



# CICC Reporter

CORNERSTONE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
YEAR END 2010

## Pastor's Annual Report



Dear Brethren and Friends:

**I** bring you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It's December. It is hard to believe that in a few days we'll come to the end of 2010 – and move into the new year. It is at this time that I think about the incredible work God has allowed us to do over the past 12 months – and the great opportunities available to us in 2011.

When I think about 2010, I am amazed at the way God has used our church to be channels of blessings, to touch so many lives and to impact the ministry of building His earthly kingdom.

We have covered a lot of ground but have been unable to gain mileage in some areas – areas also needing attention since they are so vital to the spiritual maturity of every member and the growth of the church.

But first of all, let's praise the Lord for His grace, goodness and faithfulness and thank Him in anticipation of what He will enable us to do in 2011. And let me express my deep gratitude, on behalf of our congregation, for your continuing support of the Lord's work.

As I fill you in on the highlights of our ministry in 2010, "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful" (Heb. 10:23).

### 2010 Ministry Highlights

A review of the past 12 months revealed that we fared well in fulfilling our God-given responsibility of sharing God's love to a lost world through evangelism, education and ministry, including some of the goals and targets we have set at the start of the year. As always we gave sustained effort in addressing the issues affecting the various aspects of our ministry.

#### Spiritual Aspect

**Worship.** As our first responsibility to God, we come together every Sunday and other special occasions to give homage to God. It is gratifying to see you and others join us on a regular basis – some with guests and newcomers, some with friends looking for a church to call home. Some eventually were added to our growing membership.

Our worship is always enhanced by the presence of our new and old members, by our visitors and guests and by the music provided through our praise and worship bands, soloists and choirs. Their songs lift up our spirits and usher us into God's divine presence!

**Discipleship.** This program is designed to make us become like Christ. But to become Christ-like, requires gradual development; it is a slow process. We opened a number of Bible study groups and Sunday School classes to help us get on the road to spiritual maturity, and be equipped to become "disciplers" later on. Our Sunday School continues to be the teaching and reaching arm of the church. About 70% of our members are involved in Christian education – as teachers, volunteers and attendees. Complementing this program is the numerous cell/home Bible studies taking place in various locations during weekdays. Thanks go to our lay leaders for using their talent in disciple-making.

To complement the teaching of God's Word, we conducted July 21-25 the annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) under the leadership of Amy Ricafranca and Dinah Cardenas. With 180 participants, from children to senior adults, it has the highest number of attendees when compared with the previous years' event.

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**Fellowship.** Throughout the year, we spent time in fellowship around the Word of God (Bible study), with the members and others during lunchtime, parties and other celebrations to promote loving, caring and Christ-centered relationships. Because of fellowship – where we experience church life together – we were able to serve one another, love one another, care for one another and extend the many “one another” exhortations found in the New Testament. Other activities that make us an authentic church family include Family Camps, sports competitions and the Men, Women and Youth Retreats.

This year, 21 families attended the Family Camp held in Pismo State Beach, Pismo, CA. It was organized by Dori Olega. The Women’s Retreat, Men’s Retreat and Youth Retreat were led by Ohrie Tongol, Roel Pandino and Pastor Jason Ricafranca, respectively.

**Ministry.** One of life’s truths that we value greatly is that God created us to serve Him and others. During the year, we saw scores of members serve with their gifts, talents, time and treasure. It is gratifying to see our young people join the band, the ensemble, the choir, and the food distribution to the homeless in Los Angeles. Not to be outdone are the children. Many are now members of the Children’s Choir. The same is true with our adults. We can see new faces added to our Tagalog and English Choirs. During the year, we also shared our financial blessings to meet the needs of our church family and others who asked for help and assistance. Again, we gave words of encouragement, comfort and support to those who were affected by various ailments, the loss of loved ones, jobs, and other unforeseen events. Through our giving to the benevolent fund, we were able to extend financial support to the needy. We were also able to send love gifts to several ministries based in other states and countries.

The newly-organized CICC Orchestra Ensemble is a welcome addition to our list of regular performers. Like the Youth Choir, it’s a promising group loaded with talents! The latter’s presentation on Sunday, December 19, including the performances of our choirs: Children, Tagalog and English, the Ensemble, regular soloists and other singers –helped us to focus on Jesus, the *reason* why we celebrate the *season*. Thanks to Dr. Rosalie Adriano for her effort in organizing these groups and directing their presentations.

