

The Journal of Ron Boehme - 2001

Port Orchard, Washington

January 12, 2001 – 17,059 - 13, 920

On New Year's Eve, the **SK Youth Alliance** brought together about 250 kids to bring in the New Year together. It was a very balanced evening of good worship, some excellent prayer times (led by some of our King's Kids), a tremendous band (SoulDeep) with a quality message (many kids responded to the altar call)--we even watched the "ball drop" in Times Square--and then prayed in the new year. It was an unusual way for me to start a new year, but I was grateful to God to have helped put the evening together.

On project I failed to mention, that occupied my time after Christmas, was building some shelves in my office and **organizing all my books for the first time in a decade. Around the top border of the room, neatly arranged in two-year increments, are the various special mementos of my life, from the early years, to all the gifts I've received in various parts of the world during the past thirty years of ministry.** [My LIFE SHELF]

I'm not sure what motivated me-- a desire to get my stuff out of closets, an organizational urge, or a sense that the "best" part of my ministry life being behind me (due to my current throat affliction), but whatever the reason, God's blessings in my life are now clearly arranged rimming half the room.

At the end of the 2036-2038 space is the plaque I like to keep in remembrance: **"One small life will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."** After that is a wooden cross, reminding me of my ultimate destiny in Jesus' kingdom. Half the room is still waiting to be filled (if I live to be 85 or so), but I certainly don't know if that's God's plan. I guess for all of us the past is clear--but the future is only known by One. My times are in your hands, O God. Help me to keep numbering by days.

I've also taken my hundreds of books and organized them by subject. It's now extremely easy to pull a book off a shelf from one of the twenty-five-or-so categories. All of them are now marked with "Return to the Boehme library." Just good stewardship, not possessiveness.

For the past week and a half, I've been diving some new year responsibilities. We are now in the true 21st Century and New Millennium. No fireworks this year--just the reality. My throat is still very sore and temperamental, but I'm looking to the Lord for understanding. I did discover one fact: **I have just completed my sixth year with this problem, not the seventh.** In looking through my journals, I found that it began in February of 1995 when I was ministering in Pendleton, Oregon. **I have one more year to go if this is a seven-year test.** At this point in my life,

it feels like a lifetime test, and if so, I am willing. I am learning to be humbler, content, prayerful for others who suffer (I now do this in my Prayer Diary on Saturdays), and relaxed in being simply a “child of God.” I have been such an ambitious man for most of my life. That ambition has now died, and I am free to just live each day. What incredible lessons there are in this life as God uses our earthly existence to mold us into the image of His precious Son.

This morning I received a special phone call. Nathan rang early this morning from Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, where his team is now ministering. After some excited conversation, he said he walked me to talk to someone. My old friend from twenty-four years ago--Dave Peters, from African Enterprise--then got on the phone, and we had a brief, but wonderful reunion.

Dave was my closest friend in SA in '76 when I ministered in his city. He told me that he learned much from me about revival, and still speaks on holiness and sin because of my influence in his life. He remembered the time when God supernaturally healed my throat in answer to his prayers (even making him sick in the process). And he mentioned that many of the “old timers” still fondly remembered my visit many years ago. The fruit still goes on.

[Petermaritzburg Renewal Crusade, 1976.]

I was greatly encouraged by his call. It's amazing, Lord, to think that I was roughly Nathan's age when I was last with Dave in 'Maritzburg. How the time goes. And I'm blessed to realize that You still remember those days, and that you allowed me the privilege to speak in that great land. I don't know if I'll ever return--but for a few moments--it was precious to enjoy the “God memories.” Thank you, Jesus. Now, use Nathan in even greater ways. . . for your work goes on. . . it's just the players that change.

Seamill, Scotland

February 21, 2001 - 17,099 - 13, 780

I just returned from a wonderful trip to Scotland and England. It was instigated by a long-time friend, Katherine Robertson, who is one of the leaders in Scotland. It was great being back to these nations after a twenty-five-year absence. That's a long time. Much has changed--but the work of God's Kingdom goes on. I'm currently reading a book on Scotland—"Caledonia" is the ancient name. It has helped me prepare for my time here.

Arriving in Glasgow (located on the River Clyde) on a Sunday, I was picked up at the airport and driven about one-hour west of Scotland's largest city to the western coast.

YWAM has a beautiful building here called Seamill which is a main training center for this part of the world. The green hills and pristine valleys were a sight to behold as we traveled out toward the coast. Snow was swirling about us as we arrived in the late afternoon.

Seamill is near a small town called West Kilbride, named after a former Celtic missionary (Kilbride means “Cell of Bride” as in a monastic outpost).

I spoke to the DTS here for a week on Holiness and Sin. God really moved when day when I gave “The Wages of Sin” message. Many people prayed and sat in the “chair” symbolizing death to self. There are about thirty young missionaries in the school, many from North America. Good group.

Most afternoons I would take a prayer walk, often to the beach which was a short distance away. The sands are a gorgeous mauve color--indicating where the origins of “bricks” came from. I enjoyed talking to God and looking across to Ireland. I am so impressed by the Celtic missionaries who evangelized this land 1500 years ago--Patrick, Columba, and others. They have become great heroes of mine.

The throat has not been the best, but I am continuing to trust God for grace in every circumstance. If I’m allowed breaks, it is bearable. God--give me grace to share your words in this nation. On Friday night I spoke to a youth gathering in a town nearby called Irvine.

The group is known as “Firestarters” and draws kids from around the area. Great bunch who really lapped up the words on Josiah and made him their own. In a pagan nation--only 4% attend church--it is crucial that this generation arise and re-take the land. It must be their destiny, or this will be a very dark day in Scottish history.

