

*We are committed to making disciples by educating and equipping students in biblical foundations, Christian disciplines, and the development of spiritual gifts in order to prepare them for witness and service on the campus, in the local church, in the marketplace, and in world missions.*



# ASIAN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

CAMPUS MINISTRIES OF JEMS

## Transitions and Blessings

Volume 2, Issue 2 – Fall 2015

### Leader Training and Fall Launch

Written by Jon Liu

AACF hosts an annual Leadership Training Conference (LTC) for its student leaders. This year, about 90 students attended the conference in June 2015. Students from UC San Diego to University of Washington attended a week long training conference. The theme this year was “Hear, See, Touch, Come, and Taste” inspired by 1 John 1:1. This passage speaks about experiencing Jesus, his love and forgiveness. The focus of LTC was to invite the students to respond to Jesus, to have their Christian convictions overflow as compassion and love for those who are lost. We led the students to consider how their experience of Jesus leads to evangelism.



Daniel Lui, IV Staff

I had the privilege of speaking during the evening program with Daniel Lui, an InterVarsity staff member. Daniel spoke on our identity as

evangelists. He invited the students to process their barriers to evangelism: our shame and insecurities. I spoke on our call to evangelism. I explored how experiencing Jesus transforms us, as individual and as a community to proclaim the Gospel. The students left LTC with new friendships, tools for ministry, and a seed of evangelism planted in their hearts and minds.



Jon Liu, AACF Staff

Late-August and early-September signal the beginning of a new school year. AACFs across the west coast have prepared or are preparing their Fall launch. They are discerning their themes, asking for God for guidance to figure out the focus of their chapter. The theme will reveal topics that need to be addressed; these are new paradigms to be taught and scripture to be explored. They are planning their events; these events

allow the group to flourish within and with the community. They are recruiting student leaders to serve AACF as worship leaders, small group leaders, bible study leaders, and community builders.

It is a busy and challenging season. I pray that each of our student leaders will seek the Lord as they plan and prepare. I also pray that each of them will have a deep conviction for evangelism to their community and to the world. Please join me in praying for AACF. AACF has 17 chapters. Three of them are brand new. Pray for our students at *University of Washington, Seattle University\**, *Seattle Pacific University\**, *UC Berkeley, University of the Pacific\**, *UC Davis, San Francisco SU, San Jose SU, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Los Angeles, USC, UC Riverside, CSU Long Beach, UC Irvine, UC San Diego* (\*indicates new AACF chapters).

As for me, I will be visiting each of our chapters this school year. I want to get to know each AACF: their campus, the student leaders, students who attend, and the campus ministers who faithfully serve the students. I am excited for the privilege to fellowship and minister to Christian leaders.

## TogetherLA 2015

Written by Jon Liu

“TogetherLA is a movement of pastors, church leaders and people of faith who love LA. We seek the betterment of our city and will come together in 2015 for a three-day, city-wide event...”



I had the opportunity to attend TogetherLA in February 2015. It was an ethnically, vocationally, and denominationally diverse gathering of Christians who wanted to reach the lost, the poor, and the suffering in Los Angeles. Although the conference focused on the Los Angeles demography, any ministry would have been blessed by the sermons, insights, testimonies, and worship at TogetherLA. Tim Keller was the keynote speaker. If you want to listen to any of the talks, Biola has uploaded all the main sessions. Follow this link to watch them all: <http://tinyurl.com/togetherlaTalks>. To highlight just one of Keller’s talks, he engaged the question “how does the Church love the city?” Keller listed nine ways for the Church to love the city; I was especially challenged by his last point. Keller admonished the Church to be a suffering community – for the Church to be a place for sufferers, for the Church to care for sufferers, and a call for the Church to be willing to suffer for the Gospel.

***The call to be a suffering community is a call to consider the call to love your neighbor.***

The call to be a suffering community is a call to consider the call to love your neighbor. “... And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29b). In Scripture, a neighbor is not defined geographically but by the act of being a neighbor. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus affirmed that it was the person who “had mercy” (Luke 10:37b) who was a neighbor. The neighborly person was not defined by race or vocation, but by compassionate actions. As a suffering community, we consider the ways that God has enabled us and convicted us to be a neighbor. This will look different for each person. As a single young adult this means I make myself available to the church and church members. I have time; I can volunteer my time to serve in helpful ways – to fill in the gaps. As a Christian this means that I extend hospitality to those who are different from me. I include, feed, and serve others. I continue to explore the ways that God has enabled me to be a neighbor: these are ways within my comfort zone. I am also exploring the ways that God has convicted me to be a neighbor: these are ways outside of my comfort zone. I would like to invite you to explore the ways that God has enabled and convicted you of being a neighbor.

TogetherLA was a blessing. It challenged me and encouraged me. The sessions highlighted ways that the Church has been called to love the city; speakers challenged the Church to care for the underserved and underprivileged. I was encouraged to see a diverse gathering of believers who wanted to embody the love of God to the city.

## Jon and Kylie are Engaged!

Written by Kylie Yano

Jon and I have had much to praise God for in the last few months, especially back in May. My family had been in San Diego for Jon's seminary graduation, but that was not the only event they were in town for. In true Jon-fashion, he had an exciting and elaborate adventure planned for one special day – May 31, 2015. It all started after a typical Sunday service in San Diego when Jon handed me a stack of red envelopes. Secretly thinking that I had suddenly become a little richer, I opened the first envelope with suspicion and nerves. I read a clue for all of us to follow, and after I hustled to pack a bag, we ate lunch on the road to our next stop an hour north. The second envelope provided tickets to see a movie together, and the third clue led us further north for some yummy dessert. At that point, I was wondering where we were going to end up. My family looked like they were losing steam, or they were just oddly quiet, and I was more suspicious than when our day began. Jon prompted me to read the next clue which led us to downtown Los Angeles. I started to put all the pieces together on this leg of the trip. #1) Jon was quiet in the car. #2) Jon's hands were ice cold. That was evidence enough to prepare myself for something big.

