

The Journal of Ron Boehme - 2000

Port Orchard, Washington

January 1, 2000 - 16, 688 - 14, 427

For weeks the news media had been trumpeting the beginning of a "New Millennium." Well, it's not really that--the New Millennium will not really begin until January 1, 2001--but it is true that the years of using "19" as the prefix (for a thousand years) have come to an end. That's awesome to fathom.

Last night we gathered a few close friends to our home, and spent the New Year praying, fellow shipping and looking forward to what God has in store for this new era in time. It was a precious time. We also watched the news coverage from all over the world as every time zone celebrated (early) the coming of the new millennium. It was pretty impressive--but also very sad. I will include my Fanning the Flame article below to share my thoughts on this event.

Fanning the Flame - January 2000

2000 Thoughts

It's here. The dreaded and much anticipated year 2000. Didn't you find it strange writing that first "00" check? With all the hype, fears, hoopla, global news saturation, and prayer that's been taking place, I'm sure your heart and mind, like mine, have been desperately trying to grasp the significance of it all. It only happens every 1000 years. What does it mean? More importantly, what is God saying to us at this monumental juncture in history?

Well, I don't have two thousand thoughts on the subject, but I do have a few on the year 2000. Maybe you can identify with some of them.

- First, it's amazing to me that the entire Millennium celebration was based on fabrication and profits instead of truth. We haven't yet started either a new millennium or a new century. As was pointed out by numerous honest thinkers, the 3rd Millennium and 21st century do not start until January 1, 2001. That's not an opinion. It's a fact. So why did we celebrate it a year early? Because businesses could make more money selling *millennium madness*. In other words, we deliberately perpetrated a lie because of greed and convenience. That makes a whopping statement about the values of our era. Money is king. Truth is irrelevant. Interestingly, our great grandparents didn't share those values one hundred years ago when the 20th century turned over. They waited until January 1, 1901 to celebrate the new century--resisting the urge to lie to themselves. What happens to generations that promote lying for selfish gain?

- **Y2K was a bug that got squashed.** Was it a danger? Yes. Did the world prepare for it? Yes, spending approximately 311 billion dollars. Congratulations are in order that this man-made judgment was largely avoided. And boo to those who exploited others with paranoia and greed. **It was nearly ten years ago that God encouraged me to prepare for coming judgments--not man's but His--and slowly and deliberately our family has been responding.** When I heard about Y2K, it only gave me one more reason to be watchful. **Now we're prepared for almost anything--through God's guidance and provision and some diligent cooperation.** People better be careful not to gloat over the fizzle of Y2K. God's judgments on the world's sins are still coming. They're not related to computer code, but to our code of behavior which is still evil in His sight. Don't be fearful or let your guard down. Watch and pray is always the command (Mark 13:35-37).
- I believe God will bless those nations that truly honored Him during the 2000 Celebration, and a curse will be upon those who glorified man or other gods. The Bible says, "He who honors Me I will honor" (1 Samuel 2:30). The nation of Tonga greatly exemplified this when they rang in the new year with the Hallelujah Chorus, certainly encouraged by their Christian Prime Minister. They will be blessed (Psalm 33:12). And I think the city of Seattle is one that may suffer (did this already begin with WTO?) as it rang in the year with sounds of Elvis Presley and Jimi Hendrix, who both died in their own vomit of drug overdoses. What a contrast.
- **What was a major propaganda message of the New Year's celebrations? *Religious diversity*.** Never in the history of man have the false gods of the Nations been so honored via the mass media. Most TV cameras showed the parade of deities without the blink of an eye. Essentially, the global news coverage highlighted the celebration of polytheism--the worship of many gods. (Many commentators said it was a celebration of culture, but the word culture comes from the Latin word *cultus* which means "what one worships.") What was the satanic strategy in this? To create the illusion that all religions are equally meaningful and relevant. **Make no mistake that the world is being actively disciplined to embrace religious diversity as its global faith--and those who believe in Truth and salvation in Christ alone will increasingly become the planet's outlaws.**
- On the positive side, the year 2000 commemorates nothing less than two millennia of God's saving grace lighting up the world. Jesus Christ came to earth 2000 years ago and set the globe right-side up. Since that Blessed Appearing, God's love, grace, mercy, redemption, power, commands, and truth have been multiplied through Spirit-filled people into **billions of lives--and that love revolution has marvelously changed the planet.** Literacy advances, medical wonders, the world's orphanages, hospitals, and care centers, scientific development, literature, music, philanthropy, free enterprise, human rights, civil government, mercy ministries, and multitudes of other blessings all flow from the heart of the Savior. If it weren't for Jesus, we'd all live in a global "Pottersville" (*It's a Wonderful Life*). But He came 2000 years ago--and a revolution of faith, hope and love was born. Now that's something to really celebrate.

- I have a new book brewing in my heart and mind. It is thesis is that the first millennia A.D. centered around **Institutions** (Greece, Rome, the Medieval Church etc.); The second millennium of time brought us into the era of **Individualism** (The Reformation, Enlightenment, modern democratic movements etc.). But neither individualism or institutional structures can save us from our selfish ways and separation from God. Hence, the 3rd Millennium will focus on **The Infinite** (a search for God, spirituality, ultimate reality etc.). This means two things: There will be a widespread search for God in this new millennium (including the pursuit of many false gods). There will also be an unprecedented harvest of souls who find the True God through His Son, Jesus Christ. That global harvest may make the next time period the *Final Consummation*---which will bring on the Eternal Celebration of the Redeemed. Now that's a party I don't want to miss.

Finally, Brethren...

The New Year is blasting off with many opportunities for ministry and encouragement. First, *he's coming again*. No, not the real thing, but the return of Bob Fitts to the Pacific Northwest March 7-9. Be sure to mark your calendar for Thursday night, March 9th, for a Kitsap County Praise Celebration with Bob Fitts at Christ Memorial Church in Poulsbo at 7 pm. We're going to light up the new year with a fresh burst of praise and worship.

This month we're hosting another youth-oriented worship event called *21st Century Heat Wave* on Friday, January 14, 7 pm, at the Rainier Hills Christian Fellowship in Buckley, WA. Special guest speaker is Dale Kauffman, founder of King's Kids. I know this is not much advance warning but call our King's Kids office (360) 871-1647 and we'd love to help get your kids there. Also pray for me as I do a city-wide Revive America seminar in Santa Fe, New Mexico January 23 & 24, Jonathan and Sara Stone minister in Alaska January 22-25, and a team shares at the Lincoln Ave. Bible Missions Conference in Bremerton January 28-30. King's Kids "On Fire" continues to equip kids every month, the China UP teams (April) are now well formed, and we're beginning to recruit for summer missions trips to the Wolofs in Senegal, the Mongols (basketball team) in Mongolia, and a return trip to Alaska. Want to make your summer count for God? Come join us--or pass the word.

We thank you for your special gifts at Christmas time--and greatly value your faithful monthly contributions to YWAM Port Orchard. They're tax-deductible, help change people's lives, and--I believe--bring honor and glory to God. THANKS-- and have a great first month in the year 00.

In my own heart, I'm glad to have been born in the 1950's to be able to witness the turn of a New Millennium. **I'm thankful for the privilege of knowing Jesus Christ as my Savior and God for the past 32 years. And I want to use the years and strength He's given me to proclaim His glory in this new era.** It will prove to be both tumultuous and glorious. May I be worthy of His

grace and goodness.

The real celebration this year is 2000 years of Jesus' redeeming grace being shed abroad in the earth. His coming has changed the planet. History truly does hinge around the great and glorious event 2000 years ago. **Happy 2000th birthday King Jesus. May we present a "reached" world to you as the most fitting gift we can offer to the King of kings and Lord of lords. May your kingdom come.**

Yelm, Washington

January 21, 2000 - 16,709 - 14, 406

We have just completed a **three-day prayer summit with 24 pastors from Kitsap County. It's the first longer prayer summit we've done in a few years** and God really blessed the time.

It was held at the beautiful Cascades Camp and Conference Center near Yelm, WA. It's a gorgeous property of over 800 acres with a staggering view of Mt. Rainier. I took some early morning and afternoon walks, seeking God's face, meditating of what God was doing in my life and others at the summit, and just enjoying the splendor of His creation. Often, I would go near the large, secluded lake near the main lodge and just enjoy the stillness, sounds of wildlife, and pristine beauty. It was great therapy to my soul.

The summit was also a very God-honoring time. We had wonderful seasons of prayer and praise, and some deep times of ministry, confession, and intercession. It was a very healing time for the ministers that came, and a fresh spark of vision for reaching Kitsap County for Christ. **Of great import was the addition of Bill Robinson, who dropped out of the pastors' fellowship many years ago but has now returned to be an instrument part of the movement.**

He openly confessed his sin of leaving the group and selfishly retreating into his own world. We loved and forgave him, and openly welcomed him back into leadership in the group. I believe this is a significant step in seeing revival come to Kitsap County. If this retreat is any indication, **God HAS re-awakened us to spread his glory in our area. Picking up the torch after nearly a decade of hesitant steps,** I believe that now is the time for the outpouring of God's Spirit. Amen.

I enter this new year both excited about the possibilities for revival and the advance of God's kingdom, and a great awareness of my own limitations and suffering. **My throat continues to be a constant reminder of my mortality, and a definite limit on my**

ministry and dreams. I continue to persevere with the pain, knowing that I can only do what God gives me the grace to accomplish.

Though I'm still "perplexed," I am not defeated. During one walk through the woods, God again encouraged me to do what I *can* do not whine about what has been taken away. Gradually, this realization is sinking into my spirit with joy and contentment. May God will be done. At this stage of my life, that probably means I can pray more, study more, serve more behind the scenes, and write more. I commit myself to do those things faithfully.

God also encouraged me to spend more time in meditation and worship of Him; To really launch a lighthouse of prayer in our home (in conjunction with the Bests and others), and to begin authoring a daily or weekly devotional column on our web page entitled "Fresh Fire To Warm Your Day." I commit myself to obey him in all these areas in which He has spoken.

Santa Fe, New Mexico

January 24, 2000 - 16,712 - 14, 403

I now find myself back on the Revive America circuit doing a seminar in the capital city of New Mexico--the city of Santa Fe (which means in Spanish, "Holy Faith"). It is a city that is about 150,000 in the metro area with roughly 50% being Catholic, and only thirty evangelical churches (evangelicals make up only 2.5% of the population). It contains a very oppressive spirit, probably due to much witchcraft, pagan worship, and ancestral strongholds. For example: the mascot of the Santa Fe High School is the "demons." That seems to say it all about the invitation to evil that has come into this region.

