

Cliff's Notes

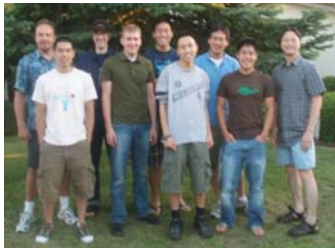
Random Musings about what in the world is going on, past & present...

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GBF is now 11 1/2 months old (50 weeks to be exact). This summer has been exciting—instead of the typical church ‘summer slump’ that many churches experience, we had the ‘summer surge.’ We were invaded by a flurry of college students since May. Our average attendance for July was 94, and last week we had 113 folks join us—our highest ever. We have had a 1st-time visitor for 50 weeks in a row; over 460 people have come through our doors since we started; we started a full-fledged college/singles ministry; had our “first-ever,” amazing children’s summer sports camp outreach; several successful Summer Pool Side Fellowships; added new members; continue our monthly prayer meetings; are at Ephesians 5:21; and are preparing for our “first-ever” annual meeting. We are greatly anticipating our ‘1 Year Anniversary Worship Celebration’ on Sunday, September 9—a time dedicated to giving God the glory for the fantastic year He has given us, faithfully doing above and beyond all that we could even imagine or think. Not even a year old yet,

we are still just a baby—OK, maybe now a toddler...nevertheless, quite needy, helpless and dependent on God for basic survival. But He is a faithful Father and we trust He will continue to meet all of our needs in Christ Jesus, the Lord.



The British Invasion...? No, not quite. That was *John, Paul, George and Ringo*. Instead we had *Murray, Tristan, Benny, Billy, Yasmin, Richard, Michael, Jenny, Grace, Adam, Paul, Josh, Jonathan, James, Andrew, Dacia, Christine, Tim*...and a few others—over 20 collegiates and young singles. They came from UCLA, Berkeley, The Master’s, UCSD, Stanford, Cedarville, Iowa, etc. seeking to find Christian fellowship at a Bible church while in transition and/or on academic hiatus. They found it at **GBF**. We were blessed by their presence. To minister to them we started a Friday college Bible study and a college/singles

Sunday school class. Both were greeted with high energy and youthful enthusiasm. Bob Douglas leads the Sunday school class while Pastor Cliff and Evers Ding lead on Friday nights. Two collegiates formally joined **GBF** by becoming members—Tim Yip and Michael Tu...a couple of Bruins fervent about growing in Christ. We are excited to see where God leads this ministry, especially in October when they leave!

Congrats!

Join with me in congratulating and welcoming John Howe, who became a member of **GBF** in July. Pastor Cliff and John have known each other for about 5 years. John is a wonderful saint, who loves Christ and God’s Word and is enthusiastic about the local spiritual family he has joined. In addition to being a dear saint, John has made a significant impact in the community—read what *Wikipedia* has to say about his influential career: **John T. Howe**-From *Wikipedia*, the free encyclopedia-John T. Howe is a [mechanical engineer](#) and former Chief Scientist at [NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California](#). He is known for his pioneering research contributions to the [aerothermodynamics](#) of [atmospheric entry](#), including [radiative energy transfer](#), [reactive gas flows](#), and innovative [thermal protections systems](#). John T. Howe received his B.S. from the [University of Michigan](#) in 1950 and his M.S. in 1956 and the degree of Engineer in 1958 from [Stanford University](#), all in [engineering mechanics](#). He taught [Hypervelocity Atmospheric Flight](#) and [Real Gas Phenomena](#) at Stanford University. After a brief period with [Stanford Research Institute](#), he joined the [Ames Laboratory](#). During his 35 years with [NASA](#), he served as Senior Staff Scientist, Head of Aerothermodynamics, Assistant Chief for the [Physics Branch](#), and Branch Chief for [Fluid Dynamics](#). He was a member of the [AIAA Thermophysics](#) Technical Committee (1982-84) and an Associate Editor for the *Journal of [Spacecraft and Rockets](#)* (1982-84). He is a recipient of the [AIAA](#) Thermophysics Award (1986) and a Fellow of [AIAA](#).

A highlight this summer at GBF were the PoolSideFellowships — we had fun, studied the Word, got wet, ate good food and met new people...





HOOPS for Jesus!

In early July, **GBF** sponsored an evangelistic 1-week basketball camp for elementary kids. It was a raving success! When we first thought of the idea we were challenged by many hurdles: How will we get enough kids? How will we attain a good facility? Where will we get enough leaders? Where will we get the money? God answered all these prayers. We originally were praying that God would bring us at least 20 kids. He brought 50! We wanted a decent gym—we got the best gym in Sunnyvale! We asked for a few good leaders...God gave us a crack team of faithful servants from **GBF**. We prayed the gospel would go out and that the kids would learn lots. God allowed that as well. In addition to learning basketball basics, good sportsmanship, the 'Successful 6,' proper defensive posture, we also sang cool biblical songs (accompanied with motions), and had a Bible lesson each day, followed by small group discussion with emphasis on practical application. Here are the topics we discussed:



Monday = 'God is the Creator' (Genesis 1:1); *Tuesday* = 'Every person is made in God's image' (Genesis 1:26); *Wednesday* = 'Sin messed everything up' (Genesis 3; Romans 3:23); *Thursday* = 'Jesus came to earth to solve the sin problem' (Rom 6:23; 10:9-10; John 14:6; 1 Cor 15:1-4); *Friday* = 'We can live a life that pleases God' (Ephesians 2:10). Some folks have asked, "How many kids got saved?" My answer is, "I have no idea." Only God knows the heart—there is no way for a human to make that determination. The Bible clearly says that we humans merely look on the outside (at superficialities) whereas God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Paul resisted any human judgment about a person's ultimate spiritual standing before God—he said, "*I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human*" (1 Corinthians 4:3). On the other hand, we do know that the gospel was planted, watered and nurtured in the hearts of 50 precious children who were made in God's image. And God's Word never returns void—the biblical truth we shared that week will reap eternal benefits as God sovereignly works on the hearts of all 50 kids

who were exposed to His truth. So the question is not, "How many kids got saved?" but rather, "How many kids got to hear the gospel and the truth of God's life-changing Word?" The answer to that is "50!" Our job was not to "get 'em saved" but rather to "plant and water." Paul says, "*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow.*" (1 Corinthians 3:6-7). Some of these kids may commit their lives to Christ next month, next year or 20 years from now. And a catalyst for their regeneration may very well be the time they got to go to a



Christian basketball camp when they were in elementary school when a seed was planted for the first time or watered for the 90th time. God works on individual hearts in His time, not ours. I do know this though—there were probably 15 kids, at least, who heard the gospel for the *first time* and one little boy never even heard the name "Jesus" before. That was hard to believe but it was a great privilege for our leaders to be the "first ever" to tell him who Jesus was. Upon hearing that Jesus created the world, came down to earth to take on a human body, lived a perfect, sinless life, died willingly on the cross to absorb

God's wrath that was intended for all humans, that He rose again from the dead and is alive in heaven and can come to live inside a person's heart as Savior and Lord—that was amazingly, exciting news for this little boy. Pray for that boy. Pray that Christ saves him and adopts him into the family of God, and then uses that little boy to plant and water seeds in his family and beyond, all for God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31).