Holmstead Manor, England

Was great to spend time with the Robertsons a few times, also get acquainted with the new base director whose name is Ula--he’s a Swede who’s engaged to an American. Great guy. After a good week, I flew south to England for my week of teaching there. My arrival at Gatwick airport was a normal YWAM phenomenon: there was nobody there to meet me.

Finally, I was picked up and whisked out to Holmsted Manor, in the beautiful English countryside, south-east of London near Brighton. Holmsted Manor was like stepping into Shirley’s and my past. We were here twenty-five years ago as singles and marched around this property to claim it for God. Now, for a quarter of a century, God has used it to send out missionaries. PTL. It’s a stately old mansion with a tree-lined drive and beautiful farm country surrounding;

The gorgeous wood paneling in the entryway makes it appear 400-500 years old. It has

one “leather room” ornately decorated with hand painted leather murals (I was told that this display is worth more than the entire property). There are delightful gardens, an old carriage house, and other remnants of the British past. It’s a true picture of olden-day England.

My teaching this week was centered on the Character of God, and it went very well to a very motivated group of students. I re-did my series before I started, and really felt God’s presence on the new format and teaching. Again, God sustained my throat through pain and difficulty. One evening I spoke of the “Broken Heart of God” and there was a wonderful move of God among the students, with much repentance, conviction if sin, and prayer for people. Special time. Most afternoons I took a walk through the beautiful English countryside. It was just as I’d remembered it, except for the increase in traffic and speed of the autos.

Everyone in Western culture seems to be in a hurry. What a tragedy. Most days I walked up to a large Celtic Cross commemorating those who died in the World Wars. I am greatly inspired by the Celtic faith--in England, through a missionary named Aidan who founded Lindesfarne (Holy Isle). May we build on the faith of these godly founders.

London (Herpendon), England

My last weekend in the UK, I traveled by train up to London to have lunch with Jim Brown, good friend from the Northwest for thirty years. He works among “leaders” here in London and across Europe. We had a great two hours together catching up. I then took the tube and trains north to Harpenden to meet with Lynn Green. Good time with a great man of God.

Lynn believes the key to Europe’s future is the “death of Christendom (institutional Church)” which can allow for the birth of the real thing--true, servant-oriented Christianity. I appreciated his time, wisdom, and looking around the large Harpenden base (YWAM’s national office in the United Kingdom). On Sunday, I flew the thirteen hours home to be re-united with my family.

Praise God for these days of ministering in Europe once again. My YWAM roots are here, and much of my heart. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for sustaining my voice, allowing me to speak for you and meet old and new friends. May revival come to Europe. Awaken the dry bones, crush the old wineskin, and replace it with a living and caring Church that can bring the peoples of Europe face to face with the Living Lord Christ. Amen.

Hansville, Washington

March 2, 2001 - 17,108 - 13, 771

Just returned from a very meaningful three-day prayer summit for Kitsap pastors. It was held in Hansville--right on the water near Point-No-Point, next to Duane Sabin's home. It is a beautiful beach house owned by the missions pastor from Overlake Church, and he loves to let it be used by the Body of Christ. I did not stay overnight but commuted from Port Orchard due to Shirley's birthday being on Monday and Nathan being home from DTS.

The prayer times were intimate and powerful. Steve Hall and Brad Gill, owner of the Christian television station in Grays Harbor, were the facilitators and did an excellent job. We worshiped with all our hearts (much singing), we wept and repented of sin, we interceded for our area and friends, and we laid hands on each other and ministered on very deep levels.

On Wednesday, February 28, we had been deeply interceding for a move of God in Kitsap County when at 10:54 pm, "the earthquake" struck our region. The ground began to shake, the windows began to rattle, and after some terrifying moments, most for the guys bolted for the door. We later found out it was a 6.8 tremor, the largest in 25 years. Was over one billion in damage throughout Puget Sound, though no one was seriously hurt. Quite a wake-up call. And for us--almost like the book of Acts where after they prayed in one accord, "the place was shaken." I will never forget February 28, 2001.

I came out of the summit encouraged, refreshed, and with even greater faith regarding my throat condition (the guys prayed for me). It is feeling a little better, and overall, I am more at peace about it. Words were prayed over me that God was using it in my life to make me a tender-hearted and broken prophet. AMEN. And I am encouraged to believe God for a real move of His Spirit in Kitsap County. Lord--maintain our faith.

Port Orchard, Washington

April 5, 2001 - 17,142 - 13, 737

It's been over a month now, and I haven't taken ONE pain pill since the pastors prayed for me last month. Praise the Lord. My throat still hurts at times, and I need to watch my voice activity, but there's been a major change in the pain level--and for that I am deeply grateful. It would be just like my Loving Heavenly Father to leave me some discomfort to keep me close to Him and humble, while relieving some of the stress to remind me of His love. There's no One like You, O Lord. I submit to your wisdom and revel in your goodness to me, a sinner.

Vancouver, B.C., Canada

May 8, 2001 - 17,175 - 13,704

I've had two trips the past month. The first one was up to Vancouver, B.C. to attend this year's YWAM North American Leader's Conference. It was held at a nice hotel near the airport and about two hundred leaders came from across the continent for the affair. I stayed with my cousin, Gary Johanson, who lives in the area. It was good to meet his family on their turf, though I didn't get much time to share with them in depth.

The conference was powerful. The spirit of worship was accentuated by about half of the crowd being under twenty-five--which is something we've been praying for in YWAM for years. Well, the young leaders are starting to emerge. They brought a real electricity to the room. It was good, as always, to renew old friendships that now go back nearly thirty years, and it was good to make some new ones.

