

The Journal of Ron Boehme - 1996

Port Orchard, Washington

January 4, 1996 - 15,624 - 15,398

I begin a new year with many thoughts--gratefulness to God for his blessings in my life, excitement about this year, and future ministry in general. I also have some questions about effectiveness--**what should I concentrate on--how do I really fulfill my destiny?** Also, some concerns about our finances and the need to raise more support. I also need to know how to wisely develop our YWAM work here in Port Orchard.

All-in-all, I look forward to 1996. May it be a "Messiah Year." May it be the year of the greatest advance of God's Kingdom since the days of the Early Church. May it be a year of **revival in America.**

I'm hoping to get my conscience book published soon and have begun to write my new book "I Need My DAD." I'm excited about it--Lord, give me guidance in every aspect.

In a few weeks, we begin the first Revive America seminars of 1996, the first stop being in Albert Lea, Minnesota. I'm looking forward to seeing what God will do.

Albert Lea, Minnesota

January 15, 1996 - 15,635 - 15,387

Had a good time in Albert Lea--no great moves of the Spirit, but a solid time of sharing the truth with this Norwegian town. **It was great to have Jonathan [Stone] with me.** He did a good job with the youth--and I hope this "partnership" is something that we'll build on for the future.

Albert Lea is a 20,000 person Norwegian town located about 80 miles south of Minneapolis. It's very Scandinavian--stoic and conservative. Jonathan and I stayed with Steve and Joni Blast in a large, beautiful country home on the outskirts of town. Steve is a Lutheran pastor that really loves the Lord.

During the weekend, I shared preaching assignments with Mark Anderson and Fred Markert while Jonathan shared with the youth. Crowds at the high school auditorium were not large, but by the final day, God was really moving.

I flew in with an inflamed throat--great concerned that this was a repeat of 1995 and the

struggles I had with my voice. Bev Riedesel sent me with a poem and some Scriptures that really ministered to me, and encouraged me to praise God, don't give in to my fears, know that I was loved by Him. It was a wonderful word from God.

On Saturday, when my voice was really hurting, God encouraged me to have some time with Him and just praise Him. **As I knelt by my bed and put my trust in Him, the voice began to return. What an encouragement.** For the rest of the weekend it hurt, but I was able to speak. Praise God.

On Sunday morning Jonathan and I both spoke at a wonderful charismatic fellowship and God really blessed the word. In the afternoon, **hundreds came forward and signed the Covenant to pray for revival in America. It was a precious time. A Baptist pastor even came forward and encouraged the group to begin meeting monthly in the high school to pray for revival.**

Next week I'll be going alone to Parsons, Kansas. Lord--prepare that city for a move of your Spirit. Bring Your revival.

Parsons, Kansas

January 21, 1996 -15,641 - 15,381

What a wonderful time the Lord gave us in Parsons. Praise His wonderful Name. I sure felt needy and dependent on --a hurting voice, very tired, but looking up to Heaven. Well, He answered our prayers way beyond our fondest dreams.

The trip started out with this word from God delivered through Bev Riedesel. What a precious encouragement:

My son, I Love you. Because of my love I have chosen you. I have used you, but now I long to fill you anew with my love and my wisdom to empower you. Go in my strength, not yours today. Depend upon me to show you the way. For I will use you if you will obey, and be faithful, and not delay.

There are people waiting to talk to you, to be set free to know what's true. For I will give a word through you, that they may begin their lives anew.

For some, loving corrections will set them free. For others, love and encouragement is the key. For I will use you to make them see, how I long for them to come unto me.

Be bold, yet sensitive as I have said. Be free from the sin of fear and dread. Be filled with me, to self be dead. Be allowing my gifts to flow of which you've read. And be prepared, Ron, for REVIVAL is coming as I've said.

I flew into the Midwest in the middle of a major blizzard covering that part of the country. In Minneapolis I found that my flight had been canceled to Kansas City because the airport had been closed all day. After waiting a few hours, suddenly they decided to send one plane through--MINE--and we arrived safely in KC just before midnight.

The Kansas City airport looked like a ghost town, and no one was there to pick me up. After calling around and finding out that my ride couldn't make it, I tried to find a motel for the night. The only problem? The weather was too bad even for taxis. Finally, an "angel" from a local Comfort Inn drove his personal truck to come get me and I settled down for a few hours of sleep. In the morning, I was able to rent a car and take a five-hour drive through the snow and ice to Parsons.

As I pulled into this town of 12,000--childhood home of Shirley's mom [Margaret Irene Taylor]--God directed me right to the corner near where Maggie lived as a child for eight years. In the bitter cold, I snapped some photos, and tried to get some memories for her. After hearing about a calendar that shared the town's hundred-year history, I went to a nearby store to find one. They told me the whole town was out.

Then a salesgirl decided to call the man who'd put the calendar together--Maynard Harding--who was unofficially the town's historian--and he said he had one he'd give me at his house. I drove over, and suddenly realized I'd landed in an historical goldmine. This man had all the records and photos of the town. I could look up Margaret's parents' information, and that of her grandparents. Over the weekend, Maynard promised to help me track down some information. I drove away, thankful to God for this divine encounter.

Bruce Tibbitt, the YWAM publishing guy, and I stayed together at the home of Vernon and Joyce Norris. Vernon is the pastor of the local Church of God (Cleveland). They were loving people that came to all the meetings and really took care of us well.

Friday night, and all-day Saturday, I poured out my heart to the people gathered at the Wesley United Methodist Church. Twenty-four churches were participating and there were good crowds. Interestingly, the longer I spoke, the stronger my weak voice became. Saturday night, when I spoke on "When Free Men Shall Stand, the Lord really broke through among us with much tears and repentance. The awakening had begun.

Sunday morning, I preached at another Methodist Church (under a wonderful anointing), then across town to the Westside Christian Church, my home denomination. It was somewhat dead, but the people were congenial. Gave me a burden that the "Restoration Movement" needs some restoration.

During the afternoon, I took a couple hours to try and find Margaret's grandparents' graves. Following a lead from Maynard Harding, I drove out to an old cemetery that seemed the most likely. Finding no one there, I went across the street and "bumped" into some folk who'd

been attending the meetings. The wife came across the street and helped me look. We found the family name--Maher--but a different family. I was disappointed, but not that I'd tried.

During the final evening service, God really came down among us as we packed out the Wesley Church, and Dean Sherman spoke. Crowds overflowed into the foyer, the choir loft, and sat on metal chairs in the aisles. The time of communion and covenant signing was especially precious. At the end, over 40 pastors and associates gathered at the front, spoke to the people, and prayed. Parsons had been deeply touched by God.

I drove on up the road after the service, grateful for all God had done, and anxious to get home. After a quick night in a motel, I was on my way. My visit to Parsons, Kansas had been a wonderful memory.

Hastings, Nebraska

January 31, 1996 -15, 651 - 15 371

I've been home for a few days now from the Revive America Seminar in Hastings, Nebraska. What a precious time. . . one of the most powerful I've been in for a few years. It didn't start out that way.

Flew into a blizzard once again in Lincoln, Nebraska with Jonathan Stone along to be a part of the team with Paul Hawkins. Friday night at the Northshore Assembly of God, Paul spoke to a small crowd, and the same for me on Saturday morning (I spoke on Conscience). The spirits of indifference, apathy, and disunity seemed powerful--except for a group of pastors who began to pray before each meeting.

On Saturday night, Paul committed himself to pray during the entire meeting while I preached on "Religious Idolatry." God really broke through, and people stood to confess sin, pray, and ask God to turn around their town and state. I really hit on the idolatry of sports--mostly centered in the Nebraska Cornhuskers--and many people responded. Simultaneously, Jonathan was speaking to about 100 kids at the Evangelical Free Church, and God really moved. It was our night of breakthrough in answer to prayer.

I drove on Sunday out to a farming community called Trumball where they changed their service around to allow me to speak at the beginning. My 20-minute encouragement was well received—but led to some "disturbances" in the congregation that the pastor later told me was good for his church. Then I raced to First Baptist Church where Jonathan was holding down the fort, mounted the pulpit, and preached on "What It Means to Believe." Some came to the altar and prayed afterwards. The rest I had to leave up to God.

Our final city-wide service was scheduled for 2:30 pm--early in the day to accommodate

the **Super Bowl** (Ugh.). A large crowd was on hand as Paul spoke, finishing his message with a 1988 prophecy from Australia called "Who Will Weep For America?" **Turning the mike over to me, I began to sob and sob as the Spirit of God came upon me in groanings that were too deep for words. Some the entire building was on their knees, crying and praying and asking for God's forgiveness.**

Jonathan called the youth forward during the season of repentance and had them pray for their pastors who were lining the front of the stage. **Much generational reconciliation took place, and the free flow of tears, prayers, and worship continued for hours. At the end, we took communion together, signed the "Covenant" to pray for revival, and rejoiced in God's unity in Hastings. Nobody seemed to care about the Super Bowl. God had come down. Nothing matches that.**

Wearily, but grateful, we drove out that evening back to Lincoln to get ahead of a storm, and then got up early in the morning to fly home. God had revealed his glory in Nebraska. Praise the Lord for the things He has done.

