

Cliff's Notes

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Happy Birthday GBF!



On August 24 we celebrated 2 years of existence at GBF. God's faithfulness has been amazing. We continue to believe in the promise Jesus made in Matthew 16:18, where He said, "I will build My Church." Our job is to submit and follow His lead. Here are some things God has done among us: we have had 1st-time visitors 103 out of 104 Sundays. We continue to have access to a great church facility. God has met all of our financial needs. We added a staff member to help with shepherding. We've had 890 people come through our doors. We began with 21 adult members and now have 46. We have been averaging 100 folks each Sunday. We welcomed 17 new members in our 2nd year—10 of which are young, single, collegiate-age. We baptized 2 adults. We had 130 people attend this past Sunday to celebrate the great things God is doing in our midst.

Ordination The biggest highlight on Sunday August 24 was the GBF ordination. Our church body recognized four of our men, commissioning them to service, with prayer and the laying on of hands. Bob Douglas, Sam Kim and Tim Wong were recognized as Elders and Paul Beckmann was recognized as the first GBF Deacon. These four men were instrumental in the start of GBF and provided leadership faithfully for over two years. They committed themselves to two years of preparing for these leadership offices in light of the mandates of 1 Timothy 3, 1 Peter 5 and Titus 1. The slow, deliberate, prayerful process was overseen by Pastor Cliff, in conjunction with other local pastors and elders, including Steve Fernandez, Mike Burchfield, Rick Carbonneau and Brian Shealy. We thank God for the gift of these quality men along with their families.



Welcome New Members! GBF takes membership seriously because God takes accountability, service, commitment, growing, learning, faithfulness, relationships and the church seriously. The elders are commanded to "shepherd the flock of God among you...the ones allotted to your care" (1 Peter 5). I need to know exactly who my sheep are if I am responsible and accountable for their souls. Membership helps identify the sheep who are serious about the local church and the virtues mentioned above. This past month we had the privilege of welcoming 4 new members: **Melissa Hua** is a student at UCLA but lives here when not in school—Melissa loves the Word. **Lydia Fung** is an accountant, pursuing her CPA, and has blessed GBF with her hospitality and service. **Evan Winslow** is in his last year at Stanford—he is gifted in music, computers and likes young people. **Julie Logan** is a sophomore at The Master's College and has experience in discipling highschoolers and she "loves the gospel."



The **2008 Olympics** just ended with **USA** dominating the other 203 participating nations by capturing 110 medals--an amazing feat, in light of the fact that the US makes up only about 3% of the world's population. There is something to be said for freedom and democracy. Along with the rest of the country I enjoyed watching Michael Phelps make history by winning 8 gold medals. But I also had my eye on Allyson Felix, the silver medal winner in the 200 meters. Allyson is a committed Christian and the daughter of Rev. Paul Felix. Paul and I went to The Master's Seminary together. He is still there today as a professor of New Testament. Paul contributed to one of the best books ever written on the subject of hermeneutics, called *Evangelical Hermeneutics: The New vs. the Old*. An absolute 'must' for every serious Bible student! Allyson graduated from L.A. Baptist High School, a great private school I taught at back in the early 90's. She may shoot for gold in 2012, but til then wants to focus on teaching elementary children, being with family and honoring God with her life.

"The precepts of the LORD...are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold. Sweeter also than honey & the drippings of the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:8, 10)

