

The Journal of Ron Boehme - 2005

Port Orchard, Washington

January 31, 2005 -17,350 -12,535

A busy month in a new year has again flown by. From a YWAM standpoint, I've been holding down the fort while our DTS teams are actively engaged in ministry in both Chin and The Gambia. Reports from both areas are very encouraging. What a privilege it is to travel the world and tell the Good News about Jesus. I'm proud of our teams who are doing a good job on the field.

My schooling continues this year at Northwest University. I've finally settled into my student role and generally enjoy the learning. I did give some advice to Don Doty on how the LEAP course can become more Christian-world view centered- that's one of its weaknesses. He appreciated the perspective and would love for me to help them improve it. I have about sixteen months to complete my degree. May the Lord help me.

Monroe, Washington

On January 6, I drove up to Monroe and spoke to the Korean Team led by David Ross. It's a great group of people committed to reaching the Koreans in the area and training others to share their faith. They have a nice eight-acre property nestle din the hills above the town. They're building a gorgeous training facility that almost looks like an "ark" sitting on the property. It's mammoth and coming together slowly (and debt-free) under David's capable leadership. It was my joy to spend the day with them.

Poulsbo, Washington

I enjoyed meeting Pastor Joe Fuiten of Cedar Park Assembly of God on January 8 at a breakfast in Poulsbo. He's one of the visionary Christian leaders of Washington State, and I really would like to work with him in the future regarding governmental transformation. He's especially carrying the ball for the defense of marriage issue - and I enjoyed sitting next to him and chatting with him before he spoke to the Roundtable.

We are launching a Mentoring Initiative with the South Kitsap School District, and I'm helping Rick Best with that project. Hopefully, we will enlist hundreds of Christian adults to invest their lives in an SK student-possibly beginning at the six-grade level. It's an

exciting project that we call CHAMPS (Churches as Mentors in Partnership with Schools). It was my joy to be the visionary of this thrust, and now help behind the scenes. It has the potential of really discipling a community. Father- go before us and help us tear down the secular stronghold in the schools.

Hood Canal, Washington

Shirley and I enjoyed our annual weekend at Selah Inn January 22-23. We are so grateful to Pat & Bonnie McCullough for allowing us to come each year. It was a precious time. On Sunday I spoke at the PO Nazarene Church on missions as they baptized a girl who is going into YWAM. It was a wonderful "call to missions" service." This coming Sunday I will be speaking in St. Paul's Anglican Church up north with Duncan and Sharron Clark. This church made the courageous step of leaving the US Episcopal Church over the ordination of a practicing homosexual bishop. God will bless their resolve.

Yesterday was a glorious day in world history as eight million Iraqis went to the polls to elect a democratic government. We practically cried as we watched them experience this type of freedom for the first time in their lives. It was stunning and powerful! We are praying that the freedom of Iraq will now light a forest fire of cultural change in ALL the Muslim nations. Is this just the beginning of a staggering renewal of the Middle East and Muslim world through the power of freedom and the Good news of Christ? That is our hope and prayer.

I am still praying about my future steps. Should I run for public office? Is this a major time of change in my life that I need to approach with faith, wisdom, and commitment? Is God really wanting me to give the remainder of my life to the cultural transformation realm? I seem to go back and forth about this decision. Lord, I ask you to confirm your will to me, and give me the faith to "become what I believe."

Port Orchard, Washington

February 10, 2005 - 17,361 - 12,524

It was a privilege to speak at the PO Nazarene Church two weeks ago. A girl was being baptized and was going to YWAM in England and they wanted me to share on YWAM and missions. That was a blessing-and many hearts were touched. The next Sunday I spoke at St. Charles Anglican in Poulsbo and St. Paul's in Port Gamble.

These are active parishes who recently left the Episcopal Church over the issue of homosexual bishops-and God is blessing them for their stand. Duncan Clark, the rector, is married to Sharron Lopez who is our long-time "California hippie" friend. Both churches have a real heart for missions, and I tried to stir them up by speaking on "Jesus is Winning." Great time in the Anglican world.

Today on Ash Wednesday we begin another thirty day fast until Easter. This year I am having birdseed in the morning and fasting lunch and dinner. I'll be meditating in Deuteronomy and reading the Federalist Papers. **Lord-confirm to me your direction for this next phase of my life.**

March 8, 2005 - 17,387 - 12,498

I'm just finishing a partial 23-day fast during the Lenten season. I was not able to fast this year as in past years, but I still tried to devote at least a meal a day to seeking the Lord and studying his Word. It was not an easy time, as many things are going on in my life, but I'm thankful for the time spent with my Lord. I decided to once again meditate in the book of Deuteronomy--and following are the daily revelations:

- "On your way now. Get moving..." "I've given you this land. Now go in and take it." Scout out the land." "This same God goes ahead of you."
- God gives LANDS to people. We must obey his instruction. Don't fear the monsters, ghosts, and barbarians.
- We are not to fear God's assignments. Remember past victories. Encourage others.
- "Listen." Listen carefully. God listens to us. "Stay vigilant as long as you live."
- The Ten Commands. The importance of society respecting God and people.
- **I want to walk in deep reverence before God all my life.**
- God is the only superpower. He wants to eradicate disease. We'll triumph bit by bit.
- "Walk down the road he shows you." Obedience and reverence are paramount duties.
- We don't earn God's "going ahead of us." We need to remember our sins.
- "Live in his presence with holy reverence." "Follow the road he sets out for you."
- God is the gardener of Israel. I stand at a crossroads and must obey.
- As in time's past, the church is meant to be the "common center" of society.
- Drawing people to other gods is a great sin. Strong consequences are a deterrent.
- A balanced life is deep in reverence for God while feasting and rejoicing in his presence.
- The importance of limited debt- only seven years-and the canceling of all debts every seven years.
- God wants us to CELEBRATE his goodness. "Pursue only what's right."

- Every leader should have a "personal scroll." **Must always have my Bible.**
- God values loyalty. We must reject all pagan cultural practices.
- The "pollution" of wrongful murder must be cleaned out of our land.
- There are rules for war. Ministers inspire, commanders admonish. Don't hurt the earth.
- "Ground" is important to God. It can be cursed, defiled, and polluted.
- We must care for people and property. We must keep sexual relationships healthy and pure.
- I must not do anything indecent or offensive to God.

Olympia, Washington

On March 8 I drove to Olympia and spent a portion of the day with Senator Bob Oke. Was able to meet with the Senate Caucus and watch Bob on the floor. Then I joined 10,000 others for the Mayday for Marriage rally on the Capitol Grounds which was powerful. Was great to see many leader friends. I'm still much in prayer about the future and will make some decisions soon. Lead me, Lord Jesus. My future is in your hands alone.

March 26, 2005 - 17,405 - 12,480

I've just returned from an **incredible trip to Mongolia with Mike Proctor and three other Christian leaders.** It was an amazing time which I'll piece together below from e-mails that I sent home to Shirley.

Seoul, South Korea

We had an uneventful trip here--all planes were on time with no problems. It is a 12-hour flight from LA to Seoul, and then after a four hour lay-over, we flew three and a half more hours to Mongolia. When we arrived, **it was minus twenty-four degrees F.** It's cool and crisp with snow on the ground.

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Many Mongols came to meet us. Mike and his guys went with Pastor Bat and their group and I came come with Bold. I'm in the same apartment as two years ago--and same bedroom, so I feel comfortable. I'm looking forward to a good time in the city of Ulaanbaatar.

I have a whole bedroom to myself--which is luxurious in Mongolia. For example, Bold and Dorchand sleep in the living room on a single bed, and there are also bunk beds in the living room where children sleep, and Bata, an 18-yr. old guy that they are discipling. Not much privacy. And the room is probably the size of the boys' bedrooms (for four people, no closets etc.)

It's cold here, though I haven't been outside yet today. Windows are all frosted over, and I'm sure it's below zero. Today is an easy day where I'll go around with Bold and meet with a pastor friend for dinner. I don't really start speaking until Sunday morning and then all next week.

We had a good day yesterday. Late morning, we traveled across town to where Mike and the others began putting together the recording studio. The four guys are staying in a rented apartment they have share--so that's good for them. It's within walking distance of the studio. The studio is about 15 by 20 feet long--made of two freight containers that they spliced together, wired and insulated making just enough room for a band to record. We spent some time getting it set up and then went out for "pizza" for lunch.

In the afternoon Bold and I drove out to ager ghetto to deliver some letters to a Kathy Riggs, a friend of the Watkins. She's a Mother Theresa-type who works among the down and out of UB running a soup kitchen, alcoholic counseling, educational stuff, and she also plants churches. She's a mixed race of Mongol and Filipino. Had a good visit with her.

After that, I had dinner with Batbold, the senior pastor of Bold's church (two years ago they combined their churches together into one fellowship called Living Word. Bat is the senior (preaching) pastor and Bold is the executive (administrative) pastor. I had a great meal with Bat hearing about the Mongol churches and their needs (he's the president of their national fellowship). There are now 30,000 believers in the nation in about 170 churches. PTL. I also enjoyed my first "Horse steak." It is a little sweeter than beef, and very good.

