

The month of January was one of the greatest months ever for the Celebration Congregation. In the first five weeks of 2009 we:

- Completed our *Get Ready* message series (CD's are now available in our Bookstore and on our website)
- Launched and completed a Drug Awareness emphasis in our midweek Youth services, that culminated with nearly 400 teens in attendance at our final services
- Celebrated a great 2008 and affirmed our wonderful Celebration leaders during our *Church-wide Leadership Banquet* which took place at our Airline Campus
- Began and completed our annual *21-day Fasting and Prayer* emphasis
- Prayed for large numbers of people to experience supernatural healing from the Lord on the third weekend of January
- Had an incredible *Champions Men's Retreat* at our Airline Campus
- Had 107 new Membership Candidates, with the majority of those being new Christians, and witnessed another 105 coming to faith in Christ Jesus
- Culminated January 2009 with great TEAM WEEKEND services at all of our campuses, and *Super Bowl Reach Parties* in many of our *Life Groups*.

It is always a blessing and encouragement to hear testimonies from our people about how the Lord has miraculously worked in their lives or others lives during our fasting emphasis. Last year, as they did this year, many of our children and teens participated in our annual fasting effort. Following are some of the praise reports received from some of our children in 2008.

- "I prayed my dad who was sick and now he is doing better."
- "I prayed for my mom because her belly was hurting, and now she is feeling much better."
- "I have a friend who was being really mean, and now she is much nicer."
- "I prayed for my sister's behavior in school to improve, and it has."
- "I prayed for my mom and dad to get some extra money, and they did."
- "I prayed that my mom and dad wouldn't argue as much, and they've stopped arguing."
- "I prayed that my mom and I wouldn't argue over my homework, and I'm doing better."
- "I prayed for my mom who was sick, and she is now doing much better."
- "I prayed for my little brother to stop climbing on furniture and falling off, and God is working on him."

We look forward to reading and hearing your testimonies to what the Lord has been doing in your life, and in the lives of your family members and friends. Please be sure to send your testimonies to info@celebrationchurch.org.

In January, we also received a great number of *LIFE WIDE OPEN* Commitments from our people. Annually we encourage our people in the beginning of a new year to "renew" our commitment to loving and living for the Lord. This year our people made commitments to:

- Worshiping the Lord faithfully with other Christians (Hebrews 10:22-25)
- Growing in the Lord through studying God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17)
- Giving to the Lord our tithes and offerings (2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 9:1-11)
- Serving the Lord by serving others (Ephesians 2:10, Romans 12:11)
- Witnessing for the Lord by sharing our faith with others and encouraging them to join us in worship services and Life Groups

We have discovered that those who are willing to make such commitments are much more apt to live faithful and faith-filled lives. Also, we have discovered that none of us can keep those types of commitments unless we daily seek God's power and provision in our lives. If you not yet made your *LIFE WIDE OPEN* Commitment to the Lord for 2009, you will have another chance to do so in our upcoming weekend services

or in your *Life Group* in the coming week.

Upcoming Special Events and Activities in February that you will want to consider participating in include:

- The Keri Pomarolli Comedy Concert on February 13 (sponsored by our Singles Ministry). Tickets can be purchased at our worship services, in our church office, or by visiting www.itickets.com
- The showing of the movie *Fireproof* at all three of our campuses on the weekend of February 14-15
- Involvement in our Mardi Gras Street Witnessing Ministry, February 20-24

On TEAM WEEKEND we began our new series of messages, *The Biggest Losers*. I pray that you will plan to join us in the coming weeks as we continue this series of messages, and that you will bring others with you. Even though we're entering the Mardi Gras season here in the New Orleans region, we want to be sure to keep our commitment to Lord and continue experiencing His miraculous work and provision in our lives.

Pastor Dennis