



# 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.*

# SOJOURNER

The term *sojourner* in the Bible refers to a person who is just passing through. Synonyms in various translations are *foreigner*, *exile*, and *alien*. During the exodus from Egypt, the Israelites were sojourners in the wilderness (Psalm 105:12-13; 1 Chronicles 16:19). Even though they remained in the wilderness for forty years, it was not their home (Numbers 14:33-34). They were merely sojourners there, yearning for the Promised Land God would give them for a permanent home.

Abraham was a sojourner in Egypt when a famine swept the Promised Land (Genesis 12:10). Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus were also sojourners in Egypt when Herod sought to kill Him (Matthew 2:13-15). And the apostle Paul sojourned from region to region, starting churches and preaching the gospel (Acts 13:1-3, 13-14, 51). All of these people lived for a short time in foreign places.

Peter wrote his first letter "to the elect who are sojourners of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia" (1 Peter 1:1, ASV). Other versions have "exiles," "foreigners," "strangers," or "refugees." The recipients of 1 Peter were persecuted Christian Jews who had been forced to leave Jerusalem and were now residing in what we would call Asia Minor. In the next chapter, Peter's use of the term *sojourners* takes on a more spiritual connotation: "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul" (1 Peter 2:11).

Peter's appeal for holiness was based on the identity of his readers. They were Christians, bought by the blood of Jesus and made joint heirs with Him for eternity (Romans 8:17). They were not citizens of this world, only sojourners in it. They were not to adopt its customs or embrace its worldview (Romans 12:1-2). As sojourners, Christians must exemplify the values and standards of their permanent home, heaven. Paul reiterates that theme in Philippians 3:20, reminding the church that "our citizenship is in heaven." We are sojourners here, ambassadors for our Father, the King (2 Corinthians 5:20).

This world is not our home. The knowledge that we are sojourners on this earth keeps us from setting our hearts on its treasures. Jesus warned us that this world's treasures are subject to loss. Therefore, we must store up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20). We are to hold all God gives us with open hands, knowing that any earthly gain is only temporary. Sojourners don't put down deep roots in the places where they reside because they know they will soon move on. Likewise, Christians don't pour their hearts and passions into things that won't last. The wise Christian is one who lives every day with bags packed, ready to move on when God directs and eager to vacate this world when our Father calls us home.

Gotquestions.org

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**Sunday Worship Service:** 9:30 AM

Adult Services AND Children's (0-12 years) Programs  
Youth (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade) meets Sunday evenings at 6 PM

**Wednesday P.M. Service:** 6:30-7:30 PM

# A Word from Pastor David Shields

TBF family,

This month, we will begin a new sermon series in the book of 1 Peter. It is a book that has been on my heart for a while, and I believe this is a season we need to study it deeply as a church. The book was written to Christians who were living in exile. They felt completely alienated from the pagan culture and government around them. They were navigating how they were to live in the midst of a sinful and pagan environment. They were also living in the middle of personal trials and suffering. They needed answers and guidance on how to follow God in the middle of their own confusion and pain. Does any of this sound familiar?

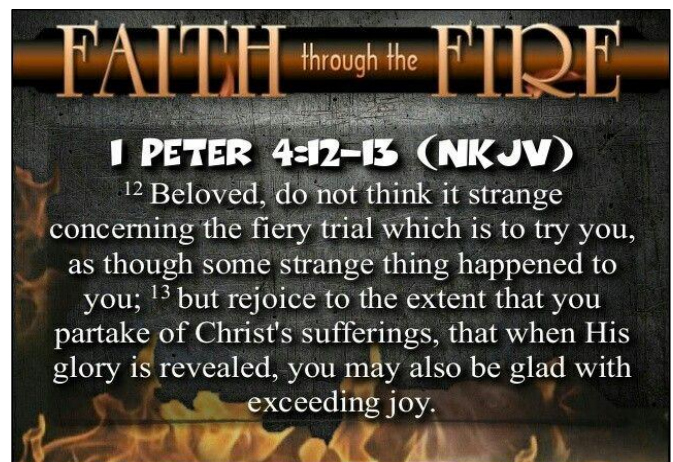
I hope that our study of the book and these two themes will help us stay grounded and rooted in God's Word. We especially need these reminders as we are in the middle of an election season. Now, more than ever, we need to be reminded that we are exiles and sojourners here. Remembering that this country is our temporary home will help us engage it with the correct mindset and attitude.