The best part of the conference was the teaching by Darrow Miller on Christian world view and discipling the nations. It really impacted my heart and soul. Darrow is a great communicator that really lays out a compelling picture of the power of ideas. He bases his theme much around the concept of *Coram Deo*, standing before the face of God in all the realms of life and living out the Lordship of Christ. It was awesomely powerful teaching that I believe will impact corporate YWAM for years to come. I hope it does.

Washington, D.C.

Then after a couple days at home, I was off on my annual trip to Washington, D.C. for the National Day of Prayer activities. Phenomenal week. I'll let a newsletter article tell some of the details below:

Snapshots of Hope

I just returned from a week of prayer and strategic meetings in Washington, D.C. My heart is full of HOPE--that God is doing a good work in our nation's capital and all over the nation, and that a window of opportunity is open for us to press in for a Heaven-sent revival. Most of what I saw and heard you won't pick up on national television. I want to use this update to share various SNAPSHOTS that will bring encouragement to you and increase your burden to PRAY and ACT on behalf of America.

SNAPSHOT: Two days were spent with thirty-five youth leaders [YMEC] representing many of the denominational and parachurch groups in America. Through a cooperative effort, we have now helped plant prayer movements and Bible clubs in

33,000 schools (junior, middle, and senior high schools) across the US. In some places, kids are praying by the hundreds every day for their campuses and leading their peers to Christ. We have 23,000 schools still to reach.

PRAYER & ACTION: Ask God to give us the final campuses through a united effort. Let us know where you can help in your town or city.

SNAPSHOT: One morning we shared devotions with Attorney General John Ashcroft in his office at the Justice Department. He is a wonderful man of God who reads the Bible, prays with his staff, and memorizes Scripture every morning. Two YWAM missionaries are on his executive staff--in a department that has 125,000 employees and incredible influence on our nation. He is an answer to prayer who could turn the tide on many moral issues.

PRAYER & ACTION: That God would give incredible wisdom and courage to this modern-day Daniel; That godly judges and political appointees would not be held up in Congress; That across the US we would begin to think of justice from the standpoint of God's Word.

SNAPSHOT: On the National Day of Prayer I visited our former YWAM headquarters at 133 C. St. It continues to function as a wonderful Christian ministry center, with Bible studies, prayer groups, and friendship evangelism taken place every day among members of Congress. It is also home to seven born-again Congressmen (including Steve Largent), who direct the ministry of the center.

PRAISE: That God is faithful to fulfill the dreams and visions He gives to His people. To Him alone be all the glory.

SNAPSHOT: The National Day of Prayer, in the Cannon Building on Capitol Hill, had to turn away hundreds of people due to the large crowds. Chuck Colson gave a stirring message on doing our "duty" to awaken our nation; Many wonderful national leaders shared their personal testimonies (including Mel Martinez, cabinet secretary for HUD, who found Christ as a Cuban refugee), Miss America 2001, Angela Perez Baraquio, shared her faith in God, Dean Jones talked about the move of God in Hollywood and the needs there and James Dobson spoke on the state of the family.

At 12:30 pm we joined with millions of Americans across the nation in saying a special prayer written by Billy Graham. Overall, there was a spirit of worship and intercession more powerful than I've ever seen at the NDP.

SNAPSHOT: After five hours of prayer on Capitol Hill, one hundred Christian leaders met with President Bush at the White House. The president shared that he begins every day on his knees talking to God and reads his Bible before going to the Oval Office. At the reception following, the president stayed for more than an hour, mingling with guests and thanking them

for their prayers and ministries. Toward the close, Michael W. Smith sat down at a piano in the State Room and led the crowd in spontaneous worship that went all through the corridors of the White House. (One WH server at the reception said there was a night and day difference between this administration and the former one. The Bushes are very warm, family-oriented, and prompt in their scheduling, whereas the Clinton years were characterized as chaotic, and tardy--making it very hard to work there.)

SNAPSHOT: In the evening, hundreds gathered on the Capitol steps for a final prayer service. It was a powerful display of the ethnic diversity of the city and their tremendous unity in Christ. Asians, Hispanics, blacks, whites--as beautiful a rainbow coalition as you'll see--were there to uplift Jesus. **There is a powerful move of God taking place in the DC churches. One church has grown to 9,000--others to 3,000 or more.** And pastors and churches are working together to fight crime, feed the hungry, and evangelize the lost.

PRAYER & ACTION: Pray that God would accelerate the winds of awakening in Washington DC and nation-wide. Pray for President Bush to be a righteous leader who is both loving and compassionate and bold in his faith and world view. Pray for people to get saved in every dimension of capital life--and that the spirit of division and power would be bound. Get involved in the promotion of godliness in your town or city. God wants to transform them all, from Washington D.C. to Port Orchard, WA.

SNAPSHOT: We also spent a day with representatives of the president's Faith-based Initiatives Office. This important movement (originally begun through then Senator Ashcroft's office) and now aggressively pushed by the Bush administration, has the potential to radically reform American life, thrusting the church back into a leading role in public compassion (without infringing on the First Amendment).

For years, Christians have been kept out of the game of public sector involvement through a twisted view of the separation of church and state. The faith-based initiatives can change all that and *level the playing field* (destroying the monopolies of Planned Parenthood and many others). This is an opportunity of a lifetime to alter the public debate and re-establish the role of religious institutions in America. By July, the die will have been cast in this initial fight.

PRAYER & ACTION: Get acquainted with HR 7--the first omnibus bill in Congress that will pave the way for more faith-based inclusion. If we win this bill (to be voted on by July), it could open the floodgates for changing public policy. This is our Normandy for changing the direction of the American government. Call your legislators. Write letters to the editor. Pray that God will give us a second chance to SERVE the American people in many dimensions or public life.

