



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

Generosity

Generosity is the quality of being kind and unselfish, especially as it pertains to sharing money and other valuables with others. The Bible has a lot to say about generosity as a desirable character trait. Proverbs 22:9 says, "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." God is generous, and He expects us to follow His example.

God's generosity is evidenced all around us. God created this planet that is specially suited to sustain us and provide for our needs and pleasures. He supplies us with color, light, sound, air, and the ability to taste and enjoy, hear and appreciate, touch and be satisfied. Above all, God demonstrated His generosity when He offered His Son as a sacrifice to atone for our sin. In the face of such generosity, we can only say, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15). The gift of Jesus to sinful mankind was the ultimate act of generosity.

As we have been forgiven, we are to forgive (Ephesians 4:32). And as we see God being generous, we are to be generous. Generosity can be manifested in many ways. We can give of our time, our material resources, our hospitality, and our friendship. The Bible teaches the general principle that those who are generous will find favor: "One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to sell" (Proverbs 11:24-26). God's Word is clear that the generous are remembered and rewarded, whether in this life or the next.

God challenges us to be generous because He wants us to receive the blessing that comes from it. Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Luke 6:38). This promise is a reflection of the truth of 2 Chronicles 16:9 that "the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

(Con't on pg. 3)

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM

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

A Word from Pastor David Shields

Church family,

Hosting an exchange student has been a wonderful experience so far. One of the fun parts is discovering things I believe are “normal” are in fact uniquely American. She will ask us a question about why we do certain things. Sometimes in that moment, I realize that I have never stopped to think about it and don’t know how to explain it. Thanksgiving is one of those uniquely American holidays that I have gotten the opportunity to try to explain. As I did so, it made me think through why we as Christians should practice thanksgiving. I don’t mean the national holiday, but rather the lowercase practice of being thankful.

After all, Thanksgiving might not be a universal holiday or even a distinctly Christian holiday, but it does give us the opportunity to practice being thankful. Thankfulness should not be a uniquely American experience. It should be a common Christian practice that we do not relegate to one day a year.

Around lots of Thanksgiving tables, someone will ask everyone to go around and name something that they are thankful for. As a child, this always made me roll my eyes because I just wanted to eat. While this is a good habit and practice, our moments of thanksgiving and gratitude should not be relegated to times around the table. 1 Thessalonians 5:16 commands us to **“rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances.”** We should make a habit of expressing our gratitude each day. Maybe that comes around the table with others. Or maybe we give thanks each moment we are awake.

What would it look like to give thanks in all circumstances? The command is not just that this should be a normal way of life. The command is that we give thanks no matter what is going on. It is easy to give thanks when you have just been given a gift. It is easy to give thanks when everything is going well. It is much harder to give thanks when everything is falling apart.

Yet we are to give thanks continually in all of our circumstances. We should give thanks when we suffer. We should give thanks in our disappointment. We should give thanks even when we want to scream. This is why so many of the Psalms end with thanksgiving and praise, no matter their circumstances.

What we will find is that a spirit of thanksgiving is an antidote to the malaise of our age. Being thankful keeps us from giving way to anger. Being thankful keeps us from becoming bitter. Thankfulness keeps us from falling into the pit of despair. Thanksgiving keeps us from hating our enemies. Ultimately, thankfulness is an expression of faith even when the night is dark. And our lack of thankfulness is a lack of faith.

This Thanksgiving, let us choose to be thankful regardless of our circumstances. And may our thankfulness strengthen our faith and proclaim to our world the gospel of Jesus.

In Christ,
Pastor David Shields

We should show generosity to everyone, as we have opportunity: "Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you" (Matthew 5:42). Former thieves must leave their past life behind and "work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need" (Ephesians 4:28). The rich should "be generous and willing to share" (1 Timothy 6:18).

In our generosity, we are not to expect repayment in kind. Our reward will come from the Lord, in His way and in His time. We are to show generosity even to our enemies: "If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. . . . If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? . . . But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked" (Luke 6:29, 34–35).

God is seeking people who will reflect His character and model His generosity. He delights to bless them and show Himself strong on their behalf. In 2 Corinthians 9:6–15, Paul exhorts the church to be generous in their giving to the Lord's work. And he praises the Philippians for being so generous to him, adding that it is not for himself that he rejoices but for them—they will be blessed because of their gift (Philippians 4:17). We can apply these encouragements to our own lives and strive to be generous and wise with everything God has entrusted to us.

