



Monthly Group Meeting

Tyler Area Meeting

Monday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.
12949 C.R. 42 (McDougle Rd.)

Jacksonville Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.
Sam Smith's office, 1401 E. Rusk

Lufkin Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.
Southside Baptist Church, 1615
Tulane Drive

Contact

Phone: (903) 258-2547
www.TylerTCF.org • info@TylerTCF.org
P.O. Box 9714 • Tyler, TX 75711

Chapter LeaderTina Loper
Meeting Facilitators Tyler
Don & Leslie Dixon, Cheri Zucca
Meeting Facilitators Lufkin
Sherri Tutt, Lauri Maner
Newsletter/Web SiteMary Lingle
Steering Committee: Sam Smith,
Carol Johnson, Carol Thompson,
Mary Ann Girard, Cheri Zucca, Mary
Lingle, David & Teresa Terrell, Janet
Majors, Don & Leslie Dixon, Kathy
McKinney, Margie Newman, Pat Settle

Joan & Bill Campbell, Regional
Coordinators: (972) 935-0673
TCF National: (877) 969-0010
www.compassionatefriends.org

The Meeting Agenda

6:30 p.m. - Meeting will begin with refreshments followed by announcement of birthdays and anniversaries and reading of the Credo. We will then have open discussion.
8:00 p.m. - Meeting will close by recognizing our childrens' names. Feel free to visit after the meeting or check out books from our library.

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We will be holding our 8th Annual Butterfly Release on May 21 at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church south campus, 2813 and Hwy. 69 S.

Live Monarch butterflies are available for \$10 each. If you are interested in donating refreshments this year, or would like to help with the set up in loving memory of your child, please contact us at (903) 258-2547. (See our flyer on page 7.)

Photos from a Previous Butterfly Release



A Mother's Memories

The kaleidoscope of my mind holds millions of memories of my son, Todd. The small flutter announcing himself. A tiny fist grabbing my fingers for the first time. A one year-old's blue blanket as he stroked its border with one hand and sucked his thumb with the other. Matchbox cars. A red tricycle. Building model cars. His first bicycle. A concussion. A saucer sled. His first "big boy" bed. Giggling until hiccups overtook him. His best Halloween costume. His white poodle, Fluffy. His lifetime best friend, Allen. Winning in track. Purple tennis shoes. Purple walls. Pink Floyd. The four-year paper route. Sunday mornings driving him on the paper route. His first car. His first GTO and the sound of the engine. The basketball hoop on the garage roof and the thump-thump of "shooting" into the night. The first prom. High School graduation with Grandpa in attendance. College days. Tears at Allen's sister's funeral. A 12-year restoration of a 1965 GTO. Car Shows. The new business after graduation. Marriage with Grandpa in attendance. First house. His children. Acceptance to A&M. Graduation with an MBA from A&M with Grandpa in attendance. New job in the corporation. Tears at Grandpa's funeral. Building a new home in Austin. The laughter he shared with his children. The joys he gave to me. The meaningful relationship with my adult child. The last day I saw him. The last conversation. There are books of details in each thought. A mother's memories glide effortlessly into the future. And that is as it should be.

*Annette Mennen Baldwin
In memory of my son, Todd Mennen
TCF, Katy, TX*

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.



We need not walk alone.

"The passage of time alone does not cause our grief to end, but its softening touch helps us to survive." —Wayne Loder

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to those who attended their first TCF meeting last month.

We deeply regret the circumstances that brought you to our TCF Chapter. The Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance, not-for-profit, self-help organization that offers support and understanding to families who have experienced the death of a child. You are cordially invited to attend our monthly meeting (held the third Monday of the month). The meeting is open to everyone and free of charge. You are free to talk, cry or to sit in silence; we respect the individuality of mourning. Comments shared in the meetings remain confidential.

