

In July 2015 I accepted an invitation to join the Leadership Team of Asian American Christian Fellowship (AACF). Today, I continue that journey toward fulfilling God's call on my life for today and tomorrow. Thank you for being a donor, a ministry partner, a prayer support. Enjoy the newsletter!

Christmas Time

Even though it is now late-January, I want to take some time to reflect on 2014's Christmas. The holidays, in recent years, have been a journey of reconciling familial relationships. When I moved to San Diego, the physical distance intensified the emotional distance with my family. It worsened when my father passed away in 2006. It was as though I needed to relearn what it meant to be a family – to be committed to one another in love; to be vulnerable with one another in love; to be present to one another in love.



Fast forward several years of difficulties, I am taking these definitions to heart. I believe that God allowed me to become lost from family in order to learn to cherish family. I often and easily take advantage of family. I did not realize how precious they are and how privileged I am to have family. It was my first niece and Kylie that inspired and convicted me to become a family member. I realized that I had adopted a lifestyle that did not allow time for family; I kept myself busy so I would have "legitimate" excuses to avoid family. I wouldn't let family into my heart. When my niece was born, I went up to L.A. to help with some of the chores around the house. I only lasted a couple of days before I could not stand the crying anymore. I had to escape to San Diego. But I made subsequent trips to see my brother's family and I found myself falling in love with this crying, pooing baby. My heart was becoming soft for family. Maybe it was her cuteness or seeing my brother become a father. But something changed in me. I wanted to make time for family. When I started dating Kylie, I learned that her ties with her family are deep. She loves her family and her family loves her. Her family gave me a personal vision for family. I wanted to experience that familial love.

God is sowing seeds in my heart to have a desire to be present with my family. The next step was allowing those desires to sprout into action and to have deep relational roots. I am still in the process of reconciling with family, but it has been an enjoyable journey reconnecting with family. I

look forward to experiencing the joy of family and overcoming the challenges of family.

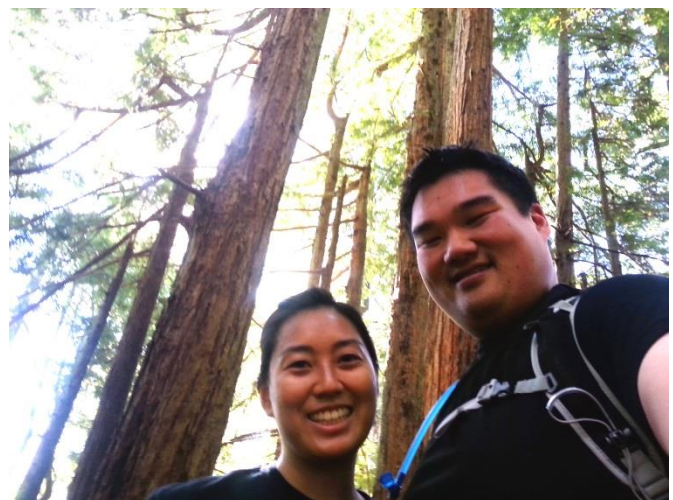
I am thankful for being part of the Christmas tradition of my family. I recognize that I am privileged to have something like that; I need to cherish my family.

NorCal Vacation

I love SoCal. But I have a confession. NorCal does beat out SoCal in one way. It has better... water! But that's the only thing (that I am willing to admit to)! Before our spring semester started, Kylie and I had the opportunity to take a trip up to San Francisco to visit some old friends, see the sights of the city, and enjoy the coastal forests of NorCal. We were certainly blessed by our friends. We cherished their hospitality and their stories of God in their lives.

My favorite *tourist activity* in SF was a hike through Muir Woods. We chose to hike the Ben Johnson trail. One blogger wrote, "This loop ascends unrelentingly along a grassy ridge and then descends through old-growth redwood." It is a 5.2 mile loop that ascends 1200 feet in two miles. The description both excited and frightened us. Kylie was excited for the uphill climb; I was excited for the redwood forest. Though we were nervous about hiking a new trail we were able to enjoy God's handiwork. We went on a weekday and walked the more difficult trails, allowing us time and space from others for the large majority of the hike. It was as though we were given a private tour through God's creativity and hospitality. It felt like Sabbath rest. I would highly recommend anyone to take a trip through Muir Woods. Bring a lunch and whatever you need to connect with God: scripture, journal, or ukulele to spend an extended morning/afternoon in Muir Woods.

