

THE EPISTLE



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Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.—Romans 5:3-5



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Message from the Editor

By Jeffrey Carr

A son asked his father, 'Dad, will you take part in a marathon with me?' The father who, despite having a minor heart condition, says 'Yes'. They went on to complete the marathon together. The father and son decided to join other marathons, the father always saying 'Yes' to his son's request of going through the race together. One day, the son asked his father, 'Dad, let's join the Ironman together.' To which, his father said 'Yes'. For those who don't know, Ironman is the toughest triathlon ever. The race encompasses three endurance

events of a 2.4 mile ocean swim, followed by a 112 mile bike ride, and ending with a 26.2 mile foot marathon along the coast of the Big Island. The father and son went on to complete the race together.

How many of you will endure the pain, the intense strain of carrying the intense weight in suffering. The theme of this issue of the Epistle is endurance. As the scripture reads, we know that enduring suffering produces character, and with that type of Christ-centered character comes a hope. And like in the story above, the son's joy is wrapped

up in the hope of finishing the race together with his father. And the father's joy comes from seeing his son happy. Endure suffering, for we understand that when the storm is over, joy is coming. This is our hope!! Continue to run the race, and know that your father is running right along with you.

Jeffrey Carr
Editor-in-Chief

Message from the Path Setter

Greetings In the name of Jesus Christ,

I am writing you brothers with extreme excitement as we move into the future of this brotherhood. God is open doors all around us and elevating many brothers to higher heights than they ever could imagine and now is the time for our organization to go to its next level. I was recently introduced to the concept that in order to reach new levels of achievement, we must first face new levels of adversity. I know many brothers have had some great successes in this past year. We've had births of children, marriages, new careers, academic accomplishment as well as spiritual maturation, all made possible by the sacrifice and ability to stand firm in your faith in the face of the tests and trials as they came. My brothers, now is the time for our bond to develop.

Development indicates that you have a certain structure in place and you go from being ready to becoming active. We must become active and understand that a sacrifice unto God and his Kingdom shall not leave you empty or lacking but quite the opposite; GOD RESPONDES



But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

2 Peter 1:5-7

TO OUR FAITH. SO it is my duty to encourage you, as we begin our march towards 10 YEARS of Brotherhood Servitude, to make this year like no other that we have ever had in this Fraternity. Serve more, Give more and TRUST more. I decree that this shall be a year of more...MORE MEMBERSHIP, MORE SERVICE and MORE BLESSINGS. God is ABLE now are you AVAILABLE?

I pray the exceeding Mercies of God on your life, finances, families and futures as you are reading at this very instant, may God bless you like never before.

Yours in THE BOND,

Theophilus Murphy Jr.
National Path Setter



www.aot2002.com

www.twitter/aot2002.com

Communication

In light of attempting to address the issue of communication, our National Path Setter has developed a system that we will use to communicate with the membership at large. "3 Fold Communication" we will title the system. The primary means of communication that we will use is The Epistle. Most all information can be found there. READ, READ, READ!! It is quite the shame when we get questions that are answered in The Epistle that members have failed to read. If you do not receive the

newsletter, then you must register with the Yahoo group. The 2nd means of communication will be through the Yahoo group mass email. All important information will be sent to your registered emails addresses through Yahoo. The 3rd means of communication will be through text/ phone calls. Please, all chapter officers, update your contact information if it is out date. Since this is the beginning of our new fiscal year, chapter reports and rosters are due. Just include it with the roster information. The deadline for this information is Sept. 10, 2011.

Icebergs vs. Ice cubes

By Evan Marbury

Brothers, it is that season again when the majority of us will be getting ready to start our next year of school. There might be feelings of excitement, nervousness, expectance, anticipation, worry, or even dread. Whatever your mindset towards your academic endeavors is, I encourage you to go with the sentiments of Paul when he says, "In all things, give thanks." There are many people who would love to have the opportunities that you are having. It is truly a blessing from God to be able to matriculate into any college or university.

As you prepare your minds and make plans for school, I wonder how much preparing and planning you have put into your ministry. I am talking about AOT, but I am more so talking about your personal calling from God. What level of commitment have you been investing into the mission that God has laid on your heart? As I thought about commitment, I began to think about icebergs and how unyielding they are. Icebergs are very strong, firm, and mighty bodies of ice that break off of glaciers and sit in bodies of water. The Titanic could let you know that you do not want to be at an impasse with an iceberg because you will surely lose. What makes icebergs so dangerous is that approximately 90% of their bodies are beneath the surface, so it is very difficult to know how big they really are.

Then, I began to think ice cubes. Like icebergs, ice cubes are made of ice. They are often broken off of a bigger piece of ice, but they are very different from icebergs. Ice cubes are tossed and turned by the forces surrounding them, but icebergs do not. Whatever opposition comes, ice cubes are swayed by the pressure; however, Icebergs are steadfast and immovable.

So, this made me consider my commitment to ministry. Am I an iceberg or an ice cube? Do I buckle under pressure? Am I moved and

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

swayed by the forces surrounding me? Or am I fulfilling what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:58 being steadfast and immovable, always abounding. What's interesting is that a committed, iceberg person might look like an ice cube person because an iceberg person's commitment isn't always seen on the surface, but you will see that commitment once the opposition comes.

