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*"Our mission is to  
proclaim the Word  
of God, leading  
people to a saving  
faith and a growing  
relationship with  
Jesus Christ."*



I enjoyed the struggle. Which is your first clue to the fact that I was not actually in the struggle, but merely observing it. The girls were struggling to understand the Trinity, and the leader was struggling to answer their questions.

How could Jesus be alive before He was born? But if Jesus was God already, why did He have to be born? If He was God before He was born, how can God be His Father? How did God get here? Who made God? Where did He come from? What was there before God? What did God make everything out of?

If you've already struggled with these questions, you may be laughing at them now. If you have not struggled with them, you probably are not laughing. So, to start this off; let me tell you the Bible answers each of these questions, and let me deal with them briefly.

We know Jesus was God before He was born because John 1:1 says, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* John 1:14 adds, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."* These verses actually answer the first two questions. Jesus was God before He was born, but He wasn't man until He was born. He had to be born so He could be man.

If Jesus and God are both God, how can God be His Father? It may seem like this is a temporary relationship, applying only to Jesus while on earth, but the relationship of the Trinity is eternal. Outside of His human life, the term is not one of paternity – physical fatherhood – but of relational fa-

## Grappling with God



therhood. In John 5:30, Jesus says, *"I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent me."* It is God the Father who is the authority, whose will is done.

As for the questions about the origin of God, we look to the beginning. The very beginning. Which begins with *"In the beginning, God..."* When you get to the beginning, God is already there already.

He wasn't made in the beginning; He's not the first thing to become something. He's simply there. I'll come back to this, but this is the short answer.

Last of these introductory questions, What did God make everything out of? Did He find some pre-existing planets and remake them. The science fiction writers call this 'terra-forming.' Is that what God did? Again, Scripture gives us an answer. The New Testament writer of Hebrews tells us, *"By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible"* (Heb 11:3). You may decide that means He put color on invisible matter, but I'm inclined to accept it means He made everything out of nothing. Nothing but His power.

So we find that all these most basic yet difficult questions about God do have their answers in the Bible. Some answers are more clear and complete than others, but they're all covered. That's a relief. It's good to know we aren't just making up answers out of the blue. But there's another question; just as difficult but coming from the opposite side of the issue: Why do we find these answers so difficult to grasp? What is it about these answers that make us wrinkle our brows and

## Photo of the Month



"Did I win?" "Which car is yours?" "I don't know." "Sure, Honey, you won." "Yay!" This year's Awana Grand Prix is set for Wednesday, Feb 22nd. Hope to see you there! For more info, see the Awana article on the back page.

crinkle our eyes. If I can borrow a figure of speech from Solomon, it is like trying to grasp oil with the hand.

The answer is not that the answer is complicated, but that it is foreign. We intuitively know the physical world. When we learn physical rules, things like gravity, inertia, energy, decay; it's not so much that we're learning new things as putting language to what we already recognize. It is not foreign to us, it is native to us.

God, on the other hand, is foreign to us. The difficult thing for us to grasp is that the rules that apply to us do not apply to Him. We are limited by time, and we struggle to grasp that He is not. We are limited by space, He is not. We are constrained by these laws of nature that, try as they might, cannot grasp Him to hold Him back for the slightest moment.

We find ourselves, believe it or not, trying to put the Creator within the 'box' of creation. As if He is limited by the restrictions placed on His created beings. What amuses me as I think of this is that we have to think 'outside the box' to understand God; and the questions

were raised by a group of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Observe them for a while, and you're pretty sure they haven't learned to think inside the box yet! Which goes to show how quickly we learn the limitations of nature, and how difficult it is to see beyond those limitations.

Suppose for a minute, though, that God did have a beginning. If that were so, then Something would have had to begin Him. At that point God Himself would be restricted by the rules of nature. But what about that Thing that caused Him? Wouldn't that thing then be God? Don't worry about it. God is God and there isn't some deeper God behind Him. I just raise the issue to show the need. It takes something outside of and beyond creation to create creation. That thing is not an it, that thing is a He. He is God. He Himself is not created, and He created everything.