I spoke at Grace Community Church on Sunday morning, a small but loving congregation of about 100 people. Pastor is Jimmy Sandoval, a very thoughtful and caring pastor who really has a vision for reaching people in Santa Fe. God blessed my message, and at the end some people were on their knees asking God to bring change to their lives. It was a sweet and effective service. Afterwards, I had lunch with Jimmy and his wife Brenda and their six kids (who are very similar to ours, just a tad younger).

In the evening I again spoke to a city-wide gathering at the First Assembly of God Church on "Conscience" and God really blessed the time. At the end, many prayed on their knees and came to the altar to confess sin and ask God to awaken their conscience to him.

Today I am speaking at a noon pastor's luncheon, and then a final service tonight. My voice is weak, but my spirit is willing. After last night's message, a man came up to me and said that I reminded him of a "mild Steve Hill" (the main revivalist of the Brownsville awakening in Florida). I thought that was an interesting comparison, probably the result of my weakened

physical condition. No one in the past would refer to me as mild. But through my affliction, God is developing both a love and compassion in my spirit that must be showing in my ministry. God *does* cause all things to work together for good.

Port Orchard, Washington

January 31, 2000 - 16,719 - 14,396

It's good to be back home. My time in New Mexico ended on a great note. God really moved at the pastors' luncheon, and in the final evening service there was a lot of conviction of sin and repentance. And amazingly--my voice got stronger as I went. Certainly. in answer to the prayers of many.

On the weekend we took a team to Lincoln Avenue Bible Church in Bremerton and God really blessed the ministry in this old, traditional congregation. I believe they're going to get on fire for missions. May it be.

February 15, 2000 - 16,734 - 14,381

This year has just been whizzing by and I've been away from my journal for some time. My throat continues to be a source of constant pain and prayer, but I'm learning to just to just be thankful in knowing Jesus and serving Him. I know that my life is far easier than most people on the planet. I just must keep perspective--on my blessings, and on the hope of eternal life.

Many things are happening in our ministry right now. We've been blessed with some foundation grants that are mostly going to be used in our work among the unreached peoples. The grants total over \$50,000. Praise the Lord for His goodness. We've also started a food pantry--will eventually be called "Gleanings--Port Orchard," and after we renovate the bus barn at the Dullum House, we will expand it to include a few people. We're waiting on another grant right now.

There are also many good things happening in the Mission SK thrust. Churches are growing around our area--many people are being baptized--and there are many other evidences of the beginnings of spiritual awakening. How we pray that God brings the torrents of His conviction and great love. The showers are truly coming.

Shirley and I are looking forward to some time away together on her birthday at Alderbrook Inn on the weekend of February 26. How I praise God for a good wife and helpmate. She is one of the greatest blessings of my life. May I show it more and more to her.

Hong Kong, China

April 10, 2000 - 16,789 - 14, 326

I've just returned from a phenomenal trip to Hainan, China. The invitation came suddenly, asking me to pray about joining our team in their **trip to the Li people**. Specifically, I was asked to come speak to the missionaries, and train some of the Chinese believers. Though my throat was hurting me, I sensed God saying that it was maybe now or never. In obedience to His call, I flew out to Asia.

There were good flights that took me into Tokyo and then on into Hong Kong. As I was coming onto the subway in the Hong Kong airport, I bumped into our Port Orchard team. Perfect timing. We took a bus to High Rock Christian Centre where we spent the night. It is just east of downtown Hong Kong. The next day, Joe, the YWAM leader gave us a great briefing on ministering in China. He feels that the keys to ministry in the Middle Kingdom are Worship, Intercession, and teaching the Chinese to Hear God's Voice. He mentioned that **90% of China are the Han people**. There are 100 million other minorities that live in 1000 unreached cities. What a task and opportunity.

Hainan Island, China

The next day we flew to Sanya on Hainan Island, and took a windy bus ride late at night into our destination of Tongza. It is a pretty city in central Hainan with a river running through the midst of it. About 50,000 people, mainly the Li people, live here. We are staying at a nice hotel on the edge of town. **Hainan is truly the Hawaii of China**--very lush, tropical, beautiful and warm. This will be my home for most of this Chinese foray.

Gordon O'Conner and his staff welcomed and briefed us the next day. They operate a tourism business/front here called Majesty Ltd., and we met many of their staff who are Chinese. Some of them are leaders in the underground church. In the afternoon we had a surprise visit from the Communist mayor of the town and the leading Communist bureaucrat on the island (the equivalent of the governor of Hainan). They wanted to personally see the kids "cultural presentation." They obediently did their nine numbers. The Communist officials were wowed (fortunately they didn't speak English as to understand the meaning of the songs). That audition sovereignly opened the door for the team to minister at the Li festival later in the week.

The next day I began training the YWAM missionaries that had gathered from various parts. They are not a large group, but very committed to bringing the gospel to the ten most unreached provinces of China. God led me to share on 2 Peter 1, and especially expound on the need for character when ministering in the frontiers. It is Christlikeness that we need more than

anything--and ultimately, the qualities of faith, hope, and love.

I boiled this down to the 7-9-10-3 formula (seven qualities in 2 Peter, faith and hope to make 9, love to arrive at 10, and the three to sum up it all). All week God worked greatly in their hearts. The first few days, my throat was very raw--but got stronger over time. Praise the Lord for His grace to me. I also gave a message one day on death to self, and that led to a lot of confession and repentance among many.

On Tuesday (April 4), I visited the "Island" that Majesty has been given in the center of the city to develop into a park for the Li people. Gordon O'Conner wept as we presented him a check for \$10,000 to help in the park project. It was wonderful to see the island with my own eyes. During the week, I walked to the island a few times to pray and ask God's blessing on this work among the Li people.

I then began speaking in a different track to the Chinese Majesty staff. They were so hungry for God's Word. It was a joy and delight to share with them. They so rarely receive "the pure milk of God's Word." Throughout the week, I spoke to the various groups, joined our team at some very good Chinese restaurants and participated in a few ministry times with them. Our team is a fabulously committed and gifted bunch. God really used them during their two-week stay in Hainan.

Thursday evening was a highlight as the team ministered in the annual Li festival. About 4000 people filled a small stadium in town. In front of the stage sat 40 Communist officials in their VIP booth. Out of the nineteen total numbers done (in beautiful costume and folkdance), our team was permitted to do five numbers. One was a western song and one a swing dance. The other three were pure worship.

It was incredible to watch them--prophesying into China--as the music blared--that Christ's kingdom was coming to reign over all the kingdoms of the earth. I nearly cried as I watched the scene. If only the government officials had known what was being proclaimed. Good thing they didn't. At the close of the performance, I told the team that this was one of the "greatest subliminal messages ever given in China." The Chinese believers and the missionaries were thrilled.

The next day I spent my final sessions with the missionaries and the Majesty staff. I encouraged them that "Jesus was Winning," and that they were a part of that winning team. I spent the evening with the O'Connors at their small apartment on the hill. God has really knit my heart to theirs and their vision for reaching China. I really want our base to be a part--to help reach the western provinces of China.

On Saturday, we participated in the official dedication of the Majesty offices--attended by about 100 friends and VIP's. It was beautifully decorated--and we treated the locals to an American picnic. I think they enjoyed it. I spoke briefly at the dedication.

In the evening, we had a final banquet together at a restaurant and I spoke boldly on the need to *obey* God. Some people were very nervous after my message (we had been watched all week by three Communist “helpers”), but the underground believers were thrilled. believe it increased their faith and determination to serve God in this government-controlled land.

The next day I departed from the team and took a seven-hour bus ride to Haikou where I spent an evening with Sarah Shuck, then caught my planes back to the US. When they welcomed me home through US Customs, I practically cried at the thought of the return to freedom. It is a very precious thing indeed.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for this precious time in China. I finally fell in love with the Chinese people and the burden for the land. May I keep in for the rest of my life. Below I will paste in a Fanning the Flame article that I wrote upon my return from China.

Fanning the Flame - April 2000

Lord, Give Them Liberty

I’ve just returned from one of the most incredible and enlightening trips that I’ve ever taken--to China. Though, I’m extremely jet-lagged, my heart is full of the sights, sounds, opportunities, and challenges that people face in that great nation. We have a team that is visiting there now, and a second one will leave for Tibet very soon. In this newsletter, I’d like to share my heart on God’s burden for China--and ask you to pray--even while reading this article.

Why China? It’s the biggest nation on earth with over 1.2 billion people. It contains one half of all the unreached peoples of the world. It has a thousand cities whose inhabitants do not know the living Christ. It is 93% Han, and 7% minority groups. It is the world’s largest harvest field. And its greatest need is for *liberty*. Last month we looked at the Lost Dream of religious liberty among American teenagers. This month we want to pray for freedom to come to China. As you read the following information, would you allow your heart to be touched to pray for the Chinese people--Lord, give them liberty.

Freedom of Speech - Everywhere you go in China, you must carefully watch your words. China is a Communist nation that does not allow for a marketplace of ideas. You are constantly wondering to yourself, “can I say this” or “use that word?” Many people in China spy on their neighbors. Our group had secret police agents following them everywhere (three of them). If we said too much about God or truth, it would greatly jeopardize our work--and especially our Chinese friends. When you write letters or e-mails, all religious terminology needs to be removed. You end up writing much in code (very creatively!). In this newsletter, I won’t be able to give you details about the trip. In fact, you won’t see my normal picture at the top of the page, nor my full name at the end. We want to make our work difficult to trace--to protect others. Nothing in America compares to this lack of free religious speech--except maybe our public schools. Lord, give them liberty

Freedom of Assembly - Did you know that in China you can't have a family birthday party without getting permission from the government? That's because you can't meet with more than six people *for any reason whatsoever*. It's illegal. Want to hang out at a friend's home (with six or more)? Can't. Want to have two couples over for dinner? Can't. Want to have a Bible study? Can't. The authorities control the nation by not allowing the people to interact. It's even worse for foreigners. You aren't allowed to have *any* Chinese in your home. This makes almost all foreign evangelism one-on-one--and not in your home. Lord, give them liberty.

Freedom to Have Children - I believe most of you know that the Chinese government only allows couples to have one baby. If they get pregnant a second time, then the baby is aborted, and the woman is sterilized. Wherever you walk in China, you never see a family with two children. Imagine--no siblings. We were told that this is one of the great incentives for people to become Christians--they now have brothers and sisters. Lord, give them liberty.

Freedom for the Land - One of the things that really struck me in China is how the physical land has even suffered due to neglect and bad management. There is squalor and decay everywhere. In a land of abundant rainfall and beautiful rivers, there is no water that is drinkable. Everything is polluted. We had to live on bottled water every day. Everything must be boiled. Years of defilement have even cursed the physical earth. The people desperately need to be taught to be stewards of their environment--to care for God's creation and His good gifts to us. But under Communist mismanagement, the environment has been raped. Lord, give them liberty.