SNAPSHOT: The National Prayer Committee, on which I serve, celebrated its 20th anniversary of calling the nation to intercession. There has been an incredible tide of prayer built during those two decades--for which we thanked God. These meetings were powerful, with vibrant worship, many tears, and great revelation. In a final session, God practically came into the room to commission us to boldly preach Jesus as our only hope and repentance in the church as our greatest need. For a few hours, we stood on holy ground and listened to the Holy Spirit's pleadings.

PRAYER & ACTION: God is not done with America. Like the churches in Revelation, He offers us the opportunity to *change our lives and impact the nation*. What worldly idols do you need to cast off? How can you increase your prayers for true revival in America?

We still face great judgments in this land due to the magnitude and longevity of the sins we've tolerated. But a wind of hope is blowing from heaven. God wants us to uplift the supremacy of Jesus in every crack of American life--through prayer and fasting, through serving the lost and needy, and through the cooperative effort of the Church of Jesus Christ. A window of blessing has opened for a time.

FINAL SNAPSHOT: God yearns to awaken this nation.

PRAYER & ACTION: You and me.

Port Orchard, Washington

Finally, Brethren...

Our two spring **China teams have now returned home** from some good weeks of ministry. Thank you for praying for them--and supporting their work. In the coming months, we're hoping to raise some significant capital for a long-term project there (sorry, but we can't share the details without endangering our workers). Please bring this matter before the Lord of Hosts who only knows all that needs to be done.

On the weekend of May 19,20, we're helping to launch a new King's Kids ministry in Centralia, WA, and May 24-28 (over the Memorial Day weekend) we're running our first 2001 NIKO event (survival training--team building skills) under the leadership of Danny and Debbie Ray. If you're interested in participating in the NIKO program, please give the Rays a call at 253-862-5848. There's still room for the adventurous.

One of our new staff members, Heather Hicks, needs housing in the South Kitsap area. If you know of a basement apartment, or a usable room in someone's home, please give us a call. Much work is now taking place at the YWAM headquarters as we finish the *Gleanings for the Needy* food pantry and develop some of our property. We would appreciate your prayers for this

completion stage of the YWAM Port Orchard home base.

Thanks also for your financial gifts this month. Spring is sometimes a difficult time for us leading up to summer outreach. Has God given you some extra at this time? Please consider investing in our Youth With A Mission ministries. We're grateful to be your friends and partners.

SNAPSHOT: We deeply appreciate you.

For the first time in years, I'm going to be home for much for the summer. Three large priorities are in my heart and mind:

1. Complete the stewardship of the YWAM house, food pantry, and the rest of Arlington Place.
2. Prepare for the release of new ministries: Discovery Bay Training Center and the Kitsap Center.
3. Change our YWAM ministry from top to bottom to reflect the lifestyle and priorities of the Early Church.

May God give us success in these His concerns. Amen.

July 3, 2001 - 17,231 - 13, 658

For the past few weeks, God has catapulted me into **the fight against gambling in our hometown**. I'll start with the story that I wrote for our June newsletter, and then share the great victories that came later.

Fanning the Flame - June 2001

Potterville or Port Orchard?

If God uses human events to wake us up, then I feel like I've had my whole body dunked in cold water. Three weeks ago, we South Kitsap residents learned that a mini-casino had applied for a permit to lease space at the Westbay Shopping Center--a prime piece of real estate on old Port Orchard's waterfront. Though run-down and partially vacant, this western end of Sinclair Inlet contains three acres of land and 37,000 square feet of retail space. For a year or so, we had been praying about making an offer on this facility to transform it into a modern youth and family community center. It seemed like the perfect place for such a ministry to kids.

Frankly, it had been easy for me to be attracted to "Westbay." **My dad's doctor's office was one of the original tenants there when the shopping center opened for business in the mid- sixties.** For a few years, it was "the place to shop" in South Kitsap. And in

1975, even before Shirley and I were married, we launched our missions career from Westbay by having a huge garage sale at the property that funded twenty missionaries going out that summer. [1975]

Westbay contained many memories for me--and others. Those memories turned to nightmare a few weeks ago when Hank's Mini-Casino came knocking on the door.

Our first shock was learning that casino gambling is no longer limited to Indian reservations. In fact, they're springing up everywhere in a culture that's hell-bent on all aspects of gaming and "get rich quick" attractions. State laws now permit them to operate in most commercial zoning areas. To ban them, cities and counties need to pass ordinances restricting their access--and over fifty towns and cities in Washington State have passed such laws.

But not Port Orchard. We were asleep at the switch. While the Church fiddled, Rome began to burn. Only days ago, did we realize that the issue of gambling was coming before the Port Orchard City Council. We sent out a flurry of e-mails, pastors began to pray, and we decided to make our voice heard at City Hall on Tuesday night, May 29, 2001.

Speaking for the spiritual leaders of the community, both Rick Best and I testified before the council. In my remarks, which made the front page of the newspaper the next day, I strongly pleaded with the council to weigh carefully the damaging effects that high profile gambling would bring to our community. I encouraged them to be true leaders with foresight--and not let our beautiful town go the way of Nevada, which legalized gambling 70 years ago in 1931.

I pointed out that Nevada now ranks first in the nation in suicide, first in divorce, first in high school drop-outs, first in homicide against women, at the top in gambling addictions, third in bankruptcies, third in abortion, third in rape, fourth in out-of-wedlock births, fourth in alcohol-related deaths, fifth in crime, and dead last in voter participation. After hearing twelve other people testify, to our delight and surprise, the Council placed an immediate moratorium on all future gambling in South Kitsap. This was an incredible victory. We believe this moratorium will become a permanent city ordinance following a public forum in July.