Are you committed to your calling or are you discouraged when the waves of life come and hit you? Are you only about surface level commitment or is your commitment deeply engrained? If you are not committed, you will most likely be worn out since there is no depth to you. Paul tells the Corinthians to be steadfast and immovable because they are faced with much opposition: sexual immorality, carnality, division, judgment, misunderstanding about the Gospel, etc. Not to mention the wiles of the evil one are coming against them. Paul wanted them to know that their labor was not in vain. He tells them that they have the victory in Christ Jesus (vs. 57) so they need to be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

I want you to know that as you prepare and plan your ministry goals, if you start to feel the pressures of it all, consider if you are an iceberg or an ice cube. If you are an ice cube, then I encourage you to change your posture to being an iceberg. You can make it through any strife, but you have to be steadfast, immovable. You have to be an iceberg. Be encouraged; your labor is not in vain. . .



Fall Semester 2011 Chapter Reports

I hope everyone's semester is off to a great start. It is that time again... The first of our fiscal year means Chapter Reports and Rosters are due! I hope that all of your chapters have had an opportunity to meet and discuss some events and services for the upcoming semester. Please refer to the requirements for each chapter. There are specific requirements for each chapter regarding evangelistic events, community service, and social events. For those of you who are interested in holding an orientation process this semester, you **must** adhere to the orientation schedule. Failure to do so will result in the inability to hold an orientation process this semester.

All information is due **September 10, 2011**. This deadline will not be extended. You must submit requirements or have communicated why deadline can not be met by this date. Failure to do so will result in immediate chapter inactivity. The National Path Setter has stressed the importance of following protocol and established guidelines. Please adhere. All requirements can be found on the website under the members only section.

National & Chapter Dues

Please remember that in order to maintain activity, all dues (national and local) must be paid. The chapter dues are to be decided by the nationally active membership at the chapter. National dues will remain \$100 for the fiscal year, broken into 4 payments per quarter. The first payment of this year will be due soon. All registered members will receive an invoice through email. If you do not receive an invoice then you are not registered with the Yahoo group.

Since we are in our new fiscal year, we will make the financial budget from last year available to you. This will include all expenses and transactions from the National Board activities. We have heard your voices in regards to seeing where your money is going, so we are making this available to you. Email is forthcoming.

Fundraising

This year we want to step up or fundraising efforts. In order to provide good and effective programs, events, and services, we need funds. If anyone is gifted in this area, and have experience with successful fundraising, primarily with non-for-profit organization, we need your help. Please contact your National Path Sustainer if interested. The Lord has blessed us with a diverse group of people with many skills and gifts. We want to use those.



Why I Joined AOT... Members Speak

"I grew up in the church. I cannot even remember learning about the basic stories such as Moses, Samson, David, and even the "Greatest Story Ever Told." However there came a transitional period in my life in which I felt empty. I can recall an ad-lib done by Israel Houghton that said, "There is a God sized void, that only You can fill. Who can satisfy my soul...?" I had questions, there was one thing I knew I needed, and that was a closer walk with the Lord. I was a believer, and I just knew that my walk was, at that time, luke warm. I also knew the Word, and I knew exactly how far "luke warm" will get me. I longed for discipline. I longed for discipline to read the Word, stay in prayer and stop falling short.

My interest in Greek life had ran its course. I did not care for any NPHC organization, and I was not looking for letters. Nevertheless, it was well after a year of my decision to not

pursue NPHC that the former Zeta Chapter president Jeffrey Carr sent me a very informal, yet compelling message on Facebook. His message was right on time for the period of life I was in, and it spoke to the desire that I had to see more Christ in my life. Out of all of the meetings, lunches, texts and phone conversations I had with NPHC Greeks about their fraternity, this simple Facebook message touched my life and confirmed what I needed, brotherhood and fellowship. I responded with a basic, "Yes, I will attend the informational." That was a great step that I made, in that informational I knew 100% that joining the fraternity was what God called me to do. I learned a lot from my brothers and fellow flock member Derrick Austin, and most importantly I became a true man of God.

From the time of joining Alpha Omega Theta, I have

enjoyed the blessings of ministry and have grown as a leader in many ways. While I may not be the most Greek member we have, and I may not wear my letters everywhere I go, I still love my A-L-P-H-A...."



Bryan Like

Exaltations

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST BRUH, JOAQUIN THOMAS OF THE GAMMA CHAPTER!!

MANY BLESSINGS TO THEO & MEGAN MURPHY ON THEIR MARRIAGE. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO MINISTER JASON ALAN REEVES ON HIS ORDINATION. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO USE YOU!

CONGRATULATIONS TO PASTOR JASON BARNEY & UNFAILING LOVE CHURCH. IT HAS MOVED TO ITS NEW LOCATION. GOD IS ENLARGING TERRITORY!

BIG SHOUT OUTS TO THE ENTIRE GAMMA CHAPTER. JOB WELL DONE ON YOUR COMMUNITY PICNIC OUTREACH!!

