

# FBC CONNECTION

CONNECTING THE LIFE AND PEOPLE OF FOOTHILL BIBLE CHURCH



## FCA, Year in Review

BY TIM LUGG

This past year we completed one year of education at Foothill Christian Academy (FCA) so it is beneficial to recognize how it has enriched the ministry of Foothill Bible Church. God has given FBC elders who love God and his church with an affectionate desire to help the saints mature and multiply in Christ. The elders' concern is always to lead the church in a way that enables growth in Christ, which always requires teaching and training. Because of the rich spiritual heritage at FBC, opportunities to grow in Christ abound; however, in 2021 the elders felt led to do more. The elders launched the Training Center to address the need to train men in the Word and ministry. Similarly to improving their ministry to adults, the elders considered how they might increase their ministry to children.

It is no secret that FBC has many school-aged children with the potential for many more in the coming years. While these children and young adults are being educated in varied settings including public school, private Christian school, and homeschooling, there was an opportunity to aid families with education.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

#### Year In Review

FOOTHILL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

TRAINING CENTER, YEAR 3

#### 2024 Grads

**Marriage Announcement**  
JACOB & TIFNIE GARCIA

*Continued from pg. 1*

Throughout its history, the church has provided education for children and adults and, in many eras, education existed solely because the church provided it. Following this long tradition, the elders lovingly desired to educate children beyond what was offered through Sunday and mid-week programs.

Foothill Christian Academy was established to give Bible-based education in partnership with families.

There was no need for a traditional Christian school since several schools of this nature already populate the community. Instead, the elders wanted a school that was a mix of a private Christian school and a homeschool. This new school model has been pioneered by others and has great potential in the wider church community. Due to this hybrid homeschool model, the elders can direct the education with a distinctly biblical approach and work closely with families. Put simply, FCA is a homeschool with professional educators leading it.

The elders committed to providing classrooms, recreation areas, and offices for the new school. The restrooms in the Outreach Center were a necessary remodel for both the school and for the duration of the main sanctuary remodel where the church would meet while the work was completed. Work on the gym restrooms commenced immediately after the 30th-anniversary celebration in June 2023 and continued throughout the summer. At the same time, the four classrooms the school

would use were equipped with cabinets, a teacher's desk (which also would serve as a lectern), whiteboards, bulletin boards, and display panels.

Simultaneously, the FBC faculty met to work out the practical details of a hybrid school. They worked to answer questions such as: who would plan lessons, how teachers would share the teaching with parents, and how faculty and families would communicate with each other. Extensive conversations and a field trip to an existing hybrid school helped to clarify the processes and policies FCA needed to enact. The teachers had a heavy load before school opened.



To begin the process of enrolling students, the elders hosted two public meetings before school opened—in January and June. Based on comments and attendance, the church was excited to hear about the details of the new school. The names of those interested in the new school were collected so they could receive regular updates. The first students applied for enrollment in March 2023 and applications continued throughout the spring and summer. A generous donor provided funds to extend scholarships to those who financially qualified for help. Applications for scholarships continued to come throughout the summer as well.

The school launched on August 29, 2023, with 34 students in grades kindergarten through sixth, with six faculty members. It was an excited crowd who showed up for the ribbon cutting and re-

*Continued on pg. 3*

*Continued from pg. 2*

freshments which commemorated the first day of school. All the elders were there, along with school parents, and many from FBC who wanted to be a part of the historic day. Of course, the students headed to their classrooms immediately after prayer, but the visitors stayed around to fellowship and to discuss the new adventure.

By all accounts, the school reached its goals for the first year. Reflecting on the year, one parent says, "There are many benefits in attending FCA. The biggest by far is the Biblical integration with all subjects enhancing the children's spiritual growth in every aspect of life.

This is why we love sending our kids here, and this is why they love going to school every day." This comment reflects the elders' desire to work with parents to train children with a biblical worldview. All the academic subjects are taught

so that the students have a good understanding of math, English, science, and history so that they will be educated citizens. The school also conducted Iowa Achievement testing so student growth can be measured year over year.

Ministry to families is an integral part of the school. Many FBC families homeschool their children and those who put their children in FCA appreciate the assistance on their homeschool journey. One parent wrote, "As parents, the way

the teachers partner with us to do the bulk of the teaching has made homeschooling a much more manageable experience than doing it all on our own." The school's teachers are working hard to co-teach with the parents who share the teaching load. They are still working on the synergy between school and home, but it is already at a high level.

