

The Journal of Ron Boehme - 2003

Port Orchard, Washington

January 12, 2003 - 17,788 - 12,925

A new year has begun—my 50th year of life—and I'm thankful to be alive and serving God. I am asking God for this to be a YEAR OF JUBILEE for my heart and spirit. I simply thank him for the precious gift of fifty years.

This year is a sobering time in history—with war looming with Iraq (and maybe North Korea), the nation in a recession and Washington state one of the worst hit as well as the personal struggles I'm faced on and off for the past decade (health-wise). I feel sometimes vulnerable, a bit anxious, and in need of great strength from my God and King. Funny, the older I get the more fragile and uncertain I feel. Reminds me of a quote from John Wesley:

“When I was young, I was sure of everything; in a few years, having been mistaken thousand times, I was not half so sure of most things as I was before; at present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to me.”

That summarizes my present state very well. But as always, though in great weakness, I am “trusting in God with all my heart and not leaning on my own understanding. In all my ways I'm acknowledging Him, knowing that He will direct my steps.”

While I was preparing to start this new journal year, I happened to glance at my journal for 1987—fifteen years ago. The days I've lived have now flopped—from a five-thousand-day surplus to a 5K deficit. Amazing the passage of time. Lord, continue to help me number my days.

After church today I was having my time of prayer and fasting for our YWAM ministry. I asked God where I should turn for Scriptural guidance and encouragement. *Isaiah 41* came to mind. I read it and was greatly uplifted. Then, later I was reading back over my journal for 2002 and realized that in September God had given me the exact same chapter. Great confirmation that I am where God wants me to be:

“You are my servant—I have chosen you and not rejected you. Do not fear for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely, I will help you. Surely, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isaiah 41:9,10).

We have begun this year readying ourselves for Nathan and David's move to Los Angeles. They were there last week with Aaron and Robert, and with fear and trembling (and our co-signing help) signed a four-month lease on their first apartment. It's called *Versailles* and is a large, modern unit in Woodland Hills—close access to their areas of interest. They will now pursue jobs and get on with God's calling on their lives. It's an exciting time for them and a tearful one for us. **Twenty-one years of child-raising have come and gone, and now it's our turn to launch our children from the nest.** We still have some chicks to take care of, but we're feeling the pain of the first migration. hat a precious thing is family love.

We also helped David buy a new car this week, and in two weeks, I'll be going down with them to help them move in. May God lead and provide in all these endeavors. He is the God of all our futures.

On the home front, we're launching our YWAM programs for 2003 and excited about what lies ahead of us: King's Kids, Bob Fitts in February, Discovery Bay, a new Rev Team, ministry to various nations, etc. I'm also doing a lot of thinking about this final period of my life as I turn 50. **Have I used the past five decades wisely? Have I served God with all my heart, or have I been an "under-achiever?" What are his detailed plans for this next segment of my life? What life dreams are truly from his throne?**

As John Wesley said, I have a lot of questions. But what I know for sure is *what God has revealed to me, and he will continue to guide me with his eye upon me.* May I be humble, teachable, zealous, and worthy of everything he brings my way.

Woodland Hills, California

January 30, 2003 - 17,806 - 12,909

Have just returned from a good trip to California—unlike any other trip I've ever taken. This was the one I've been somewhat dreading—**helping Nathan and David start their new lives in Los Angeles.** We've excited to launch them, but greatly nostalgic over the twenty years that have gone by, never to return. Parents are supposed to give their kids wings, but it's awfully hard to thrust them out of the nest. I thank God that He gave me the grace to help my boys make their new start.

The four boys, Susan Calhoun and her dad, and I made the trip down in a four-car caravan. After traveling about 13 hours the first day, we overnighted in Stockton and drove the five hours into LA the next day. We arrived at their apartment in Woodland Hills about 1 pm, got the key to their new home, and hauled all their earthly possessions up three floors to the new flat. It's very nice and spacious—it just needs to be furnished. That was our plan for the next few days.

On Sunday and Monday, we worked hard shopping, buying, watching the boys agonize over most decisions, and gradually bought almost everything to furnish their new home. We got some things from thrift stores, but most furniture from IKEA—which had to be assembled at home each evening. By Monday it was really taking shape when Susan and her dad had to leave to drive home. I then helped them stock the refrigerator with a run to Costco. On Tuesday we finished setting things up—and Nathan and I even went up to the YWAM Community night where it was a treat to run into Mark Anderson of YWAM Crusades.

On my final day, the boys showed me Malibu (I wasn't very impressed), and then we had lunch and saw many friends at the YWAM base in Sunland. That was a great time. Then I hugged them deeply, said goodbye at the airport, and caught my flight home. It was a teary trip.

Now they're on their own for the first time, having to make rent in a big city, and learning how to pursue their dreams while walking with God. My greatest prayer is that Christ will be the center of their lives—that they will press in to know and love Him, and to fulfill His plan for their lives. Nothing else really matters. Father - we place them in your loving hands. They were always yours—now that reality has set in. Reveal yourself to them and keep them as the apple of your eye. Thanks for the years of sharing them with us.

