

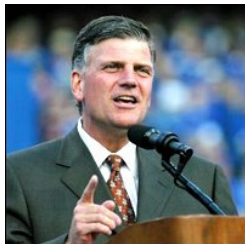
# Cliff's Notes

April, 2010 Vol 4; Num 7; [www.GBFSV.org](http://www.GBFSV.org)

In April **GBF** began the month with our annual Good Friday communion service and resurrection celebration on Easter Sunday with 184 folks in attendance. We averaged 161 people and had 5 first-time visitors. We went back to the future as we began preaching through the Book of Revelation...currently we are in chapter 2. God is growing our church as we welcomed 3 new members: **Tiffany Lay**, **Lauren Der** and **Roger Ling**. We kicked off our 3<sup>rd</sup> Bible study in Milpitas. PC began teaching 2 seminary classes at **The Cornerstone Seminary** with Scott Varney taking the Apologetics class. **GBF's** volleyball team is midway through their season.

*"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land"*

*(2 Chronicles 7:14)*



On April 22 the Pentagon rescinded its invitation to have Rev. Franklin Graham lead a prayer service on the National Day of Prayer. Army and government officials opposed Graham's appearance because of his biblical convictions, namely that Jesus is the only way to heaven and other religions, like

Islam, are false and dangerous, leading people astray. Graham said that the hostility toward Evangelical Christianity issuing from government institutions is as overt and as hostile as it has ever been and that systematic, institutional persecution of Christians is sure to rise here in America. The Graham family has interacted with sitting presidents since Truman in the 1950's, providing spiritual counsel to many of them personally. Graham said recently that the current White House has "given Islam a pass" despite Islam's blatant, widespread violence towards women, while at the same time is unduly critical of Christianity, the religion most influential in the founding of this country.

*"Righteousness exalts a nation" (Prov 14:34)*

On April 15, Barbara **Crabb**, a rogue federal judge (nominated by Jimmy Carter) from Wisconsin ruled that the National Day of Prayer was unconstitutional and should be banned. The National Day of Prayer was first recognized as law by President Truman in 1952. The law was further formally endorsed in 1988 when President Reagan amended the bill, designating the first Thursday of each May as the Day of Prayer. Crabb ruled in favor of the radical *Freedom From Religion Foundation*, who sued the government and the National Day of Prayer Task Force in an effort to eradicate prayer, and all religion, from the public square here in America. But America is not an atheistic country and a recent USA Today poll showed 92% of Americans questioned, said they believe in God. This country was founded by people of faith who had a Judeo-Christian worldview. In 1775 the Continental Congress issued a proclamation declaring July 20, 1775 to be a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer on behalf of the budding new nation. They believed in freedom OF religion, not freedom FROM religion. Religion is in the DNA of this country—even our money, for now anyway, still says, "In God we trust."

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- \*John Piper is taking an 8 month break from his pastoral duties, from May to December, for a "reality check"
  - \*Francis Chan, pastor of Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, announced he will be leaving the church after planting that church 16 years ago; he will be pursuing a different kind of ministry ...yet to be determined
  - \*John Piper has invited Rick Warren to be the key-note speaker in his October 'Desiring God Conference,' which has created waves of controversy in the Evangelical world
  - \*N T Wright, controversial Bishop of Durham, and leading (liberal) NT scholar resigned in April from his see to assume a teaching

role at St. Andrews in Scotland; see the upcoming *The Master's Seminary Journal* for Pastor Cliff's review of Wright's new book on "the problem of evil."