Mark your calendars:

November 22nd: No Wednesday Night Services

December 9th: Tea and Tinsel

December 10th: Wassail Night

December 27th: No Wednesday Night Services

What's Happening at TBF

- ✚ WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRAYER AND SHARE Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Join us for a time of prayer and praise followed by a lesson from Pastor David.
- ✚ DAILY DEVOS WITH PASTOR DAVID - TBF Facebook Page
- ✚ MISS A SUNDAY? Check out the sermons on the TBF Facebook page or tbfduncan.org
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. Join Us! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ DISCIPLESHIP CLASS: The Mystery of the Trinity
- ✚ MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Acts
- ✚ WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Jesus and Women
- ✚ PARENTING CLASS: Duties of Parents by JC Ryle.
- ✚ COMMUNION: November 19th

TBF Men's Ministries

Meets TBF Youth Room – 6:30 PM

This year we'll start to go through the book of Acts. Acts captures the joys and sorrows in the lives of first-generation Christians after Jesus ascended to heaven. The book describes the Holy Spirit's empowering of believers' intrepid mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the world.

We'll start the study with 5 lessons working through the first seven chapters of Acts. In these chapters we experience the beginning of the early Church from Jesus' instruction of His apostles before His Ascension to the day of Pentecost and the subsequent explosion of Christianity.

- Monday Sep. 11: Introduction
- Monday Oct. 02: Week 1 - Acts 1 - Preparing for Pentecost
- Monday Oct. 16: Week 2 - Acts 2 - The Day of Pentecost
- Monday Oct. 30: Week 3 - Acts 3 & 4 - Peter & John
- Monday Nov. 13: Week 4 - Acts 5:1-6:7 - Church Growth & Satan's Attacks
- Monday Dec. 04: Week 5 - Acts 6:8-7:50 - Stephen's Witness



All men are invited. Through daily Bible reading and questions, group discussion, and study notes, God's Word comes to life in new and unexpected ways. Study led by Wolfgang Deeg.

Discipleship Class

The Mystery of the Trinity

Session 5 & 6: November 5th and 19th Led by Mike Palovik

We'll be meeting in the NE classroom from 10:45 am to 11:30 am
The Nursery will be staffed on the dates we meet.

Many of us, when asked about the Trinity, unknowingly offer heretical answers. Yet a proper understanding of this doctrine is essential to the health and welfare of the church.

In this study, Dr. R.C. Sproul gives a sweeping overview of this important doctrine, explaining difficult concepts, exploring biblical teaching, and defining what the term mystery means.

TBF *Women's Ministries*

Women's Fall Bible Study: Jesus and Women

See church bulletin for times and dates.

Thanksgiving Baskets



We have been given the opportunity to help multiple families through 3 local organizations. Heather's Hope, Safe Center and Christian Helping Hands have given us the names of 16 families that are in need this Thanksgiving season. We plan to partner with the Lord to meet this need by providing a Thanksgiving meal for each of them. Opportunities to sign up for food and monetary donations to make this happen began on October 29th. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Please be on the lookout for this and be prayerfully considering your ability to help with this outreach.

December Happenings:

Christmas Decorating

The current plan is to meet together on December 4th to decorate the church for the holiday season. Anyone with an eye for decorating or just a desire to give a helping hand is welcome to join us.

Tea and Tinsel

Save the date! T & T has been scheduled to take place on Dec 9th at 10 am at the church. We will brunch and enjoy a time of worship and teaching via podcast from Kristi McLelland. The title of her presentation is "Prepare Him Room." Those of you who have participated in the Women's Bible Study recently will know that this will be an awesome time of learning from Kristi. There will be a sign up sheet for attendance and help with food in the foyer in the next few weeks. Please invite your friends to share this time of fellowship and worship with us. Just let us know how many you are bringing with you!!

Christmas Outreach

We will be planning a Christmas mission project. Details to follow after the Thanksgiving project is complete.

TBF Family Ministries

Happy November, church family!

Continuing our deep dive into a biblical view of emotions, I want to talk about thanksgiving and especially how important thankfulness is. I want to do this by looking at Philippians 4:4-7, which reads: “⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” This passage is often cut up into verses and placed on mugs or sometimes used as a cudgel to smack people upside the head with, but this verse is about the peace that comes with a thankful heart.