Got up early this morning and had a great quiet time for my birthday. God really spoke to me out of Psalm 71 and John 3. What a privilege to have served God all these years. I'm very grateful to be his son. After that, I took a prayer walk outside. It is still about 20 below zero, and the walk was very cold. My eyes would water and then they would freeze. Just barely kept warm in my wonderful coat. An hour ago, we had breakfast, and soon we'll begin some visits. I hope to see Zaya, Battulga's widow, this morning.

It is now almost 8:30pm and it's dark and cold after a clear and crisp day. I was able to see Zaya (Battulga's widow) this afternoon and we had a nice visit. Her two children, Itgel and Ivil), are about eight and five now. They're cute kids who need a dad-and they

really responded to my giving them some attention. I think that Zaya is really growing in her faith, and that is great to see. I think the death of Battulga forced her into a personal faith. I hope to work more with her in the future.

I also took a prayer walk in the cold and just thanked God for 52 years of life. If I was a Mongol, I would be 53 because they count the time that you were in the womb as your first year. That's a pretty good argument against abortion.

Tomorrow I will begin speaking in the Living Word Church- first on missions and then my series on world view, marriage, raising children, and the Christian home. The believers here are establishing the first-ever Christian families and they are very hungry to learn God 's ways. That's very refreshing.

It's another below zero day of sunshine and frigidity. I'm glad our apartment is nice and cozy. After preaching this morning, I'm going out to lunch with some pastors. I'm not sure whether I'll see Mike and the others today. They will be at Bat's church.

The church service at Living Word was tremendous, filled with young people and great excitement. They meet in a rented hall in the center of town-nice theater type. They have a fabulous praise band that is even better than FCC. I really enjoyed the worship. Then I spoke for about 45 minutes with Bold translating. They really responded to my message on "The Secret of Happiness."

It was a privilege to be with them. The Body of Christ has really matured over the past eight years. Their services are large, powerful, contain great worship, they use Power Point, and everything is well developed. They are a church that practices G-12-a discipling strategy where everyone is being discipling and is discipling another person. It's a great concept that works well in cultures that are strong on authority (like Latin America). It fits well here.

After the service I went out with the pastoral team to a Korean restaurant and had great food and fellowship. They would love to send one of their leaders every year to our DTS-and we are pursuing that. Would be a great linkage with the work in Mongolia.

I'm feeling a little "stomach stuff" this morning as you usually do here. Please pray for that. I don't want to be speaking in the evenings and feel like I need to run to the bathroom every few minutes. (I speak for a straight two-hour segment-so that won't work.) I can't complain because I rarely get as sick as others on trips like this.

Must be a lot of germs in my stomach.

I just took a little break for breakfast. I had Mongol "cream of wheat" they call "cash." It's more liquid than ours and with butter in it. Hope it helps my stomach. Dorchand and their son Eruca are off for school (Dorchand goes to a Bible School run by the church and taught by Americans). Bold is still sleeping. He's a night person. After he wakes, we'll sort out our priority meetings for the day before I speak tonight.

I heard there is so much interest in the teachings tonight on the Christian family that there will be people in two rooms, and they will video into the second room. It's so exciting to teach spiritually hungry people. How do we restore that spiritual hunger in the United States? We're missing so much.

The weather is in a warming trend. I bet the high reached 20 degrees yesterday. Balmy for Mongolia! (Actually, the cold weather has been unusual for them. It's usually warmer than this in March.)

Yesterday was my hard day, but I'm sure that prayer carried me through. My stomach was bad in the morning, and then I felt chills and almost the aches and pains associated with the flu. I was so cold I laid down under the covers with my clothes on and prayed and prayed. I tried to rest in the afternoon so that I could make it through the evening. At about 5:30pm we went to the center of town where the church rents a hall for the week's seminar. It was absolutely packed.

They put people on chairs and benches everywhere and had to tum people away. We started with a great worship time (they love to worship here) and then I spoke non-stop for over two hours. I asked them if they wanted a break in the middle. They said NO-their people were hungry for God's Word. I was weak, but I've learned over the years to trust God for the strength to minister, and he was faithful to carry me through. I didn't eat anything all day, but just drank Sprite to try and help my tummy.

I laid the foundation last night of the importance of having a Christian world view in every area of life. Tonight, and Tuesday night I will speak on Marriage, then Child-raising, and finally the Christian home. These basics are unheard of in their culture, and they are soaking it in.

I was tired and weak when we got home about 9:30pm so I went right to bed. This morning I had to get up at 5am to speak at the Mongolian Evangelical Alliance meeting (the local pastors' fellowship). There were about fifteen pastors, and I encouraged them to have world vision-not just to focus on their city and nation. That God wants all his people to be

World Christians-praying for, giving to, and going into all the world. It was well received. We had good worship, prayer time together, and fellowship. It is a precious group of young pastors.

It's warmed up a bit here-probably 25-30 degrees. Not as nice as back home. I have some preparing for tonight to do before I go to see Sharva and Dembe. All my teachings are being translated into Mongolian and put on Power Point. That greatly helps in the receiving of the teaching.

It was a good day. I was able to meet with Sharva in the afternoon and to see Dembe. Sharva seems backslidden in his faith, but I spoke into his life very clearly and I hope that he responds. Dembe and I arranged to meet on Saturday and talk about the "problem." Please pray for that time. I long to see repentance and reconciliation in that relationship.

The evening seminar was again packed, even though we moved to a larger meeting hall. I spoke for two hours and was told that it really helped the people. They know little about godly principles and are really soaking it in.

Tomorrow I will spend some time with Zaya talking about a basketball camp. Then the evening seminar will continue. I think the temperature got above freezing today as there were puddles and mud springing up everywhere. It's getting balmy in tropical Mongolia.

Well, I've finished another day in Mongolia. We just came home from the evening seminar and had a bite for dinner. Mongols are like Mediterranean peoples-they like to eat late at night. It's their biggest meal of the day. You'd think they'd all be fat, but you never run into an overweight Mongol.

I spent the entire afternoon with Zaya-Battulga's widow. She took me to a school that they have named "King's Kids School" after our team. There are two hundred kids in the school. We had coffee with the head mistress who ran the camp that we ministered at eight years ago. Her name is Meega. She is not a Christian, but a very well-connected lady in Mongol society and open to the things of God. Last year she was the teacher of the year for the entire nation.

I had a great time sharing the Lord with her and praying. She then let me visit every classroom where the children spoke some English and I gave a brief Gospel message. Quite a productive afternoon. I got some good pictures of the "King's Kids School" sign. Deidra will appreciate it. After that I talked more with Zaya (through a

translator) about helping start a Christian Camp here. I really pray for God's blessing on that project.

Tonight, the seminar was again packed and very well received. I did questions and answers at the end, and they seemed to appreciate that. Two more days of the seminar and it will be finished. I pray they will take the teachings on marriage and family and multiply them around the nation. The evening again went well with a packed house. I told many stories of our mistakes and triumphs at trying to rear a godly family. It was extremely well received. They so want to learn and change their lives to conform to the Bible.

The other appointments went well also. One was with a home-schooling Campus Crusade family with four children that are coming home soon after being here for five years. The other was a Free Church missionary. I tried very hard to encourage both and learn from their experiences here.

I had a very weird night and morning-some spiritual warfare related and other things physical. First, yesterday afternoon I went for a walk through the main Buddhist temple area. They wouldn't let me go in the Temple itself (non-Mongol), but I walked around the grounds. I had prayed for protection and stood in the power of God, but I noticed not long afterwards that I had some cold symptoms. Well, last night when I went to bed, this incredible congestion was on me-bigger than almost anything I have ever had before. My lungs were draining into my throat, my passageways were clogged, and I felt miserable. Felt like a monster cold coming on. It led to a bad night of sleep.

A couple of hours ago I got up and decided to take some amoxicillin just in case a cold was coming on (I brought some of the trip). After that, I was having a quiet time, and God was dealing with some things in my heart (like He's always faithful to do), and then I noticed an itching growing in my hands and in my feet. After a while, the itching was almost unbearable. There was no redness of hives, just a strong itching sensation.

Well, I dealt with things in my heart, did spiritual warfare and began to praise God. Slowly, the itching went away, and I also began to feel better in my nose and chest. I don't know what of this is spiritual or physical, but it was quite an experience. I'm going to stay on the amoxicillin for now because I need my voice to be strong for tonight and Sunday. (During the middle of the night I was kind of losing my voice when you do with a bad chest cold).

Today I'm meeting with the YWAM leaders here, and then I'll rest for the afternoon before the final seminar session tonight on "The Christian Home." At the close tonight, I think we'll pray for people and families.

Had a great ending service tonight. After I finished the teaching series, we invited people to come forward for prayer and all the leaders of the church were stationed around and prayed for people (me too). It was quite powerful and moving. They are so excited about establishing Christian families. The computer guys here took my wallet photo of our family and blew it up on the Power Point screen. Everybody got a good look at our family.

Had a good visit at the YWAM headquarters with Dr. Brad Ihrig and Ung Mi. They have some good leaders here-and about fifty staff serving in six different ministries. After that I rested some before the meeting. Yeah, that was a strange experience last night and this morning. I'm miraculously better- and I thank God for that. Bold's wife said, "The devil doesn't like Ron being here!" I'm sure that's true of anybody who comes to minister.