I also hope that this study will prepare us for suffering. So much of this book tackles not just the problem of suffering, but how Christians are to behave when we experience suffering. We all suffer. Some of you have suffered incredible losses recently. Some of you are experiencing chronic suffering from illnesses that never go away and can't even be diagnosed. Some of us are feeling great now, but suffering is right around the corner. My prayer is that 1 Peter will help teach us how to suffer in a way that honors Christ.

Finally, I hope our study of this book encourages us with our true hope. The hope of the gospel is not a naive hope. We do not have to pretend everything is wonderful. We do not have to hope everything will be better tomorrow. Sometimes it isn't. Sometimes our reality is filled with confusion, suffering, and pain. The gospel confronts these truths and realities head-on, giving us a bright hope for the day Jesus returns.

I am looking forward to studying this book together as a church family.

In Christ,  
Pastor David



# 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](http://tbfduncan.org)
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. Join Us! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- ✚ DICIPLESHIP CLASS - Starts September
- ✚ MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Starts September
- ✚ WOMEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: August 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 6 PM
- ✚ WOMEN'S FALL BIBLE STUDY: August 29<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM
- ✚ PARENTING CLASS - Starts September 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ✚ SUPER SUMMER - August 24<sup>th</sup>
- ✚ KINDRED COMMUNITY - 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in September
- ✚ BEAUTY FROM ORDINARY THINGS - October 5th
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 5:30 PM (Jam Session) and 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ AWANA CLUBS - Meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM Ages 2 yr. old - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Starts Aug. 21st

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## Opportunities to Serve

### Awana Volunteers Needed Fall 2024

Looking for fun on Wednesday nights? Have a love for God and want to plant seeds in the lives of children? Be a TBF AWANA Volunteer. There's something for everyone. Please see Pastor Rob Girvin for details.

### Let's give our moms a break....

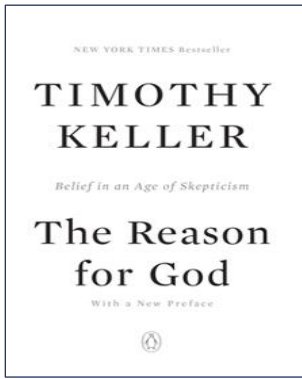
Volunteers needed in the nursery and pre-school areas on Sunday mornings. Sign-up Sheet in the Foyer. Please see Pastor Rob Girvin.

### Bible Study Childcare worker needed

We are in need of childcare for the Thursday morning study. Please let us know if you know of someone available on Thursday mornings who loves kids and could use a little extra spending money. See Jean Crow if you know of someone or want to volunteer.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

I Peter 4:10



# Discipleship Class

We'll begin a new study in September.

## The Reason for God

by Timothy Keller.

How could a loving God send people to hell? Why does he allow suffering? Can one religion be "right" and the others "wrong"? Responding to the questions of open skeptics and ardent believers, Keller's writing draws from literature, philosophy, reason, and real-life conversations to explain how faith in a Christian God is a soundly, rational belief.

Timothy Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics, and even ardent believers, have about religion. Using literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and potent reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one. To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand their ground against the backlash to religion created by the Age of Skepticism. And to skeptics, atheists, and agnostics, he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God.

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# TBF Men's Ministries

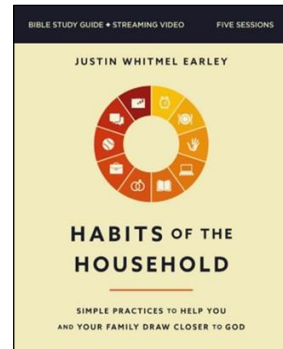
Resumes in September

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# Parenting Class

Tuesdays at 6 PM Starting September 3rd  
Meets at TBF in classroom

Habits of the Household  
Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms  
By Justin Whitmel Early



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# AWANA KICK-OFF

Starts Wednesday, August 21st

Then, Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM

Ages 2-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

# TBF *Women's Ministries*

## “NO STUDY” SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

No Study Summer Bible Study. We are planning to meet every other week on Thursday evenings in the summer for time together at the celebration table and then reviewing a Kristi McLelland online course that is an overall look at the Old Testament. It will be a no pressure, no weekly homework but a casual get-together with some great Biblical information. Join us every time we get together or whenever you are not vacationing.

