

FBC CONNECTION

CONNECTING THE LIFE AND PEOPLE OF FOOTHILL BIBLE CHURCH



My Training Center Experience: Year 1

BY ANDREW MORA

It was June 1, 2021, Training Center (TC) applications were due at Foothill Bible Church, and of course I waited until the last day to submit! After much thought and encouragement from my wife, Bianca, I decided to take the plunge and turned in my application. TC is designed to equip Christian men to better serve the Lord in their home, workplace, and church with the unique gifts God has given them. Each Christian has been “...created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). TC helps equip Christian men to discover those good works so they will live Christ-satisfied and Christ-glorifying lives.

Another goal of TC is to fulfill 2 Timothy 2:2 by training future generations of pastors, elders, missionaries, church planters, and leaders who will be used by God in local churches for God’s glory, emphasizing Ephesians 3:20-21, “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that

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we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” TC is a three year program running September through early June, TC students meet for one three-hour classroom gathering each week. Classes are primarily scheduled from 5:30-9pm so that men can attend after work. Each week from 5:30-6pm TC students can share a meal, fellowship, and get to know one another. Outside study, reading, writing, and class preparation requires about an additional six to twelve hours, depending on the class year and the students themselves. TC leadership consists of

Pastors Micah, Art, Taylor, Morgan Maitland (teaching pastor at Summit Bible Church) and Josh Powell (Director of Administration and TC). All these men are like the Avengers with their respective superpowers and specialties in certain areas of the Bible. Each has a different style of teaching, along with unique backgrounds and gifts from the Lord.



Year 1, focused on the Word, is an intense study of the entire Bible, theology and practical theology. The purpose is to set a foundation for life-on-life ministry and heart-driven service within the church. In the beginning of June 2021, myself along with 25 other men were handed three theology books. We were given a deadline of three months to have them all read. I don't consider myself a reader and the thought of completing one, let alone three books, on theology was a little intimidating. I did the math, came up with a

plan, and started reading 30-50 pages per day. I suddenly felt anxious about the deadline, like I did when I was in college. I also quickly realized the amount of free-time I previously wasted on things like scrolling through my phone. Thankfully I had lots of prayer support because we had to submit a list of ten prayer partners who would pray for us throughout the year!

Not really sure what I was getting myself into, I made sure to read diligently and take notes on what I was reading. One of the assigned books had constant quizzes at the end of each chapter for which I started implementing the help of my wife. Next thing you know she too is learning about Israel's redemptive history! Some chapters

had me trying to remember the basic rules of grammar, learning different figures of speech, analyzing allegories, and biblical interpretation. Other chapters had me going on rabbit trails and doing research of my own on questions which had been raised from prior chapters.

Once I was in the thick of our reading, I started to see what I actually knew versus what I thought I knew about the Bible. A little humble pie never hurt anyone, right? Did I mention that myself, along with 25 other men, would be gaining weight from eating so much humble pie this first year of TC?

Finally, I had accomplished the assigned summer reading in time and was now ready (maybe) for what the Lord had in store for me in the first year of TC.

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Our first class kicked off, and what better way to start than with a pop-quiz of a bunch of questions I had to leave blank. Luckily, I sat next to Bernie Cestone, an FBC elder, who was writing his answers away like he was a scribe of ancient times. I was tempted to look over, but how would cheating look in a program meant to equip Christian men? Anyhow, I decided to gracefully take the goose egg and figured things could only get better from there. Pastor Art Nakamura, Associate Pastor at FBC and TC graduate, informed us about the purpose of this quiz and what we could learn from it. This quiz was to inform us of what we did not know, what we should know, and what we would eventually know.

So we had accomplished the summer reading, taken our first pop-quiz, done some class introductions, and now it was time to get to what will be consuming us for the next semester (and year), memorizing over six-hundred passages along with each theme of every book in the Bible. Until that day I had yet to memorize my wife's cell phone number so how was I going to memorize all these passages? Well, we started off with memorizing passages from Genesis and by the end of the semester we finished with the Book of Revelation (do not let Pastor Art hear you say "Revelations"!). On average, we broke down the six-hundred passages by learning around forty to fifty a week. We would have our weekly test, which would carry over the prior passages on top of previous ones. Next thing I knew I would find myself sitting in the car waiting for the gas tank to fill up and all the passages would start to flood my mind. I'd make it a game where I'd attempt to align them with the correct book and chapter. On Sundays when sitting during a church service I'd hear certain topics come up and I'd inevitably predict the passage which would be taught that morning. I would lean over to my wife and say, "church discipline, Matthew 17", then I'd then slap my forehead for being wrong as Pastor Micah says, "turn to Matthew 18 as we learn about church discipline."

