

# ***THE GRACE COMMISSION*** JUNE 2024



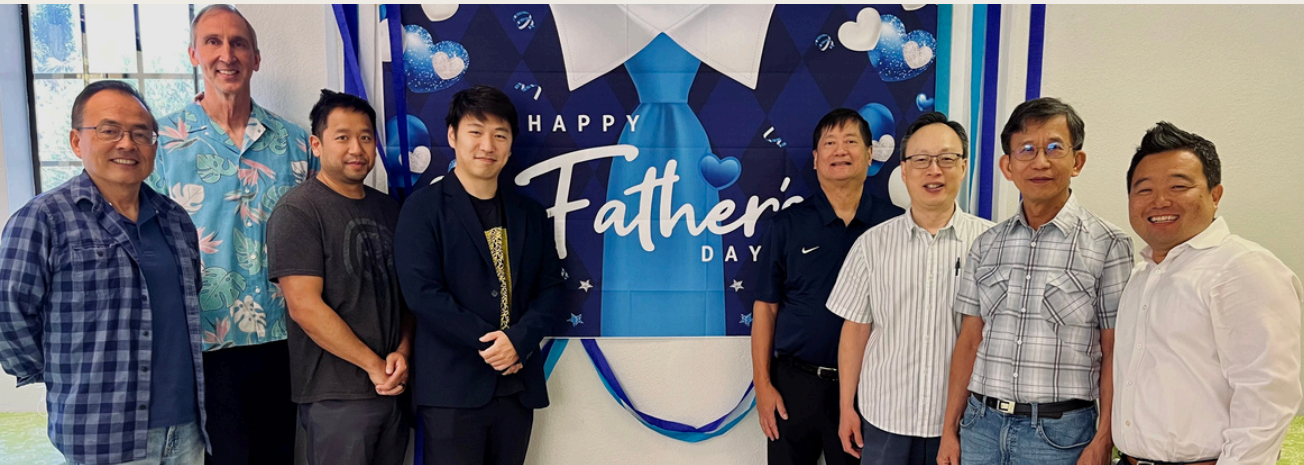
## WELCOME

*The monthly  
publication of  
Grace Bible  
Church*

to our first issue of the Grace Bible Church monthly newsletter! Whether you are new to our church or have been a part of the GBC community for many years, we want to thank you for being here. We're excited to bring you up-to-date news on church events as we make vibrant disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ through the sound teaching of God's Word!

If you would like more details, please visit our website at [www.efcgb.org](http://www.efcgb.org). Thank you!





## FATHER'S DAY LUNCH



On June 15th, we had the privilege of celebrating Father's Day with an Italian lunch! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this day special!

To our GBC fathers, we thank you for your presence, faithfulness, and dedication to our community! We hope you felt extra cherished this month. We love and appreciate you!

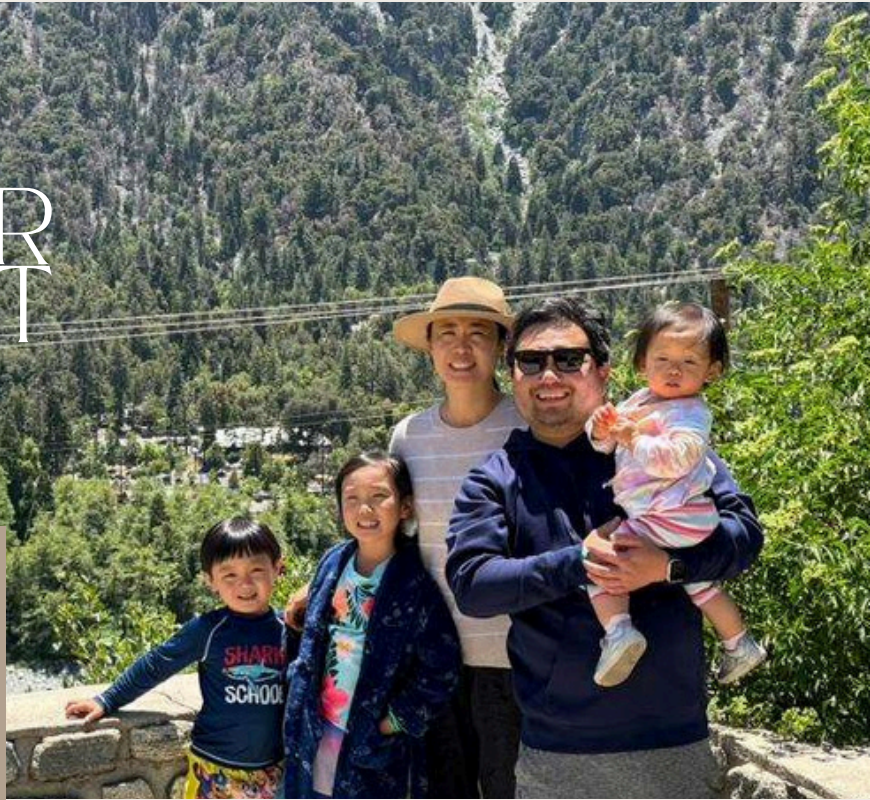
*For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.*