# BIBLE WORD SEARCH!

BASIC WORDS OF THE BIBLE

G E N T I L E B I B L E D

O B A A B R T J E M D I I

D P I I E S I M N I P B N

T E M P T A T I O N J A H

H R P S H L H R P I E P O

E S R A L V E A N S R T L

F E A C E A H C A T U I Y

A C Y R H T O L Z R S Z S

T U E I E I L E A Y A E P

H T I F M O Y J R H L N I

E E S I N N A J E W E H R

R W E C L F A I T H M L I

B S J E S U S C H R I S T

JESUS CHRIST

SALVATION

JEW

GENTILE

HOLY SPIRIT

GOD THE FATHER

PERSECUTE

PRAY

TITHE

MINISTRY

BIBLE

HOLY

SACRIFICE

FAITH

MIRACLE

NAZARETH

BETHLEHEM

JERUSALEM

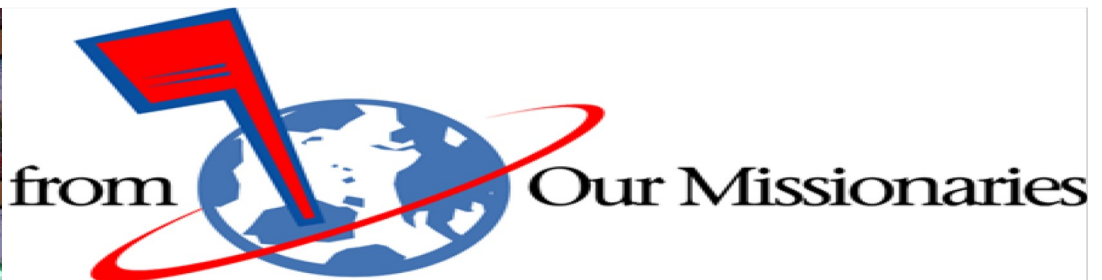
BAPTIZE

TEMPTATION

SIN

CREATED BY MELINDA SKAGGS





Dear brother in Christ Pastor Steve and the saints there at Trinity Bible Fellowship,

Loving greetings from India. Thank you so much for your prayers and concern about our ministry. I did receive your nice Christmas card and the updates and thank you for it. By the grace of God in this new year so far the Lord is good and helping us to help the suffering fellow citizens.

By the grace of God this year the Lord has been leading us to new ways to beyond our ability to proclaim the gospel. New souls are being saved, miracles and signs are taking place. If God willing this 26th of January I am taking about 50 adults from our Church to some of the unreached villages to proclaim the gospel and distribute tracts etc. We are renting 5 or 6 mini vans to go about 100 KMs distance from our city. People are excited to go on this gospel tour. Along with this I am also building 3 new Churches in 3 different villages. By the end of this month we are going to dedicate the first Church building for His glory! Brother K. Ramulu is working in this village. This will be most probably on 31st of January! There is a need of water well at one of our Churches where people has no water to drink. Please remember in your prayers that the Lord may supply funds for this special need. Please pray that God may supply all our needs according to His riches. Kindly convey thanks and gratitude to all the saints there at TBF for their generosity and love for my ministry.

May the Lord bless you all and thank you!

Yours in His grace,  
Daniel Chituumuri



The well we sponsored last year



It's a joy to hear from you and your church... down here we continue the Lord's work. We had a lovely Christmas and New Years, sharing and fellowshiping with all the brothers and sisters of the church; we were re-

membering you and praying for you.

Here we continue having activities to raise funds for the land that we need to expand, because every day more souls are joining us at Christ's feet. Many thanks for your prayers and your offerings, which are a great blessing for us. I bid you farewell, receive our greetings and blessings.

Vicente Reyna and family

### Missions Minute— Martin Hall

The experience is a blessing and a spiritual growing time. I am learning more about God and His love. The young adults respond in all different ways. But the sweetest is when you present the message and they get it. They ask questions and really understand what was said. I will tell them I prayed for them and the next week I will ask if they saw an answer. They can't wait to tell me that they read their Bible or God answered their prayers. They will ask me to pray for one of the other young adults in Martin Hall that is having a hard time. They are reaching out to others and not just thinking about themselves. They know what God is doing in their hearts. Our job is to be obedient to God in loving them, presenting the gospel and letting God do the rest.

I have learned not to look at the sin but the sinner in need of a Savior. Just like me, a sinner in need of a Savior.

Luke 1:37 *"For with God nothing will be impossible."*

God Bless, Allyson Morrison



## San Nicolas de los Ranchos; an update

mountain moved for back fill. Not only did we move all the dirt but we landscaped as well, leveling off the whole work area. It was amazing.

We hauled block, we made mortar, we mixed cement, we cut wire, bent re-bar, and did the whole job in four days. I went back Monday (Jan 9) and they were planning to fill the well on Thursday. The whole community was very excited about their new cistern.

The doors continue to remain open in this village of 10,000 inhabitants. We were invited to participate in the end of the year luncheon provided for the city government and civil servants. We were taken there by police escort.

The New Year found us out in San Nicolas (the Americans like to call it Saint Nick) once again. The team was part of a Georgia Tech campus ministry called Campus Christian Fellowship.