Port Orchard, Washington

February 10, 2003 – 17,817 - 12,898

Had a great Kitsap Prayer Summit this week at our new place in Discovery Bay. Everyone seemed to enjoy the property and hospitality, and God really met us. About 25-30 people came in all and there were precious times of loving on one another, repentance before God, and a clarion call to work together for God's kingdom in our area. May a new day of revival in Washington State begin. With war in Iraq looming and the precarious world situation, Lord Jesus we need a visitation from heaven. May it come—and may you allow me to be an obedient part of its arrival.

March 11, 2003 – 17, 845 - 12, 870

What an incredible time in world history. We keep edging close to war in the Middle East, gas prices are soaring, the stock markets are worried—and in the mist of it, Jesus calls his people to prayer for 40 days. Yes, this year's 40 Days of Fasting and Prayer have begun. Tomorrow will be one week—and though I'm a little hungry and stretched, I thank God for the privilege of setting this time aside for Him. He really reminded me today that HE, not food, is meant to be my comfort, desire, appetite, love, and longing. It truly is easy to make food that end. Not during these forty days.

We're praying for churches in our county, crying out to God for world revival and evangelization, praying for our leaders and troops, and asking God for rightness in victory. Personally, I'm asking Him for great renewal and freedom as I begin my 50th year while fasting and praying. It's jubilee—and I long for it in my soul.

My monthly article in *Fanning The Flame* gives my view of the times—that God is using all these events to explode his Good News into the center of the Middle east and move forward the process of circling the globe with His truth—coming “back to Jerusalem.” How I pray that will happen. Lord, hear our prayers.

On my 50th birthday, Shirley threw me a wonderful party with friends. The signs said, “Fifty Years of Magnificence.” Truer said would be, “50 years of God's faithfulness.” We had wonderful fellowship, and a great time of prayer over me. The only gifts I wanted were friendship and prayer. I got plenty of each. Thank you, God for a half a century of life. I'm looking forward to the next fifty-by your grace.

April 4, 2003 – 17,869 - 12,846

We're now two weeks into Operation Iraqi Freedom—and the war has gone incredibly well. The final days for the battle of Baghdad are at hand—and our troops have done amazing things—really the greatest army advance in history.

A few days after the war began, God spoke to me in a way that He hasn't done in many years. He put a deep burden in my heart to raise up a nation-wide coalition of leaders that would call the Body of Christ to repentance, fasting and prayer, for the final siege of Iraq. He showed me that much individual prayer was taking place, but not corporate prayer meetings where the American Church was confessing her sins—meeting God's purposes for victory. He showed me that we needed to fight this war on two fronts—battling sin in our own hearts while battling evil in the world.

So, I resurrected my friendship list of leaders world-wide and for days made a flurry of phone calls and e-mails. The response was tremendous. By now, thousands of e-mails have been sent calling the Body of Christ to prayer. It's called *Operation United Prayer*, and I'm humbled and sobered to be a small part. On Sunday night I led a prayer service at Kingston Christian Church, and it was a powerful time. This Sunday we will be at First Christian—and my prayer is that all over the nation the fire will spread.

Today we're also thirty days into the fast. God has helped me with this as I've gone all liquid and am praying and studying the book of Deuteronomy. In many ways, I do feel a rebirth in my heart and spirit regarding my life, ministry and future.

1. I want to move in national ministry again—being faithful to God.
2. I'm to write those books on Truth and Lies—and Revival.

3. I'm going to have back surgery—and feel whole again (for my age).
4. I'm open to finishing a degree—a doctorate—for personal growth and refreshment.
5. I want to leave a godly legacy in every way possible.

May God lead us as a nation—and show me my humble road ahead. Here's the prayer initiative below:

Operation United Prayer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A national coalition of pastors and religious leaders is calling the churches of the nation to a special season of repentance and prayer over the next few weeks.

The Need

We have reached a critical stage in the war in Iraq. Many are protesting our invasion, others are backing the troops, thousands of troops are engaged—and the Church is basically silent. After a largely lack-luster response to the 9/11 attacks, we believe we now stand at another God-ordained moment for the American Church and nation to repent of our sins and unite in prayer for forgiveness and divine help in time of war.

Many great moments in history have turned on the power of united prayer. During the Revolutionary War, our founders called the colonists to numerous days of fasting, humiliation and prayer. During the height of the Civil War—a war that divided the sentiments of God-fearing people--Abraham Lincoln asked the people of God to humble themselves and pray. Rees Howells and other intercessors affected the outcome of World War II through fasting and corporate prayer.

The Call

Because God has used prayer at times like these in the past, we call pastors and churches in the United States to immediately schedule one or multiple evenings of corporate prayer and repentance for their congregations in every city and town in the land. These evening prayer gatherings could include:

1. Repentance for our own sins and a spiritual awakening in our own nation.
2. Fasting and prayer as a weapon of spiritual warfare.
3. Covering for our troops and their families--and wisdom for our leaders.
4. Protection and salvation for Iraqi citizens and humanitarian aid for the displaced.

5. A new era of freedom and blessing in the Middle East and around the world.

We also invite believers and churches all over the world to join us in this call to repentant, united intercession until God answers.

Endorsed by many leaders in the Body of Christ.