Jamestown, North Dakota

February 5, 1996 - 15, 656 - 15, 366

I just returned from the frigid north where God is thawing out His people. North Dakota was our most recent stop on the Revive America Tour, and **the day we flew in it set a record-- 85 degrees below zero in Jamestown. As the newspaper said, "It's Brutal Out There." It literally took your breath away.**

We began at noon by sharing at a luncheon which included about 40 pastors and wives at a large Lutheran Church. Pastor Jack Eichortz, the Crusade Chairman welcomed us, and Ron Smith and I both tried to encourage them to seek God's face for revival. It was a great start, with a good time of prayer. **Around the room were pictures of 100 years of confirmation classes (including one that included Peggy Lee). Made me reminisce on my Lutheran heritage.**

We began that night with smaller crowds--probably much of it due to the weather. But all weekend long the number grew as we preached and shared God's ways. **Saturday night I was led my God to give my message on "The Wages of Sin," and as I wept at the end, many got on their knees to cry out to God. It was a moving time in the presence of our brokenhearted God.**

On Sunday, I went and spoke at a rural church, then back into town to share at First Baptist Church where our host couple--Bill and Roberta Damberg--are pastors. It was a polite congregation that also included a live radio broadcast. God helped me to share my heart with them all--and especially pray for an awakening among youth.

That evening, the auditorium was packed as we shared the ways of God in revival and encouraged the local believers to pray and move forward in evangelism. I had to hastily share my remarks, then jet out the door to catch my plane home. Ron Smith finished up the service with a blessed time of communion.

Jamestown was touched by God during this special weekend. Many the fires grow and see hundreds come to Christ.

Washington, D.C.

February 21, 1996 - 15, 672 - 15, 350

It's great to be home after a long but fantastic trip all over the country. Jonathan Stone accompanied me, and deepening our friendship was a highlight. He is a wonderful young man for whom God has mighty plans.

Our first stop was Washington D.C. for a few days of coordination of our summer outreach. We stayed as usual with Ken and Pat Smith, met with pastors to work on summer youth tracks, and moved around the inner-city getting God's heart and perspective on ministry. One thing God really impressed upon us was the possibility of staying in people's homes this summer--in the Anacostia area called "Highlands" right near many housing projects. The other thing He laid upon our hearts was linking together with many internationals to uplift Christ. Everywhere we went, God prepared the way.

Atlanta, Georgia

On February 8th, we boarded an early flight from Dulles airport and headed to Atlanta for a series of meetings. Staying with Dave and Trish Stevenson in the northeast sector of town, we commuted in every day by bus, subway, and prayer to three different meetings:

YWAM Games Outreach Conference - over 200 leaders gathered from around the world to pray and plan for this summer's outreach at the Centennial Olympic Games. It was a wonderful time of teaching, fellowship, prayer, and spiritual warfare under the capable leadership of Matt Nocas and his Texas-based staff. Great time in God's presence. This summer's outreach will be historic and significant. Especially unique is the opportunity to have 1000 YWAMers serve in the Games security force. May God raise them up.

Atlanta '96 Youth Workers Conference - for three days we commuted to the Georgia Dome--along with 8,000 other youth leaders for this strategic mega-conference of national youth ministries. The opening night, 10,000 teenagers joined us and piled up 350,000 True Love Waits

cards to the ceiling and beyond. Newsboys, DC Talk, Rebecca St. James, Michael W. Smith, Petra, Geoff Moore and The Distance and others all shared in song, and many Christian leaders preached. I was in on the planning of this event from the beginning, and I believe it was a great success. The last evening, God really moved in conviction of sin [after Dave Busby spoke] and a spirit of consecration to reach the nation's youth with the gospel. We also signed a Covenant together to cement that commitment. Very significant time.

Promisekeepers Clergy Conference was also held at the Georgia Dome immediately following the youth convention. Nearly 50,000 pastors and Christian leaders came from all fifty states and over 20 countries. The first night was a little RAH-RAH, but the second and third day, it turned into a deep time of personal repentance, denominational and racial reconciliation, and excellent messages aimed at making "men of integrity." It was great to see friends from all over the country, and to spend some quality time with Kevin Hestead. This was my first experience at a Promisekeepers event, and I was deeply impressed with what God has done through this movement. It is truly a breath of spiritual awakening among men. Praise God.

St. Louis, Missouri

On Thursday night, I got on a plane for St. Louis and spent the night with Brian and Linda Hunter and family whom I hadn't seen in about two years. Was great to renew the friendship. Before heading off, they gave me a brief tour of downtown St. Louis, including the Peace Arch--a gorgeous sight. In the museum beneath the Arch is a good display of the Lewis & Clark expedition that Pres. Jefferson sent out from St. Louis that paved the way for the westward development of the country. As I read excerpts from Lewis & Clark's journals, I was deeply impressed with how lush, beautiful, and teeming with game was the America of 180 years ago. How incredibly we've destroyed it.

Waynesville, Missouri

The next day I drove through the rolling Missouri countryside about two hours west to the town of Waynesville for our fifth Revive America seminar of this current tour. We were joined there in the evening by Ron Smith.

For the first few days, the crowds were extremely poor. Nonetheless, we shared our hearts on revival, and people began to receive the word of the Lord. On Saturday night, I ran into Dixy Behnken, an old friend from Germany whom I hadn't seen in about seventeen years. He is a chaplain at the Fort Leonard Wood Army base nearby, and when he read that I was in the area, came to see me. He also invited me to speak at the base on Sunday morning to a new class of

recruits that had just began their bootcamp.

I arrived early the next morning, and the chapel was packed with soldiers, all voluntarily attending the service. They looked so young. (I guess that means I'm getting old.) God gave me great liberty to share my testimony and the gospel message with them, and at the close nearly 100 stood to their feet to make a commitment to Christ--30 of them for the first time. It was a beautiful sight to behold, with many of them crying and reaching out to God. I prayed with them at the front, and then left them in the chaplain's hands. Over 120 of them stayed for a Bible study. From here they will go all over the world sharing their new-found faith. Bless the Lord.

At 10:30 I spoke at another church in the nearby town of Duncan, and God really blessed the word. In the evening, the final session of the seminar was packed, and I preached with great vigor on God's "Marching Orders" for them, and we prayed, took our shoes off, signed the covenant, and rejoiced in God. It was a wonderful ending to a weekend that had started very slow. Following the service, I drove back to St. Louis for a quick rendezvous with the Hunters, then flew home the next day. It had been a good but exhausting thirteen-day trip.

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

March 6, 1996 - 15,684 - 15,336

I'm back home again after the last leg of this year's Revive America seminars for the Impact World Tour. The final city was Champaign-Urbana, and though the crowds were sparse, it was a great time with Paul Hawkins and many other YWAM friends that I was able to renew friendship with.

Both Paul and I stayed at the home of David and Barbara Opperman. David is a former professor and administrator at the University of Illinois, and they have both been in Kona and are tied into the University of the Nations. In fact, they lead a team of people in charge of the record-keeping for the university--that all done by computer. We may be linking in with them and helping in the future. The Lord will guide. Their lovely, immaculate, Mid-west room was a delight to stay in.

Our meetings were held at a Church of God in Champaign. Probably due to the size of the cities, and the lack of preparation time for the seminar, the crowds were small but enthusiastic. Probably the highlight for me was speaking at the Urbana Assembly of God on Sunday morning on the theme of "Finding Your Destiny." The service was electrifying, and there was a great response to the message. The "life" of the church says a lot for Pastor Gary Grogan's leadership. [Before I stepped into the pulpit, I cried and asked God to take away the pain in my throat. He helped me stand and deliver.]

It was also great to spend time with **Bill and Susie Burtness and family**. They have faithfully labored in Urbana now for seventeen years. What a wonderful, sustained commitment.

As I finished the last seminar, I began to encounter trouble with my throat again. Now that I've been home for a few days, it's still sore--but I'm thankful to God that I made it through this stretch, by His grace. I don't know what the problem is, but I do know that it has forced me to be more humble, dependent, selfless, powerless, and hopefully in a word--godly.

Port Orchard, Washington

A week ago, Shirley and I began together a 21-day fast. Its purpose is both physical--to get in better shape--and to pray about the future. I don't have any major goals for this time, except to listen more, pray more, and talk to my King about things on my heart that relate to our ministry and the future.

It's also wonderful to be home again. Lord--my life is in Your hands. Use me for your glory every day that you grant me to live.

March 13, 1996 - 15, 691 - 15, 329

Right after my birthday, Bev Riedesel gave me this encouraging prophetic note. from the heart of my Loving Father:

"Do you not know -- you are my anointed, you are my son and I love you? Arise in my strength this day.

*Isaiah 60:1-4 - "**ARISE** - (from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you; rise to a new life!). **SHINE** - be radiant with the glory of the Lord; for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you! For behold darkness shall cover the earth and dense darkness all peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you and his glory shall be seen on you. And nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

"Lift up your eyes about the see. The Spirit of the Lord is upon you because the Lord has anointed you and qualified you to preach the Gospel."

