



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.

Suffer the Children

At one point during Jesus’ earthly ministry, some children were brought to Him so that He could lay hands on them and pray for them (Matthew 19:13). The disciples tried to turn the children away, but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (verse 14). Mark 10:14 (KJV) adds that Jesus was “much displeased” with His disciples for their actions. He then blessed the children (Matthew 19:15).

There are two potentially puzzling elements to this story. First, why did the disciples try to keep the children away from Jesus? Also, what did Jesus mean when he said, “Let the little children come to me . . . for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”?

It is important to remember that children in Jesus’ time were not necessarily regarded as special or particularly endearing, except to their own parents. Many cultures today look on children as especially sweet, innocent, and even wise. Jewish culture in that day probably did not see children in such optimistic terms. The disciples most likely rebuked those bringing the children to Jesus because they felt bringing children to Jesus was socially improper or because they thought the children would bother Jesus. It is likely that their move to hinder the parents from bringing their children to Jesus was motivated not by unkindness but by a desire to respect Jesus’ position as a teacher. But Jesus wanted the children to come to Him. He said, “Let the children come,” because He wanted to bless them.

It is wonderful to think of Jesus interacting with a child. Children are needy and dependent, and they know almost nothing about life. They function mostly on emotion rather than reason. Yet Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14). Scripture often compares believers to children (e.g., Luke 10:21; Galatians 4:19; 1 John 4:4). In fact, Jesus told those following Him, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3-4; cf. Mark 10:15).

Jesus’ command to “let the little children come to me” reveals several truths: 1) Children need to be blessed by the Lord. 2) The Lord wants to bless children. 3) Parents should be encouraged to bring their children to Jesus at an early age and teach them His ways. 4) Jesus has regard for the weakest and most vulnerable among us. 5) No matter how compassionate Jesus’ followers are, Jesus Himself is more compassionate still. 6) Those who come to Christ must do so in childlike humility, faith, and simplicity.

Like children who implicitly trust their parents, believers trust God. Faith is not about knowing everything or doing everything right. It is about knowing that, no matter what happens, our Father will take care of us. That trust in Him, even when life is terrifying and sad and makes no sense, is what makes a believer like a child. “All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away” (John 6:37). God loves His children. 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

TBF family,

We are entering into a new season in the life of our church. The Girvin family has felt called to return home to their family in Kansas City. While we are excited for what God has in store for them, we will miss their presence. In the meantime, it will impact what our children's ministry currently looks like. I wanted to take a moment to briefly explain what the immediate future holds and some specific requests for you.

First, we will continue ministering to and teaching our children how to follow Jesus. We will continue our children's ministry schedule, including resuming Awanas in the fall. Our children are not the future of the church; they are a part of our church right now. They are human beings made the image of God and they are worthy of our attention, love, and care. We can continue to serve them well while we decide on the future.

Second, I want to hear from you. We will be having a meeting later this month to solicit feedback, evaluate where our family ministry currently is, and dream about what the future could be. If you are a parent or volunteer, then I especially want to hear from you. But anyone is welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend the meeting, then please schedule a time to sit down and meet with me.

Lastly, pray for our church. Pray for our leaders as we begin the process of searching for the right person. Pray for wisdom in making the right decisions and that God would guide the process. Pray for the future person God is preparing to join our body to help lead us.

Pray for our children as well. Pray that the Bible verses they memorize would sink deep into their hearts. Pray that our church would be a safe place that they love to come to hear about Jesus. Pray that they would grow in their faith and become not just our children, but our brothers and sisters in faith.

Pray for families to join our church. I have often heard the stories of times in our church's past when there were no children. Yet, the church gathered to pray for children, and suddenly the church was filled again with the sounds of noisy children. We should pray those prayers again as a church. We have already seen God answer those prayers in the past, and we know that He can do so again.

I firmly believe the future of our church is bright. I am excited to see what God can and will do in the months and years ahead.

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
- WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. Join Us! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- DICIPLESHIP CLASS - On Break
- MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - On Break
- WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - On Break
- SUPER SUMMER SATURDAYS - July 19th and August 15-16 Food, Fellowship, and Fun
- PARENTING CLASS - On Break
- TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 5 PM (Jam Session) and 6 PM (Study)
- AWANAS - On Break
- COMMUNION - July 20th
- PIG ROAST—July 4th
- KINDRED COMMUNITY - July 14th

Opportunities to Serve

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.

TBF-You're Invited to a BBQ July 4th
at the Powers Ranch
291619 E 1860 Road – Loco, OK
5:30 PM

Bring a lawn chair and a food to share
BBQ and tea/water provided.



Take Hwy 81 South to Comanche
Turn left (east) onto Hwy 53 at the traffic light (only one in Comanche)
Drive 10 Miles to CR 2920 (Johnson's Corner). Turn right (south - gravel road)
Drive 2 Miles to CR 1860. Turn right (west – back on pavement)
¼ Mile to top of hill. Turn left into 'Wendy Acres' entry way
You're there!