I was blessed by the trip to NorCal, and I hope to do it again in the near future. I didn't have time to visit all my NorCal friends, so if you're reading this and you live up there, keep an eye out for Jon Liu's next visit!



StrengthsFinder Coaching with C3

StrengthsFinder is a tool that I have been using to help people understand their strengths. Developed by Gallup, it is an assessment that identifies naturally recurring patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that can be productively applied; Gallup identifies these as talents. When a person invests (or gains knowledge and skills) in their talents, they become strengths. A strength is the ability to provide consistent, near-perfect performance in a given activity.

I had the opportunity to do a coaching session with volunteers from C3. C3 stands for Community Culture Change. They are a nonprofit based in the East Los Angeles community that wants to engage local culture and inspire systemic and personal change (www.c3center.org). I worked with a handful of their volunteers to highlight and encourage them in their personal strengths. It was a blessed time of clarifying strengths and brainstorming strategies to develop their talents into strengths.

Scripture highlights that we are, "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). In Ephesians 2:10, Paul describes us as, "God's workmanship." The English word translated as "workmanship" is actually the Greek word "poiema". That is where English gets the word, poem. We are God's poem. We are God's beautifully and masterfully crafted poem. StrengthsFinder asks us to embrace our strengths and find environments where you can consistently and frequently use your strengths. Scripture asks us to embrace our identity as God's creation and become stewards of our abilities and resources. When we overlay the two, we see the principle of stewardship and the practical expression of strengths; we receive clarification on our earthly calling.

If you are curious what your strengths are, contact me and I can send you a purchase link that will generate a personal code to access the assessment. If you need more clarification after you take the assessment, we can set up an appointment for personal StrengthsFinder coaching.



Co-Founder of C3, Brett Yee with his wife, Kathy and their son, Ethan.

AACF Winter Staff Retreat



Even our AACF campus ministers go on retreat! Coming from University of Washington (UW) to UC San Diego and all areas between, 10 of our ministers gathered for a weekend of fellowship to affirm vision for AACF, enter into God's Sabbath rest, and prepare for AACF's annual Leadership Training Conference.

Lance Lee, a trained counselor, ordained minister, and ministry consultant, was our speaker for the weekend. He led us through exercises to clarify the purpose and assess the impact of AACF. Lance wanted us to examine two questions: What is AACF all about? What is it going to take for me (for us) to fulfill the mission and vision of AACF? The short answer to the first is: AACF is about reaching the college campus to create a spiritual home-away-from-home so that students may make their faith their own and be empowered with the passion, skills, and knowledge to go into the church, the workplace, and the market place with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. To answer the second question, Lance then allowed us to dream of having infinite resources in order to fulfill the purpose of AACF. So we dreamt of having paid and volunteer campus ministers for every campus and

bible study, to have seminary level training for campus ministers and student leaders, to have effective partnerships with the local churches in order to create young-adult ministries, to host an international student exchange program, and even to have an AACF Camp which all the campuses could use for their retreats. This is only a *short* list of all the things we would like AACF to do for God's Kingdom.

Fulfilling everything on the list would be great. But AACF does not want to become a programmatic organization that ferries college students through a curriculum. We want to be a kingdom-minded ministry that allows students to discover and experience their calling in God's Kingdom. This happens in relationships: discipleship, mentorship, friendship, leadership, and partnership. These relationships already exist within AACF. The students have discipleship, mentorship, friendship, and leadership. As campus ministers, our role is to nurture and guide these relationships. My role on the Leadership Team extends into partnerships. I will be pioneering new partnerships with local and national ministries while supporting existing relationships between different AACF chapters and their college campus.

The weekend was an inspiring time of dreaming about the reach of AACF and strategizing for the first-steps that must be taken to extend our current reach.

Fundraising Update!

I want to give a big **THANK YOU**. I praise God that he has led you to support me through prayer and financial partnership. I am at **18%** of my annual fundraising goal! Your tax deductible donations will allow me to do ministry on a full-time basis. There are many ways to give. Contact me for the various ways of giving.

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