

CLIFF'S NOTES

Random thoughts about 'What in the World is going on?' past & present
[June 10, 2007; Vol. I; Number 9] www.GBFSV.org



GBF is now just over 9 months old! Some of you, no doubt, are asking, 'How long is Pastor Cliff going to keep putting a baby picture on the front of the Cliff's Notes?' The answer is, as long as we are a new baby church plant, which will be for several more months, plus. We need to be reminded that we are weak, vulnerable, growing slowly, crawling and dependent upon God for everything. Today we are 42 weeks old, and have had a 1st time visitor every Sunday since we started. May's average attendance was 82. We said goodbye to the Heines last month, and we have welcomed some new regulars in their stead. Pastor Cliff is now in Ephesians 5:11. We have had 21 AC meetings, each one averaging 4 plus hours in duration. The Fellowship Meals continue to provide wonderful opportunities for people to interact and cultivate relationships—one of the many blessed graces God has given us.

Welcome to the Dings!

Evers Ding was introduced to us at the first ever church-plant meeting by Pastor Mike Burchfield of *West Hills Church* in Morgan Hill. That meeting was on May 12, 2006 and hosted by Pastor Mike. Several of us were also guests. Since that time the Dings have been praying for GBF and monitoring its progress. God led them to reaffiliate with us 3 months ago and they have officially become members of GBF recently. Thank God for bringing us another quality family. Speaking of the fam, they are: Evers, Lois (mom), Matthew (5), Andrew (3), Emmaline (2), Calissa (1). They are busy! Pray for them & read about 'em @ <http://dinghome.net>



I blog for the



PERSECUTED CHURCH



The Voice of the Martyrs
persecutionblog.com

"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3). Scripture commands the Church to remember other Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith. Persecution is going on right now against believers. Are you informed of it and are you praying? Recently in Turkey Pastor Necati Aydin was slaughtered in a church by 5 Muslim men he just shared the gospel with—his friend Tilman, who was working on a Turkish Study Bible, was stabbed by these same men 156 times. Pray for Khalid in Jordan, a Christian who fears for his life; Karim in Pakistan who faces possible execution because of Pakistan's pending 'Apostasy Act' which will condemn any male who becomes a Christian. Thank God for the freedom of worship we have in the U.S.—it won't last forever. Go online @ www.persecution.com for a free newsletter to stay informed.

Jerry Falwell: A Tribute

The Rev. Jerry Falwell died of a heart attack at the age of 73 on May 15. He is now in heaven with Jesus, the Father and all the saints who have gone before



him. While Christians mourned his death, many unbelievers celebrated and rejoiced at his passing. The Internet is filled with blogs and websites dedicated to desecrating the name, legacy, and memory of Jerry Falwell. One on *Amazon* says this about him: he was a "fat, greasy, Christianity-obsessed bigot...pathetic." This is not surprising. Jesus promised His followers that, "all men will hate you because of Me" (*Matthew 10:22*).

Falwell was hated by the world because he was no friend to the sinful systems, worldviews and vices of the world. He spent 50 years faithfully exposing the darkness in the world through preaching, teaching and writing. Jesus said if we go against the grain of sinful society, standing up for biblical truth, then we would be hated of men...but also blessed by God: "Blessed are you when men hate you ...and insult you and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man" (*Luke 6:22*). For 50 years Falwell faithfully, courageously, and vociferously proclaimed the supremacy of God's Word, the sanctity of biblical marriage, the precious life of unborn babies made in God's image, and condemned immorality run amuck in America. He wasn't just a caustic, judgmental, vitriolic wind-bag, as his critics would accuse, but he loved Christ and had a love for people—especially sinners. That's why he was an avid evangelist, and many people came to know the Lord through his preaching of the gospel. Even his most well known earthly nemesis, Larry Flynt of *Penthouse*, was a recipient of Falwell's love. Upon his recent death, Flynt went on record to say that Falwell went out of his way to befriend Flynt and love him despite his contrary views and lifestyle. But that is what Christ commands Christians to do: "do good to those who hate you" (*Luke 6:27*). Falwell wasn't perfect...but none of us are. But he was faithful to his church, his family and to Christ. It was amazing how God used him during his life. The son of an alcoholic father, Falwell got saved in his youth, got biblical training and planted a church with 35 adults on June 17, 1956 in Lynchburg, Virginia. God blessed the ministry and today the church has 24,000 people and Jonathan Falwell was voted in unanimously as the new pastor on June 3, 2007. In 1971 the church established Lynchburg Baptist College (which became Liberty University in 1985). Having 20,000 students, it is an excellent Christian university that competes at the NCAA Division I level. Falwell believed the church should impact the culture, and so in 1979 he headed up the *Moral Majority*, a political lobbying group of leading evangelicals. It folded in 1989. Falwell was a bulldog for the faith. To learn more go to www.trbc.org