Discovery Bay, Washington

April 15, 2003 - 17,880 - 12, 835

The fast is now over—and God really helped me. We have been doing a ton of work at Discovery Bay on the Dining Hall renovation, and that's been very tiring. I've also been trying to cry out to God for revival in my life and nation.

Below are the ideas He shared with me as I prayed and studied through the book of Deuteronomy. Here are the keys from each of its thirty-four chapters:

1. God wants me to experience freedom—a season of personal renewal.
2. It's a renewal of our love—the Love Covenant—a restoration of “first love.”
3. Truth sets us free. Freedom comes from a recognition of the truth about God and his creation of people.
4. God is the one who gives territories and land—for it all is His.
5. I must ground my life and principles on the pillars of the Ten Commandments. Beautiful.
6. Help me to grow in my deep love and respect for You.
7. Purity before God is very important. He is holy and loves holiness.
8. I must live by hearing God's voice and obeying. I must let the blessings of my life propel me to love and thank God.
9. God goes before me as a cleansing fire to help me win the battles of life.
10. I must get going—lead my people—live in God's presence in holy reverence—live a good life.
11. I'm to love and follow God for the remaining fifty years of my life.
12. God requires pure worship and deep celebration in His presence. Blood is life.

13. I want to live a life of deep reverence before God. Show me what that means.
14. The tithe is God's way. Always obey it.
15. God's rule of seven years of debt is wise. We need to practice it and have generous hearts.
16. God's rhythms of deliverance and blessings are important. Three times a year, men.
17. God is the Farmer—I'm the plant (John 15). I'm to make my ultimate home in Him.
18. Nations are driven out due to sin—killing children, witchcraft, drugs and occult practices.
19. The shedding of innocent blood really pollutes a nation. We must deal with the guilt of abortion.
20. God has humane instructions for war, including the role of the clergy to encourage the troops.
21. God cares about everything—blood guilt, POW's unloved wives, rebellious children and respect for criminals.
22. Kindness, purity and purging evil in society are important to God.
23. Integrity and purity. I must always do what I say.
24. Deal with sin ruthlessly. Care deeply for the needs of others.
25. Be humane. Cherish family. Be sexually pure. Have honest money. Erase the memory of evil leaders.
26. I must honor tithing and live the way God has commanded me knowing I am his treasure.
27. God's curse comes upon idolatry, disrespecting parents, greed, injustice, sexual sin, murder, and a refusal to obey.
28. I want to live in obedient holy awe before God so that his fullest blessings may be on my life.
29. We're not here to "live the way we please." We are here to keep covenant over many generations.
30. The Revival Chapter—if we seriously return to God, He will completely restore us to his favor.

31. I am to be strong and take courage the rest of my life. God—please illumine.
32. I must put into practice all the words of God—they are my life.
33. God has distinct callings/blessings for individuals, families, tribes and nations. I must fulfill mine.
34. Moses finishes his course and dies a servant of the Lord. I want to do the same.

May 7, 2003 - 17,902 - 12,813

We finished the Dining Hall project at Discovery Bay just in time for the International Leadership of Kings Kids to come in and be its first inhabitants. I was dirt-tired when we neared the end and had to leave before the final flurry of putting it back together.

On Saturday morning, April 26, I spoke at a breakfast at Christ Memorial on “Back to Jerusalem.” It was well received, and I left with people praying around the tables. Shirley then took me to the airport, and I set off on a whirlwind trip across country.

Asheville, North Carolina

Arriving at Washington Dulles airport at nearly midnight, I rented a car and proceeded to drive nearly five hundred miles through the night to Asheville, North Carolina. Munching on snacks, sipping fruit juice, and talking to Shirley on our cell phones helped keep me awake. I arrived at the Ridgecrest Conference Center around 7 am—checked in—and began the sessions of the North American Conference at 8:30am. Short night.

There were about 200 YWAM leaders at the conference—and it was an excellent time of fellowship with old friends and meeting some new ones. Over half of the participants were young people—praise the Lord. There was great teaching on leadership and very good interactive fellowship. God really spoke to me during the time about my life’s calling—some things to pray about in the future—and once again made me feel comfortable with my YWAM peers. It was great to be in a small group with Peter Iliyn, John Bills, and Dave Gustaveson. There was much to relate.

Washington, D.C.

On the 23rd anniversary of Washington For Jesus (April 29), I had to leave the conference

early in the morning (rising at 3:30am) to drive back to Washington DC. After returning my rental car and settling in at my home in Fairfax, I took the subway to the White House for a meeting with Tim Goeglin, an assistant to President Bush. It was a good briefing. The president has many strong and godly people around him. We didn't get to meet President Bush, but he was aware of our meeting.

That day we began our annual YMEC meetings in Alexandria—and they were excellent. Had good times with Matt Nocas discussing the Athens Olympics and global gathering for True Love Waits. On the Wednesday we had briefings at the Heritage Foundation and in the office of Senator Rick Santorum. Great people and good truths to ponder. We ended our YMEC meetings at Joe Theismann's restaurant in Old Alexandria. As usual, it was a productive time of fellowship and strategy.