In addition to our memorization, the first semester consisted of a few papers, tons of reading, quizzes, learning each book of the Bible, a Prayer Summit, and time management. TC has a huge emphasis on students making their wife and family a top priority. If we are studying more than we should within a week, the leadership would want to know. If our family life was lacking, they also wanted to know. The leaders of TC expect us to keep our marriage a top priority and to balance and discuss with our wife all that we are going through. We were told specifically to sacrifice our own time/hobbies/sleep first, not family. This was a learning curve for me at first as I attempted to do my reading once I had completed my day job. It was then my wife alerted me that reading was taking away from spending time with our little one. I was able to rearrange my reading time to either the morning or night, and able to spend family time once my day job was completed.

Second semester covered systematic theology and practical theology. Systematic theology consisted of subjects like Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, etc. While practical theology covered areas like elders and deacons, church leadership, and church discipline. This semester was busy but in a different way. We did not have six-hundred passages to memorize, but we had three papers a week to submit regarding multiple subjects. This semester was also fruitful for each student in that we were each assigned a theology group. Our theology group had about four to five students which we would meet with once a week to go over our assigned papers. Through this weekly meeting, many bonds were created, discussions were had, and new questions were being generated. My theology group met every Sunday morning at 7am in FBC's Theological Library. We had the unique advantage of getting into debates with one another and walking into the hallway to pull in a pastor to settle our debate, who would then proceed to tell us, "This is one of those issues

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in which we will figure out once we get to heaven”.

Second semester was also special in that we attended Shepherd’s Conference at Grace Community Church. More bonding happened as we all stayed together in two Airbnbs, shared meals, and listened to amazing preaching on the topic of being unashamed. TC students were also encouraged to meet other attendees, most of whom were pastors, elders, or missionaries and had flown in from all over the world. The stories we heard from these men were impactful and uplifting.

By the end of the year, we had a very extensive take-home final along with an oral final. We capped off the year with a graduation celebration at Topgolf with our wives. The graduation consisted of a diploma ceremony, brief encouragement to each man about how we’ve seen God work in and through them, dinner, and golf. I had second thoughts about joining TC initially, but I am extremely glad God led me to this decision. What I have learned from Year 1 alone would have made it all worthwhile even if I did not join the second or third year. I am currently enrolled in the second year with a focus on shepherding. Year 2 is an “introduction to preaching, teaching, block diagramming, exegesis, study, expositional theology, discernment in reading and leading, counseling, pastoral care, eldership, shepherding, training men, leadership, purpose, calling, weddings, funerals, finance, and more.”

Completing TC has spurred me on to be a better shepherd of my family, equipped me to accurately handle the Scriptures, helped me co-lead a small group, and increased my confidence in answering questions with biblical truth. TC has also helped me learn my strengths and weaknesses. My theology was challenged and sharpened, and my understanding of some doctrines have changed due to our study of the Word. I have only seen the tip of the iceberg when it comes to all I know about the Bible and how God has made me. I’m excited to con-

tinue with Year 2 of TC as the Lord uses it to equip and grow me more into His likeness, for His glory.

Here are some other testimonials from Year 1 TC graduates:

“Is there any book more valuable/life giving than the Word of God? Of course not, so I am so thankful for our church providing a course such as TC to dive deeper into the Word. As God uses our men to teach me and walk with me through the Word, I am eager to take what I have learned and pour it unto others!” – *Eric Faria*

“The first year of TC was indeed a blessing. The biggest benefit was a greater familiarity with the Bible and knowing where to go to find specific answers to questions from family and friends. The teaching from all five instructors was outstanding. Additional benefits were getting to know the other students better, prayer support team, Half Day Prayer Summit, increased knowledge of theology, and even practical experience in team planning, preparing, and serving a meal to the class. I am reading the summer books and looking forward to Year 2.” – *Bernie Cestone (FBC Elder)*

“TC has made me look forward to the future reign of Christ and finally seeing what I have studied.” – *Caleb Roybal*

