



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.

Blessed of God

Psalm 127 is one of two psalms attributed to Solomon (the other is Psalm 72) and resembles a proverb. It offers wisdom for building a stable home and godly family in which the Lord is glorified, and His kingdom is furthered on earth. As one of the Songs of Ascent, this psalm would remind families as they traveled on their pilgrimages to Jerusalem to depend on God for every need and thank Him for every blessing. One of those blessings is God's gift of children: "Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord" (Psalm 127:3, CEV).

Many Bible translations use the word "heritage" instead of "blessing" and "reward" in place of "gift." For example, "Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him" (NIV), and "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward" (ESV). In the original language, the Hebrew word translated as "heritage" or "blessing" (*nachalah*) means "inheritance." Solomon affirms the ancient Near East belief that children are God's gracious gift imparted to parents.

In Old Testament times, a large family with many sons and daughters was a sign of the Lord's blessing and expression of divine favor (Genesis 33:5; Deuteronomy 7:13-14; Joshua 24:3). In Genesis 1:28, God commanded His people to "be fruitful and multiply." After the flood, God told Noah, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1). As God's covenant people, the ancient Hebrews appreciated the importance of procreation. The Lord told Abraham, "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you . . . and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:2-3). Israel's physical, emotional, and economic strength and security were expressed through large families (Psalm 113:9).

Children are a source of great joy and pleasure (Proverbs 23:24). At the same time, when they disobey and rebel, they can cause much heartache and grief for their parents. No one can deny that children are an enormous responsibility, but they are also one of life's greatest assets. Raising children requires a huge investment of time, resources, and love, but the resulting rewards are immeasurable. Jesus acknowledged, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48). Instead of seeing children as a burden or liability, believers are to accept them as a legacy and gift from God (see Exodus 23:25-26).

Solomon continues: "Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court" (Psalm 127:4-5). These lines portray a father as a warrior and his children as arrows in his quiver. A soldier with

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

TBF Family,

I have heard from several different men that they did not enjoy their children until they got older. They usually point to the difficulty of the early years and the lack of meaningful interaction as to why they struggled to love their kids. Thankfully, I have never had this problem. From the first moment, I have always deeply loved and enjoyed each of my children. I struggle to even understand how someone could feel differently.

It is good news that God does not approach us this way. How differently the world would look if God only decided to love and care for us once we became interesting enough. What if God only decided to send Christ as a human being once we stopped making such a mess of things in the world He made? If this was how God felt about us, then we would all be doomed forever.

But the hope of the gospel is that Christ loves us even more than we deserve. There is nothing in humanity that makes us worthy of God's love. There is nothing we do or can accomplish that makes God value us. This is what makes the Psalms repeatedly ask, "What is man that you are mindful of him?" (Psalms 8:4). The love of God is foolishness to the world and defies explanation.

The Scriptures also describe God as Father. He is not simply a Father, or the Father of the eternal Son Christ, He is also our Father and the Father of creation. Isaiah 64:8 reminds us that God is our Father: "We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." We have been fashioned by a Father who loves us.

And the love of God is greater than the love of any earthly father. From the good, the bad, the absent, or the overly present, He is a better Father than even the best of us. Quinn was just born, and I love her dearly. She does not do much other than sleep and eat and occasionally makes a face that looks like a smile. But her existence is enough, and I love her dearly. God is a better father than me and loves us more than I love my daughter. We do not have to do anything to earn this love. The message and reminder of the Gospel is that the love of God is grace upon grace.

Pastor David Shields

Welcome Baby Quinn Louise Shields!



Con't from pg.1

his "quiver full" was fully armed and ready for battle. In families that are established on a godly foundation, children are a vital weapon against the forces of evil in the world. Children, like arrows, can be sent out into the world to advance the cause of God's kingdom.

The Lord commanded the Israelites to teach their children His ways (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; 11:19), and that responsibility remains with Christian parents today (see Ephesians 6:4). Fortunately, the Bible offers much wisdom and instruction for raising godly children. The end goal is to produce wise children who will honor and glorify God and serve Him throughout their lives (Proverbs 22:6).

Children are also a blessing from the Lord because they provide future protection and security to their families. In ancient Israel, a household with many sons offered safety and defense—more children equaled less vulnerability. Parents who have children when they are young are blessed because those children will grow up in time to provide support and financial stability for their parents later in life. Grown children safeguard the family inheritance from those who might try to take legal or financial advantage of elderly parents. They also carry on the family heritage to future generations.

Moreover, children are a blessing from the Lord in that they demonstrate many character qualities that God wants His kingdom servants to cultivate (Matthew 18:3-4; 19:14; Mark 10:14-15; Luke 18:16-17; 22:26 1 Peter 2:2).

Solomon's statement that children are a blessing from the Lord does not mean God has not blessed childless couples or that children are the only sign of His favor. It simply means that children are to be received as an expression of God's goodness and grace and not as a curse or an inconvenience. When God chooses to bless us with children, He intends to bring great joy, pleasure, security, protection, and reward to our home and family through them.