On May 1, the National Day of Prayer, I met Gloria Riedesel, interning in DC, for the meetings on Capitol Hill. A few leaders met at the White House with the President for breakfast (filmed live by Fox Cable News) and then the Cannon Building meetings began at 9:30 am and lasted until and 2:30pm. Fox also broadcast much of those proceedings to the nation. It was a wonderful time of prayer for the nation—with much depth and honoring of God. Luis Palau gave the keynote address, and John Ashcroft, Senator Jim Talent, quarterback Kurt Warner, and many others shared testimonies and encouragements.

It was the godliest NDP I've ever experienced. God is moving in our nation—and that brings me great hope. After the prayer meeting, Gloria and I visited 133 C St, had dinner at a Chinese restaurant and then attended the evening festivities with Corinthia Boone on the grassy area near the west steps of the Capitol. It was a beautiful evening of worship, prayer to God in many languages, and a phenomenal spirit of unity.

The next day I attended an all-day meeting of the National Prayer Committee. David Bryant was stepping down, and Dave Butts coming into leadership. It was also a very sweet and powerful time. After resting and seeing some friends on Saturday, I spoke at King's Chapel on Sunday morning, met with more friends, and then had Chip Grange take me to the airport Monday morning. After a five-hour flight back to the west coast, I had a delightful three hours with "my boys" at LAX airport. It is neat to see them growing up. We love and miss them so much—and pray that they will fulfill God's plans for their lives.

Port Orchard, Washington

I came home later in the evening to my wonderful wife and companion—and those that are still at home.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for this wearying but inspiring trip. I am sobered and encouraged

about your works in our land. Now that **the Iraq War is over (in about 26 days)**, we look to you as our source of blessing and strength—and pray that your Spirit will be poured out all over the world. I love you with all my heart and dedicate the remaining days of my life to your calling and purposes. Lead me clearly in the path you’ve laid out for me.

May 25, 2003 - 17,920 - 12,795

I reached another milestone in my life. **In March of 1990—over thirteen years ago, I moved into a leadership role with first Christian Church. That eventually led to eldership, and many special moments giving leadership to our home fellowship and seeing God do some great things during that time (worship explosion, King’s Kids, missions growth, community involvement etc.).**

Well, this week after meeting with Kevin, I finally made the agonizing decision to step down from the eldership to allow Kevin and those he favors to take the church in the purpose-driven direction he so desires. His vision for the church appears to a contemporary worship, seeker sensitive, Bible Church—and I don’t feel I have much to offer to a church headed that direction.

This will be a painful divorce for us, but God has helped me to be positive and grateful for the goodness of the past thirteen years. In my resignation letter, I simply thanked the other guys for the wonderful privilege of working with them. That’s what’s in my heart. Though I have many regrets about stepping down—knowing that it may be the beginning of our severing of local church ties—there are no doubts. A season is over and a great season of comradery and ministry it was. A new season lies ahead.

Lord Jesus—thank you for the **leadership years at First Christian Church**. Thank you for the tremendous ways that the church blessed our lives. I ask you to bless them—to take them forward—to grow them to 500—and explode them into all the world. Please guide us as to our involvements, and/or our re-planting in a new local fellowship. We don’t know what to do. But our eyes are on you.

June 14, 2003 - 17,110 - 12,775

Another scheduled event took place this last week and I’m glad it’s over. On Monday, **June 9, I had back surgery to repair the damage of two bad disks and ensuing pinched nerves.** I’d had leg pain now for a few years that comes and goes but was basically getting worse. Monday evening Dr. Kristopher Kain did a full-blown laminectomy and now the leg pain is gone—praise the Lord—but many weeks of recover are ahead.

I’m slowly getting better and better each day as I convalesce at home. This was one of the final things to be done to “repair” my aged body before entering the next stage of my life.

With throat pain long gone, and now leg pain removed, I truly feel strengthened to move on with my life. It's a part of that 50-year Jubilee—of rest, renewal, and I guess, repair.

While I was walking in the garden today, God also reminded me that this year is the HALFWAY point of my Christian life. I've been a follower of Christ for 35 years and I expect (or hope) for another 35. God seems to be “repairing” and freeing me to thrust me into the final half of my life's destiny. I'm excited about the journey—and want to make it only and for Him.

June 22, 2003 - 17,118 - 12,767

Today was a very special quiet time with Jesus. Thank you, Lord, for the abundance of your revelation. I delight in your greatness and am encouraged through your truth.

First, God's Word really ministered to me today. In my Old Testament reading I was greatly inspired by the life of the priest, Jehoida, who brought Joash into the Kingship of Judah and instructed him throughout his life. He was a man God used to make *covenants* between leaders and nations. He was an advisor-counselor to kings—and so beloved by the people that when he died at the age of 130(!) He was honored by being buried in the kings' tombs.

There is something that speaks deeply to my life about the destiny of Jehoida. Lord—apply those truths in my life path in the future.

In the New Testament reading, I was greatly inspired by Eugene Peterson's translation of Galatians 5—the *Freedom* chapter. The life of the “flesh” was so rightly described as empty and loveless, and the life of the Spirit so profoundly filled with fruit and blessings.

I then had a wonderful time praying for God's Church all over the world, in the State of Washington, and here in Kitsap County. God showed me how the gradual move of “pastors-only” leading churches has hurt the advance of God's Kingdom. There needs to be a true release of all the leadership gifts of the Church—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers—and this needs to take place in every congregation. It's the secret to powerful, full-orbed ministry. May God awaken the Church and release her fullness upon the earth during these important days.

