

# Cliff's Notes

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September was a big month for GBF. We celebrated our 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a church, we ordained one of our Elders, we had our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual members' meeting, and we had an average of 155 people each Sunday. We also introduced new members: **Tim** and **Ann Anderson**.

**Elders in every church:** Acts 14:23 says Paul and Barnabas “appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord.” In Titus 1:5, Paul commanded Titus to “appoint elders in every town.” Elders are Shepherds for the local church...and they need to exist in “every church” in “every town.” Every church is required to have a plurality of men who are qualified as elders (1 Timothy 3). Healthy, obedient churches result from a solid foundation. It all starts with leadership—that’s why every church needs to first examine its view of biblical Elders and leadership. Many churches have no Elders, and thus have a compromised foundation and starting point. God has blessed GBF with a plurality of biblical Elders. In September we had the privilege of appointing, or ordaining, another Elder—Scott Varney. Scott came to GBF in July, 2008, with his wife Mary and daughter Morgan. Scott oversees music, adult Sunday school, Bible studies



From left: Mary, Scott, Cliff; in back, GBF Elders Tim Wong & Sam Kim

and helps spearhead discipleship. We have been blessed by Scott’s ministry in the past year. We ask God to give us many more fruitful years to come as the Varneys labor with us in gospel.

# Happy B-Day GBF!

This month marked our 3<sup>rd</sup> year anniversary. We began as a church plant from scratch in September, 2006. We had about 20 adults and 24 children when we started. We were not sponsored by any other church, agency or outside organization. But it was clear that God was beginning something exciting. We have done little marketing, but lots of praying. We have few programs, but are rich with the Word. We have no special target group or demographic other than sinners who have ears to hear. We have not pursued getting big, but rather going deep. We don’t depend on hired professionals, but rather on the saints doing the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:12). Three years later, God has grown us to more than 60 adult members. We have had 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors every Sunday save one. We now have 4 Elders, 4 Deacons, 4 staff members, 2 music teams, 3 Bible studies, and regular-attenders of all ages. Jesus promised that He would build His Church (Matthew 16:18). We have a front row seat as we watch Him fulfill His promise in our midst. Another highlight for GBF in the past three years has been partnering with other like-minded churches, like Redeeming Grace, Valley Church, West Hills Community and Community Bible Church (CBC) of Vallejo, pastored by Steve Fernandez. CBC helped in our Elder training and hosts *The Cornerstone Seminary* where Pastor Cliff teaches Theology. Steve helped us celebrate year 3 by being our preaching guest that day.



Music team: Joe, Scott, Mary, Jenn

Pastor Steve Fernandez