The job assignment was to build a cistern at a public school in the village. There is no running water to this school, so they depend on water storage. We built them a huge storage tank. What is fun is that everybody associated with the school gets involved in these projects. Moms got together every day to make lunch for us. Available dads hung out and tried to help wherever possible. It is fun to watch a big team like this one operate. We needed a mountain of dirt moved off the edge of the hole and with 20+ shovels and buckets the mountain was moved. We later needed that same

Please pray throughout this year as we start various Bible studies in the homes. Please pray for the plans to construct a Community Center in San Nicolas de los Ranchos. Pray for the Gospel to take root in this community. Pray for laborers—the fields are ready for harvest.

Bruce Morock



## Elders Report

TBF Elders Meeting Minutes  
Jan 3, 2017

Present: Steve McLachlan, Mike Anderson, Dion Ricketts, Jeremy Eaton

Intercessory Prayer

Minutes Reviewed

Pastor's Report

- Membership Class began January 8
- Right to Life Sunday is coming
- The Adult Sunday School has moved to the new addition

Youth Ministries

- Discussed serving at Valentines Banquet

No Treasurer's Report

No Old Business

New Business

- A ladies stretching/exercise time prior to BSF was approved. Jennifer Doyle is to conduct.
- Elders duties for church services were discussed with no major changes.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 7.



## Valentines Banquet



Don't be cruel to a heart that's true—take her to the 1950's themed Valentines dinner at church! 6 pm, Friday, Feb 10. Here's your chance to redeem yourself after bombing the Truly-Wed game last year. We have brand new hosts with brand new questions (John and Jenn Doyle will run the game); so maybe you'll have a shot this year!

Child care is provided for free at Pastor Steve and Joan's house. Drop the kids off knowing at least half that couple is responsible and good with kids. And don't worry about feeding them first. Miss Joan will have healthy kid-friendly meal waiting for them.

No excuses! We'll see you there.

## Church Funds

12/31/16

Benevolence Fund	2,139.87
Missionaries Reserve	2,100.00
Missions Fund	1,218.30
Asia Trip	4,777.92
General Fund	24,895.08
Total	\$35,131.17
Building Fund	\$234,461.11
Overall Total	\$269,592.28

## Women's Comedy Night



Just for you, ladies, we are offering a night to get away from the pressure and just share some laughs with your girlfriends. Monday, February 27th, is scheduled to be just the first of what we hope will be many fun nights at church watching your favorite Christian comedians share both laughs and truth. Contact Debbie Anderson at (406) 351-2812 for more information.

## Baby Bottle Fundraiser

We are participating in the Baby Bottle Fundraiser for Life Services again this year. To participate, you just pick up one of the baby bottles we have at church, fill it with your spare change (or other money), and return it to us by February 19th. We will deliver them to Life Services for you.

This is a great way to support this fantastic ministry that seeks to save infant lives while showing the love of Christ to expectant mothers.

Interested in knowing more? If you are reading this online, just click on the baby bottle to visit the Life Services website.



by Mike Anderson

## Youth Stuff

For I Know the Plans  
That I have for You...

*'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a*

*future and a hope.' Jeremiah 29:11*

"For I know the plans that I have for you". This is a familiar scripture to most Christians... so familiar in fact that I suspect many non-Christians would recognize it too. We generally consider it a comforting verse and I think that's rightly so. But sometimes we might need to take a little closer look at what it really says...I mean all of it. Specifically, the "I" and "you" parts.

That's a capital, great big enormous "I" for GOD, followed by a little-bitty, teeny-weeny "you" for all of us. Not that we're insignificant to God, after all, He did send His Son to die for us. But let's not lose sight of just Who the "plans" belong to either. As inconvenient and frustrating as it can be, God really does own my plans...yours too. Refer to the above scripture; He declared it. Then if you turn a few hundred more pages in your Bible, He'll have James remind us, Instead, you ought to say, "*If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.*" (James 4:15). Still, despite this "good advice", when I'm the one responsible for the activities or the lesson during Youth Group, I like to have a plan. And let me quickly say that I think God approves of that,

it's a big part of the whole "*work heartily, as for the Lord*" concept...as long as I remember Who owns the plan!

But sometimes I forget. That's when I will try to fit a dozen or so teenagers into my little box; except that instead of a dozen, I'll end up only having two (when all of the scheduled activities require at least three), or the wonderfully creative game list I've put together will be met with, "Ahhh...can't we just play dodge ball?" I'm tempted at times to wonder if God cares more about the plans He has for other people than He does for mine. Thankfully, there's usually not a lot of time for me to pout about it; the clock's ticking, so we make adjustments and press on. I can't remember a single time when deviating from my plan didn't turn out to be a blessing. Thank You, Lord!

I'd say, 'lesson learned', but of course that's not true. But I do hope that I'm getting better at accepting the plans God has for me than second guessing them.

## What's Up Next?

With that in mind, I'll tell you for the third month in a row that this month's Big Event is "**Bad Bowling**". And while I'm not sure if God will finally bless this outing all the way to fruition, I look forward to whatever does happen.