“TC Year 1 has been helpful in serving as an elder in every aspect of all the responsibilities, particularly shepherding the flock among us. My time with my wife, Judi, has been enriched. Whether it is our personal devotional time, dealing with counseling matters together, or in supporting our children and grandchildren. All in all, a hard, humbling, and challenging year, but a very worthwhile and blessed year. May God be glorified in and through all of the TC Year 1 men and may they all faithfully serve Him all the days of their lives.” – *Andy Astadurian (FBC Elder)*

Photos by Lucas Roybal

**New Members:
Matthew & Kristina Sanger**

BY KELSEY SINCLAIR



Meet Matthew and Kristina Sanger, two of our newest members at FBC! Both Matthew and Kristina grew up in the area and attended the same high school (though their paths wouldn't cross until later). Although they weren't raised in Christian homes, the Lord drew them each to Himself through the truth of His word shining a light on their hearts in contrast to the dark deceptions of the world. Praise God that He also drew several other family members to Himself, and Matthew and Kristina diligently pray for other relatives to be saved into the family of God.

Matthew began attending FBC a few years ago, looking for a church with a clear reverence for the Word. And that's exactly what he found, in the truth taught from the pulpit and spoken on the lips of individuals in small groups and in personal interactions. In January of 2021, Matthew and Kristina were introduced to each other by mutual friends on a hike up Potato Mountain. Once

rock climbing came up in conversation, Matthew's interest was piqued and their relationship began over climbs at Hanger 18 and hikes in the San Bernardino Mountains. It was soon after they met that Kristina joined Matthew at FBC, where she also appreciated the people's love for the Word and the sweet intentional relationships.

Fast forward a few months to just last September, when Matthew and Kristina walked down the aisle in a green grassy park after saying their "I do's." The Lord has walked with them through multiple transitions in their lives since being married.

Matthew's skill with his hands has allowed him to work in several areas. He recently worked for a roofing company doing architectural sheet metal. He is thankful for the Lord providing a transition from that company to an HVAC company within his sheet metal trade. Although he loves the outdoors, working in the summer heat on roofs is not what he considers the "great" outdoors. So the Sangers are thankful that Matthew is now working in the cool indoors during the hot summer days.

Not only have there been changes in job situations, but also housing situations. The Sangers' family recently finished refurbishing their studio and Matthew and Kristina are excited to get settled into their new living space! They hope to translate their affinity for the outdoors into a shared garden space where they'd love to grow fruit and vegetables for their growing family..... oh yes! The Sanger family is growing! Sweet baby boy "Samuel" is anticipated to arrive in October. Kristina is enjoying spending her time preparing for his arrival. Her love for knitting and desire to grow in sewing skills is helping her be productive with her time as she very tangibly prepares for Samuel. Matthew and Kristina are thrilled for this new life and are steadfast in their desire to start their family with a biblical foundation as a couple and as Samuel's parents.

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So please, if you have yet to meet the Sangers, extend a warm hand of welcome, ask them about their favorite local hikes, and pray for them as they prepare for this newest blessing the Lord has given them!

Photo by Cynthia Garcia

**New Members:
Brant & Kathy Beck**

BY GYL GUNSTREAM



What do Greg Laurie, a blind date, and an automobile accident have to do with our new members Brant and Kathy Beck? Keep reading.

Brant and Kathy were both born at San Antonio Community Hospital. Additionally, Brant’s father, mother, daughters, and granddaughter were born there as well. Brant’s claim to fame is that he was born on the exact same day as Greg Laurie.

Brant grew up in Ontario. He has one younger sister who also lives in California. He attended grammar school in Montclair and went on to Chaffey High School where he played on the basketball team. After graduation he earned

an AA at Chaffey College. During high school he worked as a clerk for Alpha Beta markets – some of you will remember them. When he graduated from Chaffey College, he became a truck driver for Alpha Beta, delivering food throughout Southern and Northern California. He remained a Teamster driver in the food industry, finishing his career with Ralph’s Grocery Company after 37 years of service. He retired in January 2007.

Brant and his family attended a local Congregational church during the time he was in elementary school and junior high but he eventually stopped going. Throughout his life he had believed in God having spent a lot of time outdoors observing nature. He knew there was a Creator who was far greater than himself. However, he had no concept about how Jesus fit into the picture. Finally, in retirement, sitting in a local Starbucks, he began to reflect on his life to that point and all of the blessings that he could see God had given him including his family, his marriage and his kids. One day at Starbucks he met a pastor from a local church. They began having coffee together regularly and Brant began asking questions. He got a Bible and started reading it. Then his oldest daughter began having difficulties with her pregnancy. Brant prayed and asked God to please give them a healthy grandchild. God answered that prayer. He vividly recalls feeling as if God was now asking him for a commitment and he gave his life to Christ in June 2009.