**Evangelism & Missions.** We continue to live up to our motto: “At Cornerstone we care.” Yes, we care for people especially those without Christ in their lives. Although we have not had a follow-up Evangelism seminar this year, we had a number of members give reports of having led many unbelievers to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior. They were products of last year’s Evangelism seminar. Many of you also helped distribute tracts to friends, family members, co-workers and during our annual “Harvest Night” and Vacation Bible School (VBS) events. During the year, we continuously boosted our Mission Fund through the monthly offering. Total offering for the biennial Medical and Dental Mission Trip to the Philippines on January 5-12, 2011 amounted to close to \$20,000.

The amount will be used to cover expenses for medical and dental care of needy patients, medicines, hotel accommodation, food, local transportation, honoraria for local doctors and dentists, gospel tracts, and other expenses related to the holding of a youth rally, and a seminar for pastors and their spouses aimed at encouraging them to serve God faithfully and strengthen their marital relationship.

### Financial Aspect

This year as in the past, we did not experience any problem at all in meeting our financial obligations as well as in funding our operations. Thanks for sharing your financial blessings to the Lord’s work. While we experienced low cash position during the early part of the year, giving improved during the second half of the year. At the end of November, we had an excess of over \$15,000 - a good indication that we will not be “in the red” or operating at a net loss at the end of the year.

On December 15, the congregation ratified our budget of \$629,000 for 2011 which is slightly higher than the 2010 budget. The outlay includes allocation to 82 missionaries and mission pastors. Starting next year, however, we will discontinue our support to some missionaries and the amount that we will saved will be shifted to support church planters in the Philippines and other countries.

### Physical Aspect

Your participation in the past Capital Stewardship Campaign and in our annual “Everybody’s Birthday” offering paved the way for us to renovate our sanctuary. We increased the floor area of the altar and let go of the old baptismal pool. We also increased the number of bowls in the women’s rest room and added a urinal in the men’s comfort room.

Our plan to upgrade the Christian Education building continues to suffer delay. While the permit for mechanical and

electrical plans have already been approved, the permit covering the architectural rendering which includes the construction of an additional room remains unapproved.

As everyone knows, we have funds for this project including the construction of a patio with awning outside the sanctuary. Let's hope and pray that with or without delay "the Lord's purpose (will) prevail" (Pr. 19:21).

### Numerical Aspect

The growth in membership that we have been projecting has not materialized anew. We have had new members join our fellowship but there were those who moved to other places. Our total membership including those who continue to call CICC their home church (on extended vacation) is close to 600, including children and adults. If we reckon those worshipping in the churches we have established we can claim that ours is the largest Filipino church in the United States in terms of membership.

### Other Highlights

In 2010 we conducted the following important events:

*Valentine's Day* – More than 100 couples renewed their marital vows on February 14 during the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. It was the first time for the church to celebrate it in the sanctuary.

*Good Friday Service* – The Cornerstone Fellowship of Churches (CFOC) hosted the celebration on April 2, at 7 pm. at the CCF Orange County church on 1465 W. Orangethorpe, Fullerton, CA.

*Easter Sunday* – On April 4, the English, Tagalog and Children's Choirs presented a musical titled "Raise The Crown" during the first and third worship services that served as the message.

*Sportsfest* – In lieu of the July sports competitions involving all Cornerstone churches, we held our own event at our premises. About 120 church members were around to watch and compete in chess, walkathon (for senior male adults, senior female adults, adults, and children), karaoke singing contest, Bible quiz, table tennis, volleyball and basketball. Prizes were donated by In-N-Out restaurant and Target store.