*"**Don't pass the torch yet. Run alongside those in training, but don't pass the torch yet. They are not ready, and God is not done with you. Stay in the race--I personally believe God is going to use you in even greater ways in the days ahead than he has in the past twenty.**"*

THANK YOU, FATHER, FOR YOUR LOVING ENCOURAGEMENT.

Bellevue & LaConner, Washington

April 7, 1996 - 15,715 - 15,305

Just got back from a wonderful weekend get-away with Shirley. We stayed in Bellevue, located around Kirkland and vicinity, and took a trip to LaConner to the tulip fields. They were gorgeous--such a beautiful expression of God's creativity.

Was so good to be with the woman I love and enjoy our growing friendship. Thank you, Father, for these special times.

Port Orchard, Washington

Last week we had our annual *Renewal' 96* Banquet at Harper Evangelical Free Church. There was a good crowd, excellent reports and sharing, and a tremendous word from Peter Iliyn. God used the event. Next year we are feeling led to go a different direction, but **for the past ten years, God has favored this annual ministry fund-raiser**. It's just time to move on to something new.

April 12-14, we had a great King's Kids weekend ministering all over the Seattle area. On Saturday night **I gave a message on the importance of "Life," and it led to much weeping, tears, confessions by many kids on pondering suicide etc. At times, there was so much loud crying going on that the confessions couldn't be heard. It was a tremendous move of God**. Many kids were delivered that night, and many received comfort from the Father of all comfort.

On the personal side, I'm still struggling with getting my voice back. God is really teaching me some lessons about pain and suffering. I'm certainly not suffering like some are around the world but having this constant pain in my throat has really reminded me of the brevity of life, the purpose of pain, and having a good eye on eternity. Out of it has come a message, "The Gift of Suffering" which I gave to the King's Kids staff. The Message says of James 1:

"Consider it a sheer gift when you have struggles and problems, knowing that difficulty forces your faith-life out into the open."

That is sure happening in my life. I'm not always passing the test, but I am getting closer to God and godliness. That makes it all worth it.

Washington, D.C.

May 6, 1996 - 15,744 - 15,276

Just returned from an exhausting but glorious week in Washington D.C. Deidra and Jonathan, and Cathy McKay and I all flew back to the nation's capital to attend some events and to prepare for this summer's ministry. Here are the highlights:

1. *Washington For Jesus '96* drew probably 100,000-200,000 people to the Mall for two days of events. The youth rally was the largest, and very powerful. The day of the main event, it just poured down rain which certainly affected the turn-out. Being up front, seeing many old friends, and thinking about past events in 1980 and 1988 really made this a nostalgic gathering for me. May God once again hear from heaven and bring greater healing to our land.
2. For two days I participated in our annual *Youth Ministries Executive Council* meetings with about 30 other youth leaders. We are becoming so close, and excited about working together to reach kids for Christ. Had a great time on Capitol Hill having 5-6 congressmen and women and senators share with us. I helped set that up. It was refreshing to hear from some of the freshmen legislators--especially Linda Smith of Washington--and the bold stands they are taking for principle and for God. Powerful time.
3. The *National Day of Prayer* was also well attended, starting with prayer for the President at Lafayette Park across from the White House, then 4 hours of prayer on Capitol Hill, and then the evening rally with city leaders on the west steps of the Capitol. This year's theme was "Honor God." In between prayer gatherings, the Rotunda was used as a special meeting room to present Billy and Ruth Graham with the Congressional Medal of Honor. Only about 100 people in US history have received this award. They certainly deserve it. Billy Graham even used the occasion to preach the Gospel once again. Quite a day of "Honor."
4. Outside of these meetings, we moved around the city meeting pastors, visiting the inner city, and laying plans for the summer. One afternoon, Deidra, Jonathan, and Cathy got to go out with "Kids Connection," our hosts this summer, and minister on the streets. Things are setting up well, and we're excited for what God has for us this summer.

Thank you, Father, for what you're doing in our nation's capital. May the dewdrops of revival turn into a mighty rushing river.

Port Orchard, Washington

May 14, 1996 - 15,752 - 15, 263

I just returned home from a very painful meeting. I visited Mark Huntington, one of our former staff in Washington D.C. at a home in Tacoma where he is dying of AIDS. The disease has taken such a toll on his body that I hardly recognized him. Most of his hair was gray and gone. There were sores and abrasions all over his body. He was feeble and bed-ridden and could only barely talk with a gravelly voice as I held his hand and looked into his eyes.

Mark is paying the price of a homosexual lifestyle that will soon take his life before the age of 40. I shared with Him about preparing for death and making sure he was right with God. He nodded and seemed responsive to my pleas. I also prayed with him--thinking back on our years of ministry together. How sin changes things.

In a few days, Mark's life will be over. My hope and prayer for him is that his exit from this life will be into the arms of His Heavenly Father. He messed up big time in life. But a changed heart can rectify all that. Jesus has provided a way for him to be forgiven, just like me. How I pray that he avails himself of that great mercy.

** Mark died one week after our visit. I can only hope that he was right with God.

Seattle, Washington

May 25, 1996 - 15,763 - 15,252

Last week with the March for Jesus in Seattle and we took the King's Kids in force. Was rainy to begin with--and that affected the numbers of the people there. What a sad indictment on the Church.

As we began to head out into the streets, the sun broke through and remained beautiful throughout the march. At the concluding rally, it poured once again--possibly a reminder of the true state of our nation: in need of repentance and change.

Lord--I hope you were pleased with our sacrifice of praise. You are certainly worthy of it--and so much more.

Ocean Shores, Washington

June 21, 1996 - 15,790 - 15,225

We'd just returned from Ocean Shores from our annual family vacation with my folks. The kids were a little unruly at times (Yes, there are struggles in the teenage years), but all-in-all it was great. Stayed right on the beach, took many walks together, rode horses, splashed and frolicked in the hot-tub, and generally enjoyed one another. **This is a wonderful family tradition that we must keep alive. We're so thankful that my mom and dad have encouraged it the past few years.**

My only struggle at this point is my voice--it continues to hurt almost six months since it started. **I've now been to various doctors, and paid out over \$1000 in fees, but still there is little relief.** Basically, their advice has come down to this: "You have a sore throat. Try to relax more. That will be \$250 please" What a racket.

But I'm trusting God and learning much about the value of pain and suffering. In fact, in this month's newsletter which follows, I'm writing on that theme. **It truly is good to be weak which is REAL STRENGTH. That's a hard lesson for a person whose name means "Mighty Power."**

We've also had a tough time lately with Bethany. She's really struggling in her identity and relationship to friends, and it spills over in our relationship with her. Last week we found out that she's been experimenting with smoking. It was like a blow to the gut. We really hurt for her and are desperately asking God to bring conviction and a revelation of his love into her life.

This is a tough season of life for her--but she needs to find God and His perspective on her life for herself. Lord, help us to get out of the way and be her greatest intercessors.

Port Orchard, Washington

[Following is a lengthy newsletter on the various happenings of 1996 and our summer plans to minister at the Atlanta Summer Olympics.]

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ATLANTA--THE CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC GAMES.

Atlanta. It's a city that burned to the ground twice and was re-built--the phoenix of the South, home of CNN and Coca-Cola--now a business and communications colossus. And by a remarkable act of Providence, it was chosen to host the crowning event of the 20th century, the 100th Olympic Games, July 15 - August 4, 1996. All the world will be watching. More importantly, **tens of thousands of Christians will be there to uplift Jesus. One hundred of them will be King's Kids from YWAM Port Orchard.**

Most people assumed that the Centennial Olympics would be held in Athens, Greece, the site of the first modern Olympic competition in 1896. To everyone's surprise, Atlanta was chosen. Matthew Nocas, YWAM's Olympic Coordinator says, "This can only be explained as an act of God. He wants the world to pray for America, for thousands to be evangelized in America, and for the fire to spread across the entire nation."

The 1996 Centennial Olympics will be the largest international gathering in history. Participants include 15,000 athletes and coaches, 15,500 journalists, 2 million visitors, 3.5 billion television viewers, 150 head of state, 195 nations represented, 85,000 staff and volunteers, 12 million ticket holders--and millions praying all over the world. Dr. Eddie Fox, President of the World Methodist Council says that "Just as the roads of Rome were utilized as bridges for the gospel, so in this era, sports provide unique intersections in the world for the witness of Jesus Christ."

One hundred members of our King's Kids team (another 50 will minister in the Northwest) will fly into this spiritual epicenter this summer. They will join with 8,000 other King's Kids July 8-15 from 120 nations at the Target World Celebration just outside the city. Life-changing teaching, prayer, interaction with on-fire kids from other countries, and being challenged to find their place in world evangelization will dominate the week. Then for three days, the team will hit the streets of Atlanta using drama, choreography, puppets, dance, rollerblading, basketball teams and other creative forms to share Christ. Much of the ministry will be in the urban ghetto. Some will be in the center of the Olympic Village.

They will then travel to the nation's capital--Washington DC--for a week of powerful ministry. Holding youth camps, and joining forces with black, Asian, Hispanic, and white young people, they will invade Washington's inner city with the love of Jesus. The summer outreach concludes upon their return to Seattle where they will join our local Northwest team, and other international teams, for a major rally in Seattle on July 27th.

