



Nashville Newsflash

Dear Friend,

January 20, 2008

Family Highlights:

- 1) Kobe had his first basketball game last weekend. They lost, but Kobe played great.

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I like new years. It's a great time to set new goals. New years resolution #1: Lose weight I gained during the holidays. Too many cookies and casseroles.

Another new goal is still moving forward, starting our church in Long Beach. We've come up with a mission statement and we'd like to share that with you. But before I do that, a brief confession, encouragement and thought.

The confession. The older I get, the more I realize that loving God and others is simple but not always simple to live out. To put it plainly, I get in the way of that. I find my selfishness contends with my desire to love God and people the way Jesus does, "laying down His life for His friends". But in spite of my selfishness, God helps me become more like Him so that I can walk in love toward Him and others. So fulfilling those two great commandments are life aspirations for Tina and I. And we'll spend the rest of our lives pursuing that kind of love.

The encouragement. In Matthew 22 Jesus was asked "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" His response, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." And the second is like it, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

The thought. Imagine what the world would be like if we were able to live out these two commandments? Would the

world around us be changed? Would our neighbors be changed because we loved them like we love ourselves? Would our children and spouses be touched if we loved them as we love ourselves? Would our co-workers be changed and touched by God as we love them as we love ourselves?

Now, as promised, the mission statement:

"Our mission is to inspire people to grow in love for God and others."

That's really it. Nothing fancy. The mission is simple. We'll be attempting to inspire people to grow in love for God and others. How are we going to inspire? By doing our best to live a loving lifestyle everyday.

People both inside and outside the church are looking for genuine, loving relationships. Our hope is that we can live out the kind of love that would inspire people to begin an intimate, genuine relationship with Christ, especially if it's for the very first time.

Thank you for joining us in this mission through your partnership and friendship. You're such a vital part in all we do.

Blessings,

Paul & Tina



Paul & Tina Dario
www.paulandtinaario.com

You can give online at: <https://admin.everynation.org/giving>