But there's one catch. It's too late for this ordinance to stop Hank's from coming to Westbay. Their permit is already in process, and the city can't stop it. There is now only one thing that could stop this Mini-Casino from leasing space in the Westbay Shopping Center:

Somebody needs to buy the building.

That's exactly what we've been looking into for the past week. We've met with city leaders, contacted the real estate agent and owner of the shopping center, and gone fervently to prayer to ask God what to do. No matter what we do, it will take an out-and-out miracle. The Westbay Center will probably cost close to two million to purchase (that's good deal as far as real estate goes. It's choice waterfront property, with the land costing about \$10 a square foot

and the building close to \$13.) The owner needs \$400,000 down--the same amount of money that he'll lose if the casino deal is lost. But we don't have either \$400,000 or two million. If God wants us to have this facility, then He needs to lay it upon the hearts of many or even one person that has the means to purchase it.

At this point we are simply praying for His direction. A couple of images loom in our mind. One is the famous quote by Edmund Burke that "all that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing." We don't want to stand before God one day and be found guilty of neglect in our own backyard--when we had the power to change it. The second image comes from the classic Jimmy Stewart movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. In that wholesome portrayal of how one man's life can impact a community,

George Bailey is given a glimpse by an angel of what his hometown of Bedford Falls would have looked like if it had fallen into the hands of an evil banker named Potter. In a dream-like state, he wanders through "Potterville" with its taverns, brothels, and sin on every hand. The angel tells him that this is what Bedford Falls would have been if George Bailey hadn't lived. It would be Potterville.

Let me direct some final remarks to my fellow South Kitsap residents: Without our faith, finances, and courageous action, Port Orchard could head down the road to becoming a Potterville--just like Nevada and many other places. The Westbay Shopping Center--at the heart of downtown and near Washington's largest high school--is our current battleground.

The choice is ours. Will we choose gambling and the societal corruption it brings (by us doing nothing), or will we choose the good of families and kids--and work together to stop the enemy's insidious invasion (by working together)?

The next few weeks are crucial. Would you pray? Can you help? Do you know of people that can help us buy a "piece of Port Orchard?" I need to hear from you (360-876-5162). And we all need to hear from God. . .and do what He says. Potterville or Port Orchard? The die may soon be cast.

Discovery Bay, Washington

Finally, Brethren...

There is much happening in our ministry right now. Recently, we've been asked to partner with a Bible Camp near Port Townsend in developing a Christian retreat and Mission Center. It's called Discovery Bay Camp and contains thirteen acres of land and

buildings across the street from beautiful Discovery Bay. We're currently negotiating a possible partnership, and the sending of some workers up north. Besides serving the retreat and summer camp aspects of the ministry, there's the possibility of birthing some YWAM training programs on the peninsula. Pretty exciting--but a big step. Please pray for our Board and Leadership team. Their platter is full right now.

[Miles Musick and I were the first to visit DBC after a phone call from Mary Ann Gilliland (who lived next door) alerted us that the "Holiness Association" was looking for a partner. When we toured the property, it was dilapidated, overgrown, buildings had no gutters, mold was prevalent, and Miles thought it was a dump. From the very beginning I "saw" God's vision for this special place.]

Our first NIKO camp was a roaring success with about forty in attendance. It was a powerful few days of team building and God trusting. The participants can't really tell you what they did (that's part of the NIKO mystique), but it was very life changing for many. There are more NIKOs coming up this summer. Let us know if you are interested. June 16, our third China team of the year (yes THIRD), begins bootcamp for another trip back to Hainan, China.

We hope that there won't be a US plane shot down this time. Please pray for their trip. And on July 6, we are helping to lead a large youth evangelistic outreach at the South Kitsap football field. It's called PWP (Party with Purpose) and will include all kinds of fun things for kids, free food, bands, and the sharing of truth. Get out the word--and bring your non-churched friends to PWP, from 3 to 7 pm, Friday night, July 6.

Thanks to those who've given to our ministry this month--especially sending in your annual \$18 subscription donation for *Fanning the Flame*. If you haven't done so already, please send yours in this month. It doesn't benefit the ministry simply to cancel. It's like a family budget--at some point you can't just cut spending--you must raise income too. Thank you for doing your part. We deeply appreciate our teamwork together. We're trying to be:

Good people who DO something for Jesus,

Days after these words were written we swung into action. First, I decided to speak at 3-4 churches to mobilize the Body of Christ. I preached at CLC on a Wednesday night, First Christian Sunday morning, and Family Worship Center in the evening. In each service, I challenged people to stand up to commit to coming to City Hall on June 25--and also to the Gambling Forum on June 26. My goal was 150 people.

The night of the meeting, I arrived at City Hall about thirty minutes early--but the room was already filled with people. By 7:30 pm, over two hundred concerned citizens had crammed the room with bodies, filled up the foyer, sat on the floor, and even spilled down the stairway. The newspaper said the next day that over two hundred had turned out. Praise the Lord. After a slow beginning, the hearing began and over 2-3 hours some dozens of people made their way to

the microphone to express their concerns over the casino permit.

I spoke my piece near the end, giving three major reasons that this permit would damage the quality of life in South Kitsap. At nearly ten o'clock, Mayor Weatherill ended the testimony and called for the vote. To our shock and delight, **the vote was 6-0 denying the Blackjack permit.** A thunderous applause echoed through the government chambers and tears flowed freely. This was truly citizen-government at work. The people had spoken on a matter of deep moral concern, and the officials had listened. The enemy's plans for Port Orchard had thus come to naught.