The school year wrapped up on May 30th with a final chapel that included a kindergarten graduation in the West Chapel and a barbecue in the gym. The school community that has grown has been one of the pleasant surprises from the first

year. Parents talk while the students continue their playtime. This subset of church families, and others from the community, have greatly benefited from the elders' desire to enrich FBC ministry to children.



*Photos:  
Lucas Roybal*

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

- COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

## Training Center, Year 3

BY PETER BUGBEE

In the cold Roman cell, Paul wrote these final words to Timothy: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). Paul knew that if Timothy was going to entrust the gospel to the next generation, he needed to handle the word of God rightly.

The first class of 15 men just graduated from Foothill Bible Church’s Training Center this past May, but the roots of the Training Center go back much further. Foothill Bible Church (FBC) has been committed to “making, maturing, and multiplying disciples” for three decades. From AWANA to Equipping Hour to Small Groups and the regular preaching of the Word, the elders have prayerfully sought to “equip the saints for the work of the ministry.” After Art Nakamura, assistant pastor, finished the three-year Training Center (TC) at Faith Bible Church, Murrieta in 2021, driving over an hour each way on Monday nights, the elders realized the impact a local Training Center could have here in Upland.

After much prayer and planning, FBC elders launched the Training Center in the Fall of 2021. Twenty-nine men, most from FBC with a handful from our sister churches, attended that first

year. Training Center, a three year program, was designed to build and strengthen Biblical leaders for the local church. Year 1 focused on THE WORD. It was an intense study of the entire Bible, all theology and practical theology with a focus on real-life ministry and heart-driven service within the church.



When I asked Andrew Mora, FBC Small Group Leader, what his highlights were, he said, “Year 1 was a refinement of theology for Bianca and I. It was a year of relearning and fully understanding the Doctrines of Grace through the systematic theology taught in the Training Center.”

Year 2 focused on THE SHEPHERD. It was an introduction to preaching, teaching, exegesis, discernment in reading and leading, counseling, pastoral care, eldership, purpose, calling, weddings, funerals, finances, and more.

Sandy Anderson, wife of TC student Mark Anderson said, “It is very evident that Mark has a much better grasp of the whole

of God’s Word as a result of TC. Seeing him lead our small group and our husband/wife time in God’s Word with greater confidence and ability to make his way through God’s Word has been a joy.”

Year 3 focused on THE LEADER. It trained men how to set direction, develop a philosophy of ministry, lead change, send people well, teach and preach effectively, and refine their

*Continued from pg. 4*

unique purpose in God’s work for God’s glory.

Even the format of our weekly class time was designed to foster brotherly relationships. Class started at 5:30 pm on Monday nights with a shared meal, provided by rotating teams of TC students. We’re not talking hot pockets and frozen burritos,

either. The teachers said excellence started with the meal and so over three years, the men continued to refine their culinary abilities. Meals were as diverse as the spiritual gifts of the amateur chefs - lasagna, chow mein, pork sliders, smoked ham, and tacos were just some of the delights. Often the conversations with brothers over the meal were some of the sweetest times of fellowship.

At 6:00 pm Art Nakamura would give the background of a hymn and we would sing together. Singing with other brothers furrowed our hearts to sharpening minds and hearts with theology. Teachers Art Nakamura, Taylor Sinclair, and Micah Lugg would then take different sections of the teaching portion and lead a highly interactive class. “How would you counsel a couple who is discouraged about parenting?” they might ask. Or “How would you break down Colossians 1:16, ‘For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all

things were created through him and for him?’” We would then finish the night by praying with one or two other brothers.



The brotherhood that formed over the three years was rich. Caleb Roybal, professional assistant to a local business owner and one of two single men in the first Training Center cohort, said, “Throughout

my TC experience, one of my favorite memories was learning from my brothers in Christ. I learned so much from them and was sharpened by their work ethic, humility, and ability to not take themselves too seriously.” He’s already started applying many of his lessons in FBC’s One28 ministry with junior high and high school students.

A highlight for most of the men was the yearly field trips we took together. In Year 1 we went to the Shepherd’s Conference in Los Angeles, in Year 2 we flew out to Orlando to attend the Ligonier Conference, and in Year 3 we spent time with four different churches in Phoenix to explore how churches with similar doctrine can have very unique philosophies of ministry.

