muted. When Moses asked to see God's glory, God hid Moses in the cleft of a rock, covered him with His hand, and passed by. Then He removed His hand, and Moses saw only His back. This would seem to indicate that God's glory is too awesome and powerful to be seen completely by man.

The visible manifestation of God's presence was seen not only by the Israelites but also by the Egyptians: "During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, 'Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt'" (Exodus 14:24-25). Just the presence of God's Shekinah glory was enough to convince His enemies that He was not someone to be resisted.

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Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM MEETING AT TANGLEWOOD

Adult Services AND Children's (0-12 years) Programs

Youth (6th -12th grade) meets Sunday evenings at 6 PM

Wednesday P.M. Service: 6:30-7:30 PM MEETING AT TANGLEWOOD

A Word from Pastor David Shields

TBF Church Family,

For the next couple months, we are going to be studying the book of Ecclesiastes. I'm calling this series "Remember Death: Finding the gospel in Ecclesiastes." The first part of the title is because death haunts this book. The author is examining all of life on earth and trying to figure out what gives life meaning. I want us to walk alongside this book and remember that we too will die. For the world, death is the worst news imaginable. As Christians, death is still painful, but it is not the end of the story.

This is why the second half of the title is about trying to find the gospel in Ecclesiastes. Our work of Bible study is never complete until we get to Jesus and the good news of the Gospel. I want us to examine this darker book of the Bible in light of the gospel. Only through Jesus will we be able to see what God has for us. And I believe that this is how the book was meant to be studied. It is not that Jesus fixes this dark and depressing book that needs help. Instead, it is that Jesus reveals the mystery Ecclesiastes is trying to teach us.

One of my hopes is that studying Ecclesiastes will help shatter our idols. I hope that thinking deeply about life and death will help us realize the foolishness of what we obsess over. We obsess over possessions and money believing that these things will bring us security and health. We believe that productivity and working hard will give us some sense of control over our lives. But this book will one by one cast down our idols until we can only behold Christ.

One of my fears in this study is that we will allow the enemy to distract us from studying this book. A primary way that the enemy does this is by making us think that books of the Bible are inaccessible to us. It's true that Ecclesiastes is a difficult book to understand. But the enemy will whisper in your ear that you shouldn't read it. He will tell us that understanding is for others like pastors and experts.

But this is not true. Yes, parts of the Bible are difficult to understand, but you do not need to understand it all in order for it to make you more like Jesus. The Word of God never returns void and always accomplishes what God wants. We should not read the Bible only with the goal to understand or learn something but to be obedient and encounter God. I firmly believe that time spent reading the Bible is always valuable when we have the right heart.

I hope and pray that our study of this book will make us more like Jesus.

Pastor David

*New Series —
Sunday Mornings →*



(Shekinah Glory Con't)

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ is the dwelling place of God's glory. Colossians 2:9 tells us that "in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form," causing Jesus to exclaim to Philip, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). In Christ, we see the visible manifestation of God Himself in the second person of the Trinity. Although His glory was also veiled, Jesus is nonetheless the presence of God on earth. Just as the divine Presence dwelled in a relatively plain tent called the "tabernacle" before the Temple in Jerusalem was built, so did the Presence dwell in the relatively plain man who was Jesus. "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2). But when we get to heaven, we will see both the Son and the Father in all their glory, and the Shekinah will no longer be veiled (1 John 3:2).

Gotquestions.org

Kindred Community

New Hope Baptist in Duncan
Tuesday, September 20th 6:00 - 8:00 PM

If you are a TBF woman with a heavenly husband or know of a woman you would like to invite to this event, please RSVP to Jan Palovik.

Sister-to-Sister

Card Ministry

Lifting One Another Up Through Words of Encouragement

Join me in encouraging our sisters-in-Christ by sending cards of encouragement to our fellow sisters.

TBF Family Ministries

Happy September!