My heart is so full of God this morning. How immense and awesome He is. How worthy He is of our praise and exuberance. As we have our Agape Fellowship gathering this evening, may God come into our midst, revealing Himself, and showing us the way. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for this very special time this morning—on your Lord's day—in your presence.

Los Angeles, California

August 5, 2003 - 17,163 - 12,722

We've just returned from a **good vacation with Nathan and David in Los Angeles**. Prior to leaving, the month of July was filled with a great 4th of July gathering at our house that went, as usual, into the wee hours of the morning, and then **the great disappointment of the Mongolian basketball team, led by Dembee, defecting upon arrival into the United States**.

I spent many days trying to figure out the whereabouts of this team, only to learn slowly over time that they had deceived us, used our invitation letter to enter the US illegally, and then scattered all over the country. Seven are still at large here in America, and two of the younger boys went home. Much money, and time was wasted on preparing for this group.

It was especially hurtful to Steve and Watkins who invested much in Dembee and this trip. Donna practically cried her heart out when the plot was discovered. I've learned from this that we need to have either trustworthy nationals or Western people accompany Third World teams. It was quite a revelation on the wickedness of the human heart. We all have that potential.

Back to California Dreamin.' We drove to Portland, Oregon in our '93 Geo Prizm on Saturday, July 19 and attended my cousin Brad's wedding. His True Love paid off. At 39 and still a virgin, he married a girl who was 19 (Monique) and ready for him. Great God-honoring wedding. They will make a fine couple. After overnighting in Oregon, we then traveled the next day to Stockton, CA where we spent the night (temperature was in the 100's). The next day we arrived in Woodland Hills and reunited with the boys. We spent an enjoyable two weeks with them in their Versailles apartment.

Our two weeks together were varied and restful. One day we visited the Getty Museum and strolled around its lush and beautiful grounds and galleries; another day we had a delightful time at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley. Quite touching and insightful. (For the remainder of the vacation, I began to read Ronald Reagan's biography called "Dutch" by Edmund Morris). One evening we took all four of the boys to the Cheesecake Factory. Another night we went rock climbing with Nathan.

A couple days we went down to the beach in Malibu, once with David and once with both boys. Beautiful. On a Thursday the six of us went to Disneyland and enjoyed the sights and rides (The Lincoln exhibit is still my favorite, followed my missionary vision of It's a Small World). A number of days we also just hung out at the pool, took walks, and went to the "Commons" shopping area to have ice cream and browse in Barnes & Noble. On other days some family members went to movies and the little boys constantly played with the bigger guys at video games. There was "In & Out Burgers," Jamba Juice, and plenty of McDonalds.

I especially enjoyed some personal time with both David and Nathan. One evening I took

David out for a treat and we had a good chat about his life. Another day Nathan and I attended some seminars at the YWAM Global Arts Gathering at BIOLA. I really enjoyed David Cunningham and another seminar on film-making that was very insightful. We had a good talk going and coming.

On the one Sunday we attended Cornerstone Church where Nathan goes. Francis Chang gave a powerful message on stepping out in faith in our lives. Greatly fed my soul. On our last Friday night, we went with Route 7 downtown where they performed on a large stage in Hollywood at the conclusion of the YWAM conference. It was a great evening with YWAM friends—and watching our boys play. There were people from forty nations in attendance besides those drawn in from the street. Great outreach to the entertainment capital of the world.

The final Saturday morning in LA we went out to breakfast with the guys in Malibu. The actor Anthony Hopkins was seated at a table next to us. Then we said our goodbyes and began driving up the coast.

After reaching Red Bluff in northern California (where I'd ministered a few years ago), we decided to cross a large state park and visit the redwood forest near Eureka. It turned out to be a 170-mile drive through gorgeous but winding terrain. Halfway through I realized that we didn't have enough gas to make it. Spotting a lighted house in the middle of nowhere, we sheepishly asked if we could buy some gas.

They freely gave us four gallons and a pit stop, and we were on our way. When we arrived in Eureka, we discovered that every motel room within an 80-mile radius was full, and so we had our first serious "adventure" with our little guys: We spent the night in our car. Not the most comfortable. The next day we wearily made our way home. Great 3000-mile trip.

God really spoke to me about some things in California:

1. That the sins of California really center around the pervasiveness of the media that is head-quartered there. There is incredible lust on display everywhere and this is troublesome to the heart and mind. There is also an abundance of profanity—and I believe this is fueled by the movies. I constantly had to keep my heart clean when encountering these temptations.
2. The visit to the Reagan Library and all that is going on in California right now (record state deficit—\$38 billion dollars, and the recall of Democratic governor Gray Davis) really stimulated my thinking about a future role in public office. I can see a lot of myself in Ronald Reagan: An early different career, a growing desire to be involved politically, a well thought through moral and political philosophy, and then late in life—running for state and then national office. What does God have for me? Only He knows.
3. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, died while we were in California—

his former home state. I thought much on his valuable, Christ-entered and world-impacting life. What a great man. I learned a few things from Bill Bright: How to keep my heart pure after being betrayed, the importance of having the Great Commission at the center of my life motivations, and a great love for America and revival. Bill Bright never saw revival in America in his lifetime—but he did see outpourings in other parts of the world. Will I see it in mine? I want to be as determined as he was to do the will of God.