Meets Every Other Thursday Evening 6 PM  
August dates: 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>th</sup>  
Sign-up sheet in the foyer.

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## SUPPER SUMMER SATURDAYS

August 24<sup>th</sup> Super Summer will be hosted by Brianna Sheilds – 1501 Crescent Drive, Duncan. Special Guest: Jimmie Bruner.



Watch Sunday bulletins for further details.

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## FALL BIBLE STUDY

Jonah - Navigating a Life Interrupted by Priscilla Shirer

What do we do when God interrupts our lives? Many times, like Jonah, we run! In this 7-session Bible study, Priscilla redefines interruption and shows that interruption is actually God's invitation to do something beyond our wildest dreams. When Jonah was willing to allow God to interrupt his life, the result was revival in an entire city.

Meets Every Other Thursday Morning 6 PM  
Begins August 29th

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## WOMEN'S MINISTRY ORGANIZATION MEETING

*Organization meeting on September 10th at 10:30 in the youth room. We'll have a preliminary discussion about our fall and Christmas outreach projects. We value everyone's input so join us if you are interested and able.*



# TBF Family Ministries

Happy August church family,

This month, in continuing our deep dive into a Biblical worldview of emotions, I want us to continue to look at bitterness. The root of bitterness is an unforgiving heart, which, if allowed to take hold, leaves someone as a husk of the person they could be and causes their hearts to become hard toward others. To finish our conversation about bitterness this month, I want to look at what scripture commands us to do about bitterness and how we can shift our outlook.

In Hebrews 12:15 it is written, “Make sure that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springs up, causing trouble and defiling many.” In the same sentence, the author discusses God's grace and the root of bitterness. I think this is very important. Bitterness is like a root, it begins growing like a seed, unseen and hidden deep. But like Bermuda grass, it is impossible to get rid of once it sprouts. You can pull a stalk out, but it will pop up again unless you can kill the roots. And what is the cure for the root of bitterness? It is the grace of God. Grace is the cure for many of the issues we face in life, especially bitterness. Google defines Grace as the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings. Another way to view it is God's riches at Christ's expense. While we had our backs to God, wanting nothing to do with Him, He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins. It was not based on anything we have done nor can do, but instead grace. This is a humbling reality, and if we sit with this truth, staying bitter with each other is challenging.

Jesus tells a parable of the wicked servant in Matthew 18:25-35. A servant owes the king a thousand bags of silver and the king desires to settle his accounts and brings this servant to him. The man begs the king to spare his life, and the king accepts and wipes his debt away as though it never existed. The man is grateful to the king, but this gratefulness only lasts to the door as the servant finds a fellow servant, beats him and demand he pay him the handful of coins that this other servant owes him. When the man could not pay the servant whom the king forgave so much, he sent his fellow servant to debtor's jail to work off his debt. When the king found out, he was furious and sent the wicked servant to be tortured until he paid back all that he owed. The reason I bring up this story is because we each owe an outstanding debt to God, more than anything that we could ever believe that other people owe to us. It is very difficult to have gratitude for the kindness of God through Jesus's death on the cross and be bitter at our neighbors because of some slight they may have done to us or that we perceive that they did.

What are some helpful ways we can help keep bitterness from taking root? The first is when we feel the root of bitterness taking hold, praying for that person by name to God, praying for their wellbeing and God's blessing in their lives. Praying for ourselves is also essential. God shows us where we are holding bitterness and what that can tell us about what we value and cherish. Then, we pray that God will take that thing and that we trust His will for it and our lives. The spiritual discipline of fasting is also very helpful in combating bitterness. Going for a set amount of time without food and dedicating more pointed time to prayer will force our minds onto Christ and away from ourselves. The root of bitterness is capable of choking the good fruit of life out of a person, but the grace purchased by Christ's blood on the cross is the cure.

