

ECHOES FROM F.A.Y.A.C. Conference 2009

F.A.Y.A.C. (Filipino-American Young Adult Council) Conference 2009 was held on August 6-9 at Filipino Community Presbyterian Church in Eagle Rock, California. Thirty four (34) Young adults from four (4) Filipino-American Presbyterian congregations came and participated at the conference. The theme for this year's gathering was "Back to our Roots" based on Acts 2:42-47. Seven (7) young adults from Biyaya went to attend the conference namely: David O, Mike O, emmanuel (jr), Alex, Aira, Boyet and myself. This year, the keynotes and workshops focused on the examples set for us by the early church. We also learned more about the Filipino culture and the origin of Filipino emigration. I believe that The conference helped develop and equip leaders in the local churches, fostered friendship, fellowship and a sense of community among participants.

As you read through the echoes from this year's conference, i hope that you will feel just as blessed as i have been this past weekend and also excited at the same time to continue to disciple others to become leaders in the church, just like how Paul was to Timothy and to follow Timothy's example that despite of our young age, the Lord can use us to further His ministry.

- Frances

Going to FAYAC is always an encouraging and reviving experience for me. Seeing old friends, still fired up for the Lord, meeting new friends, excited to be a part of the great Christian fellowship, is very inspiring.

I learned a lot this past weekend - from how Paul patiently disciplined Timothy, while facing imprisonment and death, how a culture's virtues can turn into vices, how important a small group gathering is, to how Filipinos are as much a part of this country as all others are. All these things inspired me to keep working for the Lord and help develop leaders in the church.

How goes your soul this week? Let's talk... - David O.

FAYAC was once again another thrilling and uplifting experience. The conference was held in un-charted grounds; Eagle Rock, California, which brought a new sense of excitement heading to the conference. The conjoined fellowship between everyone and their respective churches and just the interaction with one another showed that Christ was working within all of us and this very FAYAC conference. Whether it was the small groups we were in or the community service of the church or the simple question of "how goes your soul?" posed to one another, these events brought once distant strangers tightly knit to one another. This was also studied about during our keynote with Mr. Jimmy Huang, on how to be spiritually accountable for each other. So tightly knit, that a handful of youth didn't want to part ways. And all of this entails to our conference's Bible verse focus, Acts 2:42-47. God is wonderful, and he showed new ideas and ways on how to improve our Christian way of life through the other members of various churches who attended. It was an uplifting experience and I am thankful that I was a part of this gathering.

- Junior

Keynote: I learned that before we can go back to our roots, we have to be one in Christ first. We need unity & fellowship so we can show others that we love Christ because that's the beginning of our relationship.

I liked the cultural workshops coz I found out about the things that I didn't know before about the Philippine culture & Filipinos. I learned that we really have to practice it & preserve them for the next generations so they won't be forgotten. I also learned how to enrich my Christian life by doing discipleship, I must be devoted in practicing the word of God & be dependent in Divine Sovereignty.

I can be like Timothy, despite of his young age, he followed everything that Paul taught him & he put His faith on God whenever other people or older people were giving him a hard time. So no matter how young you are, you can be a follower of Christ. - Alra

FAYAC is a good experience to those who are willing to learn more about God. I never stop wanting to know God. Even in our own group, we study the Bible. But it is really different to be a part of this conference. During the first meeting, people are shy, but as the event goes on, we all got to know each other and had fun together. This experience taught me more on how to interact with people, especially with those we just met. We learned from them and they from us. With sharing past experiences and even on how we shared with them. This event makes us ready to be future leaders, not only in the FAYAC council but also in our own local church. - Christopher

This conference was truly a blessing. We learned a few Filipino cultural dances and were able to fix up one of the rooms in Eagle Rock as community service type work. We also gained new members to the FAYAC group and many of the young members are showing commitment towards the whole goal of FAYAC. We are all definitely looking forward to the next conference and we greatly appreciate all those who assisted us in making it possible. Praise God! - Mike O.



when i was at eagle rock during FAYAC, i have learned a lot of things - like a whole group from different states of this country coming together and being UNITED. being ONE with GOD, is very exciting - that we are ONE IN CHRIST, because with CHRIST there is LOVE. I learned a lot about CHRIST, LORD SUPPER, LOVING ONE ANOTHER. We had FELLOWSHIP, SMALL GROUPS, CULTURAL WORKSHOPS, COMMUNITY SERVICE, WORSHIP. and the question HOW GOES YOUR SOUL? There's unity while we prayed together as one body of Christ - GAL. 3:23-29 Children of GOD through Faith, One in Christ JESUS, HEIRS according to his promise. - Alex