The following evening over 100 showed up for the Gambling Forum, and it went very well. The pro-gambling people were so defeated by the prior night's victory, that they didn't even bother to show up--giving us the podium for most of the evening to once again talk about the consequences of elevating greed in our society. The meeting ended on a good note--and in a few weeks, we believe that a city ordinance will be passed banning gambling in our community.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for waking us up. Thank you for this victory over the onslaught of sin in our nation. May we continue to be awake, vigilant, and at war with the enemy of our souls. May the gates of hell be pushed back through the united prayers and action of your Church. Thank you for intervening in Port Orchard. Now, show us what to DO to bring more of your glory into our town and lives.

The final follow-up to this victory came on Monday night, July 24. We mobilized about forty folks to again come to City Hall and testify. This first item on the agenda was Hank O'Sullivan again. He was there with his lawyers to ask the Council to rescind their previous decision. His lawyer was very persuasive, and the members seemed somewhat hesitant.

When it came to a vote, Carolyn Powers, Rick Wyatt, and Bob Geiger all voted to keep the original rejection of permit. But to our shock, Warren Van Zee, Tom Stansberry and Don Morrison all voted to take a second look at the situation. It was a 3-3 deadlock. In the crowd, many of us were praying like mad and getting a little nervous. Were we going to go through this all over again?

Suddenly, **the mayor spoke up. "I believe this matter has been looked at sufficiently and I will break the deadlock. I vote no. The "No's carry!"** At this startling turn of events, we all stood and openly applauded the Council--especially the courage of Mayor Weatherill. Port Orchard had at last been saved from Hank's Casino. Hank and his attorneys dejectedly walked out, and many of us swarmed the Council to thank them for their courage.

The final item of business on the agenda was the city ordinance on a permanent

ban of House-banked gambling (mini-casinos) in the Port Orchard city limits. Seven or eight of us went forward to share. It was polite, respectful, eloquent--and 100% in favor of a city ordinance. After listening to the testimony, Carolyn Powers moved strongly that the city attorney and staff be directed to write up a city ordinance banning Mini-Casinos. After the Council voted 6-0, the crowd stood and applauded them one more time.

We had won. Praise God for His victory through His people. (And I should add, on this final night, it was the presence of the saints at First Christian Church that made the difference. We were probably 25 of the 40 people present.)

July 28, 2001 - 17,256 - 13, 457

After the gambling victory, I noticed the pain returning in my throat again--and in the past few days I've had to go back to taking pain medication. After five months of being off the pills, I wearily was forced to give in to the pain. It was very discouraging to take these steps backward.

But today, the reality of the situation led to examine what may be behind my mysterious illness. I've been wondering again if my physical affliction has a spiritual root that needs to be broken in some aggressive way. As I prayed this morning, talked with Shirley, and looked over my journal for the past few years, some interesting things jumped out at me.

Here they are:

This problem first manifested itself in late January of 1995 when I was preaching in Pendleton, OR. It was in that Revive America crusade that I first spoke boldly on western idolatry--and was roundly criticized for it, even by some pastors.

One year before, in January of 1994, the Revive America seminars had begun. Following the very first one in Spooner, Wisconsin, I had made an interesting comment:

"The past few weeks--ever since my time in Wisconsin--God has really been speaking to me about the need to **BOLDLY CONFRONT THE SINS OF THE CHURCH AND THE POWERS OF DARKNESS IN THIS NATION**. It is time to speak with authority and clarity. I have, in some ways, capitulated to the culture, and not been willing to speak with the depths of boldness that God requires of me.

We have no apologies to make. America has sinned, needs God, and must be brought to account. State and federal authorities are puny indeed before the ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY of the Living God.

The revivalists of the past moved in that authority. They were broken men and women who had a vision of God's holiness and grace and were fearless in bringing people to that truth. Their righteous lives gave them authority to speak. They spoke boldly to the masses about their

need to return to their Creator.

I believe I've been pussy footing around. I will no longer. God--enflame my heart, purify my motives, and help me to BOLDLY PROCLAIM YOUR WORD IN ALL SETTINGS.

I then went on to Marshalltown, Iowa, where God greatly moved in Billy Sunday's old hometown--and a year of tremendous revival broke forth. One year later, I was afflicted in my ability to speak.

I now really wonder if I have been under a satanic attack for the past six and a half years, partly because of the commitment I made in 1994? And did a curse come into my life following the Pendleton crusade because of the commitment to speak against American idolatry?

Regarding dates, I've felt for some time that for some "God-reasons" I might be in the middle of a seven-year test regarding my commitment, humility, willingness to follow God under all circumstances, etc. I realized this morning that I erroneously thought that this seven-year time period passed in January. But I was wrong. It will be completed in January of 2002.

So, with all these thoughts swirling in my mind, I am wondering what God wants me to do right now, or in the next six months, to deal in spiritual warfare over this physical affliction. This morning in my quiet time, God spoke to me from EVERY section of His Word:

- From the commentary on Ezra 4:15: "Suffering. . . can often be traced to incidents of sin that occurred years earlier."
- Psalm 27:13 "I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."
- And from Hebrews 5:7-8 about the example of Jesus: "he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one that could save him. . . and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered."

Father-I ask you to guide me as to what is my next step. I thank you for both the lessons you've taught me and grace You've given over the past 6 ½ years. Now, what do I do? My eyes, as ever, are fixed on You.

August 15, 2001 - 17 274 - 13, 439

Much has happened in the past two weeks regarding my throat. It all happened very quickly. Below are two e-mails that I sent out to "Praying Friends:"

I'm sending this note to some close friends who've prayed for me over the last few years regarding my throat. I'm asking for your prayers tomorrow (Wednesday, August 9, 2001 at 11 am PDT) as I have surgery that could have a major impact on the problem.