I enjoyed my quiet time this morning thanking God for the time here. I then went in and went domestic. They have a small combination washer/dryer in the bathroom, so I tried my hand at washing out my two pairs of pants and a little underwear. Then I rinsed them and have hung them on a rack to dry in the small living room. Bold is still sawing wood but Dorchand and Eruca are up. Bata (a young disciple who lives here) attended an all-night prayer meeting (midnight to 6am) after the seminar and is now making some pancakes for us.

The appointment with Dembe is at 1 pm. Then today is the first day I have a little rest as we go to the "country" to see Dorchand's parents who are babysitting their two younger children. Going to the country in Mongolia means leaving the city and going out where it's prettier and life is simple. Of course, there's still some snow and ice on the hills this time of year, but it will still be pretty. In the summertime it's very green and peaceful and there are animals and gers scattered all over. Apparently 40% of the population still lives nomadically in the country.

Ulanbaater is a city of over one million (over one-third of the total national population). It is a mixture of old Soviet-style apartment houses, a few newer apartment buildings and hotels, and vast stretches of ger suburbs where most of the people live. These are essentially ger ghettos. They're all behind fences and scrap metal walls so you can't see them plainly, but they're right next to you everywhere.

These settlements also contain primitive wood structures and about anything else you can imagine that people live in. You see people hauling water jugs into these areas because they don't have indoor plumbing. Can you imagine living in a shack or

tent where is 10-40 below zero for four months and having to haul in your water every day just to cook and wash? Amazing the comfort that we Americans enjoy. Many individual rooms in our house are bigger than the entire dwelling for 2-6 people here.

We had a good leisurely day. The drive out to the country was nice, though the roads are horrible, and it has warmed up a bit and that's created mud in many places. Dorchand's parents live on the outskirts of UB at the base of a Mongol mountain (really a large hill). On our way up, we stopped and looked at a home that Bold is building for his family. He's real proud of it, and I understand his desire to have a home that is debt-free, but the location is right in the middle of a ger ghetto. The house won't be hooked up to a well but will have a big tank sitting next to it where a truck will have to come once a week to give them water.

It's a small house made of cement and styrofoam. It has a simple first floor with kitchen and living room (small), and then you go downstairs to a basement where there are two tiny bedrooms and a bathroom. It also has a garage and a small yard. It's roofed, but nothing done in the interior. It's surrounded by dirt, gers and other wood shacks- with everything close together. The roads up to it are just windy, bumpy dirt paths. If was him- and I'm sure you'd agree-I'd stay in the city apartment and nearer the stores. But everyone has their own dream.

We also stopped by the recording studio and found Mike and the band hard at work. We listened to hear a final cut of their first recording. Quite good. It's an amazing tool **they're going to have to multiply Gospel music all over the nation.** Mike deserves a lot of credit for helping with this dream.

Then we arrived out at the in-laws, on the far edge of the city beneath the mountain. At least the air was cleaner. Dorchand's parents built a retirement log cabin there—Mongol design. It was basically a two-room rustic building with low ceilings. The first room was the kitchen which had a Mongol-type little wood cook stove and then the other room was the combination living room/sleeping areas.

It was really the ger-style but only square. In a ger you have the cook stove in the center and then the beds and sitting areas around the tent. That's what it was like with the typical Mongolian bright colors. There is no bathroom and they must use an out-house outside (can you imagine that in the middle of the night when it's 40 degrees below zero). I played with the kids outside for a bit in the riverbed, and then we had "boots" for lunch (kind of like meatballs wrapped in dough). After a nice visit, we barely made it out of the mud and back into the city.

When we returned, I took a prayer/walk shop time down into the center of the city. Probably was about a two-mile walk. When I came home, Bold and Dorchand made a chicken

soup from scratch and we fellowshiped and shared dinner together. Now it's nearly bedtime.

The service this morning was incredible. The room was packed with over six hundred Mongols, and they even had to bring in chairs to pack them in. The worship was fantastic and then they asked me to preach for about 75 minutes. I really felt the power of God with me and I challenged them to be a part of the Church that would change the world.

At the end, a number indicated a desire to become Christians, and HUNDREDS committed themselves to be a part of Mongolia's missions force. The pastor then came up and said that this was the day for his Church to become missionaries-not just to reach Mongolia, but to go to the ends of the earth. They then prayed over me and took an offering for me (very humbling). As they did that, hundreds of people came forward and gave me a hug and shook my hand. It was an incredible love fest.

The offering came to over \$200 (that's about \$2000 by American standards), and I gave it back to them to start a missions fund for world evangelism. It was a win-win morning. I stayed to talk to many people, including some English speakers. Two for them were a young couple visiting there who were from Shelton-had been with YWAM in Seattle, and now are going into China as missionaries. Small world.

The meeting lasted until almost 2 pm. Then a woman invited five of us out to a very swanky restaurant where she had rented a private room. While tears flowed down her cheeks, she told me that she had come to the seminar all week and had brought some unsaved neighbors.

They were all deeply touched by the truths that were shared, and she was especially convicted that she was in trouble as a business woman, that she needed to share with her husband about some things she had withheld from him, and she asked me to pray for her. We all gave her some advice about rescuing her marriage and about how to turn around her business situation. (She imports fruits and vegetables from China and sells them in Mongolia.) At the end she was beaming and very grateful and I was about two pounds fatter.

We got home late afternoon and soon after that we went to meet with Dembe and his wife. That was the "something left to be desired" end of the day. First, they took us out into one of the ger ghettos to their home. We met there for an hour or so and got into the story about his basketball team coming to America. He stuck by his

story that he had been taken advantage of and that it was not his fault. I probed him deeply, asked him why he did not even have plane tickets to Seattle. He would not back down from his story.

I told him that I forgave him, but I did not believe him. It was an awkward meeting. After that, they insisted on taking us out for a meal downtown, so we went. After small talk over the food, I again re-asserted that I held nothing personally against him, and that if he was telling the truth, then God would vindicate him, but if he was lying his sin would find him out. We parted on that note.

On the way home, Bold shared that he thought Dembe had deceived us but that he had also been deceived by others in San Francisco, and that's what made the story make sense. I suppose we will only know in eternity. I did my best to reconcile with him.

On our last day I met once again with Dembe and he shared me a plane ticket indicating that they DID have tickets on to Seattle. Maybe he has been telling me most of the truth. In wanting to be fair, I shook his hand and said that I would re-evaluate my position. If he's a man of integrity, then I want to rebuild a relationship with him.

Before going to the airport, I had a final time with Zaya and her kids. Very precious. Then we all gathered at the airport and said our goodbyes and made our way home. We flew in Seoul about 4:30 in the morning, then through Tokyo, and another nine hours into Los Angeles. Nathan and David met me at the airport, and we had a good day and a half together going out to eat, hanging around the apartment, and even watched "Braveheart" together. (Great movie.) The I flew home from a wonderfully productive trip.

Thank you, Lord for the vision for the recording studio in Mongolia, the wonderful teaching time with the growing Mongol Church, the many friendships, and the vision for a Christian camp in the future. It is my privilege to serve you in the nations of the world. You are indeed doing a great work.

Port Orchard, Washington

April 4, 2005 - 17,414 - 12,399

Our Spring Adventure weekend just finished with good success. For a while it looked like we might cancel it, but Jonathan and Sara had great faith and moved ahead. The weekend involved about forty people with twenty-five or take--being students. Jonathan spoke Friday and Saturday nights, I gave a message on "Lord, Let Me See As You See" on Saturday morning to a good response, and Ryan Graham and Jamie Sauer did a good job of

directing an application time on Saturday night. The Holy Spirit moved upon many lives.

Seattle, Washington

Sunday morning, we drove to Bainbridge Island and walked on the ferry to downtown Seattle. Ben Parson, the Seattle base leader, met us there and briefed us on the city and its needs and put us on their "Pie Tour" of the city. My team was Ryan, Jason, and Jessica Allen, and God really blessed our time as I "fathered" them around downtown for four hours.

Early on we met a homeless man on the street named Jesse who took us to Pioneer Square. There we met two other guys named Kent and Sam and had a great time sharing our lunch with them and talking to them. Sam was from Alabama and Kent was from Arizona. After lunch we prayed for them and the kids prayed some big prayers. Sam especially seemed open to get his life right with God.

We then continued the hunt around town the various pictures they had given us. I was able to encourage one Mexican man near the Chinese section of town and a Lebanese man at the Seattle Center Food Court (where I treated the young missionaries to "elephant ears"). We prayed for the professional athletes that used the stadiums, for churches in the downtown area, and for many individual people.

The kids did well to focus on prayer and evangelism for four hours. After a de-brief and pizza at the ferry dock, we made our way back to Discovery Bay for final sharing, prayers, and reunions with the parents. I never tire of seeing young lives get excited about serving God. I really enjoyed staying in our trailer with Ryan and Jason and having the father/son time we shared in a mission context.

I need to prayerfully guide them into many such experiences during the next five-to-eight years that they're still at home. May they become strong and committed followers of the King of kings.

