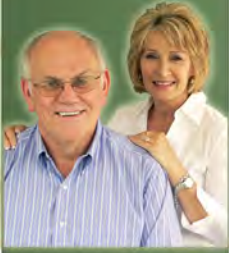


# Heart copy

EXTRA

m a k a r i o s c l u s t e r  
n e w s l e t t e r



j a n u a r y 2 0 1 0 v o l . 6 n o . 1

## Welcome to 2010!

It's only 3 weeks since the last Heart Copy which was one of reminiscing around the last 4 decades. Here we are now in the first few days of a new decade and one that promises to be full of monumental shifts as the world battles to recover from the last one and the kingdom of heaven continues to advance.

In the last few hours I have received 2 telephone calls concerning friends going home. The first, late yesterday afternoon, was to say that Don Coleman had been released from hospital. After almost eight weeks of hospitalization it was great to hear that Don's recovery was sufficient to allow him to complete his rehabilitation time at home. Florence and his family join us in thanking you for all your prayer support during this very trying time and ask that you will continue to pray for Don's complete restoration. We have seen Father's healing grace upon him and he is full of faith and vision for all this decade holds. In the early hours of this morning I received the second call. This one from a close friend in Australia, Glenda Brown, telling Marilyn and I that her husband and longtime friend of ours, Neils, had gone home to be with the Lord after a four year battle with cancer. This has been a long battle and I ask that you pray for Glenda and family for the grace and love of God to fill them at this time. Marilyn and I will be in Australia soon and be able to spend time with them.

Two different homecomings; one that brings rejoicing and one that brings sadness followed by rejoicing but both bringing a determination to see an increased manifestation of the kingdom of heaven here on earth.

[CONTINUED on pg 2]

Important  
Cluster  
Dates:

Mar 26-28  
USA Leaders  
Carthage, MO  
[cotnma.org](http://cotnma.org)

Apr 14 - 16  
South Africa  
National Conf

Sept 24-25  
USA Leaders  
[cotnma.org](http://cotnma.org)

Oct 28-31  
Euro Leaders  
Conference  
Holland

# Heart copy

Welcome to 2010!  
[CONTINUED]



## A NEW YEAR, A NEW DECADE.

It seems only yesterday the world waited for Y2K. What a decade that followed!

Steve Pendlebury (AOL Editor) wrote on Dec 21 about life here in the USA:

*Was this the worst Decade ever?*

*Maybe there was something to that whole Y2K panic after all.*

*There were warnings our wired world would crash the moment we flipped from 1999 to 2000. "It didn't happen at the stroke of midnight, as the Y2K alarmists feared," Alan Murray noted in Monday's Wall Street Journal. But soon after ["the millennium turned, reality set in,"](#) he said.*

*The market plunged when the Internet bubble burst in early 2000, and this ended up being the [worst decade ever for U.S. stocks](#). In 2001, there was 9/11, followed by two wars, recession, corruption, scandal, natural and man-made disasters, political polarization and the proliferation of reality TV. As Michael Hirschorn portrayed it in "The 00's Issue" of New York Magazine, this was a decade in which it seemed no one was in charge -- when [the bottom fell out of just about everything](#). Or, as the cover of Time magazine described it: [The Decade From Hell](#).*

*A new NBC/Wall Street Journal poll quantified the general sense of gloom about the '00s. Nearly 6 in 10 people surveyed said the [decade was either "awful" or "not so good."](#) Only 12 percent rated it "good" or "great." The rest picked "fair."*

*Three-quarters said economic prosperity declined, and two-thirds said America lost ground on moral values during the decade.*

Yet through all of this the kingdom of heaven has continued to grow and its impact increase upon the earth. Lee Grady from Strang publications has made the following observations concerning this past decade. He has seen these following trends.

