

Singles Service Team Report

ICOC Annual Delegates Meeting

Miami 2010

God has been working throughout the Singles ministries over the last year, below are some of the highlights:

1. The second International Singles Conference was held in Manila Philippines. Over 1500 singles from over 28 countries were able to attend. Many of you have seen or heard of the impact the singles SOAR conference has had on the singles ministries especially in the East.
2. I am very grateful for the host church in the city of Manila; they went beyond the call of putting together a great conference. The music, support of the church and overall leadership is a testament to Koko Enrile and the Metro Manila Christian church.
3. There were many highlights such as 82 brothers and sisters from mainland China. Many commented that they would not have been able to come to a singles conference in the U.S and seeing so many singles from all nations inspired them to go back to China with a new zeal for building their churches.
4. In 2008, when Dallas hosted the first International Singles Conference, we did not even have 5 full time leaders leading singles ministries. In Manila we nearly had 25 full time leaders leading singles throughout the world.
5. It was also encouraging to see the first Asian Singles Committee come to be formed. Under the leadership of Wee Keong, an evangelist in Singapore, the Asian singles will begin planning regional conferences for all of Asia, the next one in 2011 in Bali.
6. This year's ISC also saw the formation of the first Single Service Corps, Disciples such as Mark Ottenweller, Marco Pellizzeri and Lin Beaty served with other disciples at the Center of HOPE village. Singles want to

serve the needy and we are hoping that each year singles, with HOPE Worldwide, will go serve those in need.

7. On Saturday at the ISC, over 1200 singles boarded onto busses to also visit and volunteer at the Center of HOPE village in Laguna, Philippines, where HOPE offers short- and long-term holistic care, treatment and placement for children that have been sexually and/or physically abused. The Center is a safe-harbor for children where they are offered a place to stay in a family setting and with trained staff that offers a wide range of skills to treat each child's individual needs. To many of the singles, it was a highlight of the trip.

8. Singles also saw an explosion of regional events beyond the normal few that have been operating, such as Beach Stock in Virginia Beach. Weekend retreats in the US and abroad are cropping up in Las Vegas; Montgomery, Maryland; L.A; New York; Washington, D.C; Cincinnati, Ohio; Boston; West Africa; Denver; Texas; Philadelphia; Dubai; Lima, Peru. While it is exciting to hear about so many regional singles events I would like to encourage everyone to work in cooperation with the other churches in their regions. This past year we had several events on conflicting dates and we would like to avoid that problem in the future.

9. DT Heart and Soul continues to expand and give singles in our fellowship the opportunity to meet other singles throughout the United States. DT Heart & Soul recently lowered their rates. They plan to open in other continents and release an upgrade.

Future Challenges:

1. The Singles Committee is currently undertaking a Global Survey our ministries. This survey is short and only requests, the number of men, women, total number of singles and those who are over 40 years of age. Out of the 118 churches who have responded, our singles ministries have:

3389 number of men; 5822 number of women; 9205 total number of singles and 2800 are over the age of 40.

2. As you can see, the sisters outnumber the brothers at least 2 to 1 and 30% are over the age of 40. Let us learn the lessons of the past and turn our singles ministries around by converting men who will lead. Though not all will or should marry, many of our singles struggle with their faith and the world due to this imbalance. Many are frustrated by these numbers. This affects our sisters and even our own daughters.

3. Singles compose a larger percentage of our population than ever before. This is a harvest field we are not addressing. Sports teams, the military and even gangs have no trouble recruiting men, but the church does. We need to ask ourselves, "Why?" Are we leading with the same passion, faith and zeal of Jesus or have we backed away from being the kind of men other men follow? Jesus did not have any trouble getting other men to follow him. Have we allowed life to beat us down therefore making our lives undesirable? I'm bringing this to our attention so this can be one of the areas we give special attention to so that God can bring about a radical change in our ratios in the next few years. This is crucial for long-term growth. Why can't we have churches with more men than women in it?

4. While it is exciting to see more churches devote more resources to the singles ministries, the fact remains that too many leaders do not have the singles ministries on their heart and do not devote resources to it. How many churches have budgets for singles and teens, but none or little for singles? Did we encourage single leaders to attend the ISC in Manila? Do we realize that if we hire full time workers to lead our singles, that we will baptize more and grow our churches? May I propose that, "Full time single leaders = More baptisms and growth". We have great examples now in Boston, LA, Manila, Singapore and Atlanta.

5. One of the future goals of the International Singles Committee will be to develop more regional single committees and to emphasis regional unity for single events and conferences. We also desire to expand the Single Service Corps with HOPE Worldwide into a yearly event.