

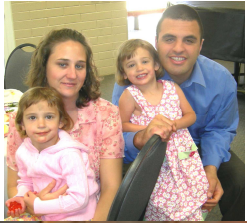
Cliffs Notes

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GBF is now 19 months old...still just a toddler church-plant in its infancy—exciting vital signs of health and growth though: in March we averaged 107 folks each Lord’s Day with a high of 140 on Easter; we had a baptism and welcomed 3 adult members; we have had 1st-time visitors 81 of 82 Sundays since we began; we had 17 folks attend our monthly prayer vigil; we hired our first additional staff member to work alongside Pastor Cliff; we are in the final stages of Elder-training; we are making good progress with Deacon training; and God continues to meet all of our needs above and beyond what we are able to ask or imagine. Christ continues to build His Church.

Welcome and Congrats!



GBF welcomed 3 new members in March. Stephanie Chin, a native of Oakland, was baptized & became a member. She is in grad school on the brink of graduating in pharmacology. She plays the flute, piano, is always smiling and is ready to serve and grow with the GBF family. The Plazas have twins, Gwen and Madelyn. Jeff is in the military, is a Gideon, is on the local board for Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) and has a heart for missions, children and discipleship. Jenny is a trained teacher of children by CEF, has been on several missions trips, is interested in women’s discipleship and will be ministering to our preschoolers.



The Shepherd’s Conference, 2008 In early March, 11 of our men went to the annual Shepherd’s Conference in southern CA, at Grace Community Church. It was excellent! Highlights included seeing Johnny Mac preach several times as well as others like Dr. Steve Lawson, singing praise songs with 3,500 other men, spending extended time talking and interacting at length with the GBF men, meeting brothers in the Lord from all over the world, getting a plethora of cool new books, being blessed by a variety of excellent music, boxing out other grown men who were jostling for position to secure a good pew in the front of the sanctuary, having ministry horizons expanded, and catching up with our UCLA/Grace collegiates over Italian dinner.



Homeschooling Un-American...?

On March 5 a 3 judge panel of the 2nd Appellate Court in L.A. ruled that home-schooling violates California law and the state Constitution. Justice H. Walter Croskey opines, “parents do not have a constitutional right to homeschool their children.” Croskey is an elder in a liberal Presbyterian Church in Palisades. His statement is ghastly and wrong.

God has given children to families and parents, not to the government. Proverbs is the Divine guidebook on educating children and God mandates that parents take the lead in educating their children: “*Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching for they are a graceful garland for your head*” (1:8-9). Here God says that home education by the parents is a wreath of blessing and reward. The secular government wants to trample on this heavenly wreath. For 3 unelected officials to whimsically deprive 50 thousand parents of their basic rights through a prejudiced tyrannical decree is akin to communism that is hostile to liberty, privacy and faith. History is rife with examples of such totalitarian oppression.

Homeschooling is not Un-American by the way. Can you say “George Washington?” That unforgettable model American guy on all your money—he was home-schooled. Can you say “Abraham Lincoln?” He was kind of an exemplary American. Can you say “Tim Tebow?” He just won the Heisman trophy—he was a homeschooler. Wimbledon champions, Venus & Serena Williams...Evan O’Dorney, the 13-year-old homeschooler from CA who won the gold last May in the National Spelling Bee. Four of the last 6 National Geography Bee winners were homeschooled. Examples abound...Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Quincy Adams, Robert E Lee, Patrick Henry, Teddy Roosevelt, FDR, Agatha Christie, Douglas MacArthur, Patton, Twain, Booker T Washington, the Wesleys, Jonathan Edwards, DL Moody, Supreme Court Justices John Rutledge Jay and Marshall, Benjamin Franklin, Edison, Carnegie, John Stuart Mill, the Wrights, former Stanford President and father of the Silicon Valley Fred Terman, Timothy Hooper John McManis the First...I could go on and on. Remember, when America started as a nation, all kids were homeschooled—federalized public education was an afterthought relative to the start of this nation. To stay abreast of this issue go to HSLDA.org, Focus on the Family, ACLJ.org, CWFA.org, HSC.org, Parental rights.org and the California Homeschool Network.