But the road begins in Atlanta, then spreads around the nation and the world. Will you pray for an historic evangelism explosion at the Centennial Olympic Games? Will you support the young people to go? It's time for the phoenix to meet the Messiah. It's time for America and the world. It's past time.

THE ATLANTA INVASION BEGINS

Jonathan Stone and I traveled to Atlanta in February to prepare for this summer's outreach and attend a series of conferences. Atlanta '96 brought together some 8,000 youth workers and 10,000 kids to unite in prayer for revival in America. 350,000 True Love Waits commitment cards were stacked "Through the Roof" of the Georgia Dome. It was a great time of unprecedented unity among ministries, prayer for the youth of the United States, and confession and brokenness over sin. Following was the Promisekeepers National Clergy Conference attended by some 45,000 pastors and Christian leaders. It, too, was an awesome display of unity,

repentance, powerful teaching, and much prayer aimed at "Breaking Down the Walls" that divide the Church. Jonathan remarked, "What a privilege it was to be in that place. The only response I could say was, 'Lord, I want you to use me!' The last thing I felt the Lord say was, 'I want to use this generation!' He has already begun.

"The Gift of Suffering" - by Ron Boehme

Last year, due to a strenuous preaching schedule, I developed a painfully sore throat that kept me out of action for a while. For a person that speaks for a living, having an inflamed voice box is like being a carpenter with broken hands. It doesn't work well. On a few occasions I stood before large crowds almost in tears, asking God for enough voice to speak. Between engagements, I suffered with the physical and psychological pain that bodily affliction brings. There was much prayer and introspection. At times I was frustrated. Often, I was humbled, broken, and "silent." Through it all, I learned a deep life lesson that just may be America's greatest need.

James 1:2-3 says, "Consider it a SHEER GIFT when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith life is forced out into the open and shows its true colors. So, don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work, so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way (The Message)."

I had it backwards: Suffering is a gift, not a problem. It's temporal happiness that's a curse. When life is easy and unthreatened, the cancer of self-centered contentment can take over our spiritual life. When that happens, suffering is the greatest gift that God can impart to us.

Why is that so? Here are a few of the reasons:

1. Suffering forces us to face reality--that we are truly spiritually needy before God. The first beatitude explains, "Blessed are those who recognize they are spiritually helpless" (Matthew 5:1). Boy, does pain reveal our need! Instead of relying on human strengths and talents, suffering demands that we call out to the God "in whom we live, move, and have our being." When times are easy, that's often forgotten.
2. Suffering focuses us on "self" to purge us of it. "A person that has suffered physically no longer sins" (1 Peter 4:1). Pain is designed to purge us of self-effort and control. We become humbled, broken, and thus candidates for holiness--a life without sin.
3. Suffering drives us to prayer and dependence on God (1 Peter 4:19). That's our biggest need and greatest weapon. Will suffering and pain be God's GIFT to America to draw us into prayerful dependence on Him alone?
4. Suffering develops character, patience, contentment, and a humble view of life. That sounds like a good recipe for the backslidden Western world. Character instead of Anarchy. Patience instead of Violence. Contentment instead of Greed. Humility instead

of Pride. Suffering is the soil of real personal growth.

5. Suffering reinforces our sense of temporariness and beckons us to gaze on eternity (2 Timothy 2:12). William Wilberforce, the great British Parliamentarian, used to put a rock in his shoe every day to remind him not to get comfortable in this life. He was just passing through. He wanted to keep his eyes on heaven, and his efforts directed that way. Pain helps us to have 20/20 spiritual vision.

6. Suffering makes us God-oriented, producing true strength. Paul said, "to keep me from becoming conceited, I am forced to deal with a recurring problem...I begged the Lord three times to take it away from me. But he told me: 'My kindness is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.'" Paul learned to REJOICE in his gift of suffering because, as he said, "it's clear that when I'm weak, I'm strong." What a perspective.

7. And finally, suffering helps us to care for and empathize with others (Galatians 6:2). My own physical suffering has drawn me into concerted prayer times for the needy, sick, and dying of the world. When I'm healthy, it's easy to forget them. I can also feel their pain with greater compassion because we've become brothers in the common school of suffering. Love flows best out of broken vessels.

Isn't it ironic that our happiness-seeking American culture is doing all in its power to avoid suffering--the true source of blessing? We want happiness without difficulty, the good life without pain. But that pursuit will also mean life without God, character, heaven, or true peace. Self-centered worldly avoidance of pain is killing our spiritual and corporate life. Only the gift of suffering can AWAKEN us and point us to the True Source of Blessedness.

This is the great tragedy of the death with dignity movement now exploding in the United States and popularized by Dr. Jack Kervorkian. By helping people avoid suffering, we're giving them an early exit into a Christ-less eternity. A selfish generation who've run from God in life, are now running from Him at death by refusing to go through suffering.

I'm learning to embrace my pain. It's for my good. It rouses me to annihilate self, care for others, and uplift the Lord Jesus in my life. Now that's a real gift--one that will last for eternity.

IT'S HAPPENING

BUILDING "FOUNDATIONS"--OR WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES?

You train them to be world changers. YWAM Port Orchard has launched its first official training program called the **"Foundations Course,"** a special school for our fabulous, mission-oriented high school graduates who've come up through the ranks of King's Kids. Under the leadership of Michael Jaye and Debra Isome, the course is an interactive class-room approach where Bible-teaching, study, prayer, small groups, and homework assignments are helping to

build lasting foundations in the graduates' lives.

Chariti Hall is one student who's been blessed: "The main thing the Foundations Course has taught me is not just to seek God's will for my life, but to seek to become more like Jesus. I've learned to really study the Bible for the first time, apply it to my life, and come together and learn from others."

We excited about the tremendous potential of our students. It's both a privilege and an awesome responsibility to help shape, challenge, and assist them to fulfill their God-given destiny. They're building the Foundations. That's the right way to begin.

IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A "NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE?"

According to the Isomes there is--and the secret to living it is understanding your identity in Christ. Michael Jaye and Debra have also launched a second YWAM training course called the "Normal Christian Life" to help in discipling our staff and YWAM friends. It's a meaty, one-night-a-week, twenty-session video series that was produced by Debra's home church, Trinity Church of Omaha, Nebraska. The Isomes hope to multiply this discipleship tool extensively in our mission and the Body of Christ at large.

Lives are being changed. "I'm really learning what it means to have a living relationship with the Lord," comments Angie Sauer, one of the participants. "I'm praying more and learning to really care for the needs of my kids and family. The truth hurts at times, but I want to embrace the pain and grow," she says.

The series centers around the Lordship of Christ and the believer's new identity in Jesus as applied to the spiritual, psychological, physical, social, marital, parental, and financial areas of life. "It's a tool to facilitate healthy growth, which means a reckless abandon to Jesus as a way of life," Michael Jaye explains. "Knowing who you are in Jesus is the key."

REACHING OUR OWN INNER CITY

Everyone month, a committed team of twenty King's Kids from the quiet town of Port Orchard plunge into the busy inner city of Tacoma, known as Salishan, to share the gospel. Black, Asian, Hispanic, and white children join our kids for an entire day of song, dance, Bible stories, a great lunch, and building lasting friendships.

Many of the children don't even know how to hug or respond to the love offered by the king's Kids team. But Jesus is changing them. Please pray for the Salishan team as they minister God's grace and care among those who need Him most. If you're interested in donating food, volunteer time, or other services, please let us know. Together, we can see the "Son" Shine on Salishan.

FROM THE MAILBAG

WASHINGTON AWAKENING

"I just wanted to drop you a note to say I enjoyed the **Washington Awakening meetings in Kent, Washington**. Having us all pray for revival for our land was the key to the whole evening. Thanks for all the hard work! It touched me and others. Keep on keeping on."

Phil Conrod, Maple Valley, WA

"On behalf of the Mason County Prayer Network, I wish to extend to you our thanks for all your efforts in bringing the **Washington Awakening to Mason County**. Each night seemed to build with excitement. People prayed fervently and stayed late to just worship the Lord. 100+ kids responded to the altar call. Youth leaders and pastors were thrilled with the response. It was definitely a breakthrough."

Rita LaBresh, Mason Co. Prayer Network

RON'S BOOKS

"I just finished your delightful and wonderful book entitled "If God Has A Plan for My Life, Why Can't I Find It?" Even though I've been a Christian for 30 years, I found this book to be most helpful in my Christian walk at this moment. God bless you very deeply and I pray you will have future success. Keep writing. God has given you a very special talent!!"

Catherine Van Der Goes, Seattle WA

REVIVAL ENCOURAGEMENT

"This letter is to inform you that we pray for revival every day. And my wife and I hold you, by name, before the throne of God. Don't be discouraged. Just keep sowing to the Spirit and you will reap eternal life in bringing many lost, hurting people to Jesus Christ."

Bob Brackett, Longview WA

WHO WILL WEEP FOR AMERICA?

The following message is a prophecy that was delivered by a servant of the Lord in 1988 in Australia. It was shared recently during the Revive America Seminars (article following), and God used it to bring much understanding and brokenness. That is our prayer for you.