Given the fact that Paul is writing about being anxious, it is so interesting that in verse four he begins by telling the reader to “rejoice in the Lord always,” repeating himself to show the importance of this command. An interesting detail about this is Paul does not make an exception clause, by saying “only when you want” or “when the mood strikes you rejoice”, rather we are called to rejoice always, regardless of how we feel or what our situation is. Paul also tells us what we should rejoice in, namely the Lord. We as humans are natural worshipers; we will always find something to worship or set our eyes upon. If we rejoice in anything other than the Lord then we will become anxious and see everyone as a threat. But in verse five we see the outcome of rejoicing in the Lord, which is that we will have graciousness or caring compassion upon everyone around us. This is hard to do in our power, which is why Paul reminds us that the Lord is near. This is not like our boss always being near watching us and waiting for us to mess up, but rather like a parent being near their little child who just began to walk; waiting for them to fall so they can catch them. This is why verse six is so powerful: be anxious for nothing but in everything through prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God. This phrase is very impactful, aside from the command not to be anxious, it draws on Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 6:25-32 where He commands us not to worry about what we cannot control. Whenever I am anxious about something or feeling my anxiety rise, I have noticed a direct connection to where my eyes are. When I am anxious, I am not rejoicing in the Lord, rather I am trying to control my circumstances or I am focused on something other than God. At our first feeling of anxiety, we are faced with two choices: either to curl into ourselves and focus on our feeling of anxiety, or we can, as Paul instructs, through prayer and petition with thankfulness place our requests to God. We are called to pray and petition God, remembering with thankfulness not only that God rescued us from the grip of sin, bringing us back from the dead, but also (similar to the author of Psalm 42) recall previous times God has seen us through and express thankfulness for His covenant loving kindness towards us. When we fill our hearts with thankfulness towards God, rejoicing in Him, it comes with a promise; not of an escape from our pain or circumstance, but something even better: the peace of God that surpasses all understanding and protection of our hearts and minds through Jesus.

As we enter into the holiday season, there are plenty of opportunities for us to become anxious and to focus on things other than God. From making sure that everyone has the “perfect” time, to dealing with the parts of the family that we may not get along with, to the empty feeling of missing a loved one who is not here. Remember that the Lord is near and that He offers peace that surpasses all understanding.

In the love of Jesus,
Pastor Rob

Kindred Community

**Duncan High School Cafeteria
Sponsored by the DHS Student Council
and Seventh Day Adventist Church
Thursday, November 16th 6:00 – 8:00 PM**



Jan Palovik
Kindred Community – Oct. 2023

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 - Jan Palovik 580.786.6009

Wow Wednesday November 29th

On Wednesday, November 29th, a fellowship dinner will be served from 5:15-6:15. The dinner menu will include hamburger and hot dogs, baked beans, chips, desserts, and beverages.

At 6:30, our guest speaker, Kathy Wilson, will present a special message about Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Kathy, a former schoolteacher, joined the Oklahoma FCA staff in 2017. She and husband Josh have 2 children. She oversees the West Central FCA division.

Formed in 1954, FCA seeks to lead coaches and athletes into a growing relationship with Christ and His church. They reach 2 million people annually and impact all athletic ages from youth to professional.

A sign-up sheet for dinner will be placed in the foyer (closer to date) so we will know how many to expect. If you are able to bring a dessert, please let us know.

Proceeds from dinner will benefit Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Many thanks!
Danny & Olga Pollock



World Religious Views



Day of the Dead – October 31 - November 2

The Day of the Dead or *el Día de los Muertos*, is a Mexican holiday held from October 31 to November 2. The Day of the Dead is connected to two Catholic holidays, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, and corresponds with the end of harvest. On the Day of the Dead, celebrants gather to pray to and honor friends and family members who have died.

Celebrations on the Day of the Dead involve parades, costumes, sharing “sugar skulls” and *pan de muerto*, or the “bread of death,” placing food and flowers on home altars or on the graves the deceased, and marking the path from the grave to one’s home with candles. Origins of the holiday have been traced back thousands of years to an Aztec festival dedicated to a goddess called Mictecacihuatl, but observance of the Day of the Dead has been heavily influenced by Catholicism.

The idea behind the Day of the Dead is that dead loved ones participate in the ceremonies. It’s traditionally thought that the boundary between the spirit world and the world of the living grows weak from October 31 through November 2, allowing people to commune with their departed relatives. The rituals required in preparing for the Day of the Dead are deemed important based on another notion: “It is believed that the dead are capable of bringing prosperity (e.g. an abundant maize harvest) or misfortune (e.g. illness, accidents, financial difficulties) upon their families depending on how satisfactorily the rituals are executed” (<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/indigenous-festivity-dedicated-to-the-dead-00054>, accessed 5/31/22).