GotQuestions.Org

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.
- DICIPLESHIP CLASS - February 2nd and 16th
- MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - February 3rd and 17th
- WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Every Other Thursday 9 AM and 6 PM
- PARENTING CLASS -
- 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 - 5th Grade
- COMMUNION - February 16th
- KINDRED COMMUNITY - February 11th

Opportunities to Serve

Awana Volunteers Needed.

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.

Childcare is needed 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.

Discipleship Class

February 2nd and 16th

When Your Way Isn't Working

by Kyle Idelman

When you are worn-out, when you feel discouraged, when you think you don't have what it takes, what is the one thing that Jesus wants you to never forget? *When Your Way Isn't Working* equips you to discover authentic connection to God and others so you are free to live the life you long for.

In some of his final words to his closest friends, Jesus didn't suggest a five-year plan for success or a checklist of things to do. Instead, he offered a metaphor about what the good life really looks like: *I am the vine. You are the branches. Abide in me.* In other words, *No matter what happens next, the most important thing is to stay connected to me.*

In *When Your Way Isn't Working*, pastor and bestselling author Kyle Idleman offers a unique exploration of John 15 for all of us who are going through the motions and feel frustrated. Idleman reminds us that it's connection, not production, that leads to a fruitful life--relationships, not circumstances, that bring joy. He offers his distinctive, biblical perspective on how to:

- Find greater rest, depth, and connection in your life
- Embrace freedom from the pressures of performance and production
- Recognize what you can't do makes room for what God can do
- Step out of isolation even when it feels scary
- Discover the top distractions that keep you from connecting to God--and how to counter them

Discipleship class led by Mike Palovik

TBF Men's Ministries HOSEA

LOVE UNDESERVED
TBF Youth Room 6:30-7:30 PM
Led by Wolfgang Deeg

- **Session 1 (Feb. 3):** In Hosea 1-3, meet the prophet Hosea and wonder at God's command for Hosea to marry an adulterous woman. Journey with Hosea from humiliation and betrayal to miraculous love and redemption.
- **Session 2 (Feb. 17):** In Hosea 4-14, connect this story to the narrative of Israel. Like Gomer, Israel was unfaithful to God. But like Hosea, God displays His amazing compassion and restores His people to Himself.

Betrayal can be deeply painful and can take many forms. Perhaps you've been betrayed by a friend, coworker, or family member. How did you feel? What would it take to forgive that hurt?

The book of Hosea explores the image of adultery, easily considered one of the most painful and intimate forms of betrayal. God Himself was betrayed by His chosen people, Israel. Though He was endlessly loving and faithful toward them, they rejected Him to follow their own ways and fashioned gods of their own imaginations. Yet still God proclaims, "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely" (Hosea 14:4)

TBF *Women's Ministries*

New Ladies' Bible study
beginning 1/16/25.

When You Pray by Lifeway Women.

Do you have trouble thinking of words to say to God when you pray? Are you afraid some emotions are too intense to express to God? Do you reach the end of a day only to realize you haven't prayed at all? You're not alone. Prayer is the way we relate to God, but sometimes it's a struggle. Throughout God's Word, we encounter many voices who teach us how to pray.

In this 7-session study, join with six beloved Bible teachers who will help you study prayers in the Bible that can inspire your own. You'll learn that God welcomes your praise and lament, your thanksgiving and intercession. You'll see examples of how to pray when you're alone and when you're gathered with others. Above all, you'll notice there's no one right way to pray. As you draw near to God through prayer, you'll find your faith strengthened and your heart united to Christ.

SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ORGANIZATION MEETING

There will be a Women's Ministry organizational meeting on March 11 in the youth room. Time to be determined. All are invited!!!

Parenting Class

Tuesdays at 6 PM
Meets at TBF in classroom

Kindred Community

February 11th 6-8 PM
Hosted by First Baptist Church 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 - Brandi 580.786.6009

TBF Family Ministries

Happy February, Church Family!

Given that Valentine's Day is this month, I would love to talk about love. In our current culture and the English language, the term love is muddled. Love can mean anything from “I enjoy tacos” or “I like working on cars” to “I cherish you.” I have, in the same conversation, said that I love Jack in the Box tacos, I love my wife, and I love the Bible. But does that mean that Hannah, tacos, and the Bible hold the same place in my heart? Of course not! But words matter, and a word such as love holds a lot of meaning. One of my favorite children's Bibles, *The Jesus Story Book Bible*, frames each story in terms of how much God loves us. In 1 John, we are told that God is love. John 3:16 tells us that God loved the world so much that He gave His only son. Even when Adam and Eve first sinned, God loved them enough to reveal His promise of a redeemer to them. I also love geeking out, so this month, I want to talk about the first three of the four loves in the Greek language.