This month continuing with our theme of marriage and piggybacking on Pastor David's series on being human, this month I want to pose a Question. Is the issue homosexuality verses heterosexuality? While this may seem like not a marriage issue per se, it is. Homosexuality, like all sexual sin (lust, adultery, fornication) is a deformation of the perfect gift that God gave us in Biblical marriage. We *pragmatically* believe that marriage is a heterosexual union as opposed to homosexuality. But are these terms scriptural are these words in the Bible?

A Conviction of mine is the Bible is significant for all aspects of our lives and we should biblically define our lives. This has a lot of implications, especially in mental health issues, but when talking about marriage it is also important to biblically define our terms. Homosexuality and Heterosexuality are worldly terms, and they create a spectrum, which we see in culture. Scripture defines sexuality in a different manner namely Abstinence in singleness and monogamous intimacy in marriage. Anything outside of this is a sin. What would it profit if a man who struggles with same-sex attraction began to have sex with multiple female partners? The person is still sinning just in a different manner. The Root issue, the need for God, has not been addressed. Marriage is not solely about a man and a woman becoming one flesh. This is an important aspect of marriage, but it is not the end goal, Revelation 19 is the end Goal, the wedding supper of the Lamb with His bride the church is the Goal. If we do not find the value of Marriage in this picture of Jesus and the Church but find it in the present visible marriages around us, we begin to see the relationship between a husband and wife as the end goal in Biblical sexuality rather than looking to Jesus. Then we begin to believe a person struggling with same-sex attraction is 'cured' when they get married to a female rather than them coming to Jesus dying to himself and putting off the old man and putting on the new man (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Ephesians 4:17-32, Corinthians 3:5-11).

Marriage is important. It is a God-given institution, but it is not the end. For a Christian, everything should be done with Jesus as the purpose. Biblical sexuality and Marriage as an important part of it. Christopher Yuan, a Professor at Moody, writes a lot about biblical sexuality in a practical and easy-to-read manner, *Holy Sexuality and the Gospel* is his flagship book and worth a read if you are interested in this topic.

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Rob

He answered, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Matthew 19:4-6





TBF Men's Ministries



The Men's Ministry at Tanglewood Bible Fellowship encompasses men from all walks of life. Our focus is to worship and study the pure Word of God with the intent to build men of strong character and integrity who will serve and support one another with intentional actions and attitude towards Christ and His kingdom.

It is our purpose in the Men's Ministry to lead each man in our congregation towards finding the fullness of their potential in Christ. To come alongside one another giving spiritual guidance, support, and love in times of need. A place where men can be men and talk, in the light of the Word of God and prayer, about matters at hand, mutual challenges, and personal concerns.

Loving Father, thank You for sending Jesus to come as our perfect example of a godly man, a Man Who demonstrated that godly living means to walk in spirit and truth, in submission to the Holy Spirit, and in obedience to You, His heavenly Father. We pray that Your Spirit of grace and truth may rest and remain on each man transforming our minds, strengthening our faith, and equipping us to share Your Word with all those we come in contact with. Soli Deo Gloria.

**As iron sharpens iron,
so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.**

Proverbs 27:17

What's Happening at TBF

- ✚ JOIN OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEETING AT TBF. EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:30 PM. Hear a lesson from Pastor David and join us for a time of prayer and praise.
- ✚ TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. JOIN US! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- ✚ DAILY DEVOS WITH PASTOR DAVID - TBF Facebook Page
- ✚ MISS A SUNDAY? Check out the sermons on the TBF Facebook page or tbfduncan.org
- ✚ MEN'S MINISTRY- Starting back later this month
- ✚ WOMEN'S MINISTRY - New Bible Study, Tues. evenings and Wed. mornings
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 6 PM
- ✚ COMMUNION - Sunday, September 18th

TBF *Women's Ministries*

We are very excited to be starting our new study, "The Gospel on the Ground" by Kristi McLelland. We were drawn to Kristi because of her background studying in Israel and Egypt, as well as at Dallas Theological Seminary. Her perspective on the scriptures is enriched because of the context she lends to her teaching. We hope that you can join us for this new adventure in the book of Acts!