REVIVE AMERICA BLAZES THROUGH THE FRIGID MIDWEST

Winter in the Midwest means COLD. Bringing the Revive America Seminar to this frozen land means HEAT WAVE. During January through March, in conjunction with the Impact World Tour, we were privileged to share the message of revival in city-wide gatherings

in Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Missouri, and Illinois. Ron Boehme shared the preaching times with other YWAM speakers, and Jonathan Stone traveled to two cities to conduct special youth rallies. It was a powerful time of awakening. Thousands of people signed the "Covenant" to pray for revival until it comes. Some highlights follow.

ALBERT LEA, MINNESOTA

The meetings began January 12 in the high school auditorium of this conservative, 20,000-person, Norwegian community. By the final day, God's Spirit was really moving. Hundreds came forward to sign the "Covenant." A Baptist pastor encouraged the believers to continue meeting monthly at the high school (located in the center of town) to pray for revival.

PARSONS, KANSAS

Only a miracle allowed our plane to get into Kansas during a ferocious blizzard. In the 12,000-person city of Parsons, hundreds braved the cold to hear the word of the Lord. Scores of them were pastors representing thirty churches in the area. On Saturday night, much repentance and prayer broke out among us as Ron preached on "When Free Men Shall Stand." On Sunday, the Wesley United Methodist Church was packed with people sitting in the aisles, choir loft, and the foyer. Dean Sherman gave a prophetic word on "Coming Out of Babylon." God was at work in the land of Oz.

HASTINGS, NEBRASKA

We again flew into a blizzard only to find the hearts of God's people somewhat indifferent, apathetic, and disunified. After much prayer, especially among the pastors, the barriers began to break down. As Ron preached on "Religious Idolatry" Saturday night, God really broke through and people stood to confess sin and pray. Simultaneously, Jonathan Stone was speaking to 100 kids at another church--with identical results.

The final Sunday service was scheduled for 2:30pm to finish before the Super Bowl. After Paul Hawkins spoke and shared the prophecy "Who Will Weep for America?" hundreds went to their knees, crying, praying, and asking God's forgiveness. The meeting went on into the evening. No one cared about the Super Bowl. God had come. He alone is truly Super.

JAMESTOWN, NORTH DAKOTA

The day we arrived the wind chill factor reached 85 degrees below. Smaller crowds built in crescendo to a powerful climax by the end of the weekend. Ron Smith was used of God to really challenge this hearty people to a solid walk in God's Word.

WAYNESVILLE, MISSOURI

The highlight of this weekend was speaking at Fort Leonard Wood Army Base to hundreds of raw recruits. Over thirty made first time commitments to Christ--many with tears

streaming down their faces--and 120 stayed for a follow-up Bible study. The meetings in Waynesville also saw the blessing of God.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, ILLINOIS

Our final stop on this Midwest tour was the twin cities of Urbana-Champaign, home of the University of Illinois. God's Word was received with enthusiasm. Ron especially experienced an electrifying service at the Urbana Assembly of God where he preached on "Destiny." There were strongholds to tear down in Urbana, but God was able--if His people pay the price in prayer.

We thank you for your prayers for the Revive America Seminars. This fall they will be coming to the west coast, then back to America's heartland in January. They are just one small part of a VERY BIG REVIVAL that God is bringing to America. Let's continue to pray and look for His showers of blessing.

LASTING FRUIT

"It's been two weeks since you were here in Parsons, but the impact of your services still rings in my ears. I thank you so much for shaking awake my sleeping spirit. You have caused me to look at myself in a different way, bringing my spirit to awake and strengthening my relationship with Christ."

Winston Taylor, Parsons, KS

"We were challenged by the Word of God and by the inspirational message on repentance and true change as we move with the Lord in this great harvest time. I'm convinced that as the leadership of the area "runs with the vision", our people will catch it and run as well."

Rev. Tom Cromwell, Dixon, MO

"Thank you so much for your excellent message. It greatly blessed our people. God has already used it in one man's life to make an occupational change. Thanks, again, for your obedience to the Lord."

Rev. Gary Grogan, Urbana, IL

July 6, 1996 - 15,805 - 15,210

We're nearing the end of our King's Kids bootcamp in preparation for the summer's outreaches. What a marvelous time with God. There's been great teaching, and knitting together, and the team ministries are forming well.

Last night I spoke to the kids about their passion for God. Do they really care? Are they willing to lay it all on the line for Jesus? There was much conviction of sin, audible weeping, and

sweet dealings with the Lord. Our daughter Bethany wept and wept for minutes and many people ministered to her. I believe she was being healed from some deep wounding by friends.

Then last night we had a phenomenal commissioning service with the glory of God so apparent. During this Boot Camp I've made it very clear that unless our theme song of "New Americans" comes from the heart, we're not going to do it. Last night they did it with such passion that I freely cried as they ministered. It was a touching time.

Tomorrow our team of 83 leaves for Atlanta and Washington D.C. The Home Team of 50 will minister in the Tacoma area. For the first time, our entire family will be together on outreach. What a blessing and privilege. We know it won't be easy, but Jesus is worth it.

Atlanta, Georgia

July 18, 1996 - 15,817 - 15,198

I've had two wonderful experiences the past ten days:

Target World

What an experience staying with 5,000 other King's Kids from over 100 nations in this dirty, yet spacious water park. Like a small taste of heaven in a fallen world. We arrived very tired and had to set up our own tents late at night. We're staying way up in the back forty and had to walk quite a distance to get to all the meetings. It's dusty--it has rained, soaking the tents and some of our clothes--and also been quite beautiful and exciting.

Though I missed all the evening meetings, they've been a powerful motivation for the kids under the Big Tent. However, I know I'm getting old because they were just too loud and youth-oriented for me. (I also think YWAM must be careful about following the way that the world and other Christian organizations go.) But all-in-all, it's been great. There are many groups from Asia (800 Koreans alone), Africa, the Islands, Europe, and across the Americas. God does have His hand upon this generation.

Korean Youth Conference

During the week I flew up to New York to speak to an American Korean Youth Conference, located on the New Jersey side. It was a great bunch of kids. They were thoughtful, attentive, asked great questions, and very disciplined. It's obvious to me why God's blessing is upon the Koreans. They manifest so many of His characteristics. This should be a great lesson for our American kids who seek entertainment, fun and games, and tend to be shallow thinkers.

I found out that most Korean students are tutored in math and English during the

summers. They only take about one week off. No wonder they're changing the world with their drive, work ethic, prayer lives, and passion for God. I really enjoyed my time--though I had to trust God again for my voice. He's keeping me on a short lease to Him these days.

Upon returning to Atlanta, we finished the Target World Conference and moved into downtown Atlanta to the Mount Paran Safehouse. It's a comfortable 2 story building able to house all of us and walking distance to the Olympic Village right in the heart of the city. One day we ministered in some inner-city schools (hundreds of kids).

Another day we helped feed about 100 street men. One evening, we walked down to Centennial Park and ministered to hundreds of people in the main square for about 2 hours until we were asked to stop. Had many encouraging conversations. (About five days later, in that same park, the bomb exploded that killed a woman and threw the Centennial Games into confusion. It was weird watching it on the news.)

It is very difficult moving around with a team as large as ours. It takes ages even to cross the street. But so far, we're doing what God wanted and everybody's okay. Even the little guys are doing fine. Today we travel to D.C. for our final weeks of ministry. It's a great feeling to be returning to one of our special homes.

Washington, D.C.

July 27, 1996 - 15,826 - 15,189

Our time in the nation's capital is now over. In many ways, it was the hardest outreach I've ever done. Logistics was difficult. Our dealing with large numbers was very cumbersome at times. Our accommodations weren't the easiest. And at times, the massive logistical nightmares really stretched and divided our staff and leaders. Praise God we made it through--and produced good fruit for his Kingdom.

Here's what the schedule looked like:

Friday, July 19 - Roger and Lin Story met us on Capitol Hill and gave us a great tour and prayer time. We were able to see a live debate in the House and have good items of prayer everywhere.

Saturday, July 20 - We did a large youth track in Virginia that God really blessed. On Sunday, we ministered in different churches (I preached at Bill Jeschke's new church, the King's Chapel in Fairfax City). In the afternoon we ministered as a large group on the Mall (with friends from the Virginia Youth Track) and then concluded the day with a powerful performance at the Lincoln Memorial. Some folks prayed to receive Christ. In the evening, we prayed in front of the White House. Later, we received word that the President would not be able to see us.

July 22-25 - We split up into three teams and worked in the housing projects of Anacostia. Our hearts went out to the kids. We used puppets, rollerblading, basketball (in the evenings), and many other means just to hang out with the children. Many of them were shown the love of Jesus. It was heart-breaking to leave them. We learned a lot from them and thank God for the privilege of sharing Christ's love.

We also ministered at the Ghana and the Philippines embassies to very appreciative crowds and took the kids to Arlington Cemetery to see the "Changing of the Guard." Had a moving prayer time there.

July 26 was our final day, and we did a sight-seeing prayer tour of downtown Washington which ended at the Holocaust Museum. Then the group boarded their airplanes and flew back to Seattle. Our family stayed behind for our week of reunion and rest.

