

"KEN, DANNY, JOHN, SAM"

**DEC-JAN 2025** 



## **OUR FIRST DEACONS**

As a Missionary Church Planter I have several goals that I always try to keep in mind...Reach the Lost...Disciple the Saved... Train Leaders...Repeat.

This is what we see the Apostle Paul doing in Acts 14 and it enabled him to start multiple churches. Our goal is the same... reach people, disciple them, train leaders & Pastors that we can turn the church over to and start again.

However...that takes time. Church planting relates closely to raising children.

Your child is born, but can't do anything themselves, your goal however is to train your child day by day and year by year until they are a fully functioning adult.

This is the same in the church. When a church is first launched they are completely dependent upon the Missionary. But slowly, if we do what we are called to do, the church starts to mature and takes ownership of itself. Each time a church takes the next step forward in maturity a missionary feels much like a proud parent watching their kids grow up.

This past Sunday was a proud parent Sunday.

## Branches Baptist Church has voted on and commissioned their first deacons!

We have four proven men that have faithfully served and shown to be good examples of Christ (Ken Skidmore, Danny Santamaria, John Garzee, Sam Chu). These men will start serving as Deacons and taking on some of the areas of service to the church. I am so thankful for our church taking these steps forward in maturity. I also plan to continue to train these men and, Lord willing, they might be called into ministry to one day lead the church as Pastors.

## **FURLOUGH 2026**

-By the end of 2025 our church will be 4 years old and I feel the timing might be right for us to take a furlough. I know that it has been a while since deputation (with covid slowing the start of the church out here), that is why we send consistent email updates and include update videos for you to share with the church to best keep them informed on how things are going in SF.

I also know that many of you would love a personal visit from us and I am hopeful that by the end of this year our church will be in a place that would allow Hali and I to step away for some furlough time. We would love to report to our supporting churches and also raise some more support looking toward more future churches being started in the SF bay area.

Until then please join us for a ZOOM call on January 31st at 3pm Pacific / 5pm Central / 6pm Eastern.

Get the ZOOM link by scanning the QR code below.

Thank you all so much for your continued prayers and support.

We could not do this work without you!!









**Deacons with wives**