Freedom to Travel - Imagine living in a nation where you weren't free to live anywhere you want--not free to pursue a job or a lifestyle of your own choosing. This is all controlled in Communist China. The only real means around this problem (to be granted more freedom) is to become a Communist party member. In other words--you sell your soul. And of course--there's no freedom to travel internationally. That's illegal--unless you're a part of the elite. You're a prisoner in your own nation. Lord, give them liberty.

Freedom to Worship - This, of course, is the number one liberty that has been taken away from the Chinese people. There are government churches (called the Three Self Movement), but they are strictly controlled by the authorities (church without truth). You can have no private services, prayer meetings or Bible studies. It is illegal to share your faith with someone else. What happens if you do? At the least you are interrogated, harassed, or lose your job. At the worst, you can be put in jail or killed. I could tell you so many stories of the fear and intimidation that the Chinese believers live under. I certainly felt it myself during my stay in China. When we prayed over a meal, we would make it look like we were talking to each other. Same when we worshiped. And we had to be so

careful when witnessing to others. We didn't want to bring harsh consequences down under our Chinese hosts. Lord, give them liberty.

When I left China two days ago, I flew for fourteen hours and arrived in Los Angeles. When I walked off the airplane and passed through customs, an agent turned to me, smiled and said, "Welcome home!" My eyes filled with tears as I pondered the true meaning of those words: "Welcome to freedom!" It was an overwhelming feeling. This freedom to know, worship, and serve God is the heritage our ancestors have given us. It is a precious, precious gift. And we, too, are allowing it to slip from our hands.

Lord, I ask that you to bring the nation of China into the freedom of your love. Break the bonds of slavery. Set the people free to worship and share your Good News. Teach us, Lord, to fight for the freedom of the Gospel in our own nation. Lord, give us all your liberty.

Finally, Brethren...

Please continue to pray for our China team as they finish their ministry there. They are doing a great and powerful work--and bringing much encouragement to the few local believers there. And when you get this, our second China team will be on its way to rendezvous with Team One in Hong Kong. Team Two will then head into one of the spiritual strongholds of the world: Tibet. This is a pioneering mission to try to establish a long-term work there in the area known as the "roof of the world." Pray for spiritual protection of their hearts and minds. Pray that they would handle the unusually high altitude (19,000 feet in Lhasa). And pray for God to give them a long-term strategy for reaching this Buddhist stronghold.

King's Kids on Fire concludes its year April 28-30 with a weekend outreach. It's been a great year-round team. If your kids want to come, call Mike and Lynn Davison at 895-9449. And we would especially appreciate your prayers this month as a local foundation comes to talk with us about making a grant available to start a food pantry for needy families in South Kitsap. This is an exciting new ministry that we're just getting started. If we can raise another \$5000, then this organization will give us \$10,000 for the new ministry. Can you help with this need by giving a special donation this month?

God richly bless you this month as you celebrate the greatest event of all history--the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is Risen. Yes, that is freedom indeed.

Port Orchard, Washington

April 27 - 16,796 - 14,209

Since returning from Asia, I've poured myself back into the work of revival here in Western Washington. We've decided to do our first-ever March for Jesus in Port Orchard, and I'm excited about how God may use this event to ignite a fire in the Body of Christ. We're hoping for 2000 people to come. Three weeks before the march, we're having an all-night prayer gathering to cry out to God. May He "hear from heaven, forgive our sin, and heal our land."

May 11 -- 16, 810 - 14,195

I just returned from quite a good trip to various parts around the United States. I'll report on each below:

Glorieta, New Mexico

1. North American Leaders Conference in Glorieta, New Mexico

I flew into Albuquerque and stayed with friends I'd met recently during the RAS tour in that area. For a couple of days, I traveled up to the Glorieta Conference Center and participated in the YWAM NA Leaders Conference. It was great to renew friendships with many and meet some new YWAMers. Winkie Pratney gave some great messages (as usual), and Rick and Kathy Hicks ("Boomers, Xers, and Other Strangers"), and Trent Sheppard spoke for the up-and-coming generation of YWAM leaders.

Trent's message especially hit home about not just passing the baton to the new generation but holding onto it WITH them in the cause of world evangelism. It was a touching message and moment. Meant a lot to us old guys.

Washington, D.C.

2. National Day of Prayer in DC

From there I flew on to our nation's capital for **this year's NDP and other meetings**. Our YMEC meetings started off the days and were really blessed by God. I led the first night, and we had a powerful time of prayer on our faces before God for this generation of students we are trying to reach. Special days with some great leaders.

The NDP meetings on Capitol Hill were once again outstanding--much prayer for all the different aspects of American society. We prayed from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, and then after an hour's break, I went over to the evening celebration on the west steps. It was a phenomenal gathering. God is really doing something in Washington D.C. among the pastors and churches. It is a fresh move of His Spirit which is neat to behold. We've waited for many years--and now the showers of blessing are coming--especially upon a new generation of young pastors.

They also announced at this event the coming fall gathering of young people named "The Call" which will take place on the Mall. It's a new-generation Washington For Jesus. God keeps giving the summons--so maybe there is hope. It was privilege to be a part of the original movement that began these special national days. That was now twenty years ago.

I stayed with Ken and Pat Smith on this trip and saw some friends. Good stay in our old "home." It is quite a bustling area today--much more traffic congestion and growth than there was 20 years ago.

Revive America Seminars across the state of Kansas

My final stop was Kansas City where I picked up a car and headed out 7 hours across the state to begin 5 days of RAS's in three different cities. For the week I drove over 1200 miles. A lot of good time to pray.

Garden City/Salina, Kansas

Garden City was the first stop--a newer type city of 30,000 out west--and one of the fastest growing towns in Kansas. I spoke at Bible Christian Church to a responsive crowd--in a city that has a real spirit of greed and immorality with 10% of the girls in high school having children out of wedlock. God blessed my words there. I then drove back into central Kansas to an older, more established city called Salina--a town of over 50,000 that was settled in the 1860's. It looked far more established than Garden City with wide boulevards lined with trees and older, almost southern looking homes. God showed me that this was a "city of faith" that needed to be re-ignited. I preached with all my might, and many people got right with God.

Liberal, Kansas

I then drove again back out west, past Dodge City, and into Liberal Kansas, a pretty, friendly town of 17,000. I was immediately struck by the hospitality spirit of the place, and soon learned that Liberal was founded in 1885 by a man named S.S. Scott who gave water "liberally" from his well to travelers. He always remarked, "Water is always free around here." To which

people would reply, "That's mighty liberal of you, Mr. Scott."

Hence, the town and spirit of Liberal, Kansas was born. God really blessed my labors here and following some good meetings at a Southern Baptist Church, I drove on back to Kansas City and flew home. God helped me with my throat during this trip--and I prayed for God to move across the beautiful plains of Kansas.

Port Orchard, Washington

June 4, 2000 - 16,834 - 14, 171

For the past month I have given my heart and soul to spiritual awakening here in South Kitsap as we've begun to gear up for the first ever South Kitsap March For Jesus and the PUSH SK youth rally. I've spoken in some local churches, we've had some tremendous prayer meetings, and God seems to be preparing the ground for a Holy Ghost visit.

Last week we even sent out a piece of literature on "Jesus Day, June 10, 2000" to all of the 23,000 homes in SK--a first. Every household received a post-card--with a gentle witness about Christ. May God use it to break up the fallow ground of the hearts of our neighbors.

June 11, 2000 - 16, 841 - 14, 134

I have two radically different things to record in my journal. One, the dealings of God in life which are very deep and profound right now. Secondly, the wonderful blessings of the last weekend.

First, the negative side. God has really used some circumstances in my life recently to focus me on the sin of pride which still exists in my leadership. These kinds of revelations are always painful, and this one is no exception. Bob Weyrick, one of our new FCC elders, was the first one to bring this to my attention (in an elders meeting). He simply said to me that many people say I come across as arrogant. That really hit me like a knife. That same night, Shirley made a similar comment that also crushed my soul. Then today, I received an e-mail from a guy who shared similar thoughts. Later, we had a service at church where I humbled myself before the congregation. Through these situations, God is really speaking to me --and I want to respond in a teachable spirit with true humility.

Pride has been a sin I've struggled with all my life. The very nature of my calling--as a prophetic evangelist--seems to cater either to this sin in my heart or the perceptions of those in whom I came in contact. Lord you know that I've wanted to run from this

aspect of my call many times. Who wants to be the bad guy, the one who's always exposing sin, or announcing the judgments of God? Maybe in my youthful years, there was a sense of satisfaction in this--but not anymore. At this point in my life, I'd rather pack it up and work in my garden for the duration of my days.

But I know you want me to be faithful. Lord-- once again do a thorough work of exposing and crucifying my pride. Teach me the greater ways of humility--of selfless love and lowliness of mind and heart. Teach me to elevate people, and not look condescendingly at people. Help me to speak the truth--but always with love, gentleness and humility. I should have learned by now. Take me deeper into the heart and character of Jesus--the One I love and want to model my life after.

On the positive side, we had a wonderful weekend exalting Jesus in South Kitsap. The PUSH SK youth rally saw about 300 kids come together Friday night for a great time of worship and a powerful message by Banning Liebscher of Redding, California. May God ignite a fire beneath the young people in our area.

Then on Saturday (June 10) we had the first ever March for Jesus on the downtown waterfront. About 1500 people turned out for an electrifying praise time, a great march through the marina area, a message from Mayor Weatherill, more praise and worship, prayers of confession and declaration, and a great finale focusing on the glory and uniqueness of Jesus Christ. God truly blessed the event. May it be just the beginning of a great move of God's Spirit in our area.

Right now, I'm tired, feeling wounded, aware of my humanity and sin, perplexed as to the situation at our church--and really looking to God for answers. As always, Lord Jesus, my Great God and King, my eyes are upon you. Take me deeper. Make me like you--in EVERY way.

Fanning the Flame - June 2000

Missing Jesus

During the May television sweeps, my family and I took some time to watch the CBS mini-series "Jesus." It was great. We didn't appreciate some of the liberties the network took with certain debatable portions of the record (Jesus' struggle with his identity, the influence of his mother, the relationship with Mary Magdalene etc.), but these were minor. Most of the questionable material was in areas where the Bible is either silent or leaves room for interpretation. None of the essentials of the faith were compromised (i.e. he was the Son of God, the Messiah, who healed the sick and raised the dead, who loved and cared for people, who died on the cross, and who rose from the dead to bring salvation to the world.)