School teacher and Small Group Leader Bryan Shaw reflected on these trips, “There were opportunities to bond with men individually; each man was affirmed and encouraged by the whole group;

*Continued on pg. 6*

*Continued from pg. 5*

there were poignant discussions based on the content of the conferences or churches we visited; and the laughter, oh so much laughter. It was as profound to be serious as it was to be humorous with one another. These memories I treasure as the Lord has used them to shape me more into His image.”

At each of the conferences, we would debrief back at our AirBnB and, at least in the case of our Phoenix AirBnB, learn the art of pickleball from firefighters Chris Donaldson and Daniel Nakamura.

Why should a man consider doing TC? Retired school teacher and Small Group leader Mark Anderson said, “Men need to be Biblically knowledgeable servants and leaders in their homes, church, occupations, and community. TC is helpful in developing you in all these roles.”

If you too would like to grow in handling the sword of truth, the word of the living God, and grow in understanding how God has gifted you so that you might serve him with more fruitfulness as you grow in Christlikeness, then I think you should strongly consider TC.

Will God still love you if you don't do TC? Yes. Life is short. Eternity is long. King Jesus is worthy of the time invested in focused Biblical training will bear fruit above and beyond all you could ask or think in this life and the life to come.

If you're considering TC, pray that God would give you the wisdom that he so generously loves to give.

Pray that your heart would mimic your savior in Gethsemane who said, “Not my will but yours be done”. If you are hesitant because it's hard, let me encourage you: it is hard. There may be moments when you want to quit. Not one man regrets doing

TC. The best things in life are the hardest things. If you aren't planning on doing TC, you can be a powerful prayer warrior for those in the program. Pray that the students and the teachers would have endurance with joy, that they would remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, and that God would use them to build His church and bring Him much glory.

We may not end up in a Roman prison, but we are all in this war. Everyone has a role to play in war. Some people provide supplies to the front lines, others heal the wounds of soldiers, and others are fighting in the trenches. Everyone is needed in this grand and glorious battle God has us in. May Training Center continue to be a source of godly men who have a steel spine, a tender heart, and a deep love for their risen and exalted savior.

*Photos: Lucas Roybal, Raul Moreno*



**"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."**

- 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

2024 Graduates



**Emily Costello**

High School Graduate of Western Christian High School

Attending Azusa Pacific University for Nursing

*Photo: Hayden Literall*

**Abigail Boal**

High School Graduate of Faith Christian Academy

Working to further her photography business



**Isabella Burrow**

Graduate of Corner Stone Academy & Chaffey College

Attending Chaffey College for Child Development

*Photo: Vanessa Bugbee*



**Rebecca Duncan**

High School Graduate of Granite Mountain Charter School

Attending Chaffey College for Nursing Prerequisites

*Photo: Karis Cress*



**Sophia Martinez**

High School Graduate of Faith Christian Academy

Attending Long Beach State University for Nutrition

*Photo: Karis Cress*

**John Nauertz**

High School graduate of San Dimas High School

Attending Western Kentucky University for Finance/Accounting



**Juliano Plakakis**

Highschool graduate of Elite Academic Academy

Attending Mt. San Antonio College



**Joy Shin**

Master's Degree in Mathematics from Claremont Graduate School

Continuing in the PhD program for Mathematics





## **Marriage Announcement: Jacob & Tifnie Garcia**

Jacob and Tifnie Garcia were married April 16th, 2024 at the Hidden Oaks Retreat Center in Rancho Cucamonga, surrounded by friends and family in a beautiful, God-honoring ceremony. Tifnie has been a high school math teacher for five years in Riverside and this fall, will transition to Ontario Christian High School to continue teaching math. Jacob works in Pasadena for an aerospace robotics company. Together, they live in Glendora. Both Tifnie and Jacob have known the Lord as their Savior for many years. Jacob grew up attending FBC with his family and remembers, as a young man, sharing the gospel door-to-door in Upland with his dad. Tifnie has served on multiple trips to other countries—sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through evangelism in schools, door-to-door, children’s ministries, and work projects.

They are looking forward to becoming involved in FBC as a married couple! Welcome to FBC, Mr. and Mrs. Garcia!!

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