



June 20, 2010

A Letter from the Pastors of Tyndale Bible Church to the Tyndale Family: Regarding the Direction of Tyndale Bible Church

Dear Tyndale Family,

From time to time it is important to reflect, as a family, on God's leading and direction for the local body at Tyndale Bible Church. Of course, we try to keep His leading in view at all times. Even still, at times we may inadequately communicate "the big picture" of what we believe God is doing at TBC.



Our intention is that this letter may serve as an encouragement to each of you that God has carried us marvelously thus far, and that we are very excited about what may lie ahead as we plan, in submission to His sovereignty, for the future growth and function of TBC.

Where We Have Been

We all know these past five years have been challenging. But God's grace has not failed us. These years have been times of transition and refining. With administration changes came a new philosophy for TBC that all the ministries of HEB Ministries (TBC's incorporated entity) would come under the authority of TBC, and that no longer would ministries such as Tyndale Theological Seminary operate in practice as if independent of TBC. This represented a dramatic shift that challenged TBC's leadership to the core.



Additionally, over these years there has been diligent effort to refine our leadership to greater unity and single-mindedness in the handling of God's word and in the practice of it. This has been one of the most difficult challenges your pastors have ever had to face.

Before we could grow (spiritually and in other ways) as a church, we knew that we had to resolve these issues and return TBC to a Biblical foundation. As a result of this long and difficult process, we saw attrition in the church body. Still, we saw God's blessing, in that many (at least seven families in the last four years) went out from Tyndale into full time or vocational ministry.

So, while our numbers decreased, we could see evidence of God's refining and His blessing on the work at TBC as many came to be trained for ministry, and as they left to engage in it. While these were often difficult times, we could see that God was working, and we intended, by His grace, to stay the course.



This process, in particular, was so foundational that we were unable to focus on other areas we would have liked to emphasize and develop. You just cannot build on a cracked foundation, or else the entire building will crumble. We knew, by God's grace we must stay the course.

By God's grace we were able to address key deficiencies in the practical application of our church polity and structure, refining them to ensure solid Biblical leadership into the future. During this process we felt new heartaches as loved ones departed in disunity. Still, by God's grace, we knew we must stay the course.

By God's grace we committed to developing men by working to help refine their teaching gifts and by providing them opportunities to demonstrate the fruit of their labors in teaching on Sunday mornings.

Still, by God's grace we were able to make progress in some areas, including overseeing the further development of Tyndale Theological Seminary and Biblical Institute as a ministry of TBC, including



(1) continuing and strengthening our founder's tradition of bringing in wonderful Bible teachers to teach at the church and school (Heritage Lecture Series)

(2) initiatives to bring Biblical seminary level education to local churches (Learning Centers)

(3) a new publishing house (Tyndale Seminary Press)

(4) an IFCA approved MBS degree in Church Planting

(5) a Master of Messianic Studies degree led by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum

(5) a collaborative Bachelor of Messianic Studies degree with Friends of Israel's Institute of Jewish Studies

(4) a collaborative church planting mission with TBC (Tyndale Church Plant Mission).

(5) and a wide range of unfunded homeschool scholarships to encourage and support homeschoolers.



Additionally, By God's grace we were able to acquire a piece of property (well, two, actually) on which we began developing plans to place a building where we can worship, fellowship, grow and serve together. We were able to move into a smaller facility in order to save thousands of dollars per month.

These have been difficult years. But they are bearing tremendous fruit worldwide even now.

Where We Are Now

By God's grace our leadership is more united and single-minded in commitment to Biblical leadership and the exegetical teaching of God's word than has ever been the case previously in the history of TBC. It has taken a number of years to arrive at this point, but still, many churches have striven for many more years than have we without realizing a unified and Biblical plurality of leadership. We are tremendously grateful for God's working to this end.

By God's grace a number of men have trained diligently and developed their teaching gifts. Some have gone on to ministries beyond TBC. Some remain. Their progress is evident to all.



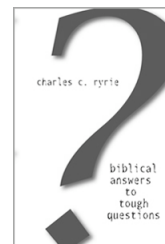
By God's grace, we are presently embarking our first Tyndale Church Plant Mission church plant, with Word of Truth Bible Church in Arlington. Even in this God has taken challenging circumstances and showed His grace.