We pulled into the JEMS office, we parked, and he took a deep breath. He then began to recite a poem from memory, recounting the important moments in our relationship and how we've grown. He led me through the building up to the beautifully decorated roof. It was there where he proposed in the last lines of his poem and where I said yes! My friends who had set up and were hiding came out to congratulate us, sharing smiles and hugs all around.

## I Moved to LA

Written by Jon Liu

I moved to Los Angeles! During the last four years of ministry, coffee shops and fast food joints were my offices. Now, I get to be in a real office. No more whirling blenders or howling kids. Now I get to be in the whirl of executive ministry and the howling of a copy machine. It has been a blessing to share my passion and vision for ministry with other ministers. I look forward to fellowshiping and partnering with my co-workers to reach the world with the hope of the Gospel.



My next question was, "Where did my family go?" Of course there was more to the adventure! My family had joined Jon's family and friends who were waiting to celebrate and spend the evening with us. It was an amazing day, and I'm so grateful for Jon. Clearly he spent time and energy planning this, and I could tell how much thought he put into it. Though I don't like surprises, I had to trust that Jon knew what was going on as we traveled from San Diego to LA. I'm encouraged because similarly, in times of transition, both of us will have to surrender the unknown to our sovereign God and let him guide us. The journey continues!



"I have a question for you, I hope you agree. Kylie Yano, will you make me the happiest man and marry me?" Yes, Jon Liu, with more joy than I can show. Engaged and ready, oh the places we'll go!

As I reflect on my transition to LA, I have mixed emotions. The move means several things. (1) I will be leaving home: I have lived in San Diego for my entire adult life. I considered it my home for the past 12 years. I will be a little further from friends who have walked life with me, but I remind myself and my friends that we're only a two hour drive away. (2) I will be returning to my old home. I grew up in LA, but I have lost touch with many of my friends from my youth; I look forward to reconnecting with old friends. (3) I will be creating a new home. I got engaged to Kylie Yano on May 31st! I get to dream about a new life with her.

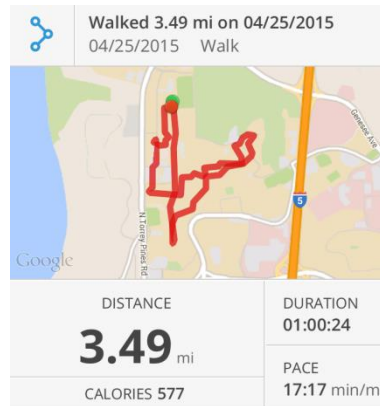
Even though I have mixed emotions, I am committed to making the transition. I am convicted to be a blessing wherever God sends me. Rather than compare LA to SD, I am praying for the opportunity to be a life giving member of the community.

## A Penny A Step Results

Written by Jon Liu

In one hour, I took 7,355 steps covering 3.49 miles on the UCSD campus. Walking around campus was like walking down memory lane. Walking by lecture halls evoked some anxiety; I remembered the stress of midterms and finals. I laughed at memory of the struggle to stay awake during my morning lectures. Then passing by the dorms, I reminisced about the people I had met at UCSD: friends from AACF, former roommates, and classmates. I remembered the late night hangouts, transparent conversations, and random silliness of the college days. I was blessed by my walk around UCSD, and I was further blessed by my ministry partners.

Through your partnership, I was able to raise just over \$2,300. Praise God! Since A Penny A Step, God has been blessing me with more ministry partners – people who have been led to support me in fulltime ministry with AACF.



Christian leaders for the sake of the Gospel. Thank you to everyone who has partnered with me. You are truly a blessing in my life!

I am still praying for partners to make a monthly pledge to reach my goal of being fully funded for the next year. Will you pray about becoming a monthly partner?



### Alumni Corner, Kelly Lee

Written by Kelly Lee

Kelly Lee, class of 2006 AACF UCSD, responded to the question, "How has AACF impacted your life?"

I first started coming to AACF during my sophomore year in 2004. I remember hesitantly signing up for Winter Retreat and feeling nervous about going because I didn't really know anyone. However, after a rough freshman year and really hitting rock bottom in my relationship with God, I had promised Him and myself that I was going to recommit my life to Christ and make my relationship with God my priority. Throughout the rest of my college years, AACF was an extremely vital part of my growth as a Christian. Even though I had grown up in a Christian home and went to church all my life, my time in college and at AACF is where my faith became genuine and my own. For the first time I actually longed to read the Bible and felt like God was giving me insight to understand His Word. I learned about how sinful I am and what an offense it is to a thrice Holy God, yet out of His mercy He still chose to save me and give me the free gift of salvation. I began to pray more and more and learned that not only does God delight in our prayers, but He is faithful to answer them in His own way and in His own time if we will trust in Him. Not only was I challenged and blessed by the teaching I received there, but I also met many other genuine believers who to this day are still dear friends of mine that encourage me in my walk with the Lord.

When I look back on my college years, my best memories are from AACF. I am so thankful that God led to me a fellowship that I could call home, and a place where I could truly grow and deepen my relationship with Him. My years at AACF were truly integral to the growth and development of my faith and I will always be forever grateful for this campus ministry. And for the icing on the cake, God also allowed me to meet my husband at AACF. It turned out that he was my driver for the Winter Retreat that I had been so reluctant to attend. He is a godly man who encourages me in my walk with the Lord and who daily shows Christ's love to me. We've been married for almost seven years now and will be welcoming our third baby come October. God has truly been so good and gracious to a sinner like me.