There is nothing wrong with honoring the memory of loved ones who have died. But Day of the Dead observances go beyond honor and promote communing with the dead. Jesus indicated that those who have died do not have access to communicate with the living—they are not free to return to earth (see Luke 16:19–31). Elsewhere, God’s Word warns people of the futility of trying to contact the dead: “Should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?” (Isaiah 8:19). Even if the souls of the dead were capable of returning, they could not bless or curse anyone; blessing and cursing are God’s prerogative (Psalm 37:22; Proverbs 3:33).

The world is full of traditions and customs that are contrary to God’s will as expressed in His Word. The Day of the Dead is based not on biblical truth but on a synthesis of Roman Catholic tradition and indigenous customs. The result is a holiday that leans heavily on superstition and empty ritual. How much better to focus on Jesus, “the Lord of both the dead and the living” (Romans 14:9)? How much better to prepare to meet Him some day, knowing that He “will judge the living and the dead” (2 Timothy 4:1)?

Gotquestions.org



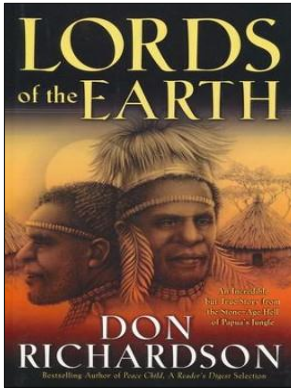
Dia De Los Muertos Shrine

There is no bridge from hell to heaven. Once this life comes to an end, it is too late to repent of sin and look to Christ for mercy. ~ R.C. Sproul

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.

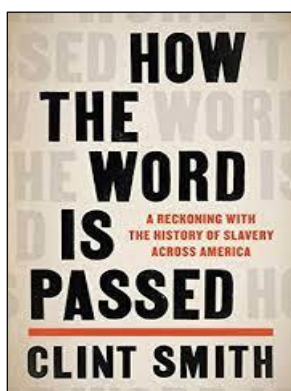
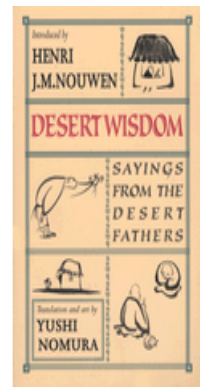
Lords of the Earth by Don Richardson



This missionary story of reaching a primitive Indonesian tribe was much better than I thought it would be. The Yali tribe is placed front and center of the story. The first third of the book is completely from their perspective and tells the story of their people. It later shifts to the perspective of the missionaries but I wish it stayed more with the Yali. I wanted to know more of their story and thoughts as everything unfolded. I appreciated the honest depiction of Stan, the primary missionary. It is tempting and common to present martyrs as perfect Christians without major flaws. This book tries to avoid that and does touch on his obvious character flaws. He does not completely explore them but does not brush over or ignore them. A primary theme of the book is that every culture, especially primitive ones, has elements of the gospel already foreshadowed in their religion. Overall I really enjoyed this book. It's a dated, but good, missionary story. The primary heroes at the end are the Yali people who continue and lead the gospel work.

Desert Wisdom: Sayings from the Desert Fathers by Henri Nouwen

I have a love-hate relationship with the desert fathers and mothers. They were a group of Christians in the 2nd-3rd centuries who sold all that they had to live in the desert with nothing. Their teachings or words have both beautiful wisdom and terrible theology. They undoubtedly loved Jesus, but at moments took their denial of the material world to an unhealthy place. This shorter collection of their sayings is only the gold. Each page is also marked with beautiful illustrations. The pictures made the words or stories come alive in a way I had never experienced before. This book will give you a taste of the best the desert has to offer without having to sort through its more questionable wisdom.



How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America by Clint Smith

If you like going on historical tours, then you will like this book. The author visits a number of different historical sites, including Monticello, Whitney Plantation, Angola Prison, Blandford Cemetery, Galveston Island, New York City, and Goree Island, to examine how they do and do not talk about slavery. History books like this can often feel stuffy or overly preachy. This one felt a lot more like interacting with an informed tour guide. He even includes different conversations with tour guides and the perspectives of those he vehemently disagrees with.