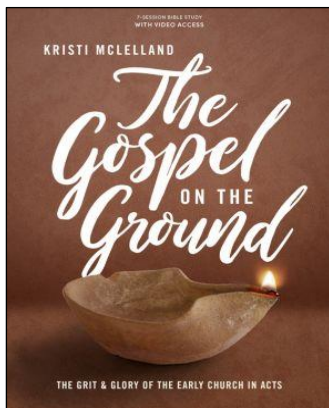
Bible study will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each month.

Tuesday evenings from 6-8 PM

Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 AM at TBF.

Kristi McLelland is a speaker, teacher, and college professor. Since completing her Master of Arts in Christian Education at Dallas Theological Seminary, she has dedicated her life to discipleship, to teaching people how to study the Bible for themselves, and to writing about how God is better than we ever knew by explaining the Bible through a Middle Eastern lens. Her great desire for people to truly experience the love of God birthed a ministry in which she leads biblical study trips to Israel, Turkey, Greece, and Italy.

Come along with biblical culturalist Kristi McLelland as she unpacks the life of the early church in the book of Acts and shows us that the kingdom of God is always on the move, always looking outward to bring meaning and joy to a world searching for true fulfillment and hope. Explore the call of Jesus to His disciples then and to us today. See how God's Word can sustain us even in the most difficult of times and embrace the transformative grace we experience as children of God in His kingdom of celebration.



Session One: Taking on the Teachings of Jesus

Session Two: Taking on the Power of Jesus

Session Three: Kingdom of Celebration and Empire of Entertainment

Session Four: Kingdom of Abundance and Empire of Scarcity

Session Five: Kingdom of Togetherness and Empire of Separation (Pt.1)

Session Six: Kingdom of Togetherness and Empire of Separation (Pt.2)

Session Seven: The Long Journey Home

Super Summer August 13

Home of Megan Wilkins
Safe Center



TBF Memorial Bricks

Paved the way of TBF History -- A Path of Remembrance



Jonny Blalack – Jonny Othel Blalack was a founding member of Tanglewood Bible Fellowship. He and wife, Joella, reared three children – James Blalack, Heather Blalack (Allen), and Susan Blalack. Jonny was a graduate of Central State University and served in the US Air Force. He had a gruff exterior but balanced by Joella's mild and quiet spirit. He was a carpenter and the contractor of the first TBF building (northside). He taught children's Sunday school. Jonny started Jonny's at Oaktree (1987) and was co-owner of Paula's Attic.

Joella Blalack – Joella Odom Blalack was founding member of Tanglewood Bible Fellowship. She was born in Wichita, Kansas. She had a quiet and gentle spirit. She was a homemaker, an avid reader, and enjoyed needlepoint. Joella volunteered at Duncan Regional Hospital. She taught ladies' Bible studies at Tanglewood. She was the church hostess and helped organize many of the church gatherings.

Gay Lynn McCormick would later purchase Jonny's at Oaktree from Jonny's daughter Heather. It was Joella's mom (Lou Verne Odom) who donated the land Tanglewood sits on today.

Jonny (d. 1995) and Joella (d. 2005) are buried at Fairlawn Cemetery (Comanche).



Martha Ratliff - Martha Chadwick Ratliff moved to Duncan from Jackson, Mississippi in 1981 and fell in love with Tanglewood Bible Fellowship as well as the town of Duncan. Here, she was simply known as "Miss Martha". Martha reared three children - Bill Ratliff and twins Fred Ratliff and Bobbie Ratliff (Dudley).

Upon arrival to Duncan, Martha immediately immersed herself in the community and thoroughly enjoyed being a substitute teacher at Duncan High School where she was known as the "Singing Sub." She was a Jazz singer beginning at the age of 18 and traveled with bands throughout the South singing current show tunes as well as golden oldies! She would use her singing for God's glory and consistently life Him up in praise.