[CONTINUED on pg 3]

# Welcome to 2010!

[CONTINUED]

## *Where Is God Going? Seven Spiritual Trends of the '00 Decade*

*The last 10 years weren't just about terrorism and recession. Amid the storm clouds, God was working in profound ways.*

*We didn't know what to call it --was it the '00s? --yet we've just passed through quite a decade. We had natural disasters (the 2004 Asian tsunami, Hurricane Katrina in 2005), financial meltdowns (bank failures and 10 percent unemployment) and global conflict (9/11 and the war on terror). It brought doom and gloom on one hand and technological breakthroughs on the other. What a ride it has been.*

*How has God been working during this tumultuous season? Here's my list of seven megatrends that marked these last 10 years:*

**1. Third-World Christianity kept growing.** *There are now about 600 million Christians in Africa. Protestant Christianity grew 600 percent in Vietnam in the last decade. In China, where a 50,000-member megachurch was raided in Shanxi province a few weeks ago, there are now an estimated 130 million churchgoers.*

*Astounding church growth has occurred in Guatemala, Brazil, India and Ethiopia. In Nepal, which had no Christians in 1960, there are now a half-million believers. The Christian population of Indonesia has mushroomed from 1.3 million to 11 million in 40 years.*

*Smug scholars in Europe and the United States love to cite Islam as the world's fastest-growing religion, but observers know the facts: Christianity, while waning especially in Europe, is growing faster than ever in the Southern hemisphere. Philip Jenkins, who wrote *The Next Christendom* in 2002, declared: "The center of gravity has moved to the global south. So if we're looking for the religion that is going to affect the largest number of lives in the 21st century, it is almost certainly going to be Christianity."*

**2. The digital revolution opened new doors for evangelism.** *This decade began with fears that a Y2K virus would shut down all computers. The opposite happened. Technology exploded. "Google" became a verb, more than 200 million people joined Facebook, and analog TV faded into history along with phone books, answering machines, road maps, cassette tapes, floppy disks and rolodexes --unless you purchased those items on eBay for sentimental reasons.*

*Traditionalists complained about all the new terms technology added to our lexicon: TiVo, Twitter, Skype, iPod, iTunes, YouTube, Hulu, Kindle, webcams. But the shift to digital media happened faster than the speed of a wireless signal. It will forever change the way we live, work and play. Rather than fighting change, we'd best find God in the swift current and discover how He wants us to use new media. The possibility of reaching every person on this planet with the gospel has never been this huge.*

**3. The global economic crisis didn't stop the church.** *It seemed as if God pushed a great big reset button in 2007. The mortgage bubble burst, banks were in trouble and credit dried up. When U.S. gas prices hit \$4 a gallon in 2008, people feared that the American Dream had died.*

*Yet, amazingly, while hundreds of thousands of people lost jobs and the government was bailing out GM and Chrysler, charitable giving to churches actually went up 5.5 percent in 2008, even though other forms of giving declined. Faith actually thrives in a recession.*

[CONTINUED on pg 4]

**Heart** copy

# Heart copy

## Welcome to 2010!

[CONTINUED]

**4. As militant Islam increased, so did a backlash.** On 9/11, terrorists hijacked our planes and crashed them into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania farmland. But in some parts of the world where radical Islam is predominant, protest movements flourished. This was never more evident than in 2009 when Iranian youth activists took to the streets to denounce their own tyrannical government. In other parts of the Middle East, Muslims are finding Jesus Christ after having supernatural dreams about Him. Terrorists did not stop democracy --or the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

**5. Spiritual hunger grew more intense.** Although secular culture seemed to grow more hostile to Christian faith and values during the '00 decade, movies, books and music reflected a growing interest in spirituality --everything from atheism to pantheism to vampires to *The DaVinci Code* --and Christian ideas competed for the global stage.

*The Passion of the Christ*, Mel Gibson's 2004 film about the Crucifixion, became the highest-grossing non-English film of all time --and Egyptian Muslims lined up to see it for weeks. Disney's 2005 version of the C.S. Lewis classic, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, became one of the highest-grossing films ever. And Christian books such as *The Prayer of Jabez* (2000), *The Purpose-Driven Life* (2002) and *The Shack* (2007) put Christian themes at the top of mainstream best-seller lists while a relatively homemade Christian movie, *Fireproof*, became the highest-grossing independent film of 2008.