In the love of Christ,  
Pastor Rob

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you



*Ephesians 4:31-32*

# SAVE THE DATE

## *Beauty from Ordinary Things*

**October 5<sup>th</sup>:** Women's Ministry Event: *Beauty from Ordinary Things*. Kyleen will be demonstrating some outdoor winter arrangements made from common, ordinary items found readily in nature and Jan will bless us with a devotional on how God uses the ordinary person to do extraordinary things. Stay tuned for further details.

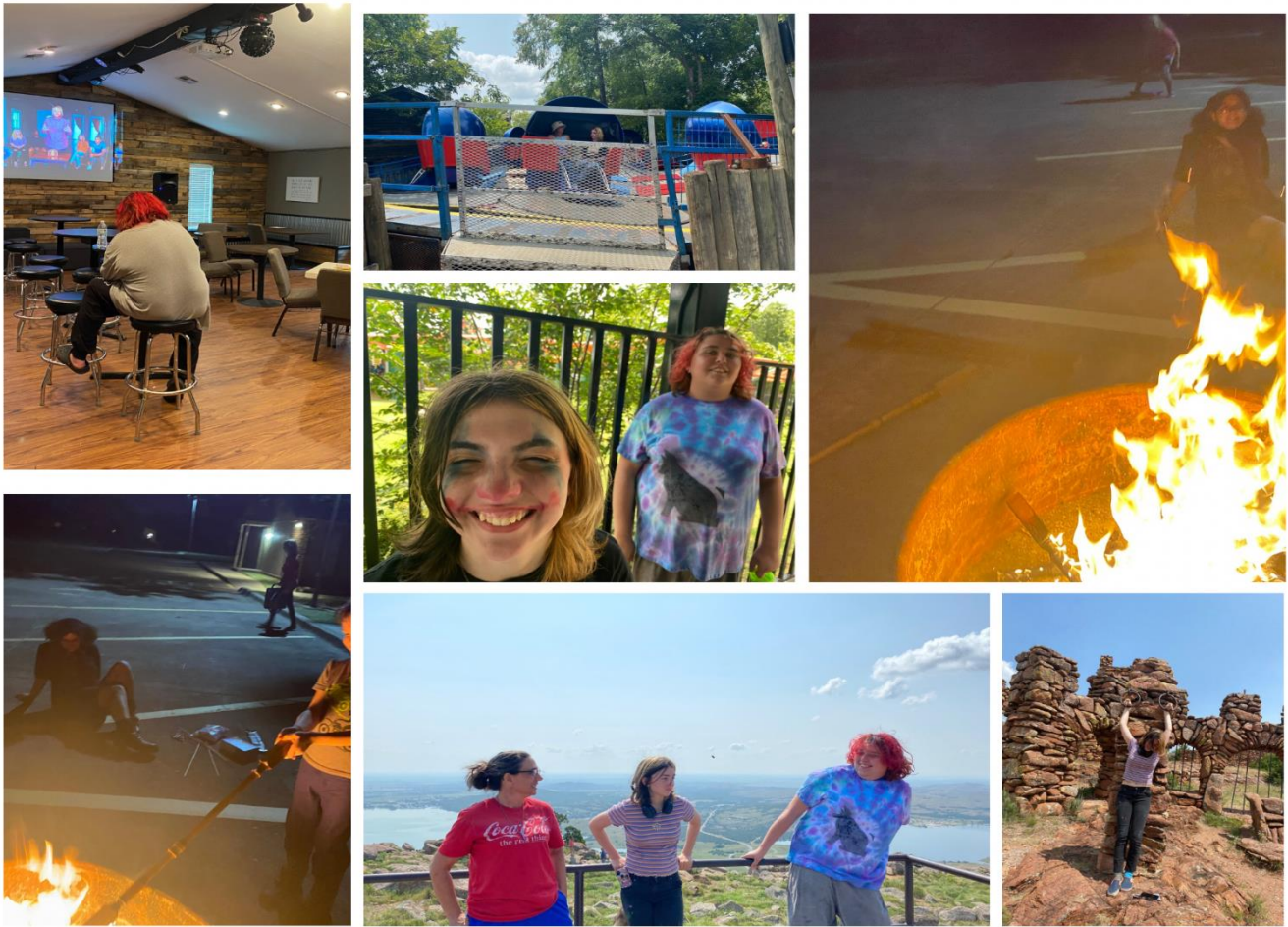
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## *Kindred Community*

**We do not have a KC event in August!**

**10-year Celebration Event  
September 24th**

Watch your TBF bulletins and September Newsletter for upcoming details.