Port Orchard, Washington

April 24, 2005 - 17,434 - 12,379

Some momentous things have happened in the past few weeks. I will try to relate them here for clarity and the historical record. The first contained some difficulties I haven't faced many times as a leader in my thirty years in YWAM. It involved the loving discipline of a fellow leader. For the past six months there's been a simmering leadership problem on the base related to Deidra Larson. Many students and staff had problems with her leadership style and moods and this intensified when the teams returned from China and West Africa.

Though God blessed our first school and outreaches, some staff especially did not feel safe and loved under Deidra's leadership. I have been aware of Deidra's moods and methods over the years, but always felt that grace and understanding would cover a multitude of sins. I want people to give me that same grace. In this case, I finally had a staff member outside of the DTS tell me that "I needed to do something about Deidra." After much thought, prayer, and getting counsel from Ray Jennings, I decided it was time to talk to her.

The meeting took place at the Larsons' home attended by Rick and Cathy Best and Mike Davison. After letting the Larsons share some of their concerns, I lovingly and humbly shared with Deidra that I felt she had a "wound" or a character flaw that needed some attention at this time. I was only doing this because I love and respect her as few people in the world and want her to rise to her greatest potential in leadership. Uncovering and being delivered from this character flaw was what God wanted in her life.

To her credit, she received the correction well. I've asked her to step down from the leadership team, take at least a sixty-day sabbatical from the ministry, and get some ministry in her life. "The one who has ministered to hundreds now needs some ministry herself." It was a tearful and probing meeting, but I believe God honored the attitudes displayed by all. I believe that God is going to do a powerful work in her life, and she will come back to us as a more secure, loving leader that God can use mightily.

Olympia, Washington

A few days later I spent my final session with Senator Bob Oke in Olympia. I sat in on a hearing, we had lunch together in the private cafeteria (got to meet Lieut. Gov. Brad Owen), attended the Republican Caucus meeting, and then watched some very important votes on the floor (that day they passed a 33 cent gas tax-the biggest in state history). I'm sure this will be Sen. Oke's final session. The remaining question is: Does God want me to

run for his seat? I am still waiting and praying.

Richmond, Virginia

A couple days later I flew to Virginia for a **North American Leadership Conference with 260 fellow leaders**. It has been a rich team of fellowship with many dear friends and a richness in the Word of the Lord. I am privileged to work with such godly people and to give my life for world evangelism. During this trip, I am looking forward to God speaking to me further about the future. At this moment, I am awaiting his words.

May 1, 2005 - 17,441 - 12,372

The time at the North American Leader's Conference was one of the greatest conferences I've ever attended for richness of the word of God, personal encouragement, intimate fellowship with friends, and God's sense of pleasure and direction. The worship times were wonderful, and the messages from John Dawson, Alex Rodriguez, Jim Stier, Loren Cunningham and others were right on the beam. God really spoke to me out of Alex's message about stepping out in the risk zone of running for public office. It was as if God Himself were speaking to me.

All the other words greatly challenged me and reminded me what a privilege it has been for the past 31 years to serve the Lord with YWAM. I believe our mission is entering a time of tremendous renewal and explosion into the remaining Omega Zones of world evangelism. I have not been so optimistic about the future of Youth With A Mission in a decade. God is not through with us. We have a part to play in the final evangelization of the world.

As I was leaving on Wednesday, the North American Council prayed for my meetings with YMEC-that God would use me to bring his call to the united group. With his fear upon me, I await those meetings beginning on Tuesday. I believe God wants to launch from these meetings a 21st century Student Volunteer Movement that will encircle the globe. I am looking forward to delivering that message to my fellow youth leaders.

Rockcastle, Virginia

Wednesday afternoon I decided to drive out to **Rockcastle** to see the old place where YWAM Virginia began in the early eighties. When I arrived at the gate to the facility, it was fenced and pad-locked and no one was around. I climbed over the

fence and took a very nostalgic stroll around the old buildings, praying for past staff and thanking God for the blessing of this place for many years before.

When I was walking out to my car, one of the sisters arrived. She appeared very upset and asked me how I had gotten onto the property. I told her I had been unable to find anyone, so I walked on in. She practically screamed at me and said that she could have me arrested for trespassing. When I tried to explain my circumstances and deep love for the place, she drove off in a huff. She certainly did not have the spirit of the original Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament that I met on these sacred grounds.

I prayed for her, walked to my car and continued going, **In the afternoon I toured the Richmond YWAM facilities with Jaime, our Brazilian leader. God has done a great work, and I am very grateful to be considered "the father of YWAM Virginia."**

Williamsburg, Virginia

On Wednesday evening I drove to Williamsburg to spend some time with Mary McQueen, now the new president of the National Center for State courts. We had a great 36 hours together talking about judicial issues and renewing our friendship. Mary is obviously more sympathetic of the legal profession than I am, but it was great to debate ideas with her. With the judicial activism bent in the nation right now, she is under a lot of pressure.

Lord-strengthen and encourage this great woman of God.

While in Williamsburg I took a long walk and was greatly encouraged of the Lord to take the step in the political arena. It was a rich prayer time and a simple sense of his direction. In many ways I don't want to do it-but obedience to Him is my highest priority.

Virginia Beach, Virginia

The next day I drove to Virginia Beach-on the 25th anniversary of Washington For Jesus-and God made that a very special day. I spent the first few hours at Regent University looking into their masters and doctoral programs. It's amazing how God has blessed Pat Robertson's ministry over the past thirty years. **I remember speaking to their staff in the seventies in their tiny little facility. Today, CBN and Regent cover scores of acres of beautifully landscaped grounds with numerous colonial buildings that make up the campus and Founders Inn.**

In Robertson Hall, the graduate studies building, I bumped into Dr. Vinson Synan and Dr. Dan Burgess in the elevator and made an appointment to meet with Dan at noon. They lead the doctoral programs in Divinity. I enjoyed talking with them. I also met with Howard Foltz who I know from past mission conferences. He's over the Missiology degrees.

After getting all the info. I need, I went over to the CBN buildings and had a nice chat with Mike Little, one of the CBN execs. He's been a faithful servant of CBN for many years. I then went over to Rock Church and toured their 5200 seat auditorium and met a few folks. Neither CBN nor Rock Church was aware that that day was the 25th anniversary of WFJ.

Amazing. At least I reminded them.

While at CBN, I was reading an article by Pat Robertson that jumped out at me regarding the future. He said in an article entitled "Step Out of the Boat" that "all we have to do is keep our eyes on Jesus and make sure we hear His word saying "come." If you have a witness in your spirit that you've heard from God, don't doubt. Move out in obedience and watch what happens." These words really spoke to my heart-and I'll weigh them carefully as to my future steps.

In the afternoon and evening I met with Richard and Nancy Ivy and stayed at their home in Chesapeake. They live near the water, and I enjoyed a quiet time there and the hours spent catching up with them. Rich is in the running for doing the Master Plan for Discovery Bay. They are a great family that we met on our first crusade in the Tidewater area in 1978.

Fredericksburg, Virginia

On Saturday I drove up to Fredericksburg and had lunch with Ray and Ginny MacAnanny. They are getting frail, but still in love with Jesus. Ray is retired but still greatly involved in feeding the poor and needy and Christian philanthropy all over the world. He took me by his warehouse and showed me the food ministry. I've learned a lot from Ray about caring for the "least of these." In the evening I rendezvoused with Roger and Mary Cresswell at their home in Manassas and enjoyed our annual visit. They are wonderful friends.

Washington, D.C.

Late that night I finally arrived in the Washington, D.C. area.

Sunday I was able to share briefly at both of our sponsoring churches-King's Chapel and Christian Assembly. I started out with Bill Jeschke and then made an impromptu visit to Christian Assembly in Vienna before heading back to King's Chapel for an all church picnic. I'm so grateful for the support of these two churches over the past twenty years. In the evening I had dinner with Jim and Cindy Hay whom I had not seen in about three years. I tried to really encourage them in Christ.

Monday morning, I shared a good visit with our old friend Inece Bryant in Springfield and then went downtown to visit 133 Street and walk the Capitol Grounds. There are now nine Christian leaders living at C Street (three senators and six congressmen). That's 2% of the US Congress. What a thrill that daily ministry is taking place there that will influence this nation and other nations around the world.

After seeing our old ministry center, I walked down to the west steps of the Capitol where God spoke to me nineteen years ago. As I stood there and prayed, He gently reminded me that the words that have come out of His mouth will not return void. In the evening I participated in a radio broadcast with Corinthian Boone on the National Day of Prayer and then had some great fellowship with her afterwards. I encouraged her to wisely pass on the mantle of what God has been doing in DC for the past twenty years to capable servant leaders who will carry on the vision.

[I would end up writing her 175-page autobiography "Corinthia" in 2019.]

The final stop of my 1016-mile trip was the Bolger Center in Potomac, Maryland where we had our annual YMEC meetings. Bolger is a beautiful 83-acre executive retreat owned by the US Post Office. Our meetings began on Tuesday night with a great worship time, sharing, and small group ministry. There were about forty leaders in attendance.