*1 Thessalonians 2:11-12*



# PASTOR SPOTLIGHT

*This month, we welcomed back Pastor David Lee from his 6-week sabbatical! It was a great opportunity for the Lee family to rest, reflect, and be refreshed after many years of full-time ministry. Here are Pastor David's words of reflection:*



“Even before my sabbatical and specially during the first couple weeks of my sabbatical, for some reason no matter how much I rested I continued feeling exhausted all the time. I felt dizzy throughout the day and in some nights I felt like I couldn't breathe properly. When I checked my symptoms on the internet it made it sound as if I was going to get a heart attack soon-- so one of the first things that I did when I started my sabbatical was to go see my doctor just to make sure everything was okay. One of the reasons I took my sabbatical this year was because I

started to notice symptoms of burn out as well. One of the symptoms of burn out is that your feelings become numb. You just stop caring. When good things happen in your life you don't get happy anymore. And when bad things happen to you or to those you care for, you don't feel compassion, empathy, or sadness anymore. In order to address some of these issues, not only did I meet with a doctor during my sabbatical, but I also met with therapists, spiritual counselors, and even had the opportunity to reconnect with an old friend, something that I had not done in a long time. By God's grace this sabbatical was not only a blessing for me, but for my whole family.





“The best part of my sabbatical was the time I was able to spend with my family. We built unforgettable memories, and I deeply enjoyed my kids and my wife. We will cherish these memories we built together forever. We got the opportunity to attend a family camp hosted by forest home ministries up in the mountains. The best part of this camp was that the whole family got ministered to, and they even sent babysitters at night so that my wife and I could attend our worship service and spend some time together away from the kids. We also had an opportunity to vacation with my sister’s family and my parents in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

“I also got to visit a couple of well-known churches as well. One of them was a church that took the word of God very seriously. It was beautiful to see how both the pastor and the members of the church were so serious about, and in love with, God’s word. Visiting this church put a strong desire in me to see the same things happen in our church as well. I also want to see our church become a church that deeply loves God’s word. Our church’s vision is, “We exist to make vibrant disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ through the sound teaching of God’s Word”. During my sabbatical, a strong desire to see this vision come true grew strongly in my heart. After almost 20 years as a pastor, thanks to God’s grace and GBC’s generosity I got to enjoy my first sabbatical.



“When I returned, I was frequently asked how my sabbatical experience was like. Every time, I answered with the same illustration. I invited them to imagine with me a scene in a movie where an action star gets shot, but they just keep running without realizing they have been shot. If they do so for too long, most likely their chances of survival will be minimal. It will have been too late to do something about their situation. However, if they realize soon enough, they will have enough time to get treated, heal, and get well.

“Taking a sabbatical was that kind of experience for me. Many pastors go far too long without taking a sabbatical, and inevitably they experience burnout, disillusionment in ministry, bitterness towards God, and sadly in many cases, moral failure.



“Towards the end, by the grace of God, I started to feel excitement about coming back to church and doing ministry once again. I felt my heart beating with love towards our church members and my family. I was consumed with a passion to faithfully preach God’s word, no matter the cost, so that God’s people can love Him deeply in their lives.



“These are just some of the things I experienced and that I wanted to share with the church that I love! I was perplexed as to how I would share with our church, but thanks to Johanna, the perfect opportunity presented itself when she asked me to write an article about my sabbatical for the new church newsletter that she was starting for GBC. I wanted to thank Johanna for using her gifts to bless our church. I also wanted to thank all our GBC family! Thank you for being a wonderful and loving church. It is your love and care that has kept this pastor in ministry for all these years. We love you GBC!”

-PASTOR DAVID LEE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GBC SUMMER RETREAT

*July 4-6th Thurs-Sat*

Hampton Inn Thousand Oaks  
Please send checks to Matthew  
if you haven't already

### VBS WITH IKSBC

*August 7-9th Wed-Fri*

6:00pm-8:30pm  
Register online to participate  
or volunteer



*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

*Matthew 28:19-20*