The first is affection, which in Greek is storge (STOR-gee). It is the most widely used type of love, and it is best described as a warm comfortableness. It is commonly described as the type of love between a child and their parents. It is the love that lessens all pain and exhaustion from childbirth but is also what drives a scared child to their parents. It is a love based on memories and trust. In the New Testament, this usage of love is typically translated to affection. One example is Philippians 1:8, when Paul reminds the Philippian Christians that he helped start the church there and loved them deeply with the “affection of Christ Jesus.”

The second love is similar to storge, which is philia (FILL-ee-uh), which is often described as a brotherly love. This is true, but it is deeper than that because it is that bond between two who are not related. It is a bond of friendship that is difficult to find in modern culture. We live in a very individualistic society. This is most noticeable in men. According to studies, only 27% of men have more than six friends, and 15% of men have no friends. This is a dramatic lack of philia. We are called brothers and sisters in Christ, and one of the implications of this is we are called to love each other to support one another, not only towards righteousness but also in the everyday activities that we do. One example of this in scripture is 2 Peter 1:7: “...and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.” We are called to find friends and make them brothers rather than adversaries or enemies.

The third love is eros (AIR-ose). This type of love is sensual and meant to be reserved for husband and wife. In Greek culture, this word is synonymous with the Greek god who carries the same name, who was their deity for physical love, romance, and lust. It is fascinating that the authors of the New Testament only use eros to discuss marital life. Whenever they discuss sexual impropriety, they use different words rather than the word for love, showing that eros can only be love if it is within a marriage between a husband and wife.

Next month, we will discuss agape love. This word for love is by far the most amazing word because it shows the love of God. If you would like to read more about any of these types of love, C.S Lewis has a wonderful little book called *The Four Loves*, which goes very deep into the nuance of each of these types of love.

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Rob

****Youth Bible Study -- Sundays 6-7 PM TBF Youth Room -- Journey Through the Bible**

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.

***Abandon The Orderly House: Good News for Skeptics and Burned Out Believers* by A.W. Regrets**

Sermon collections can be a strange or risky read. Sometimes they don't translate well to a written format. Sometimes they are only meaningful if you already like the preacher. These sermons are like a drink of water to a tired soul. I was repeatedly impressed and moved by the sermons. They were simple, poetic, and focused on Jesus. You can hear the pastoral voice in each of them. It feels like you are just getting to sit and listen to a pastor gently preach to you about what you need to hear. These sermons did not necessarily feel targeted only at skeptics or those who are burned out, but they will certainly resonate with those groups. I found them so refreshing and wonderfully full of Jesus. I wish I had preached these sermons.

***Home* by Marilynn Robinson**

I have rarely read things as moving as Robinson's writing. Her book *Gilead* follows an old pastor in a small town in Iowa and won a Pulitzer prize. This book takes place in the same town but tells a different story. Glory is a 38-year-old woman who returns home to care for her dying father who was also a pastor. Her brother, Jack, who is an alcoholic and a prodigal son, returns home after 20 years. The book portrays all the beauty and heartbreak of home. Over and over the story wrestles with Christianity and what grace truly means.

***John Quincy Adams* by Robert V. Remini**

John Quincy Adams is one of my favorite post-presidents.

I have largely been disappointed by this biography series. Most of them are so short that they struggle to accomplish anything other than a 30,000-foot view of the person's life. This one is by far the best in the series I have seen. It not only provides depth but also provides a real picture of who Quincy was as a person.

JQA was born with incredibly high expectations to be a man who could change nations. His mother was so overbearing he refused to attend her funeral when she died. Her personality drove his siblings into alcoholism and failure, and only Quincy was able to find some success. He went overseas with his father in his teenage years and was on his own in Russia before he was 18. The result made Quincy brilliant, gifted in diplomacy, and emotionally stunted.

His presidency was largely disappointing. He accomplished little and was opposed from the beginning because of the contested election that he appeared to win only because of a backroom deal with Henry Clay. He made matters worse by making all of his decisions based on what he believed was right and proper even when it would hurt him politically. It was admirable, but made his presidency ineffective. His ambitions would have radically helped our country, even small things like wanting a uniform system of measurement (like the metric system), but he never had the political capital needed to bring them about.

His pre- and post-presidency are some of the most successful of any president. He was arguably our best secretary of state. He formulated the Monroe Doctrine, negotiated for Florida, and helped negotiate for a lasting peace with Britain. His post-presidency was spent fighting slavery. He was elected to Congress and tirelessly fought against the gag rule, which banned even trying to debate slavery. He argued in front of the Supreme Court in the Amistad case, which was a monumental win for abolition.

JQA has a lot of similarities to Jimmy Carter. Both had incredibly successful careers post-presidency and both had their presidencies flounder because of their insistence on principles over politics.

I can't help but love Quincy. To me, he feels like the last of the Founding Fathers. He was born in the wrong generation and has only recently been appreciated. I loved this biography. The author is an Andrew Jackson scholar, which at times lead to being too pro-Jackson for my taste. Overall, this is a small biography that does a great job honoring an overlooked president.