

## EPIC RESOLVE,

By Khadeejah Ali-Baily

With the New Year upon us, we can't help but think of changes, goals and resolutions that we hope to accomplish in 2012. We have seen many of our colleagues, family, and friends make resolutions. We have even made them ourselves: some diminutive, some Epic. In previous years, some were achieved and some were not. We resolve to lose weight, exercise, spend less and give more. I am guilty of breaking all of these resolutions in the past, plus a few more. Like you, I'm sure I will set more goals for 2012. I hope we are all successful in our resolutions, because after all, it will only make us better equipped for Kingdom business. Some may think it's a bit of a taboo for Christian's to make New Year's resolutions because it is a 'worldly, commercial' practice. I think it is quite healthy all year to set goals and press toward them as Paul urges us to do in Philippians 3:14.

What is a resolution and what does God say about it? The dictionary defines resolution as "the act or process of resolving, answering **or** determining" (Merriam -Webster). It is a daunting and often frustrating task to stick to things that we find difficult. We set out to do a thing but stray, before we know it, due to lack of discipline. When pronouncing a resolution, here are a few things we can do to stay focused and committed:

- Set attainable goals (Praying the calories out of food is admirable but ineffective)
- Write down your goals (Habakkuk. 2:2... need I say more?)
- Tell someone who can encourage you (everyone is not encouraging)
- Be prayerful about your goals (Is this God's will?)
- Have fun in achieving your goals (It's a desire not a death wish...)

The Bible does not establish a definitive stance on New Year's resolutions. However, there are quite a few scriptures that speak to standing firm in our answers and determined in our

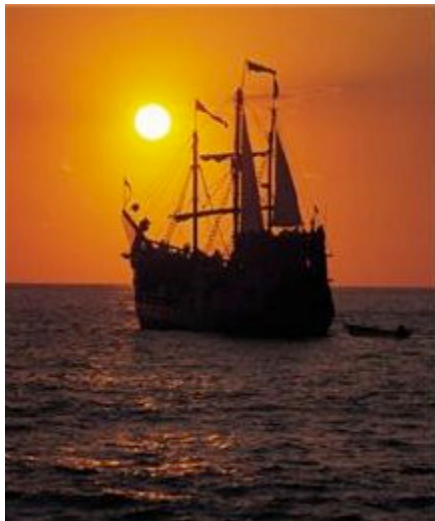


Sail into Your New Season **Page 2**

Job listing **Page 2**

Getting to Know...  
Brandon Babcock **Page 3**

Editor's note **Page 4**



## Job Listing

Seeking a young, college-aged person to oversee youth ministry of an Assembly of God Home Mission Church in Dixon (30 miles west of Sacramento, between Davis and Vacaville). Responsibilities would include, but not be limited to:

- establishing a mid-week youth service
- establishing a youth Sunday school class
- meeting and interacting with church youth and their families weekly in outside-of-church activities (phone calls, e-mails, visits, special events )
- meeting and establishing relationships with unchurched youth.

Compensation would include: monthly remuneration and gas allowance TBD.

Inquirers may contact the church's senior pastor, Barry L. Carroll:

- e-mail: [pastorbarrylc@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorbarrylc@yahoo.com)
- phone: (916) 870-2447

## SAIL INTO YOUR NEW SEASON, by Paulina Quesada

The Lord awakened me from my sleep on a chilly Sunday morning. Immediately, I was caught up in the Spirit; it was as if I was above what I was actually seeing. There was a deep blue ocean and what seemed like miles and miles of water. However, there in the distance, I began to see what appeared to be a massive old wooden ship with many white sails. I noticed that the sails were not moving, but just hanging there. Then it was as if I could see through to the very bottom of the ocean itself, and I saw a rather large, old rusty anchor just lying motionless with the arms parallel to the seabed.

Attached to the anchor was a thick heavy chain, and I began to see the anchor move upward and began to pull up out of the water onto the side of the ship and I could literally, see the chains wrapping up around a reel very slowly. I could even hear the loud sound of the heavy chains. At that moment, I heard a voice say, "Decree your new season and sail with the winds of change." As I looked to the left, there I saw an angel in mid-air. Then suddenly, the angel began to blow the wind and toward the ship. I could literally see the winds mustering and blowing towards the ship, and suddenly the white sails began to lift up into the wind while blowing back and forth. Then the old ship began to sail across the ocean into the beautiful sunrise that was peaking on the horizon of the ocean.