May God bless you and yours,  
Mike Anderson



## The Law of Language

I remember watching a movie once where two men were stranded together who didn't speak the same language. After a time of no communication, one picked up a rock, showed it to his unhappy partner, and said, 'Rock.' The second man took the rock from him, said something angry but unintelligible, and threw it away.

The Law of language is almost too simple to state, yet it is profound. The teacher must speak the same language as the student. This can create difficulty in any teaching situation, since adult language can differ greatly from child language. With small children, we know all sorts of words they haven't learned. By the time they're teenagers, they know all sorts of words we haven't learned!

There is another step of complication when we teach Bible. Teachers are comfortable with all sorts of words students may be unfamiliar with. Some are theological words, like redeemed, sanctified, atonement, and even Savior. Then there are even more bizarre words we comfortably throw

## Teachers Corner

around as if everyone knows them. Strange sounding words, like Galatians, Ephesians, and Deuteronomy!

We don't want to stop using these words, because we want our students to know as much as we do, or even more. Always observe your students facial expressions when you are teaching. They will often give it away when they don't understand, even without trying.

Don't be in a hurry. It does little good to complete a lesson if it isn't understood. In our teaching we want to move slowly enough to be understood, but not so slowly that we make no progress at all. And just as bad is to move so quickly we make no progress at all!

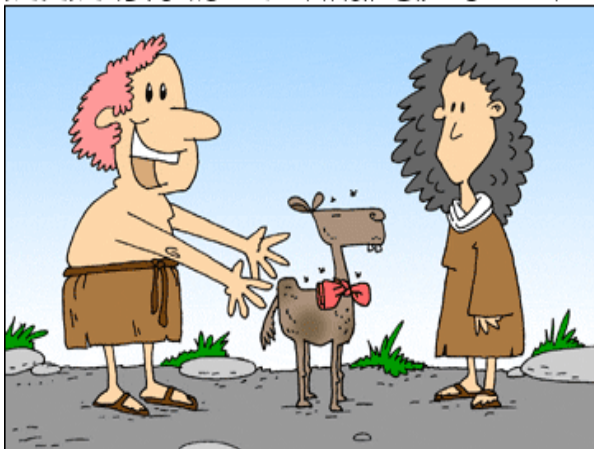
A recommendation for your classroom: an age-appropriate Dictionary, with definitions suitable for their learning level.

Teach clearly, and teach well!



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Thanks to Chris Arveson

02-13-2004

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

Prefer to get your Newsletter by email? We can do that! Contact the church office at [tbfdavenport@hotmail.com](mailto:tbfdavenport@hotmail.com)

## Awana



I don't know about you, but I sure hope we're done with snow days. I hate missing Awana! Just in case, remember that any time Davenport School is closed for weather, so is Awana.

One of our biggest nights of the year is coming: the Awana Grand Prix! Sparks and Cubbies bring their best Hot Wheels® or Matchbox® size cars to race. Clubbers and Leaders build cars from our kits, available for \$3 or \$5, depending on which style you want. T&T Clubbers race against other Clubbers; Trek & Varsity race against Leaders.

They're Fast, it's Fun, and there's Food! Hot Dogs, Pop, and Chips will be available for a good price. Bring Mom and Dad and anyone else who wants to share the fun. 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb 22.

### Special Nights in February

Feb 1	Twin Night
Feb 8	Love Your Leader Night
Feb 15	Quiet Night
Feb 22	Awana Grand Prix!

Missionary of the Month:  
Cam & Valerie Hamm  
Serving Wycliffe Bible  
Translators in  
Cameroon, Africa



# February 2017

Women's Ministry Leader: Allyson Morrison  
Group Members: Bekah Downing  
Kim Tarbert



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Awana 6 pm Twin Night  Vernon Ross	2 BSF 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm  Al Anderson	3	4
5 Coffee Fellowship	6 Men's Coffee 8:30 am	7 Elders Meeting 6 pm	8 Awana 6 pm Love Your Leader Night	9 BSF 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm	10 Valentine Dinner 6—8 pm	11  Josh McDowall
12	13 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Mission Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Toni Kay Copeland	15 Awana 6 pm Quiet Night  Tristan Hoffmann	16 BSF 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm	17  Vicente Reyna	18
19 Linette Vaughn	20 Men's Coffee 8:30 am	21	22 Awana 6 pm Grand Prix	23 BSF 9:30 am Men's Bible Study 6:30 pm	24  Tiffany Abell	25  Jim Buchanan Annie Ricketts
26 Communion/Benevolence Offering  Tyson Lacy Cindy McDowall	27 Men's Coffee 8:30 am Women's Comedy Night 6 pm	28				