Over the next eleven years Brant had the opportunity to minister and share his faith with his parents. His mother rededicated her life to Christ in 2014. God provided one last opportunity for him to share the Gospel with his father who came to Christ in 2020 just hours before he passed away.

Kathy grew up in Upland, the youngest of three girls and attended elementary through high school in Upland. She attended a few classes at Chaffey College while

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working full time at United California Bank. She then worked as a legal secretary for two years and subsequently as a secretary for Bank of America until her first daughter was born. Kathy was a stay-at-home mom, raising her two girls until 1985 when she began working for the Alta Loma School District. She remained there for 25 years and retired in 2014.

Kathy grew up in a Christian home and attended a Baptist church in Ontario. At the age of eight her dad asked her if she wanted to walk down the aisle to accept Christ, which she did. However, at the age of ten she sensed that she wanted to make a recommitment on her own. So at the Lord's prompting, she did just that.

The story of how she and Brant met involves a blind date and an automobile accident. Kathy had a girlfriend who was supposed to go on a blind date with a young man who, unfortunately, had a terrible automobile accident on the day of the blind date. Kathy's friend wanted to meet the guy anyway and asked Kathy to accompany her to the hospital. After they met him and had left, the young man told his friend, Brant, that he needed to meet Kathy. Brant agreed to meet her but only after seeing a picture of her. Their first meeting was in the waiting room of San Antonio Hospital. He gave Kathy and her friend a ride home that evening, Kathy asked him to come in and meet her family and the rest, as they say, is history. They married two years later and will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this September. They have two daughters, one who is married with two children and another single daughter who lives nearby.

Brant and Kathy found FBC when Brant searched the web for "Bible teaching churches in Rancho Cucamonga." Their initial plan was to attend several churches and FBC was just the first one on the list when they visited this last February. However, the expository preaching, the

warmth of the people here and the affiliation with the Master's Seminary and John MacArthur (one of Brant's favorite people) made it clear they had found their church home.

Brant and Kathy enjoy riding motorcycles, both on and off road. The best trip Brant's taken was last October. It was a one week trip to the eastern Sierras to spread his dad's ashes. His family has had many memorable vacations there so it seemed a fitting memorial. The best motorcycle trip Kathy has taken was the Harley Davidson Laughlin River Run in the early '90's. She got to hang out with Mick Fleetwood who was playing with his own band there at the rally. They enjoy traveling and have been everywhere from the Caribbean to Hawaii. They also enjoy spending time with their grandchildren, Charlotte and Lucas and all of the animals on her daughter and son-in-law's ranch. While spending time at home in Rancho they enjoy taking long walks with their three year old chocolate lab, Jethro.

Please welcome Brant and Kathy when you see them and, if you're lucky, you might get an invitation to try some of Kathy's killer lasagna, or invite them to Cafe Rio. Kathy loves the tostada salad.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand, that we should walk in them."

- EPHESIANS 2:8-10

Photo by Lucas Roybal

New Members: James & Priscilla Moore

BY CINDY BEHNKE



What a blessing to see so many new faces around FBC these days. Maybe you find yourself wondering, “Have I seen them before?” Well, with these newest members, you have seen before. Just about three years ago, the Moore family attended FBC for five months before being sent to Washington DC with the Army National Guard. When given new orders for Southern California again, it was a much easier move this time around not having to scout out churches online, read through doctrinal statements and listen to sermons online. In the five months they had attended FBC three years ago, they knew it was definitely going to be their home church.

According to the Moore family, the preaching at FBC truly sets them apart. They also love the worship vs. the “concert” they’ve experienced at many other churches. Another big highlight was that when they previously attended, they asked their boys what they thought of the church to which their son, Samuel, replied, “It was so cool.

We actually read the Bible!” It was a breath of fresh air after attending various churches in the area.