4. Film making is telling a good story, and all good stories are based on the Christian ideal of redemption. Hollywood should be pumping out redemptive analogies of every sort and blessing and encouraging the world. I will use these new insights as fuel for my prayers.

5. How God has really answered my prayers for revelation during this jubilee year of my life. I really feel that it's a time of change of direction for me—for personal heart renewal, finishing some of the YWAM foundations that have been laid, finishing my education and possibly doing graduate work, and then maybe taking a stab at public life later in mine.

As always, I am in prayer and wholly dependent on the God's awesome and wonderful grace. Thank you, Father, for a great time with family. Thanks for being the God of each of our destinies.

Port Orchard, Washington

September 30, 2003 - 17,219 - 12,666

The summer finished with some flurries of activities:

I spent much of my off time renovating a 19-foot travel trailer that we have been given by the Shuck family. It's a gift that our family has been praying about for years. It was in pretty bad shape, but after many days of scrubbing, painting, taping, and re-modeling, it's now a beautiful new creation. Reminds me of the ways God takes a life and makes everything new.

We've put the YWAM house on the market after much prayer and the certainty that God is leading us to "move our center up north." After many twists and turns, we have found a wonderful family—Ron and Stephanie Kessler and their four daughters—who have made an offer that our board has accepted. Now we're just waiting for their home to sell and the deal to be finalized. This is a big step, but in one fell swoop it will allow us to become debt-free and raise substantial capital funds to expand our work at Discovery Bay. Lord—we ask for your blessing in this great step.

I'm getting closer and closer to going back to school to finish my degree. I believe it is clearly the leading of God and though it is a stretch—I believe He will bless it. I will be attending the Northwest College LEAP Program and it will take me 2-3 years to finish my BA and go on to a graduate degree. I am doing it in sheer obedience—after laying it down thirty years ago. May God guide me every step of the way.

We just finished our annual YWAM WA staff retreat. It was attended by about seventy staff from four bases in the area. God really used Wick Nease to speak to us about our destiny, passion, and going back to basics in raising up missionaries. It was great to spend time with Wick after so many years. He's a great, mature, man of God.

Next week I leave for Greece to begin the preparations for the Olympics. It's not an easy time for me in my spirit, but I'm holding onto the God and trying to obey Him at this stage in my life. It doesn't get easier—but Heaven gets closer. Lord-willing, I still have HALF of my ministry life—35 years—to serve my God and King. I want to do it fervently, effectively and completely in His will. Please lead me, O my God.

Athens, Greece

October 16, 2003 - 17,235 - 12,650

I just returned from a wonderful trip to Greece. It was a time of an “open heaven” as God really moved among the leaders there and gave us great vision for breaking the strongholds in that nation that have affected the world for centuries and pouring out His Spirit upon the 2004 Olympic Games. Here are the highlights:

Was great to travel through Germany. I prayed for revival in the land and thanked God for taking me there thirty years ago to learn his ways and begin my missionary calling.

Delphi, Greece (near Corinth)

After a day wait at the airport in Athens, we traveled three hours up the northern side of the Gulf of Corinth to the site of the conference—the 2,000-population hill-side town of Delphi. It's a quaint and romantic place with it seems scores of hotels and restaurants. I moved into my room at the Akropole hotel, overlooking the beautiful Gulf of Corinth (in the distance).

The first afternoon I went up the Temple of Apollo—some ruins on the hillside. It is from here that the “Oracle of Delphi”—i.e. demonic divination—came to the people of the Greek Empire over hundreds of years. Delphi is called the navel of the world and is purportedly the place where Apollo rode a dolphin and established his home.

In Delphi, women channelers called Pythia went into trances and gave guidance to peoples and nations (including Alexander the Great). It's a major spiritual stronghold. As I reached the top of the ruin site it began to pour down rain and I got drenched! But not after praying that God would redeem this place and send forth his *rhema and logos* to the ends of the earth.

For the next week we had **great meetings at the European Cultural Center—about 100-200 in attendance** depending on the evening. Matt Nocas gave good leadership to messages and prayer times that helped prepare us for next year's Games and how God wanted to transform the nation of Greece.

Jeff Fountain gave some wise insights into the influence of Greece on the world; Cindy Jacobs gave some powerful prophetic words; Nancy Wilson inspired us (and modeled) on lifestyle evangelism; and John Dawson came and gave encouragement. It was a very powerful week of worship, prayer, and spiritual food.

During the week we had an opportunity to witness to many of the town's folks and a some of them dedicated their lives to Christ. Even the mayor was deeply moved and invited all of us to his offices.

On Friday night October 10—our 27th wedding anniversary— we had a large Greek feast at a local restaurant complete with scrumptious food, toasts, and dancing. Wild time.

On the Sunday I attended the Greek Orthodox Church on the hill. It was very dour and repetitious, but the service was packed, and I learned a few things about being non-judgmental toward these ancient churches. In many ways they are seeking God—they have just not allowed any new wineskins to bring renewal in their midst.