We learned some big lessons from this outreach:

1. The inner cities of America are one of the hardest places to minister on the face of the earth. It will take great sacrifice and commitment to see them transformed by the power of God.
2. It's better to stay in small teams. Large numbers are harder to move around--even in America.
3. We love America and want to be a part of God's solution.

August 3, 1996 - 15,833 - 15,182

It's great to be home after a relaxing week with our family in the D.C. area. God provided a fabulous home complete with a pool courtesy of Molly, a member of Bill Jeschke's church. She gave us the keys to the place and left for the week. The kids swam a lot, unwound from the outreach, and we managed to go a few places together.

We visited the Handy family in our old neighborhood, and even went through our old house. The kids said it looked a lot smaller. It really hadn't changed much. How fast ten years can go. Shirley also had us visit all three hospitals where the kids were born. That involved some driving but brought back good memories (at least for Shirley and me).

We also did a day at King's Dominion, visited Mount Vernon and Ford's Theater, and had a great reunion with friends at Christian Assembly following the morning service in which we shared as a family and the kids performed "By My Spirit." We have many wonderful friends from our time in D.C. and many of them came to thank God for the years we shared together.

And now we're home. Outreach '96 is another gospel memory. May You be pleased with the offering of our lives this summer, our King and God. And may eternal fruit remain for your Heavenly Reign.

Lake Billy Chinook, Oregon

August 24, 1996 - 15,854 - 15,161

We've just returned from our annual family camping trip--a really good time at Cove Palisades State Park on Lake Billy Chinook. God gave us a wonderful campsite, and after a few days of "de-programming" from the overdose of youth entertainment in the previous weeks, we started loving and enjoying one another and having a good time. Two different days we rented a large houseboat and sailed the canyons, eating, swimming, and just lying in the sun. It was great and relaxing. In the evenings, we played cards and drank hot chocolate.

These times together are so important for us as a family. In a few short years, they will be no more as the kids grow up and move out into their lives.

I'm grateful now for a restful August though my voice still hurts, and we're still concerned about Bethany. God --give us grace and wisdom to lead all our children close to You.

Port Orchard, Washington

September 7, 1996 - 15,868 - 15,147

What a week. First, Bethany decided at the last minute to try our public school this year. After talking, praying, and agonizing over the decision, I took her the first day of school up to Marcus Whitman and released her to the atheist monolith. It was one of the most depressing days in my life. For 10 years Shirley and I have been the primary teachers in our kids' lives. This week, that stopped--at least momentarily as Nathan went off to do electives at South Kitsap High and Bethany made her surprising choice.

We were stunned, saddened, and had the early feelings of the empty nest feeling. But it wasn't to last. On Thursday night, after four days at school, Bethany told us she wanted to come home. To quote her: "It sucks." I almost did cartwheels. Since returning home, she has been the most compliant and good daughter. We believe she had to learn a deep lesson for herself--and that God gave us the wisdom and the courage to let her learn it. Now we're reaping the fruit of her self-discovery. What an important life-lesson.

God is really moving in her. It's not over yet, but I see the enemy's fortresses in her life crumbling. Our prayers and tears are being heard before God, and she is responding to his voice. Oh, may that continue. I should mention that a few weeks ago the Lord really spoke to me about getting involved in the Ellen Craswell for governor campaign. Ellen's been a good friend for years, and we supported her through our *Washington Awakening* meetings last year. But during the summer, I felt the tug of the Holy Spirit to do more than that.

After procrastinating for a few months, I decided to obey--and promptly helped put together a team of people for our 26th Legislative District--becoming doorbelling captain in the process. For the past few weeks we've been sending out teams of kids and adults who've knocked on and prayed over almost 5,000 doors. God is really doing something in Ellen's run for office. We're glad to be a part.

On Saturday we took a King's Kids team to serve and minister at an Ellen Craswell rally in Port Orchard. They were so powerful that they were given a standing ovation as singing "God in America." The only other standing ovation went to Ellen herself. How I want our kids to feel God's heart for our state and nation and to get involved in making a difference. Saturday, they did just that.

September 15, 1996 - 15,876 - 15,139

This past weekend I reached a milestone--my 25th High School Reunion. May how fast a quarter century can go. A month or so ago, God placed on my heart the desire to hold a Christian gathering for former classmates.

On Friday night, about 12 responded to a mailing to 30-40 and set aside the evening to get re-acquainted again, share how Christ has moved in our lives, and worship and pray together.

It was a revival. Tears flowed freely, people asked forgiveness of one another, we prayed and talked for hours--and I could hardly stop the evening. It was a wonderful time seeing how Christ makes us one. I will never forget it.

The next evening, we attended the larger reunion, and it too was a good time of catching up with and ministering to old friends. I even received an award for having the most children. Quite an honor. I did have one very negative experience with Cristy (Caldon) Anderson that bordered on the demonic. She wouldn't even shake my hand or give me a hug--then was cold as ice. Her separation from God is very deep, and I felt very bad for her. Once she walked with Christ. Now she's successful but is losing her own soul. How sad.

I easily could have married her twenty years ago. When I got home, I got down on my knees and thanked God and Shirley for being in my life. How God has protected me. How he has cared for my life and work.

September 22, 1996 - 15,883 - 15,132

Last night we held our annual *Destiny '96* King's Kids extravaganza night. It was really powerful--though the crowds were a little down from last year. I am so proud of our kids and their love for God and willingness to use their gifts for him. I truly hope this will be the greatest year ever as we target the unreached peoples of Asia. God is speaking to us, and we are excited. This is a big step. But God is a Big God.

Here's a look at our latest newsletter, due out very soon.

REACHING AMERICA FOR GOD

Have you ever taken a tour with 100 kids? Transported 220 pieces of luggage from place to place? Stopped every hundred yards for somebody to go to the bathroom? Camped out in the rain with 5,000 energized teenagers? And most importantly: Shared the Good News of Jesus with hundreds of adorable children in some of the worst ghettos in America?

This past summer King's Kids Port Orchard had the privilege of doing all that and more. Near the Atlanta Olympics, a team of 83 kids and staff rocked with 5,000 other King's Kids from 150 nations for a week-long "Target World Celebration." It was hot, rainy, dirty, crowded, and awesome.

Following the mega-gathering, the team ministered in Atlanta's inner city, fed 100 street men, and performed at Centennial Park just a few days before the bombing. Fifteen-year-old Megan Irwin had this experience: "In Atlanta I was able to pray with a homeless man named Derek. He knew God but wasn't following him. After talking and praying, he seemed eager to get back on track with God."

After busing up the east coast to Washington D.C., the team planted themselves in Anacostia--the worst part of the nation's capital. It wasn't easy. Daily, they split into three teams to share Christ in the housing projects. Using basketball, rollerblading, neighborhood clean-up, and puppets as points of contact, hundreds of kids were shown God's love in tangible ways. The team did a youth track in Virginia, ministered at the Mexican, Philippine, and Ghanaian embassies, and did large public performances on the Washington Mall.

Julie Poston, 16, was one of many who had the privilege of leading someone to Christ. "I met a young boy named Rick at one of the projects. The second night we were there I led him to the Lord. That was my first convert ever."

In Tacoma, a powerful group of 50 kids and staff did a four-day outreach Tacoma's hilltop area known as Salishan. Using performing arts, sports, drama, puppets, and lots of tender loving care, they shared the gospel with scores of children. A number made commitments to Christ. Sarah Albright, 16, was one of those who shared her faith. "On our last night I met a girl and led her to the Lord. She was so happy afterwards."

Our teams learned this summer that God has a heart for the people in America's cities. Reaching them requires a willingness to suffer with them, to sacrifice your normal comforts, and make yourself a broken vessel that oozes the hope and love of Jesus. For many it was an eye-opening, heart-tugging beginning. It won't be the end of our quest to reach America for God.

KINGDOM NEWS YOU CAN USE

YWAM GROWTH GROUPS

October through March, YWAM Port Orchard is launching a new slate of Growth Groups for those in the Westsound community. Led by Michael Jaye and Debra Isome, these weekly small groups focused on missions will include teaching and small group interaction on our relationship with God, marriage and parenting skills, relationships with others, and faith and finances. "We want to encourage and challenge our people," explains Michael Jaye, "to be mature, transparent, accountable, and fruitful in their lives and ministry. This small group approach has the potential of being a tremendous means of growth." If you're interested in being a part of the YWAM Growth Groups, please call the Isomes at (360) 769-9586.

BOYCOTT DISNEY

Many Christian organizations and leaders including the Southern Baptist Convention and Charisma magazine are encouraging Christians to boycott Disney--its theme parks, movies, and products until it cleans up its act. In recent years, the Disney Corporation has ceased being a family and moral-oriented entertainment giant and embraced many anti-Christian themes.

The boycott is urged because Disney advertises itself as wholesome and pro-family, while producing movies like *Priest* and *Kids* with their homosexual orientation and violence and sexual acidity among teenagers. Recently, Disney decided to give health benefits to the live-in "partners" of its homosexual and lesbian employees. That was the last straw for many Christian leaders.

We strongly encourage you to support the Disney boycott. It will mean sacrificing some movies, changing vacation plans, or whatever. But if we don't stand up, who will? (If you'd like a copy of the Charisma magazine article encouraging the Disney boycott, please send a self-addressed envelope to our office.)