Priscilla shared that knowing they will hopefully be here for a while on these orders, they want to jump right in! She had grown up as a member of her home church, but over the years, most of the churches they have attended did not push membership. Knowing Foothill values membership, they took the first classes available so they could become involved in their new body on a deeper level. They shared that they appreciate the transparency that comes with being a member. “What better way to connect and reconnect. We want fellowship, not just on a surface level.” Without hesitation, they also jumped into the Beatty small group where their close friends, the Jones family, attends. They are excited to serve. Priscilla loves serving in children's ministry and is even starting a homeschool co-op (that will include a history and science class) this fall to be held on the FBC campus. (Contact Priscilla and Sarah at foothillbihomeschoolcoop@gmail.com for more info!).

The Moore family members are definitely a must to have over this summer! Having moved eleven times – yes, ELEVEN times – the Moore family has been all over the world. Originally, both James and Priscilla are from the Indianapolis area. Priscilla, one of five, grew up in Christian home, where they were at church 4-5 days a week. After 6th grade, she attended all Christian schools. Even from a young age, she always believed in the gospel. When wanting to be baptized, her dad said to read Acts 2 and explain it to him and ensure that she thoroughly understood what it meant. They’ve continued this tradition with their own children.

James was raised in a professing Catholic home, but not a religious home. It wasn’t until his sophomore year in college that he was introduced to the gospel. His life was completely transformed. He got plugged into Fellowship of Collegiate Christians at his alma mater, Indiana University.

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Priscilla met James shortly after and they were married a little over a year later. He joined the Army after college and they were sent to Germany, where he would be stationed for the next three years and eventually deploy. Priscilla, who was once quite shy, learned to become more outgoing as she embraced living in another country alone while James was deployed. Military life will do that to you! The blessings of their sons, Samuel and Caleb, would join their family along the way. Military life proves to bring much sacrifice, and not just from being deployed three times, but also during different hardships, losing friends, and trials along the way. They have always clung to their faith during each of those trials. James has served our country faithfully over sixteen years with two breaks in between. He is currently serving with the California Army National Guard out of Azusa.

The Moore family loves taking family road trips, exploring, and hiking. Samuel (11) loves Minecraft and Nerf and Caleb (8) will be happy to talk anything Marvel with you! James loves reading military history, and has some excellent historic book recommendations. Priscilla is a gifted graphic designer and photographer on the side when not busy homeschooling. When being brought back to California, the Lord was clearly opening the doors; the transition back to FBC, the ability to purchase a home in Upland amidst our current housing market, and being reconnected to dear friends. What a gift to see this family faithfully follow Jesus over the years and now be in fellowship with us here at FBC.

Photo by Priscilla Moore

FBC's Centinarian: Elaine Hawk



Our sister in Christ, Elaine Hawk, was surrounded by 90 of her friends and family to celebrate her 100th birthday on July 5th at Foothill Bible Church. What a blessing she's been to so many people throughout her life! We are thankful for the journey she has traveled, the lessons God has taught her along the way, for the wisdom and love for her Savior she now shares with us, and thankful to have her to love and to treasure. Great is Thy Faithfulness!

Elaine's life story was featured in the Winter 2014 FBC Connection newsletter. You can read it here: <https://www.foothillbiblechurch.org/blog/post/fbc-connection-winter-2014>

Photo by Michelle Lane

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2022 Graduates



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High School Graduate of Sage Oak Charter

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Photo: Lucas Roybal

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High School Graduate of Faith Christian Academy

Finishing AS in Criminal Justice Cadet, Upland Police Explorers

Photo: Lucas Roybal



Joel Costello

Graduate of Los Angeles County Fire Suppression Aid Academy

Working as a wildland firefighter, Crew 2



William Duncan

High School Graduate of Prudential Christian Co-Op

Attending EMT Certification Program

Photo: Karis Cress



Matthew Hayley

High School Graduate of Faith Christian Academy

Attending Liberty University in Virginia

Photo: Karis Cress

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Master of Science, Speech Language Pathology University of St. Augustine

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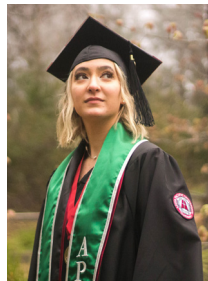


Tamara Hsieh

Bachelor of Science Kinesiology, Azusa Pacific University

Taking courses towards Doctorate of Physical Therapy

Photo: Shylah Walker



Breanne Iannetta

High School Graduate of Faith Christian Academy

Attending Masters University English Major

Photo: Karis Cress



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High School Graduate of Lexington Christian Academy

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Photo: Karis Cress