The final days of the conference was a Prayer Summit which was very good. Jonathan Macris of Hellenic Ministries gave a powerful vision for Operation Gideon—the summer outreach that will focus on the 75 islands of Greece. We are excited about coming next summer and adopting the city of Naphlio—the ancient capital of the country.

Athens, Greece

On the final day I rode into Athens with Nancy Wilson and we spent the days praying with others at the Ly Cavatos (which gives a 360-degree view of the five-million-person city Athens) and Mars Hill. We even witnessed to some tourists there. Also had dinner at the Plaka and then after spending all night at the airport, I made my way home to America.

At the airport I also caught up with Richard Ross and we had a good strategic meeting about the True Love Waits rally. God is really opening the right doors. May He use the event

next August 22 to awaken the youth of the world to radical and faithful purity.

It was a wonderful time in God's presence in Greece. I felt like the Lord really spoke to me about the ministry to come and many other areas of my life. On the plane back to Seattle I had one other treat. A stewardess on the plane noticed that I was reading Oliver North's novel "Mission Compromised."

After chatting for a bit and learning that she had done an outreach with YWAM in Guatemala, she said to me, "Would you like to meet Mr. North? He's on the plane—sitting in the third row up front!" I was dumbfounded and made my way to the front of the plane. For a good amount of time, I chatted with Oliver North. He was warm, sincere, and a pleasure to talk with. We have many mutual friends in Virginia—and he also graciously agreed to sign my book. Quite an encouraging ending to a great and enlightening trip.

I'm excited about calling the world to prayer and evangelism at the Athens Olympics. Thank you, Lord, for such a wonderful trip to the land of Paul. May we be faithful to bring God's oracle to this needy and special nation.

Juncos, Puerto Rico

November 17, 2003 - 17, 267 - 12, 618

I've just returned from my latest annual trip to Puerto Rico. I believe I've been going to this wonderful island for six-seven years (I'll have to look it up). As usual, it was a wonderful time. . . in a very special place. . . with some very special friends.

Arriving on a Saturday, I spoke the first Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Guynabo. I gave a new message called "The War on Souls" and it greatly challenged and encouraged the people.

I spoke on revival once again to the largest student body they have ever had. There were 43 students from 13 different nations. They run such a quality DTS in Puerto Rico that I pray we can replicate it in Discovery Bay. That is our prayer for next year. During the beginning of the week I was struggling with strength in my throat (quite a few memories of that in PR), but after crying out and clinging to God, it settled down after the first few days and was manageable for me.

The students were very responsive to God's words. During the mornings I spoke on character, and in the evenings, when some night students were present, I spoke on revival. God really moved after the message on the "Wages of Sin" and there were many crying and groaning under conviction of sin and identifying with the broken heart of God. My own heart was very full of understanding of the awfulness of sin.

The next night I spoke on the "Secret of Happiness" and again God brought many to the

front to “sit in the chair” and die to their own desires and ambitions. It was a precious time in God’s presence and ended with a thrilling time of communion with our Savior and heart-felt praise. We “clapped for God” at the end of the service in a deep and prolonged way that I have never experienced in my life. It went on and on and on—worshiping the One who is worthy.

Toward the end of the week, Dean Harvey and his family arrived, and it was wonderful to spend a few days with them. We share special memories of twenty-five years ago—meeting at Berean Chapel in Chesapeake, Virginia. It’s wonderful to renew these precious friendships over the years. Dean and Shirley have now been married for fifty-two years and God continues to bless their family and ministry. That’s a great example to follow.

On Saturday, I did a leadership seminar on revival to about sixty leaders on the other side of the island. I felt a great anointing of God during the entire time and it led to great prayer and encouragement to the pastors and their staffs. I believe there will be a mighty revival on this island and thank God for the privilege of helping lift their eyes to Him.

On the final Sunday I spoke in an independent church in Carolina—Iglesia Christiana Emanuel, pastured by Nelson Peres. He and I had met at Earl Paulk’s church in Atlanta in 1992. He’s a great man of God and a real pastor. He was also my translator on Saturday at the seminar and did a great job. I spoke on “Conscience” to his congregation and scores of people came to front to confess their sins and cry out to God for a renewed conscience. Precious time ministering in God’s authority. In the evening I spoke in a charismatic Presbyterian church about an hour away, and again God graced the meeting with His power.

It was a joy to have my new lap-top on this trip. It’s a gem. I even did three college papers while I was here. There were many spiritual lessons, personal conviction of sin and repentance, and the gracious anointing on God upon my sharing of His Words. Lord Jesus, I never do tire of speaking your words of truth. Even when the throat is sore and the body is tired, it is still the greatest joy of my life to make known your ways and the wonder of your being. I give Puerto Rico to you. May you come in revival and use these special young people to impact the nations.

Port Orchard, Washington

November 28, 2003 - 17, 278 - 12, 607

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving yesterday—with our families as well as my brother Greg. I shared the story of Thanksgiving from Bradford’s History, we gave thanks for individual things, Ryan played some songs, and we feasted on the traditional trimmings. The special news

of the day was that President Bush made a surprise visit to Iraq to share Thanksgiving with the troops. Talk about shock & awe. What a great move. On our front: Family is such a wonderful thing. Lord Jesus—thank you for the blessing of family.