QUOTE

"Don't expect a six-inch stream of blessing from a one-inch pipe of dedication." --Keith Huttenlocker

IT'S HARVEST TIME - JOIN THE WINNING ARMY

Christianity is growing three times faster than the world's population rate which is about 2%. Every day, more than 178,000 people come into the Kingdom of God (that's a lot of angel rejoicing in heaven).

- 28,000 new Christians in Communist China
- 20,000 in Africa

- 35,000 in Latin America

Biblical Christians are the fastest growing religious group in the world with a 6.9 percent growth rate, compared with 2.8 for non-religious people, 2.7 for Muslims, 2.3 for Hindus, 2.2 for nominal Christians, and 1.7 percent for Buddhists.

More than 70 percent of the progress in world evangelism from the time of Christ until today has occurred since 1900. Seventy percent of that progress has occurred since WWII; and seventy percent of that has come in the past 6 years.

Christ is winning. Are you doing your part?

UNITING THE SHEPHERDS

One of the most encouraging signs of spiritual awakening in America is the building unity among leaders in the Body of Christ. From Promisekeepers, to Mission America, to the National Day of Prayer, to Fasting and Prayer Conferences, God is bringing his leaders together in the spirit of John chapter 17. Pictured below is Ron Boehme meeting with the leaders of youth ministries nationwide to pray and discuss how they can cooperate with each other in reaching every kid in the USA for Christ. Can revival be far behind?

KING'S KIDS REV TEAM

King's Kids, Port Orchard is currently touring the state of Washington with a special "revival team" (REV TEAM) of kids that are calling their generation to radical obedience to Jesus. Their powerful 45-minute presentation, complete with big screen video, choreographed songs, drama, and testimonies, is being led by Jonathan Stone. "We want to see kids all over the state awakened to the awesomeness of God--which will lead to a deeper love for Him and all people," Jonathan declares.

YWAM ON THE WEB

If you have access to the Internet via the World Wide Web, forget about the news and those chat groups and forums, and take a "hit" at the world-wide work of Youth With A Mission. Our address on the Internet is <http://ywam.org>. Be watching for YWAM Port Orchard's new home page on the Web--debuting the first of November. In the meantime, you can stay in touch with us by e-mail at ywampo@narrows.com.

ASIA 1997

For our 1997 summer outreaches, King's Kids, Port Orchard will be sending teams into some Asian nations with the purpose of planting a church among an unreached people group. These short-term mission teams will pave the way for long-term missionaries from our own YWAM base and a local church partner to minister among the targeted ethnic group for the next

few years. The goal is the establishment of an indigenous church that will multiply itself into other unreached nations. Two US based teams will also minister among unreached peoples in the Pacific Northwest.

ADOPT-A-PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP

We are looking to form a strategic alliance with at least one local church to partner with us in reaching an unreached tribe. Working alongside a YWAM King's Kids team to adopt-an-unreached-people group would thrust a local church into the cutting edge of missions, increase excited prayer for global missions, and help direct resources into a focused goal. The entire church would benefit by adopting one people to share the greatness of Christ with. World evangelism would be advanced as more peoples and nations are introduced to the Savior. Above all--the heart of God would be pleased as Jesus is uplifted among the nations.

WESTSOUND IMPACT WORLD TOUR

A catalyst for revival on the Kitsap Peninsula? Some break bricks with their heads. Others twirl flaming torches while dancing a Tahitian jig. Others kneel in prayer and call the church to revival--while kids do rap and choreographed presentations. Is it a traveling circus? An MTV Billy Graham Crusade? Or just another crazy American entertainment experience?

None of the above. It's the Impact World Tour, coming to the Westsound area March 5-9, 1997 at the Kitsap Pavilion in Bremerton. It's a modern evangelism crusade--put together by Youth With A Mission--to bring hundreds of people to Christ. Already thousands of people in scores of small towns and cities across America have met the Lord Jesus through the IWT during the past three years. Excitement is high that God is about to move in our area in similar ways.

"I really believe that IWT will be a vehicle to launch a youth revival in this area," comments Stefan Perssons, a young 25-year old coordinator from Karlstad, Sweden. "There's a strong sense this is what the Lord wants to do. IWT is the best tool I've ever seen to reach unchurched people--especially youth with the gospel."

The Westsound Impact World Tour begins with a Revive America Seminar scheduled for November 8-10. Its focus is to awaken and mobilize believers to pray for revival in the area and have a heart for bringing their lost friends to the crusade.

March 5-9 the evangelistic fireworks begin. March 5 features the Jimmy and Carol Owens musical, "Heal Our Land." It's commitment night for Christians, and a call to revival in the Westsound area.

March 6, Team Destiny--a group of world class athletes--takes center stage to wow a primarily male and youth audience with feats of strength and athleticism. At the end, they'll share their testimonies. Usually hundreds come forward to meet Christ.

March 7 is another youth night featuring an international team of King's Kids. Through song, dance, and drama, they once again will challenge young people to give their all to Jesus.

March 8 Island Breeze take the evangelistic podium. This popular Polynesian dance group dazzles crowds with their cultural dances and song--a celebrative spiritual luau--drawing people of all ages to hear the gospel through their unique presentation.

And on Sunday, March 9 the crusade concludes with a special extravaganza featuring international YWAM speakers. The hope is that thousands of locals will clearly hear the gospel and give their lives to Christ.

John Dick is the local YWAM administrator of the Westsound Impact World Tour. He and Ron Boehme were instrumental in bringing the IWT thrust into the area following the Washington Awakening movement of 1995.

"Our hope is that the Westsound Impact World Tour will be a catalyst for renewal and evangelism in our area," John states with a smile. "We need a touch from God. Maybe now is the appointed time."

October 9, 1996 - 15,900 - 15, 115

What a disaster! This week we discovered a major water leak in our local water system, and when they were digging up the line, they accidentally cut the power lines to our home--instantly destroying our VCR, re-winder, my telephone, answering machine, and the power supply to my computer. I felt that a "Techno-Job"--wiped out in one day.

After a couple of days of hard work and learning to have patience in the middle of a trial, the problem was corrected. This seems to be a time of testing for me personally. Lord--teach me all I must learn through this time.

We've also had some major struggles with Bethany recently after some months of seeming improvement. A week or so ago, she and a friend were caught shoplifting at Wal-Mart and Payless here in Port Orchard. It was one of the saddest days of my life as I went to pick her up, and then seek the Lord as to how to both correct and minister to her.

Both Shirley and I cried many tears over her aching self-image and selfish choices in reaction to it. There have been some breakthroughs, but she really hasn't placed herself in God's hands whole-heartedly. **It's a painful parenting time**--but we know that God will see us through--and give us the GRACE to continue to love and guide her.

Leavenworth, Washington

October 13, 1996 - 15,904 - 15,111

What a glorious **20th Anniversary Getaway** Shirley and I have just returned from. What a rich and fulfilling gift is married love. Father--how I thank you that twenty years ago you gave me Shirley Jean Cookson to share my life with.

It was quite insightful to pull up my journal of over twenty years ago and read about the eventful year of 1976. I was first ministering in Africa--then returned to the States--then married my bride in the fall. Judging from the narrative I wrote then, I was very much a young, volatile, emotional young man trying earnestly to prepare for the biggest step of my life. The journal was loaded with lessons I was learning in trust, dealing with the continual temptation of lust, and trying to please God in everything.

Then we tied the knot on October 10, 1976 and began our new life together. Well, this weekend we went away to celebrate that historic day. **Tim and Julie Allen loaned us their hot-red sport car Miata, and we put on our baseball caps, opened the convertible roof, and gunned down the highway to Leavenworth.**

What a beautiful Bavarian village in the middle of the Cascade Range. We stayed at the **Enzian Motor Inn--a gorgeous German motel with beautiful ambiance-- and a special VIP room complete with fireplace, a canopy bed, and an in-room jacuzzi! We enjoyed a lovely German meal in the village on the evening of the 10th, then retired to our room to enjoy the beauty of the setting and our deep and intimate joy in one another. It was like heaven on earth. How I love and cherish my wife. That love today is far deeper than it was twenty years ago.**

Oak Harbor, Washington

The next day we traveled up the road to Winthrop--a cute little western town in the north Cascades--then took the northern highway across the mountains to Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island. There we stayed two nights at one of our favorite places, the Harbor Plaza Hotel. Our "Sweetheart Special" included a candlelight dinner, a beautifully decorated room, sparkling cider, and lots of love. On Saturday we toured our favorite spots on the island and simply enjoyed each other's company. Today we returned home after a wonderful three days away.

True married love grows deeper every day. It has its moments of hardship and pain, but the beauty of sharing life in Christ together far outweighs the struggles. Shirley is one of the greatest gifts God has ever given to me. The longer I live, the more I realize what a perfect choice she was for me. Her homemaking balances my desire to travel. Her humility and support of the little guy tempers my proneness to arrogance and unconcern. Her Asian time clock teaches

me patience. Her relational skills force me to come out of my project orientation. **God knew I needed her in my life. I'm so grateful that He gave her to me as a gift-- twenty years ago.**

Port Orchard, Washington

October 21, 1996 - 15, 912 - 15, 103

We had a wonderful beginning to our new King's Kids year on Saturday. Nearly 150 eager kids wanting to serve and follow God. We worshipped and prayed, practiced and got to know one another. This year is going to be an exciting year--especially as we focus on reaching the unreached in the Asian part of the 10-40 Window.