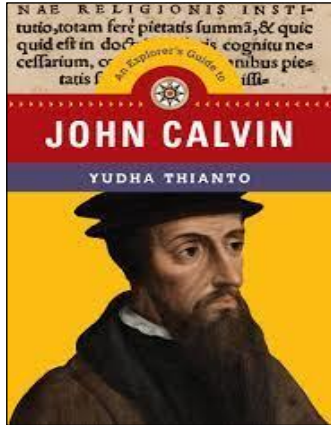
Martha was active at Tanglewood Bible Fellowship, the Christian Women's Club, and the Duncan Civic Capers in 1985. She enjoyed various singing engagements in Duncan at local restaurants (such as Cousins owned by Jean Shalit) and the Elks Country Club. Martha would continuously invited Jean to Tanglewood and would share Jesus with anyone who would listen.

Martha loved adventure and traveled to such places as Mexico with TBF, France, Switzerland, and Israel with Dallas Theological Seminary. She was so inspired after traveling to Israel that she insisted and helped finance a trip to Israel for Pastor Brad McCoy, who was somewhat reluctant at the time! However, Brad quickly fell in love with touring Israel and has orchestrated many tours to Israel taking numerous TBF members. Martha's greatest passion and enthusiasm was in her relationship with the Lord. Throughout her life the Lord was her strength and the joy of her salvation.

Martha (d. 2010) is buried at Duncan Municipal Cemetery.

David's Book Recommendations

Like many pastors, I am a big fan of books. The following books are all books you can find on my bookshelf, and I would be more than happy to lend them to anyone who would like to read them.

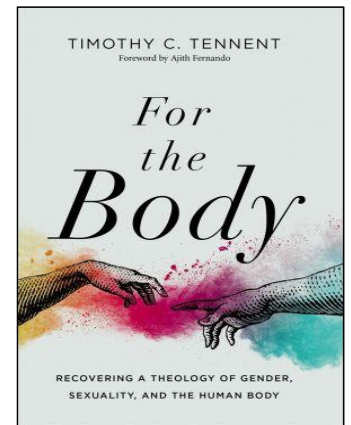


Explorers guide to John Calvin by Yudha Thianto

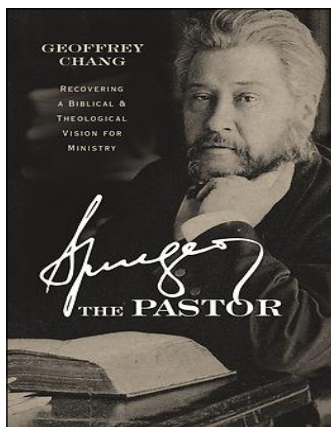
This book is meant to be an introduction to the theologian John Calvin. If you have heard the name, or considered studying him but are too intimidated, then this book is the right place to start. Instead of just being a biography, this book functions like a tour guide letting you know all the stops and important information that you need to know. The bulk of the book focuses Calvin's greatest work *The Institutes of Christian Religion*. He doesn't just summarize the Institutes but gives you a map. I think this book series is profoundly helpful in making theologians more accessible.

For the Body: Recovering a Theology of Gender, Sexuality, and the Human Body by Timothy C. Tennent

This is one of the books I have used as a resource to prepare for our current Wednesday Night series. He focuses on building a biblical view of the human body. Instead of being about what the culture gets wrong, this book positively shows the beauty of Christian beliefs about the body. This is the best book I have read on this topic. He does tackle LGBT+ issues but does so with compassion and from a different framework than you might be familiar with. I found this book easily accessible, personally challenging, and encouraging.



Spurgeon The Pastor by Geoff Chang



This is one of the best books about Spurgeon that I have ever read. Most books focus on his preaching, giftedness, impact as a leader, or a particular part of his life like the downgrade controversy. This book is laser-focused on his work as a local church pastor. It gave me a clearer look at Spurgeon that I had not ever seen before. The thesis of the book is that "Spurgeon's approach to these church matters was driven by biblical and theological convictions, rather than by pragmatism or convenience." The book examines preaching, Sunday gathering, membership, leadership, and ministries all through the lens of how Spurgeon approached them as a pastor. It is interspersed with quotes from Spurgeon so you get to hear him in his own words. If you want to know what Spurgeon was actually like in the day-to-day grind of local church work, then this is the book for you.