This move of the Holy Spirit was a profound prophetic experience for me. I know that last year I was not the only person treading in deep, tumultuous waters. Sometimes, we must go through difficult circumstances of life, and most of us would rather stay in shallow water. In these times, when our economy is failing, our educational system is in disarray, and many of us find our health in utterly desolation, our finances dwindling, and our own families in major crises, we need to look to God, who gives us the grace and peace to endure. He is the God of breakthrough.

We must remember that the God we serve is greater than anything that we face in life. Allow God to reconcile you back to the cross, for everything was paid for in full by the shed blood of the Lamb--the Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world. Let God be God in our homes. Let God be God in our health. Let God be God in our finances, and let God be God in our families! Hallelujah!

Without a doubt, I believe that the angel I saw was the angel of breakthrough and in this coming year of 2012, it is my prayer that you fellowship with the Lord and worship Him in Spirit and in truth. May He usher you into times of refreshing, renewal and release your breakthrough in the New Year.

## GETTING TO KNOW...

by Lacey Silfkoff

One of EPIC Bible College's newest faculty members is Brandon Babcock. He began at Trinity Life as a student in the summer of 2008, while at the same time finishing up his master's degree in kinesiology at CSU, Sacramento. I recently sat down with Professor Babcock to find out a little more about him.

Brandon is a local boy, having grown up in Placerville, CA. He played football in high school and later for American River College, where he graduated with an AA, and then transferred on a football scholarship to McPherson College in Kansas. He graduated with his bachelor's degree in physical education and made his way home to begin working on his master's degree in kinesiology at CSUS. He was following the plan he had set for his life.

However, in 2008 the Lord got a hold of him and revealed a different plan that led him here. Like every Christian, he had his personal struggles and issues. He learned that in order to overcome struggles or sin, forgiveness is needed, and the freedom God gives us in Jesus. In Christ we are free to live, free to walk, and free to be who we are created to be: an adopted child in the kingdom of God.

**SILFKOFF: What brought you to EPIC?**

**Babcock:** I first heard about it on the FISH radio station. I was finishing up my master's in kinesiology (sports performance) at Sacramento state. I felt God calling me to a deeper relationship with him. God showed me a different path.

**SILFKOFF: How did you begin teaching at Epic?**

**Babcock:** Pastor T found out I had my master's in kinesiology and recruited me to teach P.E.

**SILFKOFF: What are some things you've learned as both a student and as a teacher at Epic?**

**Babcock:** As a student, I have learned that God is a lot bigger than I thought. I have also come to a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit.

As a teacher, I have learned that every student is at a different place academically and spiritually. Some are new believers and just starting their education, and some are seasoned believers. I also have more understanding of student circumstances: getting to know students on a personal one on one level. Spiritual levels are different too- young believers are mixed with seasoned believers and it adds richness to the school/classroom community.

continued on page 4



Brandon (upper right) while on a missions trip to Door of Faith Orphanage in 2008.

### Epic Resolve, Continued from page 1

decisions. For all of my fellow brothers and sisters who have decided to read more of the Bible this New Year, allow me to jump start that resolution for you with this scriptural "treasure hunt."

If we believe *Philippians 4:13*, it should be easy to *Matthew 5:37* because we know that *James 1:8*. Also we are assured that *2 Timothy 1:7*. So in that, it should be easier to *1 Peter 5:7* and to *Philippians 4:6*. If you really want this resolution to come to pass, *Luke 12:32* and *Psalms 37:4*. So, *2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*. Happy New Year and God bless you BIG!

## Brandon Babcock, continued from page 3



2011 EPIC  
Indoor Soccer  
team

### ***A THOUGHT FROM THE EDITOR:***

This week, begins the cut off of unemployment insurance benefits to more than a million jobless Californians. California is already \$10 billion in debt to the federal government as the result of running out of benefit funds two years ago. So, I ask: are you and your church body reaching out to the jobless? Are you helping to provide food, utility money, and even job opportunities to those in need? Do you even know how many in your congregation are in this precarious situation? I encourage you: Talk to the senior leadership at your church. Get involved. Be His hand extended.



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