Notes from interview with Ryan Rippee on 8/20/26

- Family
  - Oldest son, Gavin, and his wife Crise had their second child (also Ryan and Jennafer's second grandchild) on March 15. Her name is Luna.
  - Son Liam returned from his tour in Guam as a marine reserve. He got married to his fiancé, Janice, and he is now working as a pipe fitter at the Marathon refinery in Martinez.
  - Jennafer started substitute teaching at North Hills Christian School in Vallejo.
  - Ryan is no longer president of Cornerstone but will start teaching at Gateway Seminary in San Leandro. This is the local Southern Baptist seminary.
  - Ryan injured his back during his Jujitsu activities. No surgery was required and the injury, although technically a fracture, is expected to heal completely with 8 weeks of rest. The injury is not bothering Ryan and he has only 5 more weeks to go before he is back to his normal schedule.
  - Ryan remains extremely grateful for the partnership of GBC and especially Tony.
  - Ryan's younger brother Spencer lost his job when the Valero refinery closed, but is now working at the Chevron refinery in Richmond.
- Trinity Church
  - In April, the church added 2 elders and now have 5.
  - Brandon Lafferty joined the church staff as an intern. The hope is to send him out as a church planter in about 2 years.
  - Amel Dominguez, part-time pastor at Trinity, is also Director of Missions for Trinity's local Southern Baptist regional organization, including 55 churches, so he is very busy. There are some challenging scenarios with churches who have dwindling attendance and some churches in need of reconciliation within their memberships.
  - The Southern Baptist's church plant funding of Trinity has expired as planned after 4 years. Ryan recruited some additional funding from church contacts he has in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana. Praise God that Trinity is now about 80% self-funded after only 4 years.
  - Ryan is very grateful for the continuing great unity among the congregation.
  - Every Quarter for the last two years, Trinity has added members.
  - Attendance at the Sunday service is approaching 100, including kids. The Heritage Presbyterian Church facility holds about 90 people, so once again Trinity is outgrowing the facility. Ryan is researching other churches to see if there might be an alternate location where Trinity could meet with more space in which to continue to grow.
  - Beginning in the fall, Trinity plans to shift from home groups back to an all-church Wednesday evening meeting. It was time for a change, and the central meeting will provide more visibility in the local community for the church.
  - Ryan is preaching through the Pentateuch while Amel is preaching through I Peter.
  - Ryan completed the 3 books he was writing last year. They are with the publisher but have not been published yet. He has an agreement to write 4 more books over the next 18 months.
  - Trinity did not host a VBS this summer as Ryan had hoped, so the church is not beginning a mid-week children's ministry. There were not enough people committed to lead that big of a children's ministry and the lack of a gym for indoor children's activities was a concern, so these plans have been postponed until 2027. The Trinity congregation is predominantly young people in their 20's and older families 40+. The 30-year-olds with young children are a gap. Trinity will have a harvest festival (trunk or treat) during late October.