

Cliff's Notes

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GBF is 14 months old now...we had a great October. We had 1st time visitors for 59 Sundays in a row; we averaged 94 folks each Lord's Day; we are meeting new people every week; we secured this wonderful church facility for another year; the Fellowship Meals are as delicious as ever; we are talking about transformed family living in Ephesians 5-6; adult Sunday School is studying 'Christian Living'; the ladies Bible study is in 1 Peter; the Friday Bible study is in 1 John 4; the AC men are finalizing preparation for elder ordination and deacon training is in full swing. God continues to provide for all our needs above what we are able to ask or imagine!



Congratulations to Timothy Yip who became a member of GBF and got baptized just before he returned to study at UCLA. Tim plays the violin masterfully and we look forward to his return .

Operation Christmas Child



On November 4 GBF had 'Operation Christmas Child Sunday.' Our goal was to pack 25 shoeboxes full of goodies to send with Franklin Graham's ministry called Samaritan's Purse (SP). SP sends millions of boxes to needy children around the world every Christmas to bless them with gifts, and more importantly, with the saving message of Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. The GBF saints embraced this ministry with exuberant enthusiasm, contributing over 80 boxes

total! Way beyond our goal. This is our first year participating in this great ministry. We had over 90% participation from our families. And we had a blast together packing and wrapping the boxes. We truly experienced Jesus' promise when He declared that *"it is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35). To learn more about this ministry go to www.samaritanspurse.org



Salt and light! Jesus commanded Christians to be salt and light in the world (Matt 5:13-14). Salt and light **exposes** and **preserves**...that's what we need to do in our communities, culture, cities and country. But it starts from being informed, which enables discernment. Christian, do you know what is going on in the world or are you cloistered in passive ignorance? The Church should be like *"the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do"* (1 Chronicles 12:32). Get informed, discern the trends and ideologies that rule the day and wage war against the Kingdom of God. Some helpful websites that monitor, expose and inform about cultural trends include a) Chuck Colson www.breakpoint.com, b) *Concerned Women For America* www.cwfa.org, c) Al Mohler www.albertmohler.com, d) Summit Ministries www.summit.org, e) American Center for Law & Justice www.aclj.org f) www.pearceyreport.com, g) www.worldnetdaily.com, h) www.calthomas.com & i) www.pacificjustice.org Below is a current blurb from the *Focus on the Family* website which is informative and cutting-edge on trends of the day...

California Middle School Cancels Cross-Dressing Day

A northern California middle school has canceled a cross-dressing or "gender switch" day following parent complaints. Sixth- through eighth-graders at Adams Middle School in Brentwood were encouraged to wear attire of the opposite gender as part of Spirit Week. Parents were given little notice. After reading a flier posted at the school, a parent complained that the day promoted homosexuality. The principal said that was not the school's intention, but agreed to change it to school-colors day, reported the Contra Costa Times. Candi Cushman, ...analyst for Focus on the Family Action, called it an example of why parents should be involved in their children's schools. "It's encouraging that the school listened to the parents in this case...This demonstrates the power parents have when they make their voices heard."

"In everything give thanks, for this is God's will" (1 Thess 5:18)

In November, 1789, President Washington issued the 1st *Thanksgiving Proclamation* for our country. He beckoned all citizens to *"unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks..."* and to humbly offer *"prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions-to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually... To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue..."*