# TBF Youth Summer Camp

Pastor Rob Girvin led the youth through a Biblical study on spiritual disciplines focusing on how Christians should look different than the world.

The young people who attended the TBF Youth camp helped clean Kim Keeney's house on Monday, prayer walked a neighborhood on Tuesday, hiked Mount Scott and explored the Holy City on Wednesday, had a lock-in on Thursday, and enjoyed a day at Frontier City on Friday.

Thanks Pastor Rob and all volunteers for investing in our youth!!



# Super Summer June Pics



**Super  
Summer-**



**Super  
Summer**



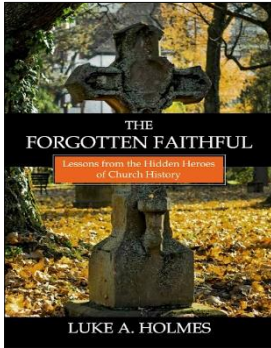
# Super Summer July Pics



# 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.

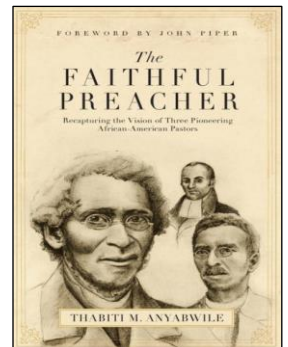
## **The Forgotten Faithful: Lessons from the Hidden Heroes of Church History by Luke A. Holmes**



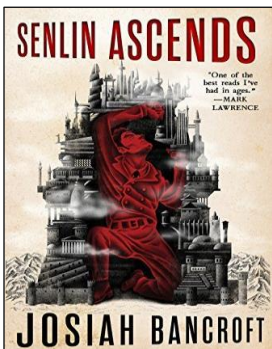
This small book is written by the new pastor at Immanuel Baptist in Duncan. I've gotten to know him a little bit recently and was excited to read his book because we both have a shared love for church history and the stories of ordinary believers. This book tells the story of ten forgotten and obscure Christians who lived faithful lives for Christ. All of their names are probably completely unknown to us. Some of them exist as side "characters" in the stories of other missionaries we have heard of, like the famous Lottie Moon. The stories of ordinary and unknown Christians can serve as an antidote to our celebrity culture. They can remind us of the grandeur of the kingdom of God and the beauty of forgotten faithfulness.

## **The Faithful Preacher: Recapturing the Vision of Three Pioneering African-American Pastors by Thabiti M. Anyabwile**

This book is a wonderful collection of biographies and sermons. These three men span over 150 years of history from the Revolutionary War to the 1930s. Each pioneer is introduced with a short biography. The biographies are short, but well-written. They give a good summary of their lives, their impact, and the focus of their work. The real shining light of the book is the sermons themselves. Each pioneer has a selection of three sermons covering everything from funerals to the white church's attitude towards race. Racism is discussed plenty throughout the sermons, but it is not the main focus of the sermons or the book. Jesus and the gospel shine bright in every single sermon. I was edified and encouraged by each one.



## **Senlin Ascends by Josiah Bancroft**



This book made me feel like I did as a little kid when I was completely absorbed by a book. I went into this book completely blind and was enthralled. The prose was beautiful and the pacing was well done. I cannot believe this debut novel was originally self-published. It is one of the best fantasy novels I have read in a long time. The book follows a school teacher on his honeymoon to visit the famed Tower of Babel. He and his wife are quickly separated and he decides to start going up the tower to search for her. The tower was an incredible mystery and each floor felt like its own world, but the book is held together by the strength of the characters. Even the minor characters are fleshed out and feel lived in. I wanted to spend more time with all of them.