

Cliff's Notes

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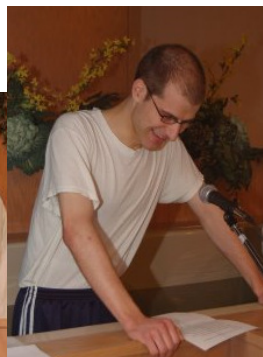
May was an active month at **GBF**. A highlight was recognizing three new deacons: **Evers Ding**, **Steve McCoy** and **Scott Snyder**. Recently we also baptized three of our saints, **Joanna Lai**, **Eric Beach** and **Nathan Beach**. We had our first-ever membership class with 13 inquirers in attendance. Pastor Cliff finished teaching a 9 month NT Greek class at Live Oak Academy...Scott Varney took the class, earning an A+ for both rigorous semesters. Our prayer vigil had about 30 in attendance, one of the highest ever! We are in John 14 in our Sunday morning worship.

Walk for Life- "You created me...in my mother's womb" (Ps 139)



10 of us from **GBF**, along with about 20 other churches participated in the Walk for Life in San Jose. It is a fundraiser and raises awareness for the Community Pregnancy Center (CPC). CPC is a ministry that helps women by educating them about the sanctity of life—every baby, including the baby in the womb, is a precious human life created by God.

"make disciples...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt 28)



Holy Matrimony

"Marriage is to be held in honor among all...for fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4)

The first institution God created was marriage. He designed it, defined it and defends it...for 6,000 years now. Biblical marriage is a picture of Christ's relationship with His Bride, the Church. God is not going to allow that heavenly, eternal picture to be distorted...no matter how hard a few radicals and liberal judges try to foist their agenda on humanity; no matter how angry a small minority gets. Psalm 2 says, *"Why are the people so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans?... 'Let us break free from the slavery of God,' they cry...But the One who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them. Then in anger He rebukes them, terrifying them with His fierce fury" (1-5).* God will not allow marriage to be redefined anytime soon. On May 26, the California Supreme Court upheld Prop 8, 6-1, which defines marriage as between one man and one woman.

Layin' the Foundation

Stability is contingent upon a rock-solid foundation—Jesus taught that. That's true literally when constructing houses, as well as figuratively when building an organization. This principle also applies to the church. People like to say, "There's no perfect church!" But there is such a thing as a healthy church and an obedient church. Healthy, obedient churches are built on solid, biblical foundations. Key to that foundation is having qualified, trained, and godly leaders in place. God's demand is that every local church have a plurality of qualified elders and deacons. A church that lacks a plurality of qualified elders and deacons has a compromised foundation. It matters who's in charge. At **GBF** we take that seriously. 1 Timothy 3 specifically outlines the divine qualifications for elders and deacons. The emphasis is on recognized, proven integrity and giftedness. Before any man becomes an elder or deacon at **GBF** he must first be trained and tested in light of the biblical standard. After a time of testing, the Body then evaluates any candidate aspiring for church office. This month we had the high privilege of recognizing three of our men as deacons: Evers Ding, Steve McCoy and Scott Snyder. These men have proven themselves to be exemplary servants in the local church. Pray for God's blessing & protection as they serve.