



What God Has Built, We Continue Together

Dear TC Family,

As we look ahead to filling our Head of School position, we do so from a place of strength and gratitude. In Book of Nehemiah, God's people rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem together, each person bringing their faith and willingness to serve. Scripture tells us,

“So, we rebuilt the wall, for the people worked with all their heart”

Nehemiah 4:6

That same spirit lives here at Turlock Christian. What has been built over decades, a Christ-centered mission, dedicated teachers, strong academics, and a vibrant community, is sound. The foundation is firm. And together, we will continue the work God has already begun: nurturing children, strengthening families, and pointing hearts toward Christ.

In this season, I want to share a testimony from one of our parents, Torrie Stewart. Her story reflects the impact of this community and serves as a reminder of what makes TC so special, not only for one grade level, but for our entire school family.

My name is Torrie Stewart, and I am so proud, blessed, and forever grateful to be part of the Turlock Christian family. My husband, David, and I are the proud parents of three lively children, each with unique personalities, interests, gifts, and needs. Grace is eleven and a fifth grader in Mrs. Martin's class. David is nine and in Ms. Starling's third-grade class. Our youngest, Ava, is five and is currently keeping Mrs. Krebs and Mrs. Betts very busy in kindergarten.

Our family joined TC in 2023 when Grace was entering third grade and David was entering first grade. Prior to that, Grace attended public school in Modesto from kindergarten through second grade, and her experience was not what we had hoped for. She struggled to form meaningful friendships, and as a parent, I felt disconnected from her daily school life. Communication with teachers was limited, volunteer opportunities were scarce, and I often did not know what she was learning.

Knowing this was not the educational experience we wanted, I tried homeschooling. While it allowed me to choose a curriculum aligned with our Christian values, I often felt something was missing. Every time I drove past a school campus and saw children

playing together, I felt a heaviness in my heart, wondering if my children were missing out on a fuller school experience.

Eventually, we began touring private schools in Modesto and Turlock, and the choice quickly became clear. From the moment we stepped onto the TC campus, it felt different — inviting, bright, and joyful. Scripture on the walls, classrooms celebrating God's goodness, and welcoming faces everywhere we turned made it clear that this was a place where faith was lived out daily.

Pam Hanson patiently answered our questions and highlighted the many reasons families choose TC: small class sizes, teachers who love Jesus, weekly chapel, enriching programs, and a Christ-centered curriculum that meets state standards. Beyond these offerings, what truly sets TC apart is its people. Parents introduce themselves on the first day and genuinely want to know you. Teachers and administrators are compassionate, fair, and deeply invested in each child's growth — academically, spiritually, and personally.

This year has been my first experience with TC kindergarten, and it has been everything I hoped Ava's first school experience would be. The classroom is structured and nurturing, with clear expectations, routines, and joyful learning. Mrs. Krebbs is calm, consistent, and dedicated. Mrs. Betts brings joy and energy. Together, they form an incredible team. Opportunities for families to be involved are meaningful, with field trips, classroom celebrations, and moments that allow parents to connect.

Perhaps most beautiful of all is how TC has shaped our family outside the classroom. My children now ask for Christian music in the car. We talk about biblical figures at dinner. Each morning, we begin our drive by sharing something we are grateful for. The culture of faith at TC has woven itself into the very fabric of our home.

I often tell people that choosing Turlock Christian has been one of the best decisions our family has ever made, and I look forward to others experiencing the same blessing.

As we continue this season of discernment, we are not starting from scratch. We are building on a strong foundation, faithful teachers, committed staff, supportive families, and a clear Christ-centered mission. Like the people in Nehemiah's day, each of us holds a part of the work through prayer, encouragement, and shared vision.

God is already at work among us. The walls are standing. The mission is clear. And together, as one school family, we move forward with confidence - trusting that the Lord who has guided Turlock Christian this far will continue to shape its future for generations to come.

In Faith, Family, Future,

Johanna Fischer
TC Chair of the Board