In fact, some of the "Jesus" portrayals were the best I've ever seen on film. For example:

His tear-stained encounter with the devil in the garden--where Satan tries to persuade him not to go to the cross-- was an incredible apologetic on why there is suffering and cruelty in the world. Satan tells him, "You're gonna die in vain. It's not going to affect a thing." Jesus declared: "God didn't make men robots--their freedom of choice is the reason for all the sin and suffering. But I'm going to change the world one heart at a time." Amen. That truth must be taught in every history book (but I doubt if any law firms will buy them and distribute them to the kids).

The day after "Jesus" ended, I fired off an e-mail to many pastors in our area, excitedly commenting on this incredible series. To my dismay, I received a long e-mail back from one pastor who radically disagreed with my perspective. He said the CBS Jesus portrayed a "false messiah" that greatly perverted the truth--part of the deception of our era. I wrote back a detailed answer, arguing strongly that though I agreed with him on some of the liberties taken in non-essential areas, that in the ESSENTIALS of the gospel message, they didn't present a false Christ, but the True Savior. And I wondered, *how could He have missed the real Jesus?*

A month later, I watched 1500 people march the Port Orchard waterfront on Jesus Day. Though I was thrilled with the crowds, I kept wondering why other Christians in town weren't there. Why had they missed the opportunity to uplift Jesus in South Kitsap?

I believe the answer is the same to both questions. It's possible to *miss Jesus*--to miss the revelation of God--either when He comes in the flesh, reveals Himself on film, or moves by His Spirit in an area. Most of the Jews two thousand years ago missed the coming of God's Son. In fact, Jesus wept following the first-ever Jesus March on Palm Sunday, "You did not know the time of your visitation." Most had missed Him--even religious people. Why?

Three kinds of "hearts" are prone to miss Jesus:

Being a Pharisee --in other words--*being too legalistic*. The "Phars" were the Torah-toting, fighting fundies of their day. They had the Messiah, the Kingdom, its rules, and regulations all figured out. And when the Real Thing entered their narrow world, they couldn't see who was before them because of their pickiness. They were so busy scrutinizing the details that they missed the painting. Unfortunately, pastors and believers sometimes exude this Pharisaical spirit. They're so busy condemning the bad, that they miss the good.

This was one of the reasons why some believers and even whole churches stayed away from the March for Jesus. They were so suspicious or critical of certain details that they missed the call of God to come together with His people to worship Him. What a tragedy. How often have I done the same this--missing Jesus with a well-intentioned judgmentalism that puts God in a box.

Being a Sadduccee. Whereas the Pharisees were too picky, the Sads were *too liberal*. They didn't believe in miracles, angels, demons, or the resurrection of the dead (Acts 23:8). Why when Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb (incredible scene in the mini-series), they probably hauled out their science books to figure out some evolutionary answer. Their bias against the supernatural--and the praise and glory of God that accompanies it--was not a part of their psyche.

So, they missed the Supernaturally Praiseworthy One. On June 10, this same group was largely missing from the March. The liberal churches didn't come. During the early years of my early life, I, too, missed the real Jesus because of my theological liberalism. If legalists are good at "squinting," then liberals are partially "blind." In both cases, it's bad spiritual eyesight that separates us from the revelation of God.

Being a Workacee (this is my own term which is like being a Hittite). Workacees are busy, busy people that are so consumed with their job, life, concerns, and daily survival, that they also miss Jesus. They're workaholics who rarely gaze into the spiritual realm. There were thousands of workacees in Jesus' day--just ordinary folks who were so busy fishing, trading, farming, and shopping that they missed God on earth.

They saw the Palm Sunday procession, but dad gum, they were on the way to the Temple Mall. There wasn't time to stop and praise. As we marched along the Port Orchard waterfront, I observed many people in this category, running here and there, absorbed with the pressures of life, and missing a once-in-lifetime opportunity to worship the King of kings. And at least this year, they had no excuse. An invitation to Jesus Day was delivered to all 23,000 homes in South Kitsap. Everybody knew. Fifteen hundred came.

But that's the way it's always been. Jesus Himself said that "many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 20:16). Maybe this is a good time for all of us to look inside and guard our hearts from either legalism, liberalism, or busyness. After all--we don't want to miss Jesus--because if we do, we've missed Everything.

Finally, Brethren...

Both the **PUSH SK youth rally and the March for Jesus in Port Orchard were awesome events.** Thanks to all of you who came, who served, who cared, and who are now determined to carry on with the work of God's Kingdom in our region. We've only just begun--and the best days of spiritual awakening lie in front of us. A special thanks to the pastors and congregations who really led the way. We love and appreciate you and are glad we're on the winning side.

In a few weeks our summer outreach teams will be blasting off. **We have 25 missionaries going to Alaska, joining with 60 others who will meet them there for ministry across the state. A team of twenty-one are going to Africa to begin church planting efforts among the Wolof tribe of Senegal and The Gambia. And a team of 15 are headed back to do basketball evangelism in Mongolia. August 13-19 we're sending a team down to California to work with *Gleanings for***

The Hungry.

Want to go? Let us know. Please pray for all these teams as they “go into all the world” this summer. What a privilege to obey the Master.

We’d deeply appreciate your financial help this month. Funds are needed for our work in South Kitsap (Mission SK) and for the summer outreaches. Has God given you any special blessings lately? Could you invest some of them in outreach and missions this month? Thanks for considering a gift to YWAM. We also desperately ask for your prayers. Have a great month serving the Great and True King. Don’t miss Him. He’s there for you--and for you to worship.

Beijing, China

July 25, 2000 - 16, 885 - 14,090

Hi, Everybody. We're finally able to get to a computer to send an e-mail message to you. The Mongolia Team is doing great--and God has clearly guided our days here so far. Keep up the prayers. We need them.

Getting here wasn't the easiest. Flights were fine all the way into Beijing--but at the Beijing airport--right before we were to board our plane to UB, the Mongol airline said that two of our tickets (for the Native American boys) had been canceled and that the plane was full (we had our boarding passes already--but they took them away. No amount of my persuasions could get them to change).

At the last minute, I chose Jason Battjes to stay behind with me--and we sent the team on to Mongolia. We then tried everything to get on another flight--but they are limited, and nothing was available. After trying for hours, we found a hotel near the airport and bedded down for the night. The next day we spent at the airport--finally getting on a waiting list for one flight where we were numbers 12 and 13. (Didn't look good. And if we missed that flight, then our only alternatives were the train (it was full) and another flight in five days.

Praise God, we got on the scheduled plane and made it to UB a day late--with our friends waiting for us (in faith) at the airport (one of the treats of that flight was bumping into Calvin and Carol Conkey [The creators of Create International and close friends] at the airport, and actually flying with them. They're here in Mongolia to do an unreached people documentary and an evangelistic film). We drove directly from there to Darhan.

Darhan, Mongolia

Darhan is Mongolia's second largest city--about 90,000 people--and fairly near the Russian border. It about a four-hour drive from UB. We got in at 2 am and stayed in the upper floor of an apartment building (even had beds). Only problem was there is a disco on the 1st floor whose blaring music until 4 am kept us awake. None-the-less, the next day we began playing basketball games at the local sports palace--usually playing two boys' and girls' games a day.

It's been great with good crowds. We've won most of our games-but lost to the better and older teams. We have a Russian fella playing on our team who's nearly seven feet tall. He's an average player. Hannah and Rebekah are playing with some Mongol girls--so that's a mixed team. We've had some good ministry to individuals--and have **already seen two people give their lives to Christ.**

At our last evening set of games in Darhan--between the boys' and girls' games--we did our Mongolia song complete with flags to the entire audience, and then I gave a short message. It was well received. After the final games, we got on a jammed-packed bus with about forty of the kids we'd been playing with and ministering to and traveled out to the countryside to a camp for the night. (It's a former Pioneer communist camp like the ones we've ministered at in previous years.)

The next day we did a cultural exchange with the kids and local people. They shared their culture via a real-live Mongolian wrestling tournament--and then **we did a Concert with testimonies and message. It was well-received.** Late last night we all returned to UB late at night by bus.

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Our food and bedding arrangements have been nice. For the next few days, we're staying in two apartments in UB (one is Coach Battulga's) Some are in beds and others on the floor. At least there's running water and toilets--and even a shower. Praise the Lord. We're excited to be back in the capital city. Today, after some much needed rest, we're going to be meeting at a gym with some of the kids from the basketball league--for discipleship and fellowship.

Most of them are unbelievers. Please pray that we can lead them to faith in Christ. We will also spend tomorrow with them--while **I (Ron) do a seminar at the Free Church on Servant Leadership for their leaders.** Tonight, we're going to a meeting with other YWAMers in town (Korean Team, Cowboys for Christ, the Conkeys, and other missionaries). Sunday we'll

fellowship with the Free Church people--including some former converts which we can't wait to see. We're still praying about our schedule for next week. I'll let you know as it develops.

The team members are doing well--only a little sickness. Mike is doing a good job as team leader--and the Proctor family are leading us in worship (they even got to minister at a disco Thursday night). Maria is in seventh heaven--Laura and Rebecca are taking care of everybody, and the other guys and girls have formed a good team. The New Zealanders are a kick and a half—very fun to have around. It's a good, yet somewhat eclectic team. The Mongols love the two Native guys. Please pray for our schedule next week (God's perfect will), and for souls. That's why we're here--and that's what we want.

We love and miss you much--and are praying for you daily. Tell the other teams that we "pass the torch" to them every night.

Ron - for the team

I'm sitting in a small church office--The UB Evangelical Free Church service has just completed. There were about 150 people here and **Steve Watkins gave his "Farewell" message**. It was touching and powerful. He and Donna are here for a three week visit and will leave in a couple of days. They really miss their Mongolia and are greatly loved by the people here.

After Steve spoke, **I also shared with the congregation and our team did a drama and our special "Mongolia" song complete with flags and dance. The Mongols loved it.** Right now, I can hear the chatter and cheers of fellowship outside as the Americans and Mongols are enjoying the after service. Tomorrow is the Mongolian national festival called Naddam (Three Sports) and we will be circulating around and enjoying the festivities. It centers around the three ancient Mongolian sports--wrestling, horse-riding and archery. It should be a cultural experience.

Terelj, Mongolia

We had a fabulous day yesterday--**a day of salvation**. We traveled north of the city about an hour to a beautiful canyon where there was a river delta with a pretty camping area at the bottom of the gorge. We spent the whole day with sixty teenagers from the basketball league which we help to fund. After playing basketball, volleyball, and swimming in the river (cold), we set up all our equipment and did some worship, dramas, and then **I preached a very strong gospel message**.

