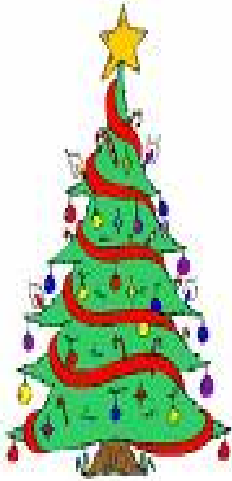


# Cliff's Notes

December, 2007 Vol. 2, Num. 3 [www.GBFSV.org](http://www.GBFSV.org)



**GBF** is 68 weeks old (or 1 year and 4 months); we've had 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors for 67 weeks; one of our members has been here every Sunday!, we are in Ephesians 6:17—nearing the finish line, 49 sermons so far; 14 people came to our last monthly prayer vigil, we averaged 102 people a week in November, we are advertising on KFOX 1100 AM all throughout December at 11:00am; we added 2 new members this month; we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Ladies Christmas Tea and our **GBF** choir performs today for the 2nd time in the history of their illustrious career. We celebrate our 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas together as a church remembering that *Jesus is the reason for the season!*

**Congratulations:** **GBF** welcomed 2 dear saints as our newest members this month—Maggie Grantham and Billy Wong. Billy is a graduate of UCSD and works in San Jose at NETGEAR and Maggie works in the after school program at Kings Academy in Sunnyvale ministering to high-schoolers with the love of Christ.



## *Tea Time*-On Saturday

*December 8, about 45 ladies gathered together for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual GBF Ladies' Christmas Tea. The goal was to make Christ preeminent during the Christmas season as well as provide a venue for fellowship among our ladies.*



*Thanks to the team of ladies who coordinated this wonderful and memorable event: Laura Simpson, Nancy Simpson, Robin Douglas and Debbie McManis.*

**Tis the Season-**The real meaning of Christmas gets convoluted more and more each year. It's about God's invasion into the world by becoming flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ, the God-Man. Here are some facts to keep in mind: scientists tell us that Santa probably never had 9 flying reindeer; we don't know exactly what day Jesus was born; Jesus was worshipped at the time of His birth, because He is God (Matthew 2:11); there were probably more than 3 wise men...more like a dozen or even 50; Jesus was born of a virgin...that was a miracle never repeated in history; Micah predicted Jesus would be born in Bethlehem 750 years before it happened (5:2); Isaiah predicted Jesus would be born of a virgin 700 years before it happened (7:14), and Isaiah called the Messiah "Mighty God" (9:6); Jesus was born to die...that is why He came (Mk 10:45).

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## To spank or not to spank...?

In our series in Ephesians we were reminded that parents are obligated to “discipline” their children (6:4). We saw that can entail using the “rod” on the hind end when needed. God’s Word is emphatically clear: “*He who spares the rod hates his child; but he who loves him disciplines him diligently*” (Proverbs 13:24). “*Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him*” (Proverbs 22:15). Now the government is on the attack once again trying to deprive and undermine parental authority. Last month Massachusetts lawmakers came up with a bill that would outlaw all forms of corporeal punishment, even in the privacy of one’s home. They misdiagnose biblical spanking and call it ‘child abuse’—they confuse parents who hit their kids in a fit of rage versus those who use controlled biblical chastening. They throw the baby rod out with the bath water. On 8-24-01 UC Berkeley released a long-term study involving more than 100 families on the effects of spanking and concluded that spanking the right way does no harm to children long term. God’s Word said the same thing 2,900 years ago. More recently on 12-3-07, The American College of Pediatricians concluded that spanking “can be a useful and necessary part of a successful disciplinary plan” (see more on their position at [www.ACPeds.org](http://www.ACPeds.org) ). I predict that spanking will be outlawed in the US in the next decade or two...that is the trajectory of the future in light of the government’s secular and anti-biblical bent...so lean on Acts 5:29.