We have been through some trying times recently with Bethany as she sinks into her demonic stronghold. I've had such a heavy heart and desire to see her freed from her self-hatred, independence, occasional drugs, smoking, and weight loss through bulimia. At our staff meeting on Wednesday, Neil Harmsworth asked if anybody had a heavy heart, and I knew the word was for me—for Bethany. They all gathered around me and prayed. Deidra even groaned and wept uncontrollably as God gave her his heart of compassion for Beth. It was a special time.

The next day God spoke to me out of Psalm 20:

“God answer you on the day you crash...Send reinforcements from Holy Hill, dispatch from Zion fresh supplies. When you win, we will raise the roof and the lead the parade with our banners. May all your wishes come true!”

That clinches it—help's coming, an answer is on the way, everything's going to work out.”

I really believe that Bethany's time of deliverance is at hand. Last night we met with her and Deidra and again we spoke today. God—would you fulfill your word and arrange the circumstances for her deliverance—complete deliverance from the satanic bondage into the freedom of the children of God? I cry out for it in the Name of Jesus.

Fairbanks, Alaska

December 14, 2003 - 17,302 - 12, 583

It's been quite a day. I flew yesterday up to Anchorage, Alaska on my way to speak in Fairbanks. I got into Anchorage after midnight and caught a shuttle over to the Best Western Barrett which was near the airport. Plopping my things down in the fourth-floor hotel room, I fell into bed and went to sleep.

Early in the morning the ring of my cell phone awakened me. After fumbling around in the dark to find it, I heard Shirley say, “Ron, you've got to get up and turn on the TV. They got him. They got Sadaam Hussein.” After hanging up, I dressed and turned on the television set in the dark hotel room which had every station on the planet showing off the biggest prize of the Iraqi War—the capture of the aces of spades—some nine months after the war began.

Thus, began a long morning of watching the news coverage of a haggard and bewildered former dictator who had been taken into captivity at about 8:30pm on Saturday night, December

13. He had been found in a tiny “spider hole” by a farmhouse near his hometown of Tikrit. He had been pulled from the hole without a fight as his bodyguards scattered. One of the greatest manhunts of history was over.

It was a joyous day of celebration all over the world. President Bush applauded the news and congratulations poured in from many nations. As I pondered this answer to prayer throughout the day, I wondered how this would affect the toppling of the Babylonian stronghold that has ruled Iraq for millenniums. Was this the beginning of a mighty liberation of God’s Spirit in the Middle East? There is much to ponder and pray over in that regard.

After a walk to McDonalds for breakfast (it was still dark at 10am—only about 4-5 hours of daylight) I caught a shuttle to the airport and took a flight north to Fairbanks, arriving just before 3pm. Ken and Barb Wallace, our YWAM Alaska directors, picked me up at the airport. Fairbanks is a city of about 30,000 people (more counting military bases) that is a winter wonderland this time of year.

The trees were flaked with snow and the temperature was a cool 5 degrees Fahrenheit. We traveled out to the YWAM house—a large lodge-like building on seven acres that they purchased two years ago. It’s a wonderful northern frontier outpost with moose roaming the nearby forests and a gun cabinet signifying we’re in hunter’s territory.

North Pole, Alaska

In the evening we drove fifteen minutes west to North Pole Alaska—the unofficial home of Santa Claus (great gift shop owned by believers). **The First Baptist Church of North Pole was putting on a Singing Christmas Tree presentation in the 300-seat sanctuary. It was incredibly Christ-honoring—one of the best Spirit-filled Christmas presentations I have ever seen.** It really spoke deeply to my heart. Throughout the service, **God was also speaking to me about my future—possibly running for office.**

1. There was a reason He motivated me to write my first book on the US Presidency.
2. How world view is the issue of this century.
3. **How I need to write a book on world view** and *The God Millennium*.

Fairbanks, Alaska

I then spoke to the students at the school for the remainder of the week on Character and God’s Word. Good time—especially a breakthrough evening on *The Secret of Happiness*. Friday

night I flew home on a “red eye special.” Another privilege of speaking for God—in the frozen north.

Port Orchard, Washington

Monday, I did a memorial for Phyllis Holt who died suddenly last week. It was a touching service with family and friends. Now we prepare for Christmas and a New Year. Jesus—you are the Goal of it all.

December 31, 2003 - 17, 319 - 12, 566

Another year has come to an end. As usual, it's been a year of both blessing and testing. I really do thank God for speaking to me throughout this my 50th year about the future—and certain tracks that I am to pursue. I believe 2004 will be both a revival year for the world, and a preparation year for me. May I be diligent and faithful in the details.

It was wonderful to have David and Nathan home for Christmas for five days. It was a whirlwind time but also very special. We sure miss those guys—but are excited about them growing up and fulfilling God's destiny on their lives. It was a blessing to have all four of our parents still with us. How could we ever show our appreciation for all they've meant to us.

Most of all Lord Jesus—THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACE shared with us this year. I am not worthy of any of your blessings, but I long to know you more, and to use this last 35 year stretch of my life on earth in full pursuit of obeying you. Help me to persevere with joy. I give 2004 into your very capable hands.