In this culture, you don't usually give altar calls (because of the "saving face" aspect of Asian culture), but I was led to do so anyway, and to everyone's surprise, sixteen teenagers stood up to give their lives to Jesus. What a thrill. Pastor Bold told me afterwards that this was the number of converts they'd had all last year. God is good. Tomorrow we minister at a youth prison in the morning, and then we will go to a men's facility. Please keep us in your prayers.

Hi everyone. Our great Mongolian adventure continues, with tremendous blessing upon our ministry here. This team appears to be the "Divine Appointment--Harvest Team"--and has seen God do some pretty amazing things. Praise His Name for the privilege of taking His Good News to the ends of the earth.

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Here's a re-cap of the ministry highlights. Monday, we went to a youth prison where there are about ninety inmates. It is a very dirty, primitive place with barbed wire everywhere--certainly not like our corrections facilities in the States. It is located on the outskirts of town near the TB hospital. After playing basketball and doing a clinic for about two hours, we did a full-blown concert and began to share God's Word.

The guys were unusually warm to us--even danced to some of our songs. When I got up to preach, I felt an attentiveness and openness to the Gospel that was unparalleled. After sharing, I was led to ask them who wanted to "get to know Jesus better" and probably eighty of the group enthusiastically raised their hands or stood up. (Keep in mind that this is very unusual in Mongol culture--in the past when we've given altar calls of this type there is usually no response due to the shyness of the people.)

We were amazed and so were the prison guards--so much so that they invited us back next Monday and Tuesday to "teach the inmates how to make their lives better." We are excited about the return trip--and will also do another men's prison on the same days.

We've told you about the conversion of our atheist translator--well he's doing great and really preaches (translates) with authority now. He is a changed young man, just like many others. Now we are zeroing in on the seven foot Russian 18-year old who's now living with our team and playing basketball with us. His name is Andrei and is beginning to open his heart to the Lord. He's from Irkutsk, a town on Lake Baikal to the north of us across the Russian border.

To bring him to salvation, we've started a new form of evangelism called "Mercenary Missions." We're paying a Mongol translator named Munk, who also speaks Russian, to be with us all the time and to translate for Andrei so he knows what's going on in our meetings. Munk will also translate for us as we share the gospel with Andrei. So Munk is our hired mercenary to bring Andrei to Christ. Would you please pray for Andrei during the next ten days?

Yesterday we enjoyed seeing **Naddam--the Mongol Independence Day celebration**--for the first time. We traveled by city bus to the soccer stadium and joining 15,000 others for the opening ceremonies under some pretty scorching skies. Sky divers parachuted into the stadium and there were colorful dances and presentations made in traditional Mongol costumes. Then, the sports events began with Mongolian wrestling. There were 512 wrestlers from around the various *eimags* (states) who began nine rounds of wrestling to produce one national champion.

The rules are simple. The two men simply wrestle until one puts the other on the ground (any part of the body touches the ground besides the feet). When that happens, the bout is over. Sometimes it takes a few seconds, and other times up to 30-60 minutes as they tangle and grab and look for the advantage. Many bouts happen simultaneously all over the soccer field. We watched for a while, then went to view the other national sports.

At the archery event, we got to see the Mongolian president and his wife. They were seated in the VIP grandstand overlooking the competition--complete in traditional dress. Two or three at a time, the Mongol men would shoot their wooden bows at a straw target about 100 feet away. Then the winners were declared and honored.

For our final cultural event, we traveled by bus out into the countryside to what looked like the world's biggest soccer field--a gorgeous plain beneath the ever-present mountains--where a 30-kilometer (18 mile) horse race was run. Thousands gathered there and meandered among a giant ger city erected to feed and take care of the masses. We lunched at a ger on --*horshure*--which is like a folded pancake, deep-fried, that's full of meat. Delicious. In was very hot, but a wonderfully festive scene.

We did have one close call here. While we ate in the ger, a young man came in and sat down, intent on stealing one of our bags. At a moment when we weren't paying attention, he grabbed a small bag (containing money and other personal items) and fled from the tent. Some of our team took off after him, and Munk, our translator, grabbed a horse and took off in pursuit. It was almost like a scene out of a John Wayne movie. We never found the fella, but fortunately he dropped the bag and we did recover it. It was a wake-up call for us to be more careful.

At about 4 pm, the horse race came to its finish--and thousands lined up (many of them on horses) behind two long fences to see the finish of the eighteen-mile gallop. After some intense waiting, you could see the approaching dust-cloud of the coming horses, and eventually the leaders emerged. It was an exciting photo-finish where one rider edged out another by half a length at the finish.

Four hundred other riders eventually crossed the finish line--all arrayed in colorful Mongol costume. As we were going home on the city bus, we had our next

divine appointment. All week we'd been looking for another YWAM team called "Cowboys With A Mission"--a group of 7 from Wyoming--who are here to teach horse skills and share the Gospel with ranchers in the country. As we mingled with thousands and were herded onto a waiting bus (reminiscent of almost being crushed by the crowds in the Barcelona subway in '92), we found ourselves face-to-face with this team. Praise the Lord. We had great fellowship on the way home.

As last night ended, I had my final divine appointment of the day. After a good team meeting and passing the torch time, I decided to take a late-night walk down a long shopping street. As I was coming back, a girl jumped in amazement out of a car and ran to me with great excitement. It was Chimga, one of the girls who visited us in America last year. She had been looking for us for a week. Then she saw me on this dark, deserted street at 10 pm at night. I took her back to the apartments where there was a wonderful reunion.

Today (Wednesday) is another day of Naddam, and we've given the team the day off to get refreshed for our final days of ministry. Tonight at 9 am we are going down to an amusement park near the river to support a Christian Mongol band from Darhan that we ministered with up north. They've been invited to perform at an official Naddam Concert--the first Christian group ever to be given that honor. We're going to pray for them and be supportive. We believe their lead singer is the one God has chosen to record the Mongolian version of our song "Mongolia." Pray that God will work this out--and that this song will go all over the nation.

After some local ministry on Thursday (some open-air), we are going a short distance outside the city to another two--day basketball camp with 240 kids--60 of whom are from our basketball league. We'll be with them on Friday and Saturday playing ball and sharing our faith. Please pray for much fruit at this camp. On Saturday I'm also giving a seminar to the Free Church Mongol leadership on servanthood. Would appreciate your prayers.

The team is doing well. Sickness has been little, and attitudes and spirits have generally been good. There is always character growth on these trips--because the tough and different circumstances bring many things to the surface. God is moving among us--and Mike and Penny are doing a good job of leading. The other staff are a well-oiled machine--Rebecca in her element, Laura ministering everywhere, and Maria being her eternal-teenager self. I must finish this book. Pray that God will continue to use this team to His maximum glory. I will probably not be able to write again until either Saturday or early next week.

We love and miss you all--Ron

Hi, everybody. It's Saturday afternoon about 1:30 pm and very hot in UB. I am in the city--having just finished a three-hour seminar for about twenty Mongolian church leaders on Servant Leadership. Great response from a great group. The team is out in the beautiful

countryside where I will join them in a few minutes. All are doing very well.

I can't remember if I told you about the great day that we had at a ger along the river--on Thursday after Naddam. They **slaughtered a sheep in front of our eyes** (quite an interesting, quick, and humane method), then skinned the animal, removed and cleaned all its parts, and prepared us a large meal. We watched all the preparations, rode horses, played by the river (very low because of the drought), and generally enjoyed the hospitality of a typical country family. They were the same as the Boehmes--six children and the parents--and they all lived in one little tent no bigger than a 12-foot radius. **Their life is very simple--there are none of the modern gadgets--but much love, cooperation, and a spirit of unity. We could learn much from them. All our Western luxuries have only spoiled and divided our families.**

From the butchered sheep they also cooked the intestines, liver, head, and made blood sausage (cleaning out the intestines and then pouring blood into them--the original hotdogs?). They saved the hide for us, and we are bringing it home as a memento of the trip. After the meal was prepared, we all sat in the ger traditional style, with the women on one side and the men on the other--and certain people based on age--sitting in positions of honor.

They served the normal milk tea, the fermented mare's milk (we watched them milk the horses), and a type of pickled salad (this family was near the city to purchase supplies). We had a wonderful time though it was very dusty and hot. This family, as many Mongol families, live in the city during the winter, but come out to a ger for the summer months.

After the meal, we honored them by singing our Mongolia song, complete with flags. They deeply appreciated it. We traveled back to UB by bus late in the evening (a twenty-mile trip taking about 3 hours--that's Mongolia time). On Friday we traveled north of the city to a beautiful camp (like ones we've been to in the past--just nicer) where the team is now.

Little Deer, Mongolia

It is a gorgeous spot, nestled beneath a mountain at the end of a beautiful valley about 10 miles north of the capital. It is called Little Deer--and not only has all the Mongolian cottages, disco, eating hall, b-ball and volleyball courts, but also a lush pine forest behind it that you don't see too many places here. It is the best camp I've ever seen--and I'd love to help Battulga find a way to buy it. It would make a great headquarters for his ministry.

There are 200 kids here for us to minister to, and fifty-five of them are from the children's basketball league. All day yesterday (Friday), the team played with the kids and got to know them, and then in the evening they did a big "Concert" (in the disco hall) for the whole group. **Being in this lush, green, wooded setting has been great therapy for the team that has been ministering in the large, dusty city.** They are thoroughly enjoying it. Tonight, we are really going after souls to be saved. I know your prayers are coming in our direction.

We had a special birthday celebration for Adam yesterday--and he seemed to deeply appreciate it. He turned twenty and is really growing through this trip. Samson (the Navajo) fits right on the culture; Oliver (the Eskimo) takes pictures of everything, develops them, and puts Scriptures on them and gives them away. Maria is her crazy self--always singing with Hannah and Rebekah. Jason has been a good leader on the trip. Adult staff are fine--Laura is currently away on a two-day trip to see her friends from a year ago who live a couple hours north. She went by train. Mike and Penny are really enjoying the culture and are great leaders.

We will spend tonight at the Little Deer, then come back to UB in the morning in time to minister at the same youth prison we shared at before. In the evening, we'll minister at a men's prison. Harvest is taking place everywhere we go. It's quite amazing. Keep praying for Andrei, the Russian--and for our final days of basketball and discipleship. Hopefully, I'll write more next week before we fly on Saturday. Can't wait to be back with those that we love.