Our chapter is operated entirely by volunteers dedicated to furthering the work of TCF. Your voluntary, tax deductible donations honor your loved one(s) in a meaningful way by enabling us to print and mail this newsletter and meet other expenses involved in reaching out to other grieving families (100% of funds are used for this outreach). Donations, along with the name of the person being honored, may be sent to:

The Compassionate Friends of Tyler
P.O. Box 9714
Tyler, Texas 75711

To Our New Members

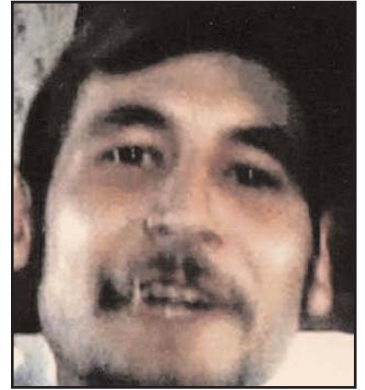
Coming to your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But, you have nothing to lose and much to gain. Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not TCF will work for you. The second, third or fourth meeting might be the time you will find the right person—or just the right words spoken that will help you in your grief work.

To Our Old Members

We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick. Each meeting we have new parents. Think back—what would it have been like for you if there had not been any "oldies" to welcome you, share your grief and encourage you? It was from them you heard, "Your pain will not always be this bad; it really does get softer."

This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Shirley Hall.

In loving memory of
James Permenter
4-2 ~ 7-12
son of
Shirley Hall



This month's printing of our newsletter sponsored by Janet Majors.

In loving memory of
Melissa Elaine Majors
7-14 ~ 5-8
daughter of
Janet & Greg Majors



Call (903) 258-2547 to sponsor a monthly newsletter.

In honor of and in
loving memory of my
sweet daughter,
Sarah Kathryn
Thompson
1-3 ~ 9-8
Daughter of
Carol Thompson



Thanks to Carol for
sponsoring a TCF tabletop
ad at Bruno's Restaurant.





We need not walk alone.

“An important way to cope with grief is having an outlet, be it interpersonal, be it artistic, that will allow you to not have to contain your grief, but will give you an opportunity to express it, to externalize it to some degree.”
—R. Benjamin Cirlin

Love Gifts



Herb & Sandy Parr in memory of Herby

Mr. & Mrs. James Crawford in memory of Karrie Ray Voyles -
donated butterflies

Mr. & Mrs. James Crawford in memory of Jared Sheets

Sam Smith in memory of Stacey

Janet Majors in memory of Melissa -
sponsoring a newsletter

Shirley Hall in memory of James Permenter
sponsoring a newsletter

Kevin & Kathy McKinney in memory of Erik -
paid for P.O. box rental

Carol & Shane Johnson in memory of Jared Sheets

Juanita Blake in memory of her
grandaughter Donna Morales

Charles McLean in memory of Dex McLean

Carol Thompson in memory of Sarah -
donated books and tabletop TCF ad at Bruno's

Lisa Schoonover in memory of Jake

Martha Lewis in memory of Burke -
butterfly wall hanging for meeting place

Kim Yates in memory of Ashton -
silent auction item donated for Butterfly Release

Mary & Erin Lingle -
silent auction item donated for Butterfly Release



Thanks to the following members who have made a rent
donation for our meeting place this month:

Jim & Cheri Zucca in memory of Leah

Dale Cavazos in memory of Chad

Merri Walsh in memory of Chris O'Leary

Danny, Pat & Stephen Settle in memory of Steph

Don & Leslie Dixon in memory of Austin

Tina, Johnathan & Heather Loper
in memory of Christopher

**Thanks to the following people who make a monthly love
gift to TCF of Tyler:**

Claudette Brown in memory of Terry Wayne

Dale & Phyllis Cavazos in memory of Chad

Sam Smith in memory of Stacey -

use of his office for the Jacksonville meeting

David & Teresa Terrell in memory of Andy -
use of a storage building

Announcements

We will be holding our 8th Annual Butterfly Release on May 21 at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church south campus, 2813 and Hwy. 69 S. Live Monarch butterflies are available for \$10 each. If you are interested in donating refreshments this year, or would like to help with the set up in loving memory of your child, please contact us at (903) 258-2547.

Tyler TCF Meeting: The meeting in Tyler is held on the third Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at 12949 County Road 42 (McDougle Rd.). For more information, please email pdsettle@wmconnect.com or butterfly6@nctv.com, or call 903-258-2547.