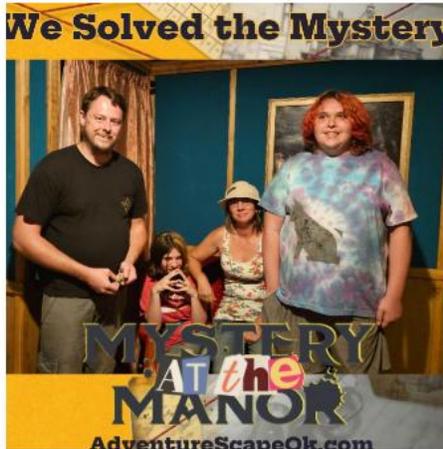
If further directions needed...251-591-5214

TBF Family Ministries

Dear TBF,

Thank you so much for the past four years of being your Family Pastor. It has been a wonderful experience, and we will cherish you all in our hearts!

With the love of Christ,
Rob





By the grace of God, Pastor Rob Girvin has served us well as both Family Pastor and Head of the Children's ministry. Thank you. Thank you for teaching our Youth, leading our Parents Class, and for starting Awana at TBF among other things. This past month we said good-bye to Pastor Rob as he has taken a position in Missouri that will allow him and his family to be closer to their families.

As we look back over the past four years and forward to what God has in store for both Pastor Rob and our church, may this be a time for joy and a time for sadness. It is time to give thanks and praise to Almighty God for what Pastor Rob has given us in his ministry at TBF. With that in mind, we pray God will continue to use Pastor Rob and his family to serve Him in whatever ministry he has been called.



Pastor Rob, Hannah, Cade, Abby, and Nancy Girvin

Kindred Community

Monday, July 14th 6-8 PM
 First United Methodist Church -- Duncan, OK
 Hosted by First Christian Church

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 Beautiful Day 580.786.6009

Discipleship Class

TBF MEN'S MINISTRIES

Parenting Class and AWANA

ALL ON BREAK FOR SUMMER

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

TBF Women's Ministries

Super Summer Saturdays



- Saturday, July 19th 9:30-11:30 AM 916 Willow Bend, Marlow. Hosted by Jan Palovik
Topic: Getting to know each other better. Sign-up sheet in the foyer.
- Friday/Saturday August 15th -16th Fort Worth. Topic: "Feast" with Kristi McLelland
The August Super Summer Saturday event will be incorporated into the trip to Fort Worth for the Kristi McLelland, "Feast" Conference. Although, admission tickets and room reservations have already been purchased anyone wishing to go is welcome, but we need to have everything locked down very soon, so please contact either Jean Crow or Kitte Lewark to make your desire to attend know

Next Bible study to be announced.. stay tuned.

WINDOWS ON THE WORLD

Wednesday-July 23rd

Lasagna Dinner will be served from 5:15 to 6:15 PM
Special Guests 6:30-7:30 PM

Some of you may already be familiar with our special guests, Gospel singer Dale Rochell and his wife Janell from Marlow. Janelle is a former teacher in this area and is one of the exercise instructors at the Simmons Center.

Dale is a very popular Gospel music singer and has appeared with many other well-known Gospel singers at various places like Branson and Nashville. It is an honor to have him share his talent with Tanglewood.

His resume includes three #1 singles and ten have made the top 10 nationally, a music video that was nominated for top country Gospel music of the year. Currently his music video "Home" was nominated for Country Gospel Music Video of 2024.



Be sure to invite a friend or two!

Donations appreciated.

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.

O Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism by Sarah Wynn-Williams

This is an engaging look at how morally corrupt Facebook has been and continues to be from a former executive. The stories are both completely unsurprising and bewildering at how blatantly toxic and immoral almost every single decision was.

I don't doubt the credibility of the accusations and stories in here. It seemed to me that this probably just scratched the surface and was only the accusations that could be proven or held up in print. I can only wonder at what else is happening behind closed doors.

My biggest issue with the book is the lack of accountability from the author. I understand that it is complicated being a part of a toxic system and environment, as I, myself, have been in such a place. However, I do not think you can help be a part of a company and somehow remain morally removed from the things that take place. The author is certainly a victim of sexual harassment and worse. The company itself seemed to operate like a cult that makes it difficult to escape. Most of her reasoning for struggling to escape was worrying about finding a job, which seems hard to believe a former Facebook executive couldn't find any employment.

I am grateful this book was written, but it would have been better served by more reflection. Those who work in institutions like Facebook do bear some responsibility for the wrongs they enable even if they are not the primary decision makers. Despite the flaws, this book gives you plenty to chew on.

Butcher's Crossing by John Williams

This is the best Western I have ever read. One of my great dreams is to see the Great Plains covered with countless buffalo. I have a hard time fathoming how our country hunted these creatures to the very brink of extinction. This book is a coming-of-age tale about a young man searching to find himself in nature who ends up on a buffalo hunt. I don't want to spoil more than that. But the book tackles the allure and reality of the west in a way I've never read before. There is something about John William's writing that I find hauntingly beautiful. There is something about his writing that leaves me thinking about his books for weeks.

When Narcissism Comes to Church: Healing Your Community From Emotional and Spiritual Abuse by Chuck DeGroat

This book is a treasure trove of how narcissistic leaders have destroyed churches. It has several chapters dedicated to explaining different kinds of narcissism and the specific ways it has infiltrated churches. The book does a great job blending teaching alongside case studies and examples from life churches. Unfortunately, narcissistic pastors are far too common and have destroyed a great many churches. I appreciated the gospel focus this book had as well. It does not remove the possibility of change and grace for these narcissistic pastors, although they do need to step down from ministry. Overall, this is a great and needed resource on a difficult topic.