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

We're back in UB and having great ministry here. **So far, we've ministered to nearly two thousand people--and have seen about 130 make commitments to Christ. That's quite amazing and sovereign. We've also had some exciting basketball games. Two days ago, we played a good team and were down by one point with six seconds to go. After inbounding the ball, our point guard, Samson, threw a fifty-foot heave that went in at the buzzer. Pretty exciting. At every game we've also preached the gospel.**

On Monday we had our final day of ministry at the youth prison. Did our normal program of drills, playing a game, then our "concert" with message (given by Mike). Then we did something new and broke up the group into four teams where we handed out gospels of Luke, the Four Spiritual Laws, and the kids talked to them all about following Christ. We have many converts here--and some are going home soon. We hope that they will never forget Jesus.

In the evening we traveled outside the city to the men's prison--situated near the city garbage dump. Like the youth facility, it is a dirty, dilapidated structure with little hope. We set up our equipment in a small courtyard. As we sang and ministered, God worked His own light show with thunder and lightning on the distant horizon.

The men were unusually boisterous, appreciative of the music and message, and kind to us. As it began to rain, we moved everything in doors where the prisoners are crowded into a cell room and asked to use our sound system to sing to us in return. It was a neat time of listening to their Mongolian music and sharing love across the bounds of both culture and freedom. Precious evening.

Today, our Russian giant (b-ball player) named Andrei gave his life to Christ. We're going to baptize him and our translator--Bat Sur--tomorrow. Tonight we're having a final fellowship with the Free Church and giving away all of our musical equipment to them. Right now, the singing has begun as I'm typing this. We're building a great relationship with them.

Tomorrow we're doing an open-air near our apartments for the YWAM film team can see us in action, doing the baptisms in a nearby river, going to an historical museum, and then having our love feast in the evening. We fly at 10:30 am on Saturday. This has truly been a trip of great spiritual harvest. What a thrill. Can't wait to tell you all the stories in person.

Port Orchard, Washington

August 21, 2000 - 16,911 - 14,064

After arriving home from the summer missions harvest, I took some time off to do some things here around our property. It has become somewhat of a habit for me to "build" something on the Boehme property every August. This summer was no different.

The first project was building on a storage shed addition to the garden shed--a eight by eight-foot room where I will store the lawnmower, chicken coop supplies, wheel barrel and eventually-our own rototiller. The Lord really helped me to do it--and it came out nice. After that, dad and I tore down the old "sunporch" and made a nice, bigger extension to the chicken coop. It will really help during the winter months to provide a dry place for the birds.

Lake Billy Chinook, Oregon

Then--the third week in August--we took our seventh annual camping trip to the beautiful Cove Palisades Park in central Oregon. This year's special treat was having just the family all together--at least for a few days. Nathan and Bethany had to return earlier in the week due to some other commitments. It was a great week of sun, rest (kind of),

and water sport. We did our normal days of Seadoos, patio boats, swimming at the beach and just enjoying being family away from the pressures and distractions of home.

Auckland, New Zealand

September 9, 2000 - 16, 930 - 14, 045

I just returned from a wonderful trip to the land of New Zealand--where this detailed life journal began some 28 years. What a special time it was. Here are some of the highlights.

The main purpose for going was to attend the 40th Anniversary Celebration of YWAM, held in Auckland, at the Lakeside Convention Centre near the airport. About 1000 YWAMers came from 72 nations around the world. We enjoyed five days of great worship, many cultural expressions of indigenous peoples (on three stages that rimmed the "dome"), good foundational teachings by Loren, Jim Stier, Joy Dawson (by satellite), Mark Anderson and others, some good times of prayer, and a very festive inauguration of Frank Naiea, our Samoan-Maori New Zealand leader as the new president of YWAM. That was a Polynesian treat.

One of Frank's first acts as president was to get all the YWEAM leaders "crowd surfing" off the front stage. He's a walking party--and a great man of God. He is our organization's first non-Western leader and will certainly open some new horizons for our mission.

It was neat to see many old friends and make some new ones. I stayed for the first few days at a Fijian home, and then after the conference was over, moved over to Roly and Claire Houghton's. That was also a precious time--remembering all that God did in my life while here in NZ also three decades ago. It was in New Zealand that: 1. God called me into missions, 2) trained me in His word, 3) taught me how to share my faith, 4) established my daily quiet time (which remains to this day), 5) delivered me from demonic bondage, 6) filled me with His Spirit, and 7) and propelled me into Kingdom work.

How can I thank God enough for what this little nation and its people have meant to me? Well, I tried while I was there. There were rich times with the Houghtons, a gathering with friends one evening, personal times with Blythe Harper and Bill Thompson (some former mentors), a visit to Valley Road, and driving by all the old haunts including our flat at 5 Hazel Ave., the Houghton's old place on Wapiti Ave, the Church of Christ (the beginning of our adventure), and downtown Auckland where we did street evangelism with Open Air Campaigners. It was a precious time of remembering and THANKING many people for their impact on my life.

New Zealand has changed a great deal in 28 years. It is dirtier, more Americanized, less British, less godly, more international, and now with many broken families and needs. It was sad in many ways to see these changes. May God once again pour out His Spirit on this great and beautiful land. I would welcome the chance to be a part.

Fanning the Flame Newsletter - September 2000

HUI 2000 - A Glimpse into The Future of Missions

I know. You don't know the meaning of the word either. HUI, I recently found out, is a Maori (Native New Zealander) word which means "The Gathering." Our American equivalent would be "Powwow." Three of us just returned from YWAM's HUI 2000 held in Auckland, New Zealand where 1000 YWAM staff gathered from 72 nations to celebrate our first forty years as a mission and lay foundations for the future.

If this gathering was indicative of the what the next forty years hold, then we're in for a pretty exciting and wild ride. It was extremely nostalgic for me to return to New Zealand--a land where God changed my life almost three decades ago. I'll say more about that later. First, what HUI 2000 speaks to all of us about the Future of Missions in this Century:

It will be led by people with brown skin - At the event we inaugurated Frank Naiea (half-Maori, half Samoan) as YWAM's new international president--the first non-Western, non-white person to lead our mission. He represents the reality that YWAM is now populated by more people of color than those from a European background. The future of missions lies in the hands of Asians, Africans, Latinos, and Islanders.

They were out in force at the conference--from all over the world. What a beautiful sight--a true rainbow coalition dedicated to taking the Gospel to every person on earth. Joy Dawson reminded us that we need God to "show up" with His Presence upon us again as a mission. Now that would make a true Spirit-powered melting pot.

It will redeem the cultures of the world. No longer will missions import only Western ideas, dress, and hymn-singing. The indigenous people of the earth are rising to take their place around the throne of the Lamb, and they're bringing godly expressions of native dress, dance, drums, chants, and cultural protocol.

What a wonderful display of cultural diversity we saw in New Zealand--working off three stages simultaneously at times. It made the American concept of diversity seem like kindergarten. It was colorful, loud, demonstrative, and powerful. The trick will be to stay focused on the Person of Christ while allowing and encouraging all the people of the earth to express their worship freely in the trappings of own their ethnic identity.

It will be radically youthful. Nearly 400 of the HUI attendees were under 25--a new generation poised to take their inheritance in world evangelism. Their music careened off the stages. Their low key, relational orientation dominated the proceedings. As one of his first official acts as president, Frank Naiea reached out to the new

generation by the leading the 1000 delegates in “crowd surfing” off the main stage--to the delight of the kids.

Frank himself is a walking party--very spontaneous. Can you imagine 1000 people taking turns diving off the stage into a mosh pit, and being passed overhead by others in a main plenary session of a missions conference? It was wild. Jim Stiers told us **we must keep our obsession with Jesus at the center of who we are. The kids get it--radically.**

It will make full use of new technology. There were video screens on the walls, an Internet Cafe (I'd call it an attic with computers), cell phones galore, and even a satellite hook-up named Genesis--tele-conferencing--so that YWAM staff and students in the US, South Africa, Switzerland, Ukraine and elsewhere could join simultaneously in the worship and teaching of the conference. It was a bit jerky--not as smooth as the major networks do--but high tech effective.

YWAM was actually one of the first organizations to pioneer the use of telex machines worldwide in the early 1970's. We're still trying to use everything electrical to bring the world to Jesus. Here come the missionary techies. Loren Cunningham simply reminded us that we must continue to be a mission of the Book. God's Word is our true source of power.

It will focus on the Indian Ocean Gateway--the nations that rim this forgotten ocean of the world. David Hamilton pointed out that the truly neediest nations of the world in the 21st century are primarily located along the arc of the Indian ocean--from southern Africa, up the Middle East and across the Indian sub-continent and down to Australia.

The final strongholds of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism all lie in this arc. Poverty is here. Remember the terms “unreached peoples,” and the “10/40 Window?” Now remember this phrase: Indian Ocean Gateway. It will be a new 21st century paradigm for missions. Mark Anderson challenged us to be personally committed to reaching ALL the world--nothing less.

It will be the Chinese century. The torch is being passed. The 19th century belonged to Great Britain in the cause of world evangelization. The 20th century was America's. But the 21st will belong to China. Not only will the great focus in missions continue to be China (half of the unreached people in the world live there--one-third in India), but China will eventually become the greatest missions sending nation in world history.

Chinese leaders say that when China finally opens (it's just a matter of time), they are fully prepared to release ten million zealous Chinese missionaries into the nations of the world (a tithe of the current Chinese Church). To give a little perspective: That's increasing the world's current mission force 20-fold. What a wave of missions that will be. Continue to pray for China. Her days of destiny are approaching.

I first went to New Zealand thirty years ago on a Christian basketball team, then lived in the nation 28 years ago for eight months during 1972-73. Those months changed my life. I

received my first solid Bible training, established my morning quiet time, was baptized in the Holy Spirit, did open-air evangelism for the first time--AND received my call into missions.

It was wonderful to return three decades later, to see old friends and mentors, and be a part of YWAM 40th Anniversary--setting sights on the 21st century. The next hundred years--should Jesus delay His return--will not be easy. But they will be pregnant with the above themes. Thirty years ago, God called me into missions. A week ago, He renewed that calling through HUI 2000. Let's get the job done. Then the Eternal HUI can triumphantly begin.

Port Orchard, Washington

Finally, Brethren...

We have now finalized our ministry calendar for the 2000-2001 year and are excited about the possibilities. One date that we want you to put on your calendar is the First Friday of the Month--the next one being October 6.

If you live in the South Kitsap area, this night is now being set aside for worship and prayer for revival in SK--and we want all in our YWAM family to come out in force. October's will be held at the Port Orchard Church of the Nazarene on Sidney Road on Friday night, October 6, starting at 7 pm. Start a great new habit: Come for county-transforming prayer on October 6.

There are many other new thrusts coming. Special community missions nights, some brand-new King's Kids International (KKI) weekends, and the development of our new food pantry for poor families (Gleanings For The Needy). Thanks to a local foundation grant, we'll soon start renovating a portion of our property. If we could raise another \$5000 toward this project, it would allow us to purchase some refrigeration units. Can any of you help?