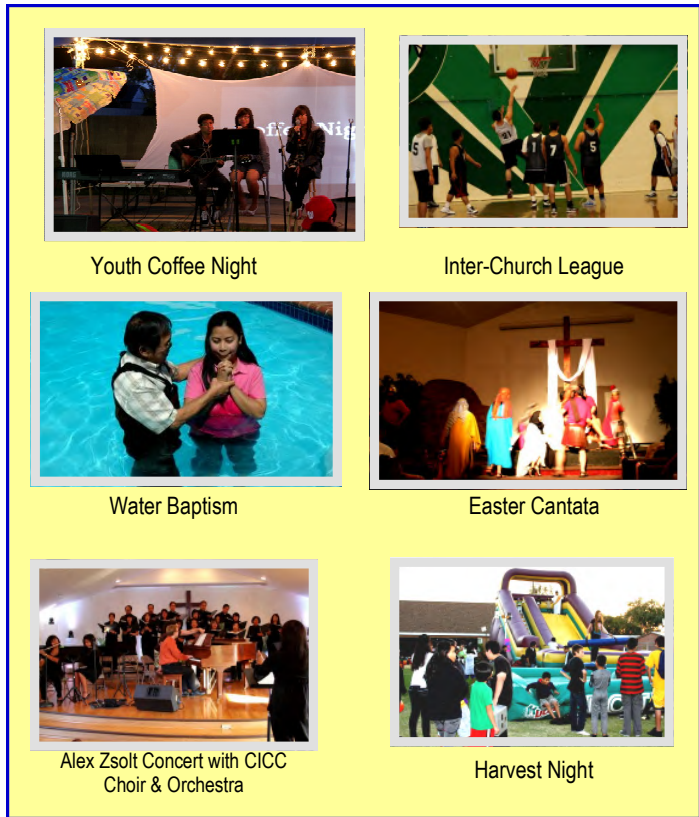
*Water Baptism* – Twelve members followed the Lord in water baptism officiated by Pastor Jason and the undersigned. Three of them were adults, three teenaged girls and the rest were children.

*Mothers and Fathers* – We honored mothers and fathers in our midst on May 9 and June 20 in observance of Mother's Day and Father's Day, respectively.

### 2011 Challenges and Opportunities

As we move into the new year, we will be facing new challenges and opportunities that will test our faith, priorities and resolve. I see the need to address the following issues and concerns:

**Children's Ministry.** As one of the "growth" areas in our church, we need to have more workers (paid or volunteers) in our nursery. The present number of volunteers could hardly cope with providing quality care to the growing number of babies and toddlers every Sunday. We also have children with special needs who should be attended on a one-on-one basis. We had some members move to other churches because of our inadequacy to meet their expectations. We talked about this concern in the Council and everyone agreed that what is needed is a full-time staff – a



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Children's Minister or Pastor – whose tasks are to develop a comprehensive and expanding educational ministries program for the children (infant through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) of the church and the surrounding community, and to supervise and provide leadership for staff

members and volunteers involved in this ministry. This position requires additional outlay but we have to start investing in the future of our children because they will be the ones who will take over the mantle of responsibility later on. For a start, we can hire a part-time staff and as the numbers of children and volunteers increase in number, the position will be upgraded to full-time.

**Facilities Improvement.** We have just completed the reproofing and replacement of windows of the church office. What we would like to see is the completion of the proposed Christian Education building renovation. If we continue to face delay in the approval of a permit because of the additional room and installation of the sprinkler system, maybe it's better to just replace the windows, upgrade the bathrooms and re-layout the rooms if this is the way to expedite the project.

**Church Planting.** As you may already know, we are shifting our focus on supporting church planters instead of those not involved in starting new church work. Our Missions Committee and I met and talked at great length on the rationale of refocusing our attention on the effort. We came to the conclusion that God is leading us to invest more in church planting work because it is the most effective way of winning souls for Christ. The church planter and his disciples, as our experience with our daughter churches has shown, will be joining hands in reaching others in their own communities and spheres of influence.

**Cell Groups.** I encourage you to take the opportunity of joining the cell or Bible study group nearest to your place. You will not only learn and grow in your faith but also grow in your relationship with others. We have leaders who are just waiting for the chance to lead a group. I would love to see more groups organized in 2011. If a group has more than 10 members, a new leader should take the initiative of starting a new group.

**Prayer Meeting.** One of the marks of a Christian is his prayer life. We continue to approach the throne of grace because we have an answering God and He longs to hear our prayers. If it is not possible for you to come to our Wednesday Prayer meeting, make it a point to have your own prayer time at home. If you are within the 10-mile radius from the church, I encourage you to join us for prayer every first Saturday of the month (Dawn Prayer Meeting) from 5:30-7 a.m. or the Prayer Warriors (Intercessors) Assembly every Tuesday and Friday, 10-12 a.m., not to mention our regular Wednesday Prayer meeting.

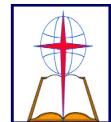
Thank you for your time and your commitment and all-out support of our vision and mission. God's kingdom work will not advance without the cooperation and support of brethren like you. Thank you for your partnership. May God's richest blessings be yours in 2011.

*"Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy... The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:2-3).*

Yours in His joy,



PAUL T. LACANILAO



### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 A.M. Tagalog Service  
9:30 A.M. Youth Service  
9:30 A.M. Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. English Service  
11:00 A.M. Youth Sunday School

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