Saturday morning, we began to talk about what God is saying about the urgency in reaching this generation in the next 5-7 years and defining the theme that God would have us rally them around. In an optional afternoon session attended by many, God allowed me to introduce the vision of calling the young people of his generation to go into all the world. The discussion of that reality went on until dinner, but not before we fell to the ground and cried out to God to guide us.

I believe this was a kairos moment for the American youth movement and the

beginning of God's promise to me at the NALC. In the evening session after worship and a summary session by Richard Ross, I helped close the gathering. I spoke passionately for about twenty minutes on the history of missions and the destiny of this generation to "complete the task."

This was THE MOMENT. At the end, we burst into praise together, shared communion, and asked God to lead us forward. I pray that this time will eventually release the second Student Volunteer Movement into all the world! Only by the grace and empowerment of God.

I'm now flying in the "friendly skies" toward home, Shirley, and an evening class at Northwest University. It's the National Day of Prayer 2005, and I have prayed that all over the nation God is hearing the humble petitions of His people--and will pour out His Spirit upon America again. I'm going home to be a part of that plan, including running for public office. Forever my theme must be to "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."

Discovery Bay, Washington

May 20, 2005- 17,460 - 12,353

We had a great finishing day to the *50 Days of Prayer* thrust by having all the Washington State A YWAMers come to Discovery Bay for a Sunday afternoon. We shared what was happening at the various bases, enjoyed hearing from Kevin Porter from Brazil, Jessica Davison from England, and Aaron & Anna Cyboron from China. They added a great international flavor.

Then we deeply cried out to God for about ninety minutes on the Global Day of Prayer, joining over 200 million people who will also be praying all over the world. It was good to have Steve and Karen Kilpatrick there as well. They are excellent Northwest District leaders. We need to get together more often.

Recently in a time of prayer, God really impressed the following Scripture on me as a guiding Scripture for the remainder of my life: *Romans 15: 16 - "that I might bring the nations to God."* Amen.

Los Angeles, California

June 5, 2005 – 17,476 – 12,336

We enjoyed a wonderful two-week vacation with our four sons May 23-June 5. Following Ryan and Jason's performance in a play at church, we drove seven hours to Ashland, Oregon and then the next day, the final nine hours into the Los Angeles area. The first day here we lounged around the boy's apartment and enjoyed the pool, and the following day we went to Disneyland as a family.

Being before Memorial Day, the park was not unusually packed, and we enjoyed the normal rides and looking at the sights. Interestingly, during the final spectacular fireworks display-commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Park. I felt God deeply stir my spirit to have FAITH in the DREAMS that He's given me for the future. There were tears in my eyes as we turned and walked up Main Street at the close of the evening. I didn't expect God to speak to me at Disneyland. He's amazing in his timing and ways.

One day we again enjoyed a great visit to the Reagan library. They've improved it greatly-and it was very special to pray at Ronald Reagan's graveside which is on the front lawn of the complex. It's simple yet profound with a lovely garden surrounding it. Ronald Reagan is one of my 20th century heroes.

As is our custom, we had a family breakfast one morning at Coogies in Malibu (Kenny G. was at the restaurant that morning), on Sunday we attended Nathan's new church-Bel Air Presbyterian (it was very good, with many younger people), and one afternoon we spent at the beach in Malibu throwing the football and enjoying the surf. These times with our children are very special and important. Family is the foundation of our lives on earth.

We've also had many dinners out together-and I've tried to use the weeks to speak into the lives of our two older boys, to encourage them in God and exhort them to live lives worthy of the Master. One evening we also made it up to the YWAM base for a screening of the Mission Adventures videos-one in which Nathan plays a main role. It was great to fellowship at the YWAM base.

Yesterday, in an act of obedience to God, I drove north to Tujunga to spend some time with Jim and Joy Dawson, wonderful teachers and mentors of many of us YWAM leaders. Joy is now 79 and Jim 82, but they looked well and warmly showed me around their home and gardens. For twelve years, Joy has had extreme pain with a degenerative back that has been an incredible test of her faith and strength. Though in pain during our meeting, she showed no evidence of losing the passion, spunk, and commitment to Christ that she has

always demonstrated. I admire her courage and fiery dedication to God and revival.

We had a long chat in their living room, with Joy propping her feet up on a pillow to stay comfortable. After talking about YWAM in general, and me thanking them for their role in my spiritual life and YWAM, I shared with them my visions of the future-of entering the political realm-and asked for their prayers. Joy invited the three of us to wait on God for His words (in typical Joy Dawson intense and exciting fashion). The room was quiet for nearly a half an hour as God spoke to both Jim and Joy. He shared very little with me except a word of encouragement to Joy about her back pain "not being unto death." At the close of her time, I added my prayers to those of many who were praying for her healing.

When Jim and Joy felt they were done hearing from God, they began to share their words from God. All of them were an affirmative YES that I was to take these steps of obedience. Our time together lasted over four hours-and included a powerful discussion of revival, how God has continued to use the ministry at 133 C St. and other topics. But below are the precious words brought to my needy soul regarding the future:

Jim's Thoughts:

He was led to open his Bible to Isaiah 54:2-5 which is the passage about "enlarging the place of your tent, lengthening your cords etc." There was a strong encouragement to DO NOT FEAR-that I would not be ashamed or think again on the "shame of my youth" (referring to the trial of 133 C Street). Jim told me not even to think about the past failure. He said to GET GOING-MOVE-NOW IS THE TIME.

Joy's Words:

Joy was amazed that God gave her an overwhelming YES that came in six different ways God spoke to her.

1. The first was 2 Chronicles 15 - God spoke this into her mind directly and she turned there. It is about Asa, who came forth with strong reform in a nation. He was a man of God and God's directive was in verse seven: That I was to be strong and that my work would be rewarded.
2. Next, God told her to turn to page 961 in her NKJV Bible and meditate on Acts chapter 4. She said that verses 19, 20, 29-31 stood out to her but that I was to meditate on the entire chapter. The clear emphasis was that the apostles spoke out BOLDLY in the public arena.

Boldness in sharing is mentioned twice.

3. The third Scripture she called God's e-mail: Ezra 10:4: Arise, for this matter is your responsibility. We will also be with you. Be of good courage and do it." This is an incredible Scripture of confirmation, straight from heaven, and Joy said that Jim and she would really support me as I stepped out in faith. She knew that I was to DO IT!
4. The next Scripture was put into her mind: 1 Kings 13. It is the prophecy of Josiah. She said she had been asking God, "Is Ron a Josiah?" This was the clear answer-YES. I am a Josiah. I've known that and preached on his life for all my days in ministry.
5. The next Scripture she opened--2 Chronicles 30:12 - "The hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to do the commandment of the king and the leaders at the word of the Lord." She interpreted God was saying that people will follow the leadership that I bring. This was to be great encouragement to me. This passage was Hezekiah leading revival reforms.
6. The final words were from Ecclesiastes 9:8,10, 15-18. It was very important to me to take this step with a "clean heart" and under the "anointing of the Holy Spirit." I was to take this step with all my MIGHT. In the final verses, they teach that wisdom prevails to bring deliverance to a city. That's how God would use me.

As I took my quiet time the day following this incredible prayer time and meditated on all these Scriptures, God's encouragement welled up deeply in my soul. YES, he has created and called me to this task. Yes, I am to step out boldly into this new era. Yes, the people will follow me. And most importantly, YES, God will be with me.

I am humbled, and my faith is greatly uplifted. Thirty years ago, God used a New Zealand man- Blythe Harper-to speak words to me that would direct my life into missions for over thirty years. Yesterday, God used two other dear Kiwis to give me confirmation of His calling on my life for the next thirty years. I will seek one other confirmation-on Southworth Beach in Port Orchard where my YWAM calling was confirmed in the fall of 1973. I expect to hear from God. Then, as always, I will ACT to follow Him.

Port Orchard, Washington

June 7, 2005 - 17,478 - 12,335

I went to the Kitsap Republican meeting last night-attended by about 100 people. It is an interesting sphere where I am the new man on the block-so there is a lot to absorb and "listening" is the way to begin. Just hours before the GOP had lost its court case in the Rossi-

Gregoire gubernatorial battle and Dino Rossi had conceded. That created quite a sobering but combative setting.

I appreciated the meeting beginning with prayer-- including a spontaneous prayer for the Rossi family. The most intense part of the evening saw Rep. Bev Woods try to explain to a hostile crowd her caving in on the Transportation package. Immediately after she shared her remarks, the county board voted unanimously to support the No New Gas Tax initiative. That was quite a kindly slap in the face.

After the meeting was over, I chatted with Rick White, a former US Congressman who now lives in Poulsbo. He mentioned that when he lived in D.C. He went regularly to 133 C St for meetings and prayer--and I told him of my involvement in starting the center. I also spoke to others--trying to get acquainted with a whole new group of people. Lord, give me wisdom as I proceed in this journey.

As I was going home, God reminded me how Nehemiah left his comfortable sphere with the king in Babylon to begin rebuilding a culture and governing a nation. That's what God is leading me to do as this time. Nehemiah's continual prayer was "God, strengthen my hands." That is my plea as well as I begin this new era of my life. I feel very weak, out of my element and comfort zone--but willing to move forward at Jesus' bidding.