Lord--pour out your spirit on these new missions' recruits. Show yourself to them and do great things through their lives. It is a privilege to be called a missionary of the Living Christ. I pray that many of them would serve You all over the world for their lifetimes.

November 6, 1996 - 15, 928 - 15, 087

The past few weeks have been busy and full--AND eventful. On Saturday the 2nd we gathered together about ninety kids and adults for the **Make A Difference '96**. God had shown me to stop making excuses and get involved in the '96 elections, and as a strategy, to mobilize youth groups to canvas our area on behalf of good candidates.

After talking with 15-16 youth pastors over a few weeks we settled on the Saturday before election day as our day of **Civics 101. Gathering at First Christian, we worshipped, Lois McMahan spoke to the group, then after lunch we broke up into teams and prayed over and knocked on about 4,000 doors in the 26th Legislative District.** We returned in the late afternoon to munch pizza together, hear from State Senator Bob Oke, and then go together to the Carmen Concert in Tacoma in the evening. It was a fabulous day. My only regret was that more didn't come--and that many leaders who said they'd be there didn't show. There is a great lack of integrity in the Body of Christ, and I for one want to help see it changed.

The night of the election, I went with a van load of Craswell campaign workers to Ellen's Victory Party in Bellevue to await the results. I was able to see her for a few minutes and thanked her for her courageous and gracious campaign. Though we found out that evening she lost the election, I believe that God is doing much in this nation to stir a sleeping Church. Below I will copy in a letter that I wrote to our YWAM Friends that expresses some of these thoughts:

November 11, 1996

Dear Friends,

It's a week after the eventful 1996 US elections and my heart is full of thoughts and concerns. As a private citizen, I had spent a good amount of time working on behalf of the Ellen Craswell for Governor campaign and for Lois McMahan for state representative. Both lost--as did many other godly candidates in our state and nation.

In this letter----instead of reporting on our YWAM ministries--would you allow me for a change to share some thoughts on the past elections and what I believe God is trying to say to us? Here goes:

1. The defeat of many godly people strongly underlines what **America's greatest need is: spiritual awakening in the church and nation.** We are clearly an atheistic nation with an impotent, minority Christian Church that is openly ridiculed by the press and populace.
2. We must lovingly confront the apathy and lack of understanding of Christians on their responsibilities as citizens. It appears that only 49 percent of the registered voters of the nation bothered to vote on November 5. 50% of Christians didn't vote--allowing Lois McMahan to lose by 2 votes per precinct. Of the Christians who did vote in the governor's race, 45% of them voted for abortion-on-demand, homosexual marriages, and bigger government by voting for Gary Locke instead of Ellen Craswell. Thus, Christians are being disciplined more by the press than by their Bibles.
3. **America is now accelerating down a pathway to judgment and hard times. Difficult days are ahead for us. Are our eyes wide open, and are we preparing ourselves and families for one of the most challenging eras in American history? Are we ready for a depression? For homosexual marriages? For widespread euthanasia? Do we need a police state to stop the rising crime rate? They are all inevitable without revival.**

Thousands of years ago the prophet Hosea declared that "my people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6)." A few hundred years ago British statesman Edmund Burke said: "All that's necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." The 1996 elections have proved both statements true. Now we need to prove another statement true: 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people who are called by my Name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and *heal their land.*" **This is the daily goal of our ministry-- to turn a decline into a REVIVAL.** With your help, it is certainly possible.

November 20, 1996 - 15, 942 - 15, 073

Two things of note have happened recently:

I've begun speaking in the churches on the theme of my new book *Restoring America's Conscience* and the response has been tremendous. God really touched the people at Family Worship Center, and they've told me of many changes in people's lives since I've given the message. There was a tearful and heart-felt response the evening I gave it. At Kingston Christian Church in north end of the county, God really moved as well as many knelt at the altar to pray and ask God to cleanse their conscience. Lord--may YOU touch the hearts of your people through the truth and liberating power of this message.

Mt. Rainer, Washington

This past weekend about 35 of the men of First Christian Church went away on a "Men Advance" and **God really met us in revival**. It was awesome and wonderful. After good messages by Kevin and Tag, **I led an evening service on the sin of disunity, and after I spoke the floodgates opened. Many men wept and confessed their sins. There was much prayer for one another and the divisions in the church; Ken publicly humbled himself and through tears said that he'd been jealous of me--and asked me to be a spiritual mentor in his life. I asked his forgiveness for attitudes of anger and frustration. And the move of God went on and on. Into the early hours of the morning, God awakened the men of FCC.**

The following morning the breaking and prayer continued. Some men confessed their struggles with lust and cigarettes; We tore up some packs and prayed for deliverance. Wayne Harrop--soon to be the new husband of Victoria Stead--cried in front of the group, and really gave his life to Christ. After more hours of honesty and prayer, Tag Larson had to step in and stop things so we could vacate the place.

Hopefully, the awakening will continue in our hearts and flow into the larger congregation. Praise the Lord for what He is doing.

Port Orchard, Washington

November 25, 1996 - 15, 947 - 15, 068

The great response to *Restoring America's Conscience* continues. Sunday morning at First Christian Church we shared about the retreat--and then I shared a few concepts out of the book--and it turned into a very moving time of many confessions, prayers, and the beginning of "awakening" in the church. After many public comments and prayers--especially aimed at

healing the divisions among us--we all had communion together around various stations in the worship center--sharing the body and blood of Christ with those we'd been reconciled to. Shirley and I had a very meaningful time with Kevin and Marcia Hestead. I pray that this coming year will really see some growth in our relationship.

In the evening I preached at the Port Orchard Nazarene Church and God graciously poured out His Spirit upon us. Many people came to the altar to pray--there were some powerful public confessions, and I hope some changed lives. What a privilege to share God's message.

On Thanksgiving Day, we gathered with our family and had a wonderful time of sharing, reading the Thanksgiving story, and feasting on God's bounty. It was a low-key day which we were all thankful for. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the myriads of blessings in our lives that ALL come from You.

December 20, 1996 - 15, 972 - 15,043

A few things stand out in the past few weeks. I've been away from my journal, but not from my life! It continues to move on:

Last Saturday we had a great King's Kids day which culminated in a large open-air meeting at the Silverdale Mall. Hundreds watched and listened as we did a 2-hour program uplifting up our King Jesus near the main entrance and food circus. It was tremendous. How important it is to go into the marketplaces of the world and remind them of the "reason for the season." I'm sure we blessed the heart of God.

And Thursday evening we held our annual YWAM Christmas party. About forty of our wonderful friends and co-workers came to our home for an evening of food, gift exchange, worship, and fellowship. We've come a long way in a few years. What a great group of people God has given us to serve.

December 31, 1996 - 15,983 - 15, 032

Much has happened in the past few weeks. Dad has had some heart problems, and that's caused me to once again focus my eyes on eternity and reach out to serve my fantastic parents. A couple days ago they took dad to the hospital by ambulance just as a precaution. As it turned out, he's okay, and still with us. These times remind me that I need to live each day to the fullest with them and realize that when God's takes them, "they won't return to me, but I will go to them."

You can't think about eternity enough. For the next number of years, I'm sure I'll be thinking about it a lot. As I think about the past year, these things stand out to me.

1. My continual throat condition has tempered and sobered me and made me realize my limits and finiteness. My throat has now hurt for nearly a year straight. I don't know what the future holds, or how it will affect my life and ministry--but I'm determined to learn

God's lessons and stay obedient to Him.

2. On some occasions this year, especially when I've been outside and viewing God's creation, my heart has been drawn to **the perfections of heaven**. This world really is a cold, cruel, sinful place. This didn't used to be my view. For most of my life, I've viewed my life on earth with unbounded optimism and appreciation. Well, recently, that view has changed. Now I'm more fascinated by the perfections and beauty of the life to come where there will be no more crying, pain, or an imperfect creation. I'm sure this changed perspective is due to getting older and experiencing more suffering. **The more you suffer--like the black slaves of two hundred year ago--the more your sights are set on the Heavenly Kingdom. May your "kingdom come."**

3. This year I've really asked God to work on some qualities in my life. One is *contentment* in all things; Learning to live a life of quietness and godliness. I've also been thinking a lot about **faithfulness versus the trap of worldly success**. The Lord knows that I'm vulnerable in this area, and I believe He's trying to deeply etch in my character the goal of being a faithful man. Nothing else is important.

And the call to revival has never waned. **I may be weaker, older, and being worked on by my Heavenly Father--but He's still called me to be a "Malachi"--a Messenger of His light.**

"He respected me and stood in awe of my name. The teaching that came from his mouth was true. Nothing unjust was found on his lips. He lived with me in peace and honesty and turned many people away from sin" (Malachi 2:5,6).

Lord, I want to be content in my circumstances, faithful to your calling, and committed to your revival on earth. May 1997 be such a year.