Jacksonville TCF Meeting: The meeting in Jacksonville is held on the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., at Sam Smith's office, 1401 E. Rusk, Jacksonville. For more information, please email pdsettle@wmconnect.com or butterfly6@nctv.com, or call 903-258-2547.

Lufkin TCF Meeting: Join us at the Lufkin meeting held at 6:30 p.m. every 3rd Thursday of the month at Southside Baptist Church, 1615 Tulane Drive, Lufkin, TX 75901. For more information, contact Lauri Maner at 936-854-2002 or Sherri Tutt at 936-404-9517.

The Touched by Suicide meeting is held the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is held at Avail Solutions, 1116 E Travis in Tyler (small white frame duplex converted into offices). Anyone who has lost someone they love to suicide is welcome to attend this peer support group. For more information please call 903-330-0678 or visit www.touchedbysuicideeasttexas.org.

Save the Date! If you are interested in participating in our chapter by serving on the steering committee, please plan to attend a steering committee meeting. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4 at 6 p.m., at Carol's home in Tyler. We will eat first and then discuss upcoming TCF events. Anyone who would like to become more involved in TCF and serve on the steering committee is welcome to come! Call 903-258-2547 for directions.

General Assembly: Join us each month to assemble the newsletter and mail out cards. We hope to get some new volunteers to help with this monthly project. Call 903-258-2547 for details.

MADD Heart meets 2nd Tuesday of the month at the MADD office, 215 Winchester Dr. Ste., 100, Tyler, TX 75701. For more info call 888-665-6233 or email Melissa at melissa.granberry@madd.org.

Newsletter Submissions: TCF Tyler welcomes all submissions to our newsletter. Send articles, poetry, love messages and scanned photos to: TCF Tyler, 5401 Hollytree Drive, 1204, Tyler, Texas 75703. Or e-mail text and photos to: info@TylerTCF.org





We need not walk alone.

“When I grieve, when I stand by others as they grieve, even in the midst of seemingly unbearable sorrow, grief becomes a way to honor life—a way to cling to every fleeting, precious moment of joy.” —*Cortney Davis*

May Birthdays



Jamie Allen
5-24 ~ 7-8
Son of Cindy & Jim Allen



Donna Mae Morales
5-8 ~ 5-14
Daughter of Misty Morales



Boston Kade Porter
5-27 ~ 8-12
Son of Kim Porter



Joshua Carl Tucker
5-17 ~ 4-15
Son of Judy C. Googins



Tami Kay Brown Roberts
5-17 ~ 6-10
Daughter of
Kenn & Ann Somerville



Stephanie Harris Reed
5-18 ~ 9-5
Daughter of Rick & Susan Harris



Randall Scott McDaniel
5-07 ~ 3-17
Son of Kathryn Webb



Blythe Madison Harper
5-2 ~ 3-8
Daughter of
Stephanie & Joshua Harper



Brian David Stewart
5-16 ~ 7-8
Son of Joyce Stewart



Shanna Marie Redmond
5-5 ~ 7-30
Daughter of Patricia Miller



Austin Arvizo
5-14 ~ 2-9
Son of Vincent &
Paula Arvizo



Margie Starkey
4-30 ~ 12-3
Daughter of Betty Abbie



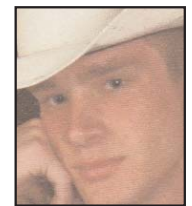
Jared Sheets
5-14 ~ 9-27
Son of
Carol Johnson



Michael Angelo Perez
5-16 ~ 9-28
Son of
Victoria Gonzalez



Stephanie Carol Hester
5-9 ~ 4-2
Daughter of
Troy & Glenna Nicolls



Kody Dale Hughes
5-5 ~ 7-30
Son of Sue Hughes
& Howard Hughes



Gabe Levi Hunt
5-2 ~ 6-25
Son of
Deborah Hunt



Lance Alan Massey
5-16 ~ 7-16
Son of
Cindy Massey



Andrew Weldon Braswell
5-14 ~ 5-14
Son of
Chad & Sara Braswell



Dustin Dewayne Bruce
5-5 ~ 8-3
Son of
Bonnie Jones





We need not walk alone.