A couple of weeks ago, after going through a time of discouragement regarding the persistent pain I've had for nearly seven years, God encouraged me to look at some possible spiritual roots of the affliction and seek out medical help once again. The spiritual part has been very enlightening, and I was about to move on some things when the physical side burst to the forefront.

Last Thursday, a friend named Julie Allen asked my wife, Shirley, if anyone had ever related my problem to my teeth. Shirley then pressed me to see our dentist, and Monday morning I went in to consult with him.

After taking a special x-ray of my jaw, Dr. Christman (an appropriate name--Christ's man) informed me they'd uncovered a serious problem. All four of my wisdom teeth were impacted (that was already known), but one of them showed a large cyst of fluid around my left lower impacted molar that had displaced some of the bone. It was obviously infected and could possibly be cancerous. He sent me that afternoon to an oral surgeon who confirmed that I needed these teeth removed immediately, and that the lower left one was going to be tricky.

The good news was that he felt the cyst wasn't likely to be malignant. The bad news was that the cyst was large, my jawbone was thin because of the pressure, and the sensory nerve that provides feeling to the chin and mouth was right near it and could be impacted by the surgery. He was confident the surgery could be done, but there was a slight possibility my jaw might fracture while removing it (which would mean wiring my jaw shut for 6-8 weeks to let it heal--maybe God DOES want me quiet).

So, the surgery is scheduled for Wednesday, 11 am PDT here in Port Orchard and will take about an hour and a half. It will be done by a Dr. Brad Hepworth. No one knows for sure whether this is the main source of my throat pain (the infectious fluid leaking into my mouth could be the long-term source of irritation I've experienced), but we're hopeful.

If not, it's still a serious problem that needs to be taken care of, and afterwards, I can pursue other leads as well as the spiritual angles. Over the past seven years, God has really used this test in my life for much needed humility, contentment, eternal vision, and growth in perseverance. For that I am deeply grateful, and only want to grow to be more like Jesus.

I'm sorry this e-mail has been so long, but I wanted to share all the details with you so you could pray with understanding tomorrow:

1. That the cyst is not cancerous.
2. That my jaw will not be cracked or broken during the procedure.

3. That the sensory nerve will not be damaged or cut.
4. For wisdom and skill for Dr. Hepworth and his assistants.
5. For the finances for this procedure. Our family has medical coverage, but this is considered dental surgery--and so it is not covered. The operation normally costs \$3300, but Dr. Hepworth graciously discounted it to \$1925. Please pray that God would help us with this amount.

Thanks for being my friends. I am so grateful for your prayers and encouragements over the past seven years. God is good--even when the tests are difficult. And his goodness is so often demonstrated through people like you. I'll get back to you after the operation. Thanks for praying.

Here's the second e-mail a week later:

After convalescing at my parents' home for four days, I made it home yesterday after my oral surgery. I am still in considerable pain (and some nausea from the pain medication), but hopeful that I can ride out the storm and move on toward full healing. Thank you for your prayers and for those that have called or sent e-mails. Your concern means a lot.

The first four days were especially difficult as I had to sit up at night to stop excess swelling. The cyst that they removed was quite large and embedded in my jaw (probably the reason for the high level of pain that I still have). They believe it is benign but won't know for sure until the lab report. At this point (six days post op) I still have numbness in my chin and left side of lip, but I'm hoping that the nerve is okay and will eventually come back. That was one of the risks coming in.

So, thanks again for praying. Please keep it up as I mend and then see if this amazing process has been the cause behind my long-term throat discomfort. God bless your final weeks of summer.

Westport, Washington

September 9, 2001 - 17,299 - 13,414

We just returned from a wonderful family vacation at Westport--at the beach home of Craig and Connie Kline of Centralia. Because of my surgery, we had to cancel our annual camping trip to Cove Palisades, and in its place, God provided this lovely

two-story, fully stocked home right on the ocean in Westport. The house was completely furnished, including wet-suits and surfboards which the four boys used many times a day.

Everybody really enjoyed the gorgeous, secluded beach. Westport itself seems less commercialized than Ocean Shores. We played in the water, took many walks, enjoyed the sunsets, and revived our camping practice of playing poker together in the evenings.

Originally, we thought we'd be at the beach from Tuesday until Friday, but then there was a weekend cancellation--so after taking the teenagers home, I returned to the beach to enjoy the weekend with Shirley and Ryan and Jason. We had a great time with our little guys.

Thank you, Lord, for providing this wonderful substitute vacation for us. I ask you to bless the Kline family for their generosity to open their vacation house. We saw your power and glory at the beach. "How majestic is your Name in all the earth!"

Port Orchard, Washington

September 11, 2001 - 17,301 - 13,412

We will never forget this "day of infamy." This morning, as Shirley and I returned from our morning walk on the first day of our new school schedule, we heard and saw before our eyes the massive **terrorist attack upon New City and Washington, D.C.** Four airlines were hi-jacked by terrorists and used as flying bombs to level the World Trade buildings and damage the Pentagon.

We watched in horror as we saw the first World Trade Building (110 stories high) fall to the ground after being slammed by the airplane. It was unbelievable carnage as thousands of people died and the whole nation came to a standstill. We prayed all day long as the drama was played out and America realized that it had experienced its greatest day of horror in history.

We're still numb from the images and loss of life. But we've begun to pray that God would use it to bring revival to this land. The story continues to unfold today, and the prayer services and memorials are taking place nation-wide, and locally. May God be glorified through this incredible tragedy.