There is a growing consensus that the 2006 elections will be a revolutionary time in our state like 1993 when Republicans swept into the House after some blunders by then governor Mike Lowry. Has God called me to be one of those revolutionaries? "Lord, strengthen my hands!"

Discovery Bay, Washington

June 14, 2005 - 17,485 - 12,328

At our Discovery Bay JET meeting on Saturday, the DBCF board members shocked us all by announcing that starting this fall, they were turning over all financial obligations and ministry responsibilities to YWAM, renewing our lease for a five year term, and that after that period of time, they would be deeding the property over the Youth With A Mission. Though I've known about this possibility all along, it was still quite a shock when it was introduced at this meeting.

Led to quite a time of tears, prayer, and gratefulness to God. Thank you, Lord

Jesus, for the provision of Discovery Bay. Help us to be faithful to do all the things you want us to for your glory in Jefferson County and around the world from here.

Lakeside, Montana

June 21, 2005 – 17,492 - 12,321

I just returned from a brief but fruitful trip to the Lakeside, Montana YWAM base near Flathead Lake. I hadn't visited there for over ten years and it was great to be back to a large, thriving YWAM community in the gorgeous Big Sky country. I traveled with Steve Kilpatrick, the Northwest District director, to help facilitate a new ministry launching near the Kalispell base.

We met for an entire morning with the new team, under the leadership of Larry Nicholas, and with the Lakeside YWAM council. We directed a dialogue and prayer time between the two groups and God really used the team to heal some hurts, give some points of wisdom, and lay the foundation for cooperation. The time was well worth it, and I learned a lot from the encounter. **Where there is love and humility, anything can work.**

In the afternoon I stayed with a few friends, visited the Mission Builder headquarters, worked on the monthly newsletter and even took a brief nap. In the evening Steve and I met to talk about the mediation. The next morning, I tweaked my back while taking a shower, and now I'm in a lot of pain. We had a final morning meeting with the new team and then I hobbled out and through the airport and back to Seattle.

Every time I sat down it was hard to get up. Oh, the curse of the fall. Tonight, I'm back at school in Kirkland [LEAP program] before going home. On my way to Northwest University, I stopped at the VA Hospital and **had a good visit with Senator Bob Oke who is recovering from a bone marrow transplant to help reverse his unusual blood leukemia. I told him I was in the race if he decided not to run-and we had a good, healthy chat-including state politics.**

Lord, I'm trusting you for strength and healing in the coming days. Thank you for being my EVERYTHING.

Port Orchard, Washington

July 11, 2005 - 17,512 - 12,301

Having done my Mongolia missions trip in the spring, this is that "turning point" summer where I'm home more than normal-and enjoying that. It is a challenging time with YWAM, what's happening at Discovery Bay and here in Port Orchard, and the beginning of my campaign for public office. I trust the Lord for strength and wisdom in it all. I sure need Him "every day and every hour."

I spoke to both Bob Weyrick and Craig Bilderback last week about running for office. They were very supportive, and Bob went out of his way to tell me *to run to win*. Lord, show me how to be humble and open to be a team player, as well as to "become what I believe." I took Bob's words to be an affirmation to move ahead in faith without wavering. After meeting with Lois McMahon a week ago I have wondered about letting her have the Senate seat and running for the House. I am open to that- but at this point still aim for the Senate.

At the Reidiger family reunion held at Discovery Bay recently, Darrell Furgason stated what a number have said to me the past few years. He said that "I should run for office." I take those little comments as encouragement from God that I am on the right track- and should proceed. Thank you, Father, for finding a myriad of ways to direct the paths of all your children.

I spoke at The Nazarene Church yesterday and it was great to have Jonathan Macris join me. His family is on furlough in the states and I had him share at both PO Nazarene and First Christian (we walked him through the woods to the four services). After the services we had a barbeque and shared great fellowship between our families. He is a dear man of God that I highly respect. It was a privilege once again to have him in our area.

August 29, 2005 - 17,561 - 12,252

The summer has just flown by and I've neglected to write for a while. Many things are percolating or taking place, and I'll list some of them here:

Plans for my political future continue to develop. I have decided to run for a House seat and not for the Senate so as not to run against Lois McMahon and to begin this new phase of life in a humble posture. Since God honors humility, I know this is the right thing to do. I've gotten great advice from Lois, Matt Rice, Bruce & Ellen Craswell, Karl Duff, and

others. May God continue to lead me- and for me to not get ahead or miss any of the necessary details.

We have decided to postpone of DTS this fall due to a small number of students. Much of this relates to the leadership problems we had last year. God is working on that, and in a week or so we'll relaunch and hopefully lay some good foundations for this vital work coming out of Port Townsend.

I'm very grateful for Claude and Wilma Reidiger who have joined us recently, and others that are coming. This will be a challenging year for me with school, the campaign, and leading YWAM, but I am trusting in God's ability alone in my life to do it adequately and with faith. This is truly "stepping out of my comfort zone" and that's what He wants me to do.

I've recently been fighting with the School District with the secularization of the school calendar. So sad to see the enemy gaining ground and ultimately hurting the young people. I have never kept my mouth shut and don't want to begin now. I'll copy in a pertinent article below that I wrote for the local newspaper.

We had a wonderful Boehme family reunion on August 22. It was Brad and Monique Boehme from Portland that were the stimulus for the weekend gathering and we had a pretty good turnout. It was very congenial, Christ-centered. It's great to see how many of our family have come to Christ over the years...many cousins, children, and even some of the older ones. God is always wanting to work through families. It was a privilege for Shirley and me to host this special gathering. We hope it will become an annual affair.

We're getting close to completing the new office addition at Discovery Bay. That brings us to the end of the first phase of transformation. May God lead us clearly now into a Master Plan and will involve sending out hundreds of missionaries and impacting many nations. With God, nothing is impossible.

I've developed a severe cold here the last few days of August. Haven't had one of those in a long time. It's given me a chance to slow down a little, rest up, and begin to prepare for a busy and crucial fall season. Jesus-help *me become what I believe*. Only by your grace and power.

Secular Tyranny in the South Kitsap Schools

Def: SECULAR, I. Pertaining to this present world or to things not spiritual or holy. 2. Not pertaining to or connected to religion: worldly.

Def: TYRANNY, I. Arbitrary or unrestrained exercise of power over subjects and others not authorized by law or justice: undemocratic.

I was stunned and saddened by the August 15, 2005 decision by the South Kitsap School board to rename "Christmas Break" to "Winter Break." Because South Kitsap is the largest high school in the state and the decision was so outrageously politically correct, the Associated Press picked up the story and sent it all over the nation. I was asked to do some interviews by some media outlets, and arriving home one night following the vote, I flicked on Fox News just as a picture of Port Orchard appeared on the screen with Shepard Smith doing commentary.

Apparently, much of the nation has learned that the SK School District decided to go the way of the old Soviet Union and cleanse the school calendar of religion. It's a sad day for freedom and for children.

To give a little background: Since the 1820's when public schools began forming in the United States, the curriculum, values and publications of these institutions were based on the majority worldview of the public-the Judeo-Christian worldview. Minority views were respected, but not allowed to dominate the whole.

Thus, the Bible was used extensively for over 150 years, kids learned to read from books like the McGuffey Readers, and school schedules and calendars reflected the culturally recognized names of holidays and important events. The South Kitsap schools shared in this democratic heritage-and the blessings that came from it.

Four decades ago, after a century-and-a-half of democratic practice, a vocal minority of secularists began to chip away at the acceptance of the Christian worldview in public life-focusing their efforts on education. Aided by a few erroneous Supreme Court decisions, they successfully removed the Bible and prayer from the classrooms, religious content from commencement addresses, and even religious speech from football games.

When I was in school during the 60s and early 70s, this subtle form of censorship was just beginning. We could still use the Bible freely, sing Christmas carols at the Christmas concert, and we even had a prayer in the locker room before basketball games (we didn't pray to win, just to be good sports and avoid injury.). During this time, the majority worldview of the nation hadn't changed--according to Gallup 90% of the nation believed in God, but the general public was culturally asleep and let a small minority force their views on the rest of us. We allowed a secular form of tyranny (non-democratic power) take control of our kids' learning.

In 1984, the South Kitsap School Board participated in this secular takeover by quietly changing the school calendar to reflect atheistic values. The holiday known as "Christmas Break" for over seventy years in the school district became "Winter Break" That brings us to the present: In June of 2005, the South Kitsap School board voted 4- 1 to change the holiday name back to its original and majority-representing name of "Christmas Break."

I was one of those who attended a board meeting and thanked the members for their fair and appropriate decision. I mentioned how there were already over twelve secular holidays on the calendar (such as Flag Day, Valentine's Day, Labor Day etc.) and even one satanic holiday-Halloween. I praised them for being fair-minded about "Christmas Break" since over 75% of Washingtonians are religious.

Only one man--a long-time secular agitator--asked them to re-consider their vote. (I once served with this same man on a curriculum committee at the high school. He was not only anti-religion but advocated the reading of soft-core pornography in the classrooms.) Regardless of his suggestion, I thought the decision would stand. How wrong I was.