“There is something about having others around you who know how you feel and understand your fears, faults, uncertainty and tears of sadness, tears of joy and to help you along the way to know you really aren't going crazy.”
—Linda Hawkins

May Anniversaries



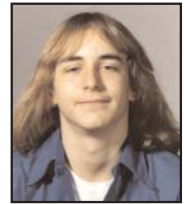
Brady Bryant
4-30 ~ 5-2
Son of Windy & Bradley Bryant



Daniel Anderson
12-27 ~ 5-15
Son of Kerry & Cheryl Anderson



Brandon Weatherly
12-14 ~ 5-20
Son of Ike & Diana Weatherly



Jon Lee Hardwick
9-29 ~ 5-7
Brother of Vicki Johnson



Colleen Herriage
2-23 ~ 5-14
Daughter of Ruth Herriage



Samantha Johnson
9-23 ~ 5-13
Daughter of
Dennis & Vicki Johnson



Justin Clakley
2-25 ~ 5-15
Son of Teri Clakley



Joshua Jolley
9-29 ~ 5-12
Son of Brenda Jolley



Kenny Ivy
3-10 ~ 5-12
Son of JoAnne Ivy



Donna Morales
5-8 ~ 5-14
Daughter of Misty Morales



Kaila McKinsey Payne
4-6 ~ 5-28
Daughter of Keith Payne
Granddaughter of Gracie Farris



Alexander Fleming
12-4 ~ 5-8
Son of Amy Fleming



Stephanie Settle
12-22 ~ 5-27
Daughter of Danny
& Pat Settle



Marshall Charles Donahue
10-18 ~ 5-18
Son of
Joyce Neely



Leslie Eugene Robb
6-11 ~ 5-16
Son of Rena L. Surratt



Jarren Moser
4-28 ~ 5-31
Son of Robert & Misty
Hendrickson



Kimberly Pryor
1-2 ~ 5-30
Daughter of Jerry
& Judy Olson



Terry Wayne Brown
7-13 ~ 5-27
Son of
Claudette Brown



Leah Zucca
9-3 ~ 5-10
Daughter of
Jim & Cheri Zucca



Melissa Elaine Majors
7-14 ~ 5-8
Daughter of
Janet Majors



Tiffeny Sue Hightower
3-31 ~ 5-12
Daughter of
Donna Hightower



Andrew Weldon Braswell
5-14 ~ 5-14
Son of
Chad & Sara Braswell





We need not walk alone.

“Sorrow makes us all children again—destroys all differences of intellect. The wisest know nothing.” —*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Butterfly Earrings

I gave birth to a beautiful baby boy on June of 1978. Timothy lived 8 days. His father and I grieved terribly for many years. The one thing we didn't do was grieve together. We each went through the motions of living and continuing with our daily lives. It was easier for me in that we had two other precious sons, William, age 4, and David, age 18 months. We rocked along for 30 years going through many ups and downs almost to the point of a divorce but God had other plans for us. After our two sons finished high school and started out on their own futures, Bill asked if I would come and work with him and I did. We are to this day working and living part time in Texas and Oklahoma. Our children are still a great joy in our lives and now we have a precious 3-year-old grandson who has added more joy than we can express. We remind our son and his wife of the precious gift God has given them and to never take a gift so precious for granted.

We believe that God has brought us to East Texas for a reason and each day we strive to do his will in all that we do in our lives. One of the blessings he has given to us and many other grieving parents and grand parents is Compassionate Friends in Jacksonville, Texas. Bill and I have been associated with Compassionate Friends of East Texas now for only two years and we have healed more in those two years than in the past 32 years. There is something about having others around you who know how you feel and understand your fears, faults, uncertainty and tears of sadness, tears of joy and to help you along the way to know you really aren't going crazy. Sometimes as a grieving parent we feel disconnected from the world around us but knowing there is always someone we can identify with and have assurance that we will make it gets us through another day, another year. We love all of you and pray for you often as we do all of the parents around the world that are going through the same loss.