Victoria, B.C., Canada

October 12, 2001 - 17,332 - 13, 381

Shirley and I just returned from a **wonderful 25-year wedding anniversary** in our favorite place--Victoria, B.C. We had a simply delightful four days together, thanking God for a quarter century of faithfulness and love. It was better than the honeymoon. Highlights:

1. Pleasant ferry ride from Port Angeles to downtown Victoria.
2. Stayed at the Delta Victoria (Ocean Pointe Resort). Had a gorgeous room on the 6th floor that looked down on a breath-taking view of the inner Harbor. We enjoyed many hours sitting by the window relaxing, reading, have quiet times together, and enjoying the scenery.
3. Went to the Royal History Museum, dined at many tremendous restaurants and took walks all over our favorite tourist town.
4. Did our annual trip to Butchart Gardens.
5. Reveled in our love relationship.

What a blessing it is to have Shirley in my life for 25 years. We have now both been married longer than we were single. It gets better every year. Lord Jesus--thank for the gift of both marriage and the one you called me to share life with--Shirley Jean Boehme. I love her very much--and look forward to another 25 years of serving you together.

Juncos, Puerto Rico

November 21, 2001 - 17,372 - 13, 341

A week ago, I returned from my “annual trip” to Puerto Rico where I normally speak in various churches around the island, and train YWAM missionaries and staff at JUCUM. It has truly become one of my favorite places in the world. Our leaders there do a great job of recruiting kids that are inquisitive and sold out to God and have a good array of ministries that reach around the world from the Caribbean.

The night before I left, we had our first YWAM Community night to a good crowd at First Christian. I preached on “Understanding the Times” and it was well received. Then, after haggling with the airlines for hours, I jumped on a red-eye special to fly to Chicago and on to San Juan. This was my first plane flight since September 11, and it brought a cascade of thoughts (and prayers).

Was only the third time I’ve experienced the whole airplane bursting out in applause upon landing. (The first time we saw that was leaving the old Soviet Union in 1980 during the communist days--and the other time was when Shirley and I were traveling in the Midwest and had to make an emergency landing some years ago.) From the looks of things, the airplanes are really hurting. By God’s grace alone, I made it safely to San Juan.

As usual I enjoyed staying in my little “library room” at the base in Juncos and ministering to the DTS. In past years I’ve had some real struggles here with my throat, but this year you could tell that healing was on the way. No painkillers and very little difficulty. Praise the Lord. I gave my usual teachings on developing Christian character, and revival. God especially moved among the student body the two evenings I spoke on “The Wages of Sin and The Gift of God.” Precious times in his presence.

I also preached in three churches, and really enjoyed my time with staff and friends. They treat me like a king, and I love to bless them in return. On the final Saturday, I used them as my first audience to share the testimony of my throat healing (the seven-year test), and they received the report graciously, and then we worshiped, and they prayed for me. It was a very touching time, and I believe, a significant spiritual warfare moment in my ongoing healing.

Now I’m back home and it’s coming up upon Thanksgiving. The nation is now truly in a recession and the war against terrorism in Afghanistan is clearly underway. It is an awesome era we live in. One thing I’m especially grateful for this year: With all the difficulties surrounding, God has been gracious to be healing me of my seven-year affliction. It is not totally gone, but nearly so. Every month I get a little stronger. I am so grateful to God for this.

Lord--I am thankful to you for the privilege of knowing, loving, and serving you. I give my remaining days to the work of your Kingdom. Use me for your glory alone.

Port Orchard, Washington

December 31, 2001 - 17,412 - 13, 301

Two weeks ago, we finalized the deal on the Discovery Bay property. We now have the full use of a beautiful piece of ground that is to become of training base here in West Puget Sound. It was a long process but praise the Lord for His faithfulness. A week later, Karsten Solheim flew up from Phoenix to meet with me. We spent about six hours together here in Port Orchard and up in DB talking about the development of the land. We certainly pray that God will move upon his heart regarding the modernization that is necessary. He’s a wonderful man.

I’ve been home all this month—enjoying family—finishing up aspects of 2001, and really enjoying the Christmas season. Our home is beautifully decorated, and everywhere I go the lights and sounds remind me of the coming of the Savior. God invaded the earth in human form two thousand years ago, and now EVERYTHING good that we have on the planet has been because of Jesus, Praise His Glorious Name.

Tonight, we held our second annual SK Alliance New Year’s Eve party at Christian Life Center. Hundreds of kids came. It was rowdy and distracting in the early hours, but in the later

hours, God really grabbed a hold of kids' hearts through John Snell's message, a good prayer time, and worship as we began the new year.

The past few days, as I've come to the close of 2001, God has been speaking to me about various things. First, my throat continues to heal, and I believe it will be relatively pain-free in 2002 (maybe God will leave me with a "loving limp"). That's been encouraging, and I'm so grateful to God for this change in my life.

The other day, He also spoke to me in my quiet time about the three aspects of revival that I've devoted my life to pursuing: *Spiritual Awakening. Evangelism. Reformation.* As I pondered these three themes, He reminded me that my most effective evangelism years were the early years of my faith and ministry. In the second stage of my life, I've given myself wholeheartedly to spiritual awakening in the church.

And possibly for this last era of my life, I felt Him nudging me to focus on the third element: reformation. Maybe this is the reason the subject of world view has been so deeply impressed on me in the past few months. What the world really needs in the 21st century is a return to the world view of Truth.

Something inside of me really stirs when I think of this immense need. I won't stop sharing my faith in evangelism, or cease being a voice of revival in the Church—but maybe God wants me to center the next "periods" of my life on the need for cultural transformation—the need for truth in society. I am fascinated by this idea. May God guide me.

So, I close out 2001 with a sense of hope and excitement for the future. Thank you, gracious Father, for your leadings and inspiration. Thank you for grace in 2001. Please show me what to do in 2002.

You are my King and my God.