

# Consuming Fire Ministries

The Ministry of Tony and Elisha Cruz

Fall/Winter 2009 Newsletter

## On The Chase

*T*his ministry continues on “**the chase**” to let people know of the hope and love of God by the preaching and proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Plenty has taken place since our last newsletter in regards to the testimonials and wonderful advances of the kingdom we have had the privilege of being a part of. We have set ourselves apart for the Lords work now since 2004. We have heard such great responses in regards to how God has allowed people to be set free from drugs, anxiety, addiction and many restored families back to Himself.

Someone once wrote that many “don't seem to want to worship a God who's too big, too authoritative. We seem more comfortable with a deity who's more manageable.” Wow, really? I hope not for our sake. Doesn't that sound a lot like we have reversed the creation process and now have made God in our own image? Well, in the day we live in this is not acceptable. We must stop talking about the God we believe in only and live this thing out. We believe God wants more from His people. Anyone that can understand God fully either is lying or their God is not truly almighty. A true and living God is described in the Bible as an all powerful being that I know we preach.

The truth is, the church must have a voice and we are determined to be that voice in the midst of mediocrity and the casual Christianity that plagues many churches today most of it being unknowingly.

In regards to this ministry, this year we have hit new territories like Idaho, Michigan, Alabama, South Carolina to name a few as well as countless other states that we had the privilege of traveling to already. Powerful meetings and many salvations in the presence of God of late have given us a renewed hunger to see God take us to another level of seeing more come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

One of the most exciting adjustments we have made this year was our Fire Center (as I call it) but also known as our *Ministry Center Office*. We finished them back in May and it has been a blessing to work in. It has allowed us to function and focus on this great commission in a greater dimension. Many have given financially to this project and those of you that prayed and gave, we are so appreciative to you and your sacrifices in faith to us. Many thousands have been affected as we work hard to touch and restore broken lives and your support means we can stay on the road—so thank you to all our supporters and prayer partners who have planted seeds into this project and this ministry. To God be the glory!

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## Wonderful Testimony

This was written to Tony and we were given permission to share:

“Tony, my name is Melissa. You prayed for me at First Assembly of God in Massillon, Ohio because I had some .... abnormal cells. I truly felt that God had touched me the night you prayed. I went to get another test done, it came back perfectly normal. The doctor had also done a special test to check my risk factor for cancer. That test came back that there were no abnormal cells to even test! She was confused over this but God can do anything. Praise the Lord!

Thank you for your ministry. God does use your sincere faith to touch the life of others. Hope you and your family have a great and blessed holiday.”

Melissa A. - Ohio (see our website and Tony's blog for other testimonies)

## Grace Under Attack *by Tony Cruz*

We have been privy to some of the greatest churches in this nation as we travel from city to city and the biggest attack that we feel is taking place in the body of Christ is on the family. According to a recent study, in the U.S., 28.6 million children have parents who are alcoholics. This is an alarming number of children and students growing up in homes that are not only more than likely parentless but also lacking in role-models. Many of the people I speak to in the cities I visit as I am hearing and praying for people, they often claim that they are stuck and cannot get over this ditch that they are in. For this reason we have dedicated our lives to the preaching of the gospel—to offer hope and grace to those who seemingly have little to live for.

Much of my summers are submerged in spreading truth in students through summer camps and conventions. To know that there is a promise in the Lord Jesus Christ is monumental in the lives of these moldable students. The attack on the home has had to do with two elements: 1) casual faith and 2) marital unfaithfulness which is a very real issue that doesn't just affect the married couple but ultimately the children as well. From religious leaders to political leaders, a lot is being exposed and this is not new, its just now coming to the surface. This cannot continue, especially in the church. We all know that believers aren't perfect but we are accountable. Who else can model the Love of God and the grace that is found in following Him?

Grace has historically been defined as "unmerited favor." Though this is accurate, it doesn't tell the

whole story. This definition alone tells us that it is free but doesn't offer a chance to change. In the book **Grace**, Dr. James Richards defines grace as "ability." Grace is actually God's ability working in man, making him able to do what he cannot do in his own ability. If we don't have Grace, we are merely Old Testament believers living in New Testament times. The Grace of God is what makes the difference between living IN Christ and living toward Christ. We need that grace in our lives to conquer the very sin that is destroying families across America today. This casual faith and attack on the family I feel is largely due to limiting what we feel God deserves. Many do so in their giving, their time and their willingness to tell a friend about Jesus. We don't ask "does God deserve this?" No. That would be wrong. But we do make excuse using time and availability to escape what we feel might be the Holy Spirit prompting us to share Him. Grace cannot just be that thing we don't deserve but that understanding that IN HIM ONLY can we conquer sin and live a life that without Him we wouldn't even have a shot to live. Therefore, we must receive the ability of God and allow Him to work IN us. With no confidence in myself, it is He who will bring this into completion.

***"Jesus went far beyond the realm of performance. He focused on motive and intent. Not only did He say that we had to do the right thing, but also that we needed to do it from the heart."***

*-Dr. James Richards*

*"Grace: the power to change"*



**Philippians 1:6** *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

## Thank you for a GREAT year!

We are extremely grateful for the wonderful newfound pastors and friends we have encountered throughout our years of travel, especially this year. The opportunity that we have had to meet some of the greatest people while on the road is an amazing and our supporters are the best. Thank you to all who have prayed and poured out your love toward us in various ways this year. You are amazing! Your help in prayers and finances are more important than you know. You are so very important to us.



Your continued prayers for our family is appreciated as we work hard to preach the gospel and heal broken lives. This was an incredible year. In May, we will begin our seventh year traveling full time as evangelists. We are believing God for continued miracles, revivals and outpouring of His Holy Spirit in churches and events throughout the nation.

Please continue to stand with us as we embark on the new territory and powerful calling he has placed in our lives.

**Merry Christmas**

*And a Happy New Year!*

*From Tony, Elisha, Elijah and Josiah*