At the August meeting the secularists turned out in force (mostly school employees) and outnumbered the faith general populace by 3-1 (many SK residents were not aware of the meeting). After some preliminary statements by the school board members, twelve people gave short speeches about the issue of which nine towed the secular line. The arguments that the mostly-school employees used were flimsy and deceptive. The first was the "separation of church and state"-one of the most lied about topics in modern America.

The First Amendment was written to stop Congress from establishing a National Church and guaranteed free religious expression. Period. Thomas Jefferson's famous phrase was written in a letter to the Danbury Baptists about the distinction between church and civil government. It had nothing to do with keeping God and faith out of public life. In fact, the day Jefferson wrote the letter, he attended a worship service in the Capitol building. Even the "enlightened" Mr. Jefferson, understood the importance of religious faith in public life.

The second argument used by the secularists was that of toleration. They said that people of faith needed to be "tolerant" of other faiths and not make them feel like second class citizens. Unfortunately, they forgot to look in the mirror. For 150 years the God-fearing worldview in the schools did respect other faiths and traditions. Today, nothing is tolerated in the schools except the tenets of atheism. Their third and similar argument was that of diversity. With religious holidays already a dying species, and secular holidays dominating the calendar, how is removing the most prominent religious holiday "encouraging diversity?"

At the end of my turn I asked the board to be intellectually honest and fair by postponing their vote and doing a survey of SK families related to their values and beliefs. Then they could base their decision on the majority view. This survey of South Kitsap families would not only be extremely helpful to the school district but would give empirical validity to any future decisions about holidays, curriculum, and school policy.

If the majority in Port Orchard were secular, then it would be totally appropriate to have the secular world view dominate the public schools. But if the Judeo-Christian world view was the majority, then the opposite would be true. That's the way democracy works. At the end of the debate, Patty Henderson, Chris Lemke, Keith Garton, and Gregg Scott chose minority rule 3-0 (Scott abstained). Their minds were made up.

The next day even KOMO news commentator, Ken Schram spoke scathing words about the board decision:

"I feel like such a chump. I believed the South Kitsap County School Board was willing to stand up to the mealy-mouthed minions of rampant political correctness. Last month I raved about how board members stood tall and voted to re-name their late December school holiday "Christmas Break" instead of "Winter Break." Well, you can't stand tall without a backbone, and board members have now shown that they have none. They bowed to the incessant clatter of those who erroneously chant nonsense about how this violates the "separation of church and state." Worse, board members have spinelessly thrown themselves at the feet of the politically correct horde and decided they'd go back to calling the holiday time "Winter Break."

"This isn't an issue of piety. It's a matter of practicality. It's about acknowledging the deep cultural side of a religious holiday that--last time I looked--was still a nationally recognized day off with pay. And here I thought there was one school board that got it. Here I thought there was a group of educational leaders willing to teach kids about perspective. I thought South Kitsap had some progressive-thinking folks who were willing to do the right thing, instead of just the politically correct thing. What a chump I am." ("You Can't Stand Tall Without A Backbone, August 16, 2005.)

Yes, Ken, you may feel like a chump, but the real idiots are those of us in South Kitsap who allowed this abuse of power to happen. Do we comprehend the hostile world view takeover that is taking place in our public institutions? Do we understand that our public schools have become the least democratic part of our

entire community (and nation)? Do we care so little for our children that we are willing to abandon them to religiously cleansed schools that are only fit for the former Soviet Union?

Enough is enough. **This fight is not about one little word-it's about the democratic future of our culture.** In South Kitsap, it's about 11,000 kids being treated fairly with respect. Maybe it's time for electoral cleansing of the South Kitsap School board to reflect the wishes of the people. Let your voice be heard.

October 16, 2005 - 17, 609 - 12,204

The time gotten away from me. The last few months have been extremely busy--and not easy. I'll list the highlights below:

Discovery Bay, Washington

In August the Discovery Bay board decided out-of-nowhere that it would turn over control of all the properties to YWAM immediately and sign a new five-year lease with us that included deeding the property to YWAM at the end of that time. What an incredible gift [probably a two-million-dollar gift]. We call practically cried as they voted on the decision. God has been good to us. He has blessed our faithfulness and perseverance. How we praise His Name.

We have launched the CHAMPS mentoring program in the SK schools. Rick Best is doing a great job with it- and we hoped it will multiply over time.

We have postponed our DTS for the fall and are setting a new course for the base. New people are joining us, and others are moving on. It is not an easy time of transition, but God is in the details. A September staff retreat was both powerful and revealing. I have really cried out to God for more workers and a LEADER for Discovery Bay.

Port Orchard, Washington

We have decided to turn over the leadership of YWAM Port Orchard to Jonathan and Sara Stone. This is a good step in multiplication. It is wonderful to see a young disciple step up into His God-given ministry. That will include involvement in a church-plant in the area.

I have decided to hire Doug Simpson as a consultant in my campaign. He is a great Christian guy who has guided 100 campaigns over the past thirteen years-winning 85% of them. I don't want to bring his number down. **Gloria and I continue to gear up for this great change in my life.**

We had a *Golf for Missions* event on September 24-26 and thirty golfers came to it. God gave us the nicest weekend of the fall, and we raised about \$5000. Good start--praise the Lord.

Shirley and I recently celebrated our 29th anniversary in Victoria at our favorite place. The Delta Victoria. It was a wonderful, peaceful, romantic get-a-away. I am so grateful for the wonderful girl God has given me. She's a treasure.

I have now been vetted by the Republican party, and in the coming weeks I will begin my campaign. I am anxious, excited, and devoted to obeying. May He lead in every detail. God spoke to me a few weeks ago to call Chris Toney, and I have now had two meeting with he and his wife about join forces at Discovery Bay. He is a wonderful leader and visionary, and this seems to be a match made in heaven. Lord-speak to them and lead us into your exciting future.

Southworth Beach, Washington

Today after church I decided to return to the place God first spoke to about stepping out into missions-Southworth beach. It was a blustery overcast day, but I walked out to the point where God spoke to me 32 year ago to launch into missions.

On a log there, I spent hours looking over my diary of thirty years ago, remembering God's dealings in my life, and praying about the future. As the waves came near my feet, I ambled up on the beach and began to pray and look at Scriptures. I am here because it is my Bethel. It's where God guided my life in the past, and I need it again today.

I was especially impressed out of 2 Chronicles 34 that thirty-one years of missions service (in the old way) are over. I have completed my task in the same way that Josiah reigned for thirty-one years. I am so grateful for the fruit and blessing of those three decades. God has been good to me. I re-committed the next phase of my life to him. I am now older, grayer, with more aches and pains, but my desire to serve my King has not diminished. At the end, I looked over the Scriptures once again that Jim and Joy Dawson gave to me. Yes, I was born to be a Josiah. Like Asa, Hezekiah, Jehoshaphat and Josiah, God wants me to bring reforms to my state and nation. And the following Scripture spoke to me most powerfully:

"Arise for this matter is your responsibility. We also will be with you. Be of good courage and do it" Ezra 10:4).

On the same beach, thirty years apart, I re-dedicate my life to God's purposes. I will arise through the door of public service. It is my responsibility. Others will join me and be with me. Just as I have lived the past portion of my life in FAITH, I must do the same at this time. "The righteous shall live by faith." Lord Jesus-I am willing. I can do nothing without you. As I step into this new calling, I ask for your energy, wisdom, anointing, boldness, humility. May your will be done.

Hood Canal, Washington

October 29, 2005 17,622 - 12, 191

It's been a pretty eventful week for me as I've begun the "destiny race" on the last third of my life. On Saturday, October 22, fifteen advisors gathered together at Selah Inn to plot the course of my first run for public office. They included a variety of friends: Karl & Gretchen Duff, Bruce & Ellen Craswell, Rich & Bev Riedesel, Gloria Riedesel, Doug & Peggy Simpson, Craig Bilderback, and Pete Vertefeuille. We spent six hours together looking at my strengths and weaknesses and gazing at the future. Our of the meeting came one serious campaign theme *Restoring Hope* and one humorous one *Don't Blame Me-Vote Boehme*. It was a good start.

Port Orchard, Washington

The next day I preached in both services at First Christian-my first appearance there in over four years. I will include the essence of the sermon below which was the newsletter theme this month. To my surprise, they clapped at my announcement and were very supportive. Many said they would work for the campaign. I was very encouraged by this initial response. Here's my announcement in printed form.

Faith Means Leaving Your Comfort Zone

I have something personal to share with you this month. God has been speaking about adding a mission field to my life. This is a huge step of faith, but I've concluded it is simply the next chapter in a wild, lifetime adventure that started with faith and must continue that way.

Faith is the active ingredient of the Kingdom of God. Near the beginning of the "faith" chapter of the Bible, Hebrews 11:6 tells us that "without faith it is impossible to please God." In the following book, James tells us that faith without works is dead (James 2:17). This isn't intellectual faith. That's not enough. It's not demonic faith ("the demons

believe and tremble"). That doesn't save them. No, the kind of faith God requires might be defined in this way: faith means leaving your comfort zones. It is a life of active obedience to God where we go against the flesh--our desire for personal peace and affluence--and be willing to live on the edge for Jesus and His Kingdom.