The other week Bill and I were on a trip to visit both of our sisters who have had health issues. While at a restaurant I watched a young couple silently eating their meal. They seemed very sad and disconnected. As I walked around in the gift shop I saw the young woman and immediately noticed her beautiful butterfly earrings. I approached her and told her how pretty they were and told her they reminded me of our upcoming butterfly release. She was very interested in what I was saying. I proceeded to tell her about Compassionate Friends and why Bill and I had joined the group. She then told me that she and her husband lost a baby girl 3 months prior. She was so excited that there was a support group like Compassionate Friends and asked how she could find out if there was one in her area. So I told her and with that she beckoned her husband to come and listen to me so they could start looking in their area for a group like ours. They became very talkative and I even saw a couple of smiles. I truly pray that they found what we have here in East Texas. God is good and he always gives us opportunity to spread his love and compassion, We just have to take the opportunity to reach out when he gives us a glimmer of someone in pain.

Linda Hawkins ~ TCF, Tyler (Jacksonville meeting)

Strength

In the early days of my grief, a tear would well up in my eyes, a lump would form in my throat, but you would not know—I would hide it, I am strong.

In the middle days of my grief, I would look ahead and see that wall that I had attempted to go around as an ever-present reminder of a wall yet unscaled. Yet I did not attempt to scale it for the strong will survive—and I am strong.

In the later years of my grief, I learned to climb over that wall—step by step—remembering, crying, grieving, and the tears flowed steadily as I painstakingly went over. The way was long, but I did make it.

Near the resolution of my grief, a tear will well up in my eyes, a lump will form in my throat, but I will let that tear fall—and you will see it. Through it you will see that I still hurt and I care, for I am strong.

Terry Jago ~ TCF, Regina, Canada

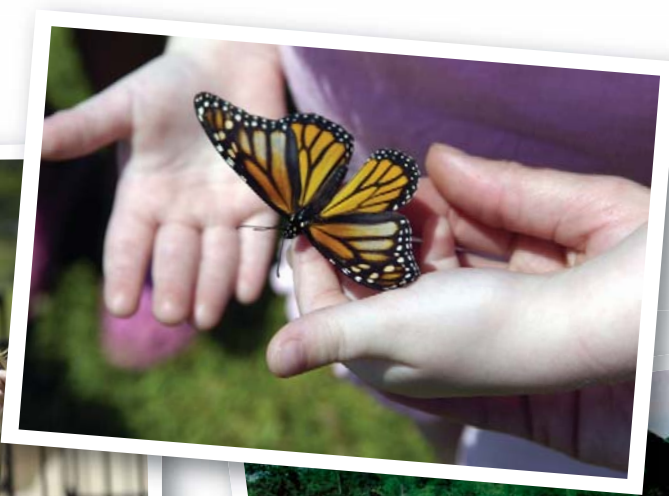


The Compassionate Friends of Tyler Butterfly Release

Release a butterfly for all
children who have died.

Saturday, May 21 at 1:00 p.m.

www.TylerTCF.org • 903-258-2547



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**

Please join us for our 8th Annual Butterfly Release on May 21 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church south campus, 17002 Hwy. 69 S., Tyler. Live Monarch butterflies are available for \$10 each. Please contact us at (903) 258-2547 for more information.

Offering Support and Understanding to Families Who Have Experienced the Death of a Child



We need not walk alone.

“There are things that we don't want to happen but have to accept, things we don't want to know but have to learn, and people we can't live without but have to let go.” —*Author Unknown*

