



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

Esther

The book of Esther is unique in several ways. One distinguishing characteristic is that it's the only biblical book that does not mention God by name. This fact has caused some to question its place in the biblical canon, but, in reality, the absence of God's name fits perfectly with the theme of the book.

Here are some reasons why God's name may not have been referenced in Esther: first, one emphasis of Esther appears to be how God works behind the scenes. The book of Esther records no miracles and no direct intervention of God at all. In Esther's story, the Lord redeems His people through the faith and courage of one strategically placed woman and her cousin. All the while, things are happening behind the scenes to bring about the final result.

Also, it is possible God is not mentioned directly in Esther because of the circumstances of its writing. Jewish tradition claims authorship by Mordecai. If Mordecai is the author, he wrote the book in Persia while serving under King Ahasuerus (or Xerxes). Instead of directly crediting God for the victory of the Jewish people, Mordecai may have written the book to better fit the polytheistic context of Susa. This would have kept him protected from harm by the king or other enemies while still communicating the account of God's work through Queen Esther.

Another emphasis in Esther is the theme of fasting. There are six separate feasts throughout the book, and these stand in stark contrast to Esther's choice to fast for three days before confronting the king with the matter of saving the Jewish people. She likewise asked other Jews to join her: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do" (Esther 4:16). It is understood that fasting is done before God and to request God's help. So, even though God's name is not directly mentioned, Esther is involved in a religious observance meant to supplicate God's mercy.

Finally, the book of Esther may not mention God because the emphasis is on God's providence. Mordecai states in Esther 4:14, "If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" In his rhetorical question, Mordecai alludes to divine sovereignty without calling it such. The principle is that God places people in particular places at particular times to accomplish His particular plans.

The book of Esther may not directly mention God, yet it clearly reveals God at work. His name is not written in the book, but His fingerprints, as we say, are all over it. The coincidences, the amazing reversals, and the poetic justice that led to the deliverance of the Jews in Persia all proclaim the presence of God.

Gotquestions.org

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

Tanglewood family,

This month we will finally finish the gospel of Luke. We started studying the book back in November of 2022. Even with all of the breaks, we have heard fifty-five different sermons in the book. After a few years of being here, I felt it was time to study all that Jesus had done. In the end, I think our time spent in Luke was worthwhile and I have deeply enjoyed it.

The next book of the Bible we will study together is the book of Esther. I think it is fitting to go from a New Testament gospel where Jesus is involved in every story to an Old Testament book where God is seemingly completely absent. There is no outright mention of God in the entire book of Esther.

One of my hopes in studying the book is that we will better learn how to identify the gospel even in places where it seems absent. It is easy to see what a story in the gospels has to do with Jesus, but other places in the Old Testament are more difficult. Studying Esther will give us a chance to put our Jesus-identifying muscles to the test. After all, if the entire Bible is about Jesus, then the book of Esther must have something significant to say about Jesus as well.

One of my other hopes is that Esther will encourage us to trust God's providence. God's name might not be mentioned, but His fingerprints are all over the book. God is behind every single significant event that happens. Even though evil is plotting and prospering, God engineers the redemption of His people. This should help us trust God even when it seems like the plans of the enemy are succeeding.

My last hope is that studying Esther will show us how to be faithful. Mordecai and Esther are two wonderful examples of how to be faithful in an unrighteous land. They are faithful even when it is unpopular and even when their faith must be kept a secret. They are faithful even when it is dangerous. They teach us how we can be faithful even when we feel powerless.

I am looking forward to studying this book together. I would encourage you at some point before we start to try and read through the whole book in one sitting. It is around ten chapters, but the narrative is thrilling. It should take you anywhere between thirty minutes and an hour, depending on your reading speed. Reading the whole narrative at once will help you refamiliarize yourself with the story. I can't wait to read it together.

In Christ, Pastor David

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Tuesday, June 18th

**TBF will be hosting Kindred Community.
There will be several opportunities to serve before the event and the night of.**

PALM SUNDAY



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.
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 5:30 PM (Jam Session) and 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ AWANA CLUBS - Meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM Ages 3-5
- ✚ DICIPLESHIP CLASS: Culture Shock by Chip Ingram
- ✚ MEN'S BIBLE STUDAY: Acts 15-21
- ✚ WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Better, A Study of Hebrews by Jen Wilkin
- ✚ SHOWER OF HOPE: APRIL 10TH
- ✚ PARENTING CLASS - Untangling Emotions by Alistair Groves
- ✚ SUPER SUMMER - STARTS JUNE 15TH
- ✚ KINDRED COMMUNITY HOSTED BY TBF - JUNE 18TH
- ✚ COMMUNION: April 7 and 28

TBF Men's Ministries

Acts Part 3: Chapters 15-28
 Paul's 2nd and 3rd Missionary Journeys
 Meets TBF Youth Room – 6:30 PM

Apr. 1: Acts 15:36-18:22 Paul's Second Missionary Journey
 Apr. 15: Acts 18:23-21:15 Paul's Third Missionary Journe
 Apr. 29: Acts 21:16-23:35 Paul in Jerusalem



This final portion of Acts, specifically Acts 15:36-28:31, relives the reunions, courtroom scenes, calamities, and victories of Paul's second and third missionary journeys. It also follows Paul's later travels, visits, and imprisonments in Jerusalem and Rome. Study will wrap up in May 27th.