Biblical saints had this kind of faith. Noah left his comfort zone to build a boat in a rainless world; Abraham left the familiarity of Iraq (Ur of the Chaldeans) to go to land that God would give to his descendants; In faith, Isaac left the comfort of Palestine to sojourn in Egypt; Four hundred years later, Moses left the comforts of the palace, and then later the security of the desert, to step out in faith. Plenty of other OT saints left their comfort zones: Isaiah prophesied naked for eighteen months, Daniel went into a lion's den,

David faced a giant, and Nehemiah left Babylon to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Of course, in the NT we read about Peter who gave up fishing and Paul who abandoned the priesthood. But if faith really does mean leaving your comfort zones, then the greatest act of all was the Lord Jesus Christ leaving heaven and dying an excruciating death on the cross-separated from the Father of all Comfort.

I've believed in this active definition of faith all my life. The morning I got saved in 1968 I left the comfort zone of Lutheranism to become born again. In 1972 I left the comfort of college to go and study the Bible in New Zealand--and two years later in Germany I left the pursuit of a secure job to become a missionary. Stepping out of numerous comfort zones, Shirley and I pulled trailers around America, organized Washington for Jesus in 1980, and started YWAM bases in Virginia and Washington State--and even had six kids--by faith. As I've gotten older there has been a temptation to slow down, take it easy, join AARP and retire--but that's not the life of faith.

That's why in 2006, I'm going to run for the State Legislature. I'm not leaving YWAM. I will continue as president of the Westsound board and give leadership to projects both in Port Orchard and Discovery Bay. But God has nudged me to add the mission field of government to my current portfolio. I will seek a seat in the State House of Representatives from the 26th District. I ask for your support and understanding, and I covet your prayers.

Why am I running for Washington State Representative?

First, because I believe God is leading me. The first book I wrote in 1976 was on the need for righteousness in government. I have always had an interest in the

political sphere—from establishing a Christian ministry center on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. in the 80s to involvement in causes and awakening in Washington State more recently. God has a plan for our lives. Part of his plan for me involves helping to lead a cultural and economic transformation in Washington State.

Second, I'm running because I believe that government has become the main bottleneck to both the American dream and destiny. In Washington, we have a beautiful environment. We have some of the greatest businesses in the world including Boeing, Microsoft, and Starbucks. But our state government is mired in the past—bloated, inefficient and unaccountable to the people. Washington is like a beautiful car (our environment) that contains fantastic passengers (our people and businesses) but has a decrepit engine that is spitting and sputtering and is ready to die. We need a new engine—a transformed government to lead our state into greatness in the 21st century.

Third, I've been a leader all my life that has made a difference in people's lives. I want to provide visionary, principled leadership by example for our citizens. I'm tired of weak, compromising politicians with multiple skeletons in their personal closets who are leading America off a precipice. I was a catalyst in Washington D.C. during the Reagan Revolution that re-directed America. In 2006 I will work locally and statewide to call the Church to prayer and repentance and a righteous revolution in government.

What will be my message?

RESTORING FAITH. Whose world view will lead the world in the new millennium? Osama bin Laden's? Charles Darwin's? No--the historic biblical faith of most of the American people and Washingtonians. I will expose the religious apartheid taking place in our country and help release the people of faith to house the homeless, care for the needy, and make a difference in our towns and neighborhoods. **It's time for the Church to turn on the light of Christ's love and for government to stop pushing faith into a religious ghetto in American society.**

CHAMPIONING YOUTH AND FAMILIES. My entire life has centered on reaching, training, mobilizing and inspiring youth. There are no greater issues in our lifetime than restoring the basic right to life and institutionalizing God-ordained marriage between a man and a woman—to protect and nurture kids. We must promote character in our culture through strong families and churches and work to restrict the number one cause of both poverty and human alienation—the tragedy of divorce.

RELEASING FREEDOM. I want to see the power of freedom released to the fullest in our state and nation. Freedom from excessive taxation, freedom in personal property

rights, and freedom in educational choice and opportunities are fundamental American values. While freedom is advancing all over the world, it is shrinking in the Land of Liberty. We must return to our noble roots-that faith in God leads to morality, morality produces freedom, and freedom brings the blessing of God both at home and around the world.

Running for public office is a big step. I'm leaving a comfortable lifestyle to step into shark-infested waters. I've been told that to win my election I must personally knock on 12,000 doors in the 26th District and raise a minimum of \$125,000. At this stage in my life, both of those assignments are uncomfortable and ironic. **God knows that my least favorite form of evangelism is going door-to-door.**

And what's my most dreaded job as a missions director? Raising money. I can hear the angels laughing.

My grandparents gave me a Bible many years ago and underlined Revelation 2:10 which says, **"Be faithful until death and I will give you a crown of life." Another way to state that: be "FULL of FAITH all your life and rewards will follow."** Faith means leaving your comfort zones. By God's grace, I'm running for the state legislature next year and I'm running to win.

How about you? Are you huddled into any comfortable pursuits that God would have you alter? One day Isaiah had a vision of God that awakened him out of his personal peace. At the end of the encounter, the Lord spoke, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then I said, "Here am I! Send me" (Isaiah 6:8). I've heard the same voice-and I'm going. I want to live by faith. If you've got nothing else to do, come knock on 12,000 doors with me as I take the plunge. Better yet, ask him what he wants you to do. You've got one life to live. Live it by faith.

The rest of this important week has been used to plan the campaign and begin. Lord- I launch into this new phase with great trepidation, but total faith in your sufficiency. Today you greatly encouraged me out of Jeremiah 33. You are the God who made the world and who made me. Your plans will be established. Please *increase my faith and go before me*. In You alone I put my trust.

Juncos, Puerto Rico

November 17, 2005 - 17,630 - 12,173

I just returned from my eighth trip to Puerto Rico, and as usual, it was a wonderful time with a wonderful people. I flew in on Saturday this year and spoke at Pastor Nelson's Immanuel Church on the Sunday morning. It's a church whose structure was destroyed during a hurricane a few years ago. They are a worshipping congregation and I greatly enjoyed preaching on "I Will Build My Church." There was a good response at the end.

For the week I did my usual pouring out of my heart to the thirty-five students that were assembled from various parts of Latin America. This year for the first time about half of the students either understood or spoke English- and that was an asset for me. It was a great week of impartation as usual with God moving freely in conviction and passion. I thank God for the privilege of coming to this beautiful island each year.

I had a bit of a rough trip going home. After trying to straighten out some ticket problems at the airport, I nearly lost my laptop when I forgot it in the security area. As I was about to board my plane, I remembered and had to run all the way back to security and then back to board. Not an easy day of travel--but compared to the pioneers of the past, it was nothing to get excited about.

We're now full-blown into the beginning of the political campaign and I've raised my first \$5000 toward the goal. There is so much to learn and so many people to see. Daily I'm asking God for his grace and guidance, and so far, he is sustaining me. I rely on the truth that He who began this journey will see it through to completion.

Port Orchard, Washington

December 31, 2005 - 17,674 -12,129

Many days have flown by and another year has come to an end. This coming year I need to be more consistent in writing in my journal. Many things have happened in the past six weeks and I will do my best to record them here as 2005 comes to an end.

Most of latter November and December were spent in preparing to run for office and the myriad of things that need to come into place, and ushering YWAM into a new era of leadership and growth. I have approached Peter Iliyn and Steve Fitzpatrick about altering my YWAM role in the coming year to that of **director of YWAM Washington**. I would love

to serve the various bases in the state in an encouragement and coordination role, and turn YWAM Port Orchard and Discovery Bay loose to grow on their own.

This will take some time, but I believe this is the necessary steps to take. I had a good meeting with Peter and Steve about this in Kelso, WA in early December, and I look for the Lord leadership and YWAM concurrence in the coming months. **It's time for me to stop leading bases and concentrate on giving leadership to a state via being a state legislator and move into more of a pastoral role within YWAM.** I am deeply grateful for the thirty-one years of leading YWAM teams and bases but excited about the next step. I am looking forward to God's confirmations and timing.

It was a blessing to speak at Christ Memorial's annual missions conference in late November. God blessed my presentation on the modern eras of missions expansion-and I pray it will be used to send out more missionaries.

At Discovery Bay, we are on the cusp of taking over complete leadership of the property and transitioning to a new management team. Tag and Deidra will take over as base directors and I will serve as board president of a reformed corporation.

Over Christmas it was a blessing to have Nathan and David (and their friend Ashlie) home for a week. It was great to be a family and to speak into our sons lives. Both Shirley and I are praying that the coming years will see a great release into their destinies and great growth of godly character.

There are concerns, but "He who began a good work in them will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." It was sad to put them on an airplane on December 30, but that only shows how strong are the bonds of love. I pray for our boys and desire God's highest for them. Lord Jesus-move mightily in their lives!

I have now chosen a logo for the campaign and have most areas of the team ready to put into motion. January and February will really be the launch time of my campaign for the state legislature. Recently God has been challenging me to *run the best, godliest, and wisest campaign ever done in Washington State.* I believe that we can do it.

This morning, God took me back to Joshua 1:1-9 which I believe will be a theme for 2006. I am to be "strong and very courageous" as I begin this new era of life calling. Lord-I commit to follow you. Please make me strong and grow the courage of Jesus in the center of my being.