



Growing Together at TCS

Dear TC Family,

Recently, I came across the story of the Chinese bamboo tree. After planting the seed, a farmer waters and cares for it faithfully. In the first year, nothing appears above the ground. The second year, still nothing. The third year, nothing. The fourth year, nothing. To anyone watching, it might seem as though all the effort is being wasted.

Yet beneath the surface, something remarkable is happening.

The bamboo is developing an extensive root system. It is building the foundation necessary to support the growth that will eventually come. Then, in the fifth year, the bamboo breaks through the soil and begins to grow rapidly. The growth appears sudden and dramatic. But the truth is, it has been growing all along.

As I reflect on Turlock Christian School, I am reminded of that bamboo tree.

Over the last two years, there may have been moments when people wondered what was happening. From the outside, progress may not always have been visible. What many could not see was the important work taking place beneath the surface. A board was being rebuilt and strengthened. Financial stability was being restored. Governance and policies were being refined. A search was underway for the next Head of School, someone who could build upon the extraordinary leadership and legacy of Kathy Sharp. Countless prayers were being lifted. Conversations were taking place. Difficult decisions were being made. Plans were being developed. Relationships were being strengthened.

Through it all, faithful people continued showing up. They prayed. They served. They gave. They encouraged. They believed in the mission of Turlock Christian School and the transformative power of Christ-centered education.

To some, it may have appeared that little was happening.

But beneath the surface, roots were growing.

Today, we are beginning to see signs of that growth. We are excited to welcome Matt Millett as our new Head of School. We have strengthened governance, renewed confidence in the future, and are seeing fresh momentum across our school community. None of this happened overnight. It is the result of faithful work performed day after day, month after month, often without recognition and without immediate results.

Most importantly, it is evidence of God's faithfulness.

The story of the bamboo tree also reminds me of something we witness every day in Christian education.

When a child enters a classroom, we do not always see immediate results. We don't instantly see wisdom, character, leadership, or a mature faith. Yet beneath the surface, growth is taking place. Truth is being planted. Knowledge is being gained. Character is being formed. Hearts are being shaped. A biblical worldview is being developed. Students are learning not only who they are, but whose they are.

Much like the bamboo tree, the most important growth often happens where no one can see it.

That is the beauty of Christ-centered education.

Every Bible lesson, every math problem, every conversation with a teacher, every chapel service, every prayer offered over a student is part of a foundation that God is building. The fruit may not be visible immediately, but the roots are growing. And strong roots produce lasting impact.

Psalm 127:1 reminds us:

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."

God works in both our students and our school. God has been building. He has been preparing. He has been strengthening the foundation of Turlock Christian School. By His grace, we are beginning to see what He has been doing beneath the surface all along.

As we look ahead to the coming school year, we do so with deep gratitude for all that God has already accomplished and with great anticipation for what lies ahead. The roots are strong. The foundation is secure. The momentum is building.

And the most exciting part?

The best chapters of Turlock Christian's story are still ahead of us.

Whether you are a parent, grandparent, alumnus, donor, church partner, faculty member, student, or friend of the school, thank you for being part of this journey. Your prayers,

support, and belief in the mission matter more than you know.

Together, we are not simply educating students. We are helping raise up young men and women who will impact their families, churches, workplaces, and communities for Christ.

I am incredibly grateful to be part of what God is doing at Turlock Christian, and I am so thankful that you are part of it as well.

Blessings,

Johanna Fischer

Board Chair

Turlock Christian School



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