The WOTBC plant is a unified effort of the leadership at TBC with the developing leadership of WOTBC to plant a Biblical, vibrant local church in the Arlington area. It has been exciting to see the support of the WOTBC plant by the TBC family, as some of our TBC folks are now supporting WOTBC with their full-time attendance.

By God's grace, Tyndale Theological Seminary & Biblical Institute is having a worldwide impact and doing better than ever. With over 500 students, and 12 Learning Centers in addition to our Main Campus, TBC is reaching the far ends of the globe through the ministry of TTS&BI.

By God's grace, TBC has broadened its reach through Tyndale Seminary Press, which has published seven titles including works by Charles Ryrie and Tyndale faculty. Presently, TSP is working on two major projects, including (1) a multi-volume commentary on the whole Bible by Thomas Constable (chair of the Bible Exposition department at Dallas Theological Seminary), and (2) a groundbreaking Introduction to Biblical Counseling.



Of course, there are challenges, and those are by God's grace also.

While our fellowship as a family is tremendous when we meet corporately, we are – as a church body – *not* where we need to in our fellowship with one another. Regrettably, as leaders, we have not provided a good example in this area, and we must do better.

Additionally, there are some ministries we are presently not engaging. Besides the very important Sunday morning teaching, we are not presently providing extensive children and youth outreach and ministry. Also, at present our outreach is limited to individual efforts, and we must do more corporately in this area as well. Further, while we are tremendously thankful for the ministry of our song leader, we regret that as a church body TBC has been unable to support him with instrumentation.



Financially we have made great strides in the past 18 months. But still we are falling far short of our goals for placing a new building on our property. In light of this, even as we plan for the new building, we are recalibrating a bit, considering some older and less expensive buildings. We remain open to God's leading here, and trust Him that He will provide for His will to be accomplished here. There is need for greater and broader participation here. We must all remember that this is a stewardship issue. We have been leasing for over 20 years, and we are making significant efforts, by God's grace, to resolve this soon. We need your help.



Where We are Headed



We know that TBC is a part of Christ's body, and it is His to build, not ours. We must be diligent and we must remember that the fruit is His and for His glory. So, we do not consider TBC's direction lightly, but we do see clearly a few things that we as a church family ought to do for His glory.

The present represents an exciting stage in TBC's development, as we have concluded the initial stages of what was in effect a church re-plant. Having moved past a generational transition, we are firmly grounded in our foundation. Now it is time to excel still more and continue a healthy growth and function.

- (1) We need to each individually *consider how we interact with each other. And take action to improve our relationships.* How can we improve our fellowship? How can we more diligently preserve the bond of unity in the Spirit? How can we have our hearts knit together? The work of service is so much more rewarding when we enjoy our co-laborers. We, as pastors, commit to you to provide an example in this area.



- (2) We need to each individually *consider how God would have us use our spiritual gifts for His glory at TBC, and then use them.* Could it be in one of the ministry areas in which we are lacking? Or could it be in an area we haven't even considered yet?

- (3) We need to each individually *consider our own personal outreach and our roles in outreach as a family*. Do we enter into every conversation with the intent that our conversations revolve around Him? Are we sharing His love in word and deed?

By God's grace we are also

- (1) Developing a vibrant outreach into the community: we must get to know our community and get into it – as a church family. As we consider building plans, we are examining our potential home communities closely to identify needs and opportunities.
- (2) Developing a Biblical outreach to children and youth: we can provide our kids fellowship and further opportunities to learn together and challenge one another to maturity in Him. We are presently considering structure and curriculum.
- (3) In the not too distant future, we would like to consider and plan for a TCPM church plant in the Denton area. In God's time we will begin a work there, should He lead in that direction. We are presently training up potential leaders for that effort.
- (4) At TTS&BI we are adding several new degrees in the Fall, and several new faculty as well. We will also introduce a completely new website with a revamped Online Campus.
- (5) Pursuing like minded believers who have musical abilities to complement our Sunday morning hymns.
- (6) And of course, we are evaluating locations for a new Tyndale home.



Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved in these outworkings of ministry at TBC. And let us know how we can encourage you.

God is doing great things indeed, and we are excited that you are willing to be a part of it all. Please keep us in prayer as we seek God's wisdom and direction, and we will do the same for you.

May God bless you as you continue in faithfulness at TBC. We love you and look forward to continuing our walk together!

In His service and for His glory,
Your pastors

