

Welcome 2010! Recharged and Ready for Epic Conference

12•30•09

Praise Report

- 1 • USC leaders have taken over in our absence
- 2 • UCLA students are excited to start Epic
- 3 • we raised a great amount of new monthly ministry partners!!!

Prayer Requests

- 1 • **Vision for the Winter/Spring**—pray that we can assess and understand what the Lord is doing in our ministry this coming season!
- 2 • **USC Students @ Epic Conf.**—we have 32 USC students going to Epic Conference; pray for their safety and for God to move in their hearts
3. • **UCLA Students @ Epic Conf.**—we have 6 signed up to go; please pray for transportation to SF
- 4 • **Support Drop off**—even though God has provided much of our needs thus far, we are still losing financial support in the tough economic time.

Personal Update

1. Tony lost both fantasy football finales
2. Steph has been enjoying *Little House on the Prairie* again



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
and HAPPY 2010!!!**

Dear Ministry Friends

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I want to especially WELCOME NEW MINISTRY PARTNERS to this newsletter. I know we're not officially in a new decade yet, but still thinking of 10 years in the 2000's is quite astounding. I (Tony) was still in college back in 2000 and Steph was graduating high school. Quite amazing to examine the changes in the past ten years, especially in the recent months.

Many of you know that Steph and I have been raising support through the month of November as well as taking a well-needed vacation to reconnect with God. I have to say that through series of up and downs, it has been refreshing and revealing to discover God's grace. Personally, I've had to wrestle with some new revelations regarding my own growth and how I view myself.

Long story short, I am in the process of realizing that I do not need to work to prove myself before others and that God affirms and loves me as I am. The value He's given me will never change.

What has been exciting has been preparing for Epic Conference. To elaborate, Epic Conference is our annual momentum event that brings Epic Movements from all over the west coast for a missions conference in San Francisco, January 15-18, 2010. This will be the third year I'm directing the conference. Steph is serving as our hotel event planner, taking care of many details.

Many college students find that this conference has been life-changing. One of my freshman last year felt the call to go into full-time ministry at this conference. Others heard and were challenged to go to summer projects because of this conference. Students, including our UCLA students have never been exposed to the mission and values of Epic, but they have a vision for the Great Commission and a mission for God's glory.

Here is the summary for this year's conference theme, HERO:

"This world needs real heroes;

men and women who will rise to the calling that God has given them. For Asian Americans, God calls us to resist the urge to live 'safely,' not simply to pursue personal success. He calls us to boldly confront wounds from our past in order to live as whole people. He calls us to be part of a movement that will transform our culture for Christ. Real-life heroes are used by God to bring people from death into life."

Dr. Rev. Ken Fong will be our main speaker, also with Prisca Woo, a Christian Marriage and Family Therapy counselor and our National Director Tommy Dyo. All of them will speak about a portion of heroism that an Asian American ought to be challenged in - making future decisions, wrestling with past hurts, and understanding how Epic fits into that journey.

I believe this conference will take a next step in the growth process for Asian American college students because they will be free to confront the pains of our past, to speak out about what has been causing dysfunction in this current generation. Our staff role has become much more of a counseling role as we see a trends like the breakdown of nuclear families, emotionally absent fathers and an overemphasis on success. We hope that our role serves to encourage our students to be whole people. It is our prayer and deep desire that this conference can be an introduction into a holistic growth for all Asian Americans students to help change a culture.

As you can see, Steph and I are smack dab in the middle of that battle, walking through a lot of this ourselves. We know that it DOES belong to the Lord and He will rise up and give us victory and be our hope, our shield and our defender. Because of God's love and power, our journey is to become true, whole heroes.

Under His Mercy,

Tony & Steph