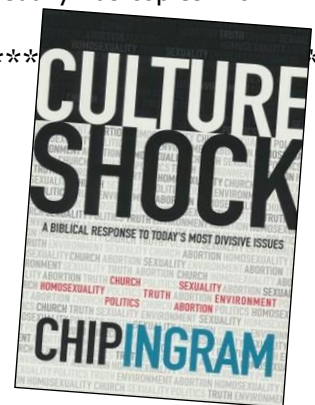
All men are invited. If you need materials for the study, please see Wolfgang Deeg. He usually has copies with him at church.

Discipleship Class

Culture Shock by Chip Ingram

Session 7 & 8: April 7th and 28th Led by Mike Palovik

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



Description: Where do you stand on issues like: Truth, Sex, Homosexuality, Abortion, the Environment, and the Church and Politics? More importantly, what does God say? More than ever before, believers must develop convictions based on research, reason, and biblical truth. But it doesn't stop there. It's equally important that you're able (and willing) to communicate these convictions with a love and respect that reflects God's love. This series will help you learn how to respond with love, even in the face of controversy. In the process, you'll discover the power of bringing light—not heat—to the core issues at the heart of society today.

TBF *Women's Ministries*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

We are working through a book by Jen Wilkin entitled *Better*, A study of Hebrews. Class meets every other Thursday. Meeting times are 9:30 AM and 6 PM. See church bulletin for next meeting.

In this verse-by-verse study of the Book of Hebrews, Jen Wilkin explores how God "provided something better for us" in the person of Jesus Christ (Heb. 11:40). Through stories of Old Testament heroes and practices, the author of Hebrews demonstrates how the new covenant is superior to the old and how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of every promise. Explore familiar verses in context of the entire Bible, learning how to place your hope and faith in Christ alone.

The dates for our last four sessions are 4/4, 4/18, 5/2 and 5/16.

SHOWER OF HOPE

The TBF Women's Ministry will be attending and donating to the Shower of Hope for the new Hope Center in Comanche. The Hope Center is associated with Comanche Helping Hands and Heather's Hope. The shower is April 10 from 1-3 at the Hope Center.

We will be carpooling to the event. Anyone wanting to join us can meet at 12:45 at the TBF on the 10th. We will take a tour of the new facility and learn of potential outreach ministries available to us through the Hope Center. There are invitations that have details and gift registries for the shower in the TBF foyer. For more information contact Sue Smith or Jean Crow.

SUPER SUMMER SATURDAYS

Super Summer Saturdays are in the final planning stages. Be on the lookout for more details in May but save the date of June 15th for our first event!

EVENTS COORDINATOR

We are still in need of someone to coordinate our special events. We currently have two per year: Spring Fling and Tea and Tinsel. These events are currently on hold until we can fill that need. Please prayerfully consider if you are the right person to help us coordinate these events.

TBF Family Ministries

Happy April church family,

This month we will finish our conversation about anxiety. The simple definition that we have been using is a feeling of uneasiness or nervousness about future events. In last month's newsletter, we looked at both Elijah and Jesus at times when they were dealing with anxiety. In looking at each of these men we discovered that it is not evil to feel anxious because of our circumstances, but we shouldn't fixate on those feelings, rather, we should take it to God and trust in His providence. This month as we conclude our discussion, I want to look at one of Jesus' teachings and a passage written by Paul.

When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, people admired what He said, saying that He spoke with authority unlike the scribes or teachers (Mt. 7:29). This is, of course, because He is God's son, the divine Logos, the Word of God. And as God's Word, if He spoke about it, we should take it to heart. In Matthew 6:25-34 in the middle of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus begins teaching on being anxious. Jesus tells the listeners not to be anxious about their lives, what they eat, what they drink their bodies, or what they wear. Typically, when this topic is approached, people stop with this statement and tell people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. This is not biblical, like Jesus praying in the garden before His death, or Elijah fearing his death, we should bring it to the Lord; not push it down or fixate on it. Jesus brings to mind the birds and how God has provided for them or the lilies in the field which God adorns in beautiful colors, yet they are here one day and gone the next. Jesus draws this contrast between the provision God can give and our ability by asking if you can add even an hour to your life by being anxious (v.27). Jesus reminds us first that the Lord is sovereign over our lives, He is the one who provides for us, while worrying about our circumstances has negative effects on our lives in both quantity and quality. Jesus has now given us two ditches we can end up in. One is the 'bootstrap' theology where you need to pull yourself up by your bootstraps, and the other is an apathetic mindset where you stop caring about everyone and everything. Neither mindset is beneficial. Rather, as Jesus commands, we should seek first the Kingdom of God. We should trust that our heavenly Father will take care of us as we focus on the Kingdom of God. This does not mean we should be uncaring about our circumstances, but rather trusting that throughout all the trials of this life, God knows what we need, and He will provide what we need.