Thanks again for being our family in missions. HUI-ing for Jesus--Ron Boehme

Victoria, B.C. Canada

October 15, 2000 - 16,966 - 14,009

Shirley and I sure enjoyed spending our anniversary weekend in Victoria, B.C. It has become one of our favorite get-a-ways over the past few years. We stayed at a Best

Western right on the harbor, and then traveled out to the Butchart Gardens on the Saturday, and on Sunday just looked around Victoria. How I thank God for 24 years of married happiness with a wonderful woman who is God's precious gift. It was a very wonderful time. Praise God for the gift of faithful love. I am a very blessed man.

Fanning the Flame - October 2000

The Candidates and Abortion--Including Do-It-Yourself Murder

In this column I'd like to offer some advice to the two major party candidates--Al Gore and George W. Bush-- on what they should say this month to the American people about the world's greatest holocaust--abortion. They have one debate left. It's time to tell the truth.

Vice President Gore: If I was you, I'd be ashamed about my present position on abortion. Twenty years ago, you were pro-life. But over time, you allowed yourself, along with the American public, to become deceived and hardened on this issue. You listened to the wrong voices and turned away from your godly roots. Now you have become a champion of death. Imagine the guilt that you will have before God for the eight million dismembered children that were slaughtered on your watch as Vice President over the past decade. That's more people than Hitler. And now you want to make murder a do-it-yourself reality through the drug RU486, the abortion pill. This will be the first prescription drug solely marketed for the purpose of killing a human being. How wrong you have been.

But now you have a moment to make things right: Look at the camera and confess your error to God and your fellow citizens. Fifty million viewers will deeply appreciate your sincerity and humility (oftentimes you come across as stiff and condescending). Then explain to them with passion that choice is not wrong--rather, we must make the *right* choice. Tell them that you now see that killing innocent human beings is wrong--but there are other good choices. There is the choice to not get pregnant--(having responsible sex).

There is also the wonderful choice of adoption (there is no such thing as an unwanted baby--they're always wanted by God and by other couples who are not able to conceive). Explain with a newly found moral authority that one person's choices are limited by the God-given rights of another. Then proudly proclaim that you are pro-life AND pro-right choice. Your repentance could be a very special moment in the history of American politics.

Governor Bush: We are grateful that you are pro-life. Your father learned to be pro-life through his relationship with Ronald Reagan, and it became a lasting conviction in his own presidency. Somewhere along the line, you also came to embrace the life position. But there's a problem: You're far too timid with it. You're afraid of the politically correct crowd, the polls, and the women voters you believe you need to win this election. You've chosen to hem and haw, utter some weak platitudes about being pro-life, duck the RU486 question, and appear to the American people that you are not secure in what you believe.

It's time to take the high moral ground. Do you want to be the moral visionary in this election? Then act like one. Tell Bernard Shaw that you will take four total minutes (a presentation and a rebuttal) to try to counteract thirty years of deception. Tell the American people that they've been sold a bill of goods--and that the longer they've heard a lie, the more they've tended to believe it. Tell them that abortion is murder--pure and simple. That life begins at conception (can anyone really argue otherwise?) and that the only reason we darkened our shores with this evil thirty years ago was to find a convenient way to cover up the lewdness of the sexual revolution.

Tell them that the Supreme Court was wrong in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. Tell them that half of America is wrong today. And tell them that this issue is not going away until we repent and stop killing our children. If we don't repent, this issue could lead to another Civil War, along with other frightening judgments from the hand of a Holy God.

Convince the listening viewers that the pro-death camp is all smoke and mirrors--and that's why they won't even debate the abortion issue anymore. Passionately explain that abortion is wrong from every angle imaginable. It's wrong according to *history* (abortion has always been considered evil by civilized societies since the time of Hippocrates), according to *revelation* (of ALL the major religions--pay attention Joe Lieberman), according to modern *science* (my how advanced technology has demonstrated that we are fearfully and wonderfully made!), and according to *conscience* (that's why we're walking around with such guilt). Look the American people in the eye--especially the women--and weep over the 35 million children we have sacrificed on the altar of selfishness. This is your greatest opportunity to display heart-felt compassionate conservatism. Weep for the children and the mothers who destroyed them. Like Jesus on the cross, tell them that "they didn't know what they were doing." There can be pardon and forgiveness--but there must also be great sorrow and repentance.

Then stand in the towering shadow of Lincoln and compare the evil of abortion to its clearest American parallel: slavery. Ask your African American listeners to pay the closest attention. (They should understand.) Explain that for 250 years Americans were divided and wrong about the issue of slavery. The arguments were the same as the abortion debate today. First, the slave owners hollered about choice. "You all don't have to be slave owners. Just allow some of us to choose. (Slave states and non-slave states). What was the basis of their choice? That blacks were not fully human. For two centuries we whipped and killed our black brothers and sisters through lying to ourselves about "choice" and denying their fully humanity

Then look directly at the camera and convince every American watching that today we're doing the same thing with abortion--*using the same identical lies*. We've said that abortion is about choice--and this choice is based on the premise that babies in the womb are not fully human. Sound familiar? Well, that rationale was wrong 150 years ago

over slavery and it's wrong regarding abortion today. Tell your African American viewers that they should lead the fight for the civil rights of the unborn. Thunder down that the abortion rights folks are the slave owners. We are the party of Lincoln--the party of life and freedom. Remind them of Abraham Lincoln's sobering words about human rights: "No man has a right to do wrong," including taking the life of innocent little babies, made in the image of God.

At the close, make this dramatic proposal to the American people: That if elected president, you will ban the use of the do-it-yourself murder pill--RU486--and as your first act as president, you will sign the Emancipation Proclamation Act II--freeing all the unborn children from the hideous crime of abortion by outlawing the procedure. Tell the American people that from this day forward there will be no unwanted baby in America--that we will *love* all our children once again, from the womb to the tomb. It will take great courage for you to take this principled stand. But it takes *courage based on truth* to be a great president.

Finally, Brethren...

Thank you for allowing me a little more space to share my thoughts on abortion. It has been burning within me for weeks--and been in my heart for years. I will be sending a copy of this article to both Al Gore and George Bush. Please pray with me that it will find its way to them personally--and will be used of God to speak to them. As Christians, we must not waver in the battle for truth in our generation, otherwise we are as guilty as those we oppose. Think through the abortion issue clearly. Live out a clear pro-life position. And do what you can to fight for the lives of the unborn. They are worthy.

In you live in the Puget Sound area, we want to invite you to our first YWAM Community Night of the fall on Friday, October 27, at First Christian Church from 7-9 pm. This will be a special gathering of missions-minded people for worship, prayer, and hearing from our Chinese missionaries, Gordon and Charlene O'Connor. Please join us on that night as we fellowship around the Great Commission. If you're interested in King's Kids, (now KKI) please set aside the weekend of November 17 & 18 for a wonderful two days of challenging and serving the next. This one is the first of three KKI events this year--then the summer outreaches. Don't miss them.

Many other things are happening in our YWAM ministry. Gleanings for the Needy, our new food pantry, is being prepared to go full-blown very soon. *Go Groups* for China and Mongolia are underway. We're praying about raising funds for a large Youth Center. And we're strongly supporting the First Friday Prayer meetings taking place in South Kitsap. The next one is a half-night of prayer at the Christian Life Center on Friday night, November 3 at 7 pm. Please come and pray with the Body of Christ.

Juncos & San Juan, Puerto Rico

November 13, 2000 - 16, 995 - 13, 980

I haven't been writing much in my journal this fall. I'm not sure why--have just gotten out of the habit a little. I just returned from a great ministry time in a place that is becoming one of my favorite places--Puerto Rico. I sure appreciate my friends Yarley, Lisette, Nelliann, and many others. I've had some difficult years there in the past with my throat--but this year, it was "okay." The Lord really helped me. Here are some of the highlights:

- I really enjoyed the week of lectures with the students. They were a great and willing bunch. They are so hungry for God's word that it is a pleasure, even with some throat pain.
- On Tuesday evening, Yarley drove me into San Juan to a place where we could watch the 2000 election returns until the wee hours of the morning. It was a nail-biting night which never did end in a clear-cut verdict (That was to take some 36 extra days and much anguish and prayer until George W. Bush prevailed in Florida and became our next president). This was the first time in my life that I'd been out of the country for an American election--and the view from overseas was very interesting. While in PR, I strongly encouraged the YWAM base to be involved in the promotion of godly government. The message was whole-heartedly embraced.
- On the weekend, I did an afternoon seminar for about twenty pastors on revival. It was well received and led to a powerful time of prayer for each other and for Puerto Rico. After prayer, we had a wonderful Love Feast together put on by the YWAM base.
- On Wednesday night I spoke at a church in San Juan on "The Secret of Happiness." It was well received by the pastor and his people. And on Sunday I ministered in a large Disciples of Christ Church in Bayamon. At the close of the message, hundreds of people came to the front to confess their sins to God. The message was also carried live on the radio. It was a precious morning with God's people responding to His words.
- Before I left San Juan, we had a very special time with the students where they honored me for my time among them, and God gave them through me many powerful words of knowledge and encouragement. It was a great time together in the PR twilight and breeze. The guys then asked me to do an impromptu session on sex--I did! My final treat before going to bed was seeing my old friend, Dean Harvey, who flew in that evening to be the next speaker. We had 15-20 years to catch up on, and it was a treat. Dean is a gentle man of God.

Port Orchard, Washington

So now I'm home, my throat is sore, but my spirit is grateful that I'm still able to minister. I must take each day at a time, trust God for His help and guidance, and

patiently move ahead.

Culture War

Like many of you, I've prayed for and watched incessantly the unending saga of America's 2000 election. I bit my nails until the wee hours of the morning in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where I was watching the returns (interesting view from overseas). Since that time, God has been stirring my heart as to what it all means. I submit my thoughts below.

Choosing a title for the article was hard. One idea was "Election Mirror on the Wall-- What Do You Tell Us About Us All?" Free elections are clear reflections of a nation's values-- they tell us a great deal about ourselves. Another possible title was "This Present Confusion," a take-off on the Frank E. Peretti best-seller. For days I've been imagining the intense battle between the angels of God and hideous demons colliding in combat over America's future. (I'd give anything to see what's really going on in the heavenly sphere. "Come on, Tal--let's win this skirmish for the saints of God and for the Lamb!") But I finally settled on *Culture War*, for reasons I will elaborate on. What do we learn from Election 2000?

