

Cliff's Notes

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GBF Missions... “make disciples!”

In June we had our first-ever “GBF Missions Sunday.” We looked at how Jesus defined ‘missions’ which simply means the Church is to fulfill the Great Commission—and that imperative calls us “to make disciples.” Missions is more than evangelism and getting people saved...that is only the beginning. Real missions goes beyond that by assimilating believers into the local church and teaching them to become mature disciple-makers their whole life. The Great Commission, or ‘missions,’ begins in your own backyard, with your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers. If you can’t share and live Jesus with the barista at the local Starbucks then you can’t do it abroad in China (Acts 1:8). On Missions Sunday we commissioned our very own Scott Snyder who went off to Mexico to assist in local church work with Walt & Nancy Heine. He helped clear ground for their new church facility, ministered to homeless boys and even shared his testimony in a local prison. For more details see: <http://www.viewfromtheterraza.blogspot.com>



Welcome to the Varneys!

After 21 months of prayer and seeking God’s will, the Varney family has formally joined the GBF family. Scott, Mary and Morgan (and Stormie the German shepherd) arrived from San Antonio, Texas the first week of July. Scott will be joining the staff in the role of Pastoral Assistant. He will also become a member of the Advisory Council. Cliff and Scott worked on church planting strategies together for almost a year back in Texas about a decade



ago. Scott brings many gifts to GBF and we hope to harness those for ministry development here, some of which include evangelism, discipleship, leadership training, home-groups, biblical counseling and spiritual oversight. Mary is gifted in music, mentoring younger women, anything artsy and in encouraging others. Morgan is 5, friendly, outgoing, loquacious, decisive, adaptable and photogenic (see above). We thank God for bringing them to us.

Hoops for Jesus

I did not grow up reading the Bible. One of the first times I ever heard the gospel clearly presented was when I was 17 from a friend I played hoops with. Through his influence I ended up at a *Fellowship of Christian Athletes* sports camp when I was 18 and he introduced me to *Athletes In Action (AIA)* soon after. It was through the preaching of *AIA* that I committed my life to Jesus Christ for the first time...after a basketball game, in a gymnasium. I later had the privilege of coaching the women's basketball team at the *Master's College*...and many other teams since then. I believe God can use sports as a venue to reach the lost who otherwise might not set foot in a church or a Bible study. That's how He reached me. That is our goal in the annual GBF Evangelistic Summer Basketball Camp. We just completed our 2nd annual camp in Sunnyvale. It was a blast! We had 51 campers and about 15 of our saints as coaches and counselors. We taught a lot of bball fundamentals and every day there was a Bible lesson. Thursday was "gospel" day when the saving message of Christ was given. Several of the kids had never really heard the Bible stories before. So seeds of eternal life were planted. Now we pray and wait for God to yield the increase.