Philippians 4:4-7 is a passage that has parts so well-known they are used on coffee cups. Paul tells the Christians in Philippi to rejoice in the Lord, to find fulfillment in Him, reminding them that the Lord is near and that we should let our reasonableness be known to all. This is an interesting point; we should be reasonable not reckless in our actions. And we should not be anxious, but through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving make our requests to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ because our Lord is near.

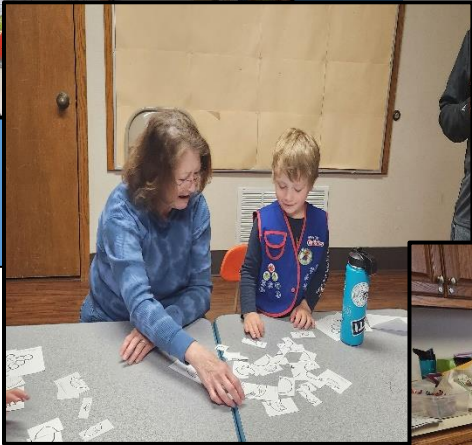
It is so easy for us to alienate everyone when we are anxious because we feel that our situation is different than anything anyone else has ever gone through. Forgetting that we serve a Lord who became like us and knows our plight, not only that but we have the Holy Spirit inside of us and He is near, and loves us, and is sovereign over everything that is happening. So, take heart, gather with your brothers and sisters in Christ, and through prayer and supplication make your requests known to God and focus on the people and path that He has placed you on.

In the love of Jesus Christ, Pastor Rob

PARENTING GROUP

Untangling Emotions by Alistair Groves

Join the parents of TBF in March in the south classroom for dinner and book discussion. Kids are welcome and nursery will be provided. See Sunday's bulletin for dates. Led by Pastor Rob Girvin.



**EVERY WEDNESDAY
6:30 PM**

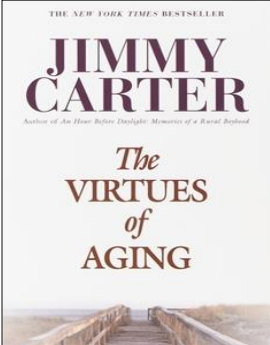
Kindred Community

**April 23rd 6-8 PM
Impact 580 Church
Main Street, Duncan**

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

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.

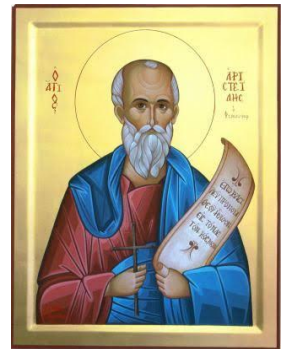


The Virtues of Aging by Jimmy Carter

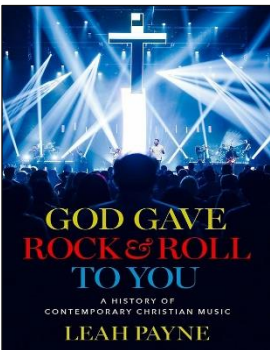
This book is a meditation on retirement and aging Jimmy Carter wrote in his seventies. I love getting to hear his perspective, especially as a former president who had to face an early retirement. He has a positive view of what is possible and meaningful about retirement. It was a little all over the place and covered random topics along with political policy suggestions on retirement, which should probably be expected from a former president. Overall, it was a fun short read. I could not help but wonder what he would add twenty years later.

The Apology by Aristides the Philosopher

This is the first apologetic work, or at least one of the first, written defending Christianity. Aristides wrote this letter to the Emperor of Rome defending the truth of Christianity and the falseness of other gods. It is a short read that is fairly accessible, especially considering when it was written. He goes through the roster of Roman gods explaining why worshipping each one is foolish. He ends with a beautiful and moving description of the Christian community. He argues that their conduct is a witness to the truth of their God. I wish his descriptions of the church would still be true of us. This is worthwhile to read for any Christian. You will actually be able to find this work available online for free.



God Gave Rock and Roll to You: A History of Contemporary Christian Music by Leah Payne



An excellent accounting of Christian contemporary music that is exhaustive and funny. The book recounts the entire history of CCM in great detail starting with the early origins in revival meetings and concluding with the January 6th coup and the Asbury Revival. The book is incredibly researched and I can only imagine the work that went into writing this. It is detailed and covers all of the ups and downs of the industry. Yet, the most remarkable achievement is not the recounting but that the book is interesting. It does not read like a dry recounting of dates, events, and songs. It is sometimes funny, sometimes critical, and always engaging. The book also makes a point of showing how intertwined with politics CCM was. Politics is not the primary focus of the book, but as the story continues it becomes clear that you cannot tell the story of music without the politics that went alongside it. You may be able to tell the author's own political leanings, but she is always fair and presents people in their best light. You might be surprised to see my short-lived Christian heavy metal band is named in the introduction of the book and I am quoted briefly.