I CAN'T TOUCH HIM

I sensed something wrong
 A strong urge to check
 I ran towards his room
 The small kitchen table and chairs topple about
 I go to his cradle
 I know...I can't touch him
 I place my hand a few inches from him
 I am frozen, I can't touch him
 Our friend tries desperately to revive him
 Sirens. Lights. The ambulance
 The ambulance is leaving with him
 We race to follow
 No time to get my shoes
 Barefoot and Embarrassed
 The hospital. Cold. Quiet. So quiet
 Except, the clock on the wall
 Ticking so loud. Tick, Tick Tick
 Time stands still
 Two large steel doors open
 The words come out “Your Baby has expired”
 God, No. I can't do this
 Help me. Please help me God
 Tears are blinding me
 Did I fall asleep?
 In the morning light, I find myself awake
 For one split second, everything is okay
 And then it is not...
 The realization. The realization is unbearable
 I can't breathe
 God, No. I can't do this
 The worst day of my life begins
 I CAN'T EVER TOUCH HIM AGAIN

*By: Your Mom, Bonnie Yvette Marchand
 July 2007*

Beautiful Dream

Eyes open wide
 I awake from a beautiful dream
 Within seconds the painful reality of my life sets in
 I find myself wanting to scream

Grief so strong
 Impossible to explain
 Living with a broken heart
 Struggling with the pain

Eyes closed tight
 I pray for that beautiful dream
 A short escape from the painful reality
 That makes me want to scream

Robert Willis ~ TCF, Frederick, MD

Shining So Bright

When the warmth of the sun touches my face,
 I see your smile and feel your embrace.

I hear your whisper in the wind
 And I know that you are close to me again.

The rain speaks of tears and the thunder of pain,
 But soon the sun comes the earth to reclaim.

As the days come and go and the world moves on,
 I know you're still here, you'll never be gone.

On the morning the Angel came and took your hand,
 We cried as you left for an unknown land.

But Heaven rejoiced as you came into sight,
 For your soul was a diamond, shining so bright!

*In loving memory of my beautiful daughter, Leah
 Cheri Zucca ~ TCF, Tyler, TX*

The Child That's Not There

The child that's not there
 Takes up every piece of me
 The child that's not there
 Consumes my every thought

The child that's not there
 Makes me feel like I failed
 The child that's not there
 Took away a main reason for being

But

The children that are there
 Still somehow bring me joy
 The children that are there
 Still need my love

The children that are there
 Don't need any more grief
 The children that are there
 Force me to go on.

*Tricia Palmer
 In memory of my son, Gabriel Boyer
 TCF ~ Tidewater, VA*

The Compassionate Friends of Tyler

P.O. Box 9714
Tyler, TX 75711

We are happy to send our newsletter to you. We hope that it is helpful to you to be kept informed of chapter resources and activities and that you still wish to receive our newsletters that contain excellent material relating to grief issues.

To keep our mailing list current, we do ask to hear from you each year making sure that our information is correct and that you still wish to receive our mailings. If we did not hear from you in the last year please indicate any appropriate choices below and return the form to the address at the bottom of this page.

Your Name: _____

Child's Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Birth Date: _____ Death Date: _____ Cause of Death: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please check any of following that apply.

Please continue sending the newsletter.

No thank you, I'd prefer to stop receiving the newsletter. (Newsletters are posted monthly on our Web site.)

Please include my child's name and picture in the slide presentation at the Candle Lighting Ceremony.

Please include my child's picture and information on the TCF Tyler Web site. (www.TylerTCF.org)

I am enclosing a memorial to support The Compassionate Friends in the amount of _____
Please make check payable to TCF

In memory of _____

Please use this gift for:

TCF Newsletter Butterfly Release Candle Lighting TCF Events Other _____

The continuation of this chapter's work depends on donations. If you have not taken the opportunity to give a donation in memory of your child please consider taking this time to give a gift that will help reach out to other newly bereaved parents.

We must have your written permission on file to use your child's name and/or picture in the newsletter, Web site, Candle Lighting Ceremony or any other TCF event. Permission may be withdrawn at any time by written request. This information is used to maintain our Chapter Database. It is confidential and is only utilized for Chapter activities such as the newsletter.

(Signature) Date: _____

Please return completed form to: The Compassionate Friends of Tyler, P.O. Box 9714, Tyler, TX 75711



"I don't think you ever stop giving. I really don't. I think it's an on-going process. And it's not just about being able to write a check. It's being able to touch somebody's life." —Oprah Winfrey



THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS[®]

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Tyler, Texas 75711



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www.TylerTCF.org