**6. The charismatic movement experienced a painful but needed purging.** Although global Pentecostalism continued to grow, parts of the independent charismatic movement went into a tailspin. Marred by high-profile divorces, sex scandals and a credibility crisis, segments of the charismatic church fell on hard times. The overhaul of Oral Roberts University in 2008 seemed to be a prophetic harbinger of a movement-wide housecleaning.

At the close of the decade, charismatic churches were energized when thousands of youth gathered for protracted prayer meetings at Mike Bickle's International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Mo. Those youth were not focused on the carnal prosperity message but on personal holiness, Spirit-empowered evangelism and prophetic social justice --values that are now emerging as key components of a new charismatic agenda.

**7. A "healthy church" movement emerged.** Refreshing younger voices arose on the charismatic/evangelical scene in the '00s --reminding us that when Jezebel threatens, God always reserves His prophets in a cave for a crucial hour. Although this young movement has its stars and its cheerleaders -- such as Louie Giglio, Robert Morris, Joel and Jonathan Stockstill, Chris Hodges, Mark Batterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Priscilla Shirer (daughter of Bible teacher Tony Evans) and Francis Chan --it is driven by thousands of faceless leaders who are contending for a return to passionate faith.

These leaders, from both charismatic and non-charismatic backgrounds, are reclaiming integrity, humility and purity while rejecting the egotism and greedy excess of the past season. They are committed to solid Bible teaching, relational discipleship and a nonreligious church experience that is appealing to the next generation. And they are planting churches --both traditional ones in buildings, as well as house churches --at an aggressive clip.

I'm worn and weary from the stress of the last 10 years, but I have never been more excited about stepping into a new season of opportunity. We have no reason to fear the future. Whatever challenges loom ahead, the same God who carried us through this past decade will give us success in the next one.

Lee Grady

# Welcome to 2010!

[CONTINUED]

## **CLUSTER "MAKARIOS"**

November saw the launch of our new Church of the nations website. It has been requested for communication purposes that each of the clusters are named. In thinking about this and discussing it with our admin team, we are going to call the cluster Makarios. I know many of you have heard me teach over the years on the subject of the "Makarios man". This is the Greek word used by Jesus in his teaching on the kingdom of heaven in Matthew and other places. It is the base word in the Beatitudes that in our English language is translated blessed. This is an insufficient translation as Makarios means far more. I encourage you to read the Beatitudes in Matthew in the amplified translation of the Bible and you will begin to pick up depth of the meaning. It is much more than blessed or happy, it is a state that Jesus wants us to live in of all sufficiency where He alone is enough. It is linked with a foundation that Jesus laid down for those who would have the kingdom and inherit the earth. We want to enter into this state so we are able to see the fullness of the kingdom manifest on this earth.

## **CHALLENGE**

At the beginning of this New Year and Decade let us embrace the gospel of the kingdom with great zeal. We have a wonderful opportunity to seize the day. This is the day to press in with great hope; not to retreat to our comfort zones but to boldly go where we have not gone before. We may have many questions but remember that we are in relationship with The Answer. We believe and trust even when we cannot see. Increased questions should cause us to press in for understanding, not increase doubt and fear. Discipleship through fathering and mentoring will be an increased emphasis.

To maximize this season reflect again on the following 4 questions:

1. What am I doing that does not need to be done?
2. What am I doing that could be done by someone else?
3. What am I doing that only I can do?
4. What should I be doing that I am not?

Marilyn and I believe this to be the greatest season of your life and may it be a year of harvest and a decade of victory.

We look forward to seeing you at cluster & conference times over the next few weeks as we unpackage together kingdom truth.

*Tony*

**Heart** copy