1. ***Our nation has a great need for godly statesmen.*** One reason for the lack of enthusiasm for both candidates was the mediocrity of stature in both men. We were not voting for a Washington or Lincoln in this election, in fact, we weren't even voting for a Reagan or a Roosevelt. Al Gore, though a decent family man, is a robot-like policy wonk who learned how to lie from his predecessor. He's anti-Christ on most moral issues. George Bush has a good heart and a growing Christian world view, but his verbal gaffes and character inconsistencies (cursing a reporter through a live mike and failing to be forthright months ago about his DUI conviction) cost him the high moral ground. He can still be a great president if he takes his own advice from the second debate and "grows in humility."

We need to pray that God would raise up a generation of public servants with godly character, leadership and communicational skills, and sound biblical world views. At this juncture in history we don't need spiritual pygmies. We need MEN OF GOD with authority from the Holy One.

2. ***If we don't win the battle for education in this nation, the future is bleak.*** Abraham Lincoln understood many years ago that "the philosophy of education in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next." This is a primary reason why we teeter on the verge of secular tyranny in this land. For forty years our public schools and universities have churned our functional atheists who are now voting their world views. So, the Hillary Clintons and other baby-killers and sodomite sympathizers of the world are swept into office by an American electorate that has been "educated" to be tolerant of everything but Christianity. Education is a war we have LOST.

We cannot turn the tide of evil in America until we win back the schools. How? By praying for this stronghold and working hard to transform it. One strategy might be to simply ask for democracy in the schools--as opposed to world view monopoly. A school district could do a poll of its families to determine which world view is the majority opinion in the area i.e. are most people atheists, Judeo-Christian, New-Age (Hindu), or Islamic. Then make the core curriculum reflect the majority opinion (while respecting minorities and coercing no one to worship). We do this in every other area of American life--majority rules.

Why not education? If the majority are not Judeo-Christian, then our job as followers of Christ is clear--*evangelize the people*. Let's also be reminded of the sobering words of the great reformer, Martin Luther: "Where the Holy Scripture does not rule, I certainly advise no one to send his child. Everyone not unceasingly occupied with the word of God must become corrupt; therefore we must see what people in the schools are and grow to be . . . (*Ponder that one*) I greatly fear that schools of learning are wide gates to hell if they do not diligently teach the Holy Scriptures and impress them on the young."

3. *The current election process must be modernized and changed.* I'll let others debate the Electoral College issue--I'm referring to our process of voting. It stinks--and the smell in the air in Florida and other places should prompt action. I have two suggestions: 1) Ban absentee voting except for those away from home. The so-called convenience of the system is far out-weighed by the potential for fraud--let alone the delay in results. Since when was being a responsible citizen convenient? If we can't sacrifice to get to a polling place once every 2-4 years, then we don't deserve a free nation (and probably won't have one). 2) Let's mobilize our national resources to computerize every polling place so that with the stroke of a keyboard and instant transmission of results to election officials, we can KNOW the honest result of an election as soon as the polls close. We spent billions of dollars on the dangers of Y2K to protect our prosperity. Can't we spend an appropriate amount of money to protect our republic?

4. Now to the culture war. *Our nation is in gridlock over immensely important cultural values, and only a nation-wide spiritual awakening can halt the triumph of atheism.* As Christians, it is time to open our eyes and SEE that the "barbarians" have overrun the land. Alaric is standing in Rome's gate, and soon we will have nothing to negotiate. The closeness of this election shows that America is divided in a 50/50 world view war (or is it 48.3 to 48.1?). The God-fearing roots of this nation have retreated to barely 50% of the people. Satan controls the shores--New England to Florida (?), and California to Washington (remember these were "blue" on the electoral map, symbolizing voter preferences of abortion, sexual perversion, tolerance, prosperity, in a word--secularization)--while the center of the country (in red on the electoral map) holds on to

a faint memory of biblical truth.

But the trends are ominous. Satan controls the big cities, and we as a nation are becoming more and more urbanized. He also controls the public schools--so his "recruits" will increase each year. Al Gore won 92% of the black vote, and 83% of the Hispanic vote. (My Puerto Rican friends reminded me that Spain, and thus Latinos in general, were ruled by Islam for 900 years--and from them they received no moral values--thus their voting patterns today.) And these minorities are growing in strength in the U.S. Presently the tsunami of secular values has met the beach of Christian resistance and been barely held at bay (maybe not). Angels and demons are having the fight of a lifetime over the destiny of America. **This is an all-out cultural war.**

We need to remind ourselves that the idea of culture comes from a Latin word, *cultus*, which refers to what a people worship. What we worship forms our social commitments--our values. If we worship God, then our values will reflect His regard for human life, his orientation towards sex, and numerous other representations of our commitment to Him and His principles. The word "war" comes from a root that means to quarrel, wrangle, strive or struggle. A cultural war is literally a *struggle for what we will worship*. Will it be man, and his secular view of existence, or will it be God and his wise and loving ways?

Let's continue to rise to the battle. Regarding the presidential election, don't just stay tuned and wring your hands. If George Bush eventually wins, we don't want to sigh with relief and go back to sleep. If Al Gore wins, we don't want to jump off the nearest bridge. We are at war for America's future. In this Herculean battle, we can either be Paul Reveres or Benedict Arnolds. Let's be Paul Revere with the character of Washington, the courage of Lincoln and the declaration of Joshua: "As for me and my house, we will" continue to fight the cultural war for the spiritual future of the United States.

Finally, Brethren...

What a nail-biting month it's been. But the work of the Kingdom of God goes on. Thanks for partnering with us in this the worthiest of callings.

My trip to Puerto Rico was greatly blessed. I trained a school of young missionaries spoke in a couple of churches (one with a radio broadcast where the message was heard throughout the island--and scores coming to the altar following a call to repentance) and did a pastors' seminar on revival. Powerful time in an island territory I've grown to love. Deidra Larson and Cathy McKay also had a powerful time at a King's Kids conference in Alaska. That state is bursting forth with vision for kids and families in ministry. Jonathan Stone has been preaching his heart out in numerous settings. He's now "Reverend Stone" and so the message has even greater authority.

We're started remodeling our *Gleanings for The Needy* food pantry. When finished in a few weeks, we will greatly be able to expand our ministry to deliver food stuffs to the deserving

poor of South Kitsap. If you're interested in getting involved in this ministry from the ground floor, please contact us. It's such a privilege to serve. . . in Jesus' Name.

This month we've helped organize **the Awakening--a new and monthly youth service for area kids**. The first one on November 10 was awesome. Please join us in person or prayer for the next one on December 15 at Christian Life Center. We also kicked off our "new and improved" King's Kids year on Friday, November 17. This year's King Kids ministry (re-named KKI) will focus on serving the youth movement in South Kitsap, as well as sending teams to various parts of the world. Contact Deidra Larson for more information (871-1647). We also helped coordinate a Half-Night of Prayer on November 3 and an all-day pastor's summit on November 16. It's been a fruitful month.

If you haven't checked out our website, you're in for a real treat. Jonathan Stone has done an excellent job on updating it and making it interesting. And soon, I'll be doing a regular devotional feature called "Fresh Fire." Check it briefly each day (www.ywamportorchard.com) and I believe you'll be encouraged.

We deeply appreciate your prayers for this ministry and your financial gifts. If you'd like to become a monthly "Friend of YWAM" please send in the enclosed envelope with your first monthly donation. It's fully tax deductible, and we believe it will be a blessing for you (to give) and for us (to give away) in ministry. The kingdom of God advances through mutual support in prayer and sharing of resources. To our regular monthly donors and prayer warriors: *Gracias muy mucho!* (Whoops, I'm not still in Puerto Rico.) We can't thank you enough.

Thanks for being our wonderful friends. . . and have a great Thanksgiving, celebrating God's goodness to you and your family.

December 30, 2000 - 17, 046 - 13, 933

Much time has gone by again--and part of this is due to the past few weeks being a very difficult time in my life. **The chronic throat pain continues with no respite in sight.** At times, even God appears to be distant, at least, very quiet. I am left to ponder the future, and what it might hold. It sometimes feels to me as if I've entered my 70's or 80's--the "quiet years" of my life--but 30-40 years earlier than I'd planned.

But that's part of the perspective: I've not in charge of my life, and only God truly knows how many days, or pain-free days, are left to me. All-in-all I'm trying to be humble, patient, resigned to my thorn-in-the-flesh, and waiting for His words. **A few months ago, I decided to open my old NASB to the promise God gave to me in 1972 out of Jeremiah 29:**

"I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans for welfare, and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope."

The Bible is open to heaven, reminding God of His words to me some 28 years ago. He promised to give me a future and a hope. Now, I'm wondering what those words really mean, and reminding Him daily that I'm still here--in "Midian" waiting for His answer.

Some good things *have* happened in the past few weeks. We've begun a monthly meeting among youth groups in South Kitsap called "The Awakening" and God is blessing this new youth alliance. We pray that it will grow into true revival in our area this coming year.

Over the Thanksgiving break, it was wonderful to have Nathan home from California for four days. God is doing some good things in his life (right now he's ministering in the country of South Africa), and we're very proud of him. Our nest was full again for a few days, and then we sent him off again.

The Christmas season is now coming to an end. We've once again greatly enjoyed the beauty of the lights, the spirit of giving, the wonder of the Christ Child being born into the world. It is such a privilege to know and serve King Jesus--despite our circumstances. The older I get, the more I look forward anxiously and longingly for His coming kingdom and rule, where there will be no pain or sorrow. My infirmity has been worth this one lesson: *That eternity must be our gaze and our goal.* I never want to become comfortable in this world again.

One thought I've had about my throat problem relates to the area of death of a vision, and the testing of God. Many years ago, God gave to me the life Scripture which said to "endure hardship." For seven years--from 1986 to 1993, God allowed me to experience the death of a vision relating to *position* in ministry when we left Washington, D.C. It was a very hard time, but an important lesson for me to learn. I needed to die to my desire for leadership and status and be willing to be a lowly, humble man--a chicken farmer who loves tilling the land. This has been good for my soul.

And now--from 1994 to 2000, I've gone through another seven-year time period of death of a vision--this time to *ministry*--to my ability to speak for God. Many other valuable character traits have been learned once again: Contentment, faith, empathy for others that suffer, quietness, and joy in trials. The only question is: Will the seven-year time period be the end of this test, or will it go on for an undetermined amount of time?

I honestly don't know. I'm simply hanging on to God and doing what He gives me the ability to do.

Lord--thank you once again for another year of life. Thank you for 47 years of life and 32 years of service to your kingdom. I'm a little down. I'm confused. I'm hurting, but I'm not ready to give up. My eyes are on you and the promise of eternal life. Help me to live up to the prayer of

my grandparents: “Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life”
(Revelation 2:10). May 2001 be a year of your glory, in my life, and in all the world.