

The Journal of Ron Boehme - 2006

Port Orchard, Washington

January 7, 2006 - 19,681 - 12,122

I believe that the following are at the heart of my marching orders for the year of our Lord, 2006:

“Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross the Jordan, you and all this people to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel. Every place on which the sole of your foot treads I have given to you, just as I spoke to Moses... No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you nor forsake you.

Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. *Only be strong and very courageous* to be careful to do according to all the law which Moses my servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate upon it day and night so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it, for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? *Be strong and courageous!* Do not tremble or be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:2-9

When I first read these words, I wondered about the difference between “being strong” and being “courageous.” In my quiet time yesterday, **God immediately instructed me that being strong is the aspect of discipline. Courage is the quality of faith.** I need to make this year the most DISCIPLINED year of my entire life as I change my YWAM role and be faithful to those responsibilities, as I run for the state legislature, as I finish my degree, and as I serve as a husband and dad. Through my own personal culture of discipline, I need to completely work by FAITH. This is no time for slackness or doubt. Lord – I thank for this understanding and ask for your empowering. It’s going to be an amazing year.

Last week, in obedience, I did something I have never done in my life: I gave away all my old dress clothes, went to Men’s Wearhouse and spent over \$1000 on a new wardrobe that I need for the public arena. It was a simple act of faith—and part of God’s

word to me that “I need to become what I believe.” That includes every area of my life—including the way that I dress.

January 26, 2006 - 19,700 - 12,113

This has been a preparation month for a very busy and eventful year. I’m trying to re-shape YWAM to help it blossom and grow as my role changes. Many things are being printed and organized to launch the campaign full-tilt; There are many needs and situations in the life of our family including some physical problems for my dad and financial struggles with various kids; The pressures of finishing my degree will intensify in the next four months. And in it all, I’m trying to live by being “strong and courageous” knowing that the most strenuous months lie ahead.

Hood Canal, Washington

One little respite we recently enjoyed during this time of building momentum was Shirley’s and my annual get-a-away weekend at Selah Inn—thank to the graciousness of Pat & Bonnie McCullough. January 20-22, we enjoyed forty-eight wonderful hours of rest, appreciation for one another, and love in their beautiful home on Hood Canal. Our love has so matured over the years and its depth has greatly grown. We are so grateful for one another at this stage in our lives, and very much still in love. Lord, I thank you so much for the gift of Shirley Jean Cookson into my life over thirty years ago. Yes, “an excellent wife” is from the Lord. I pray that I might love and bless her all the days of my life.

Some of my campaign details are a little slow in launching and I need to be faithful, patient, and increasingly disciplined to see them all come together. This year I must manage my time as never before. At least the doorbell pieces arrived this week and the rest of the literature is coming soon. We have also been approved to open up a new YWAM “Community Transformation Office at Christian Life Center”, and this will be a blessing to both our YWAM work and the campaign. Lord – help me pull together the details of the “launch event” and continue to bless (and help me be diligent) with our fund-raising efforts. I fully and totally put my trust in you.

Port Orchard, Washington

February 16, 2006 – 19,700 - 12,113

A busy month as sped by. The campaign continues to take off. We now have all the literature necessary to begin a run, our Community Transformation Office is up and running, and I need to hit the fund-raising trail again. I know this is God’s calling on my life, but I desperately need his grace to make it through. We had a wonderful beginning to our “Boehme Boom”

doorbelling meeting with 26 eager people in attendance. I believe we are going to have 30-40 that can staff four teams of five or six four days a week. That will make it a significant doorbelling thrust. Lord – may we glorify you at every door.

While Tag and Deidra are in China, I'm a little concerned about developments at Discovery Bay. Finances are down, we have a desperate need for people and recruits, and we don't seem to have the spiritual inertia to "get the fly wheel spinning." I'm crying out to God and seek His blessings and answers. I wish the base were strong as I make my run for office, but that is not the case. Lord – intervene on behalf of the vision you have given.

One sad but exciting day this month was helping Megan to move into her new apartment in Gig Harbor. It is near the water and very nice. I teared up as we left our "little girl" who has now grown up. She also cried as we drove away. It's not easy to see your kids fly the nest, but it is very necessary for their growth as adults. Lord- I pray this time in Megan's life would be the time she grows close to you. Thank you for the nineteen years of allowing her to live under our roof. She may never do that again, but that is okay as she is "always under the roof of her Heavenly Father."

I do my first Republican candidate forum today. I ask for God's anointing, humility, and strength. Go before me O King Eternal. I WILL NOT FEAR because you are with me.

February 18, 2006 - 19,702 – 12,111

As I was pondering God's words for me from Joshua 1 this morning—"be strong and very courageous" I became aware that I need the *strength* this coming year for the *doorbelling* part of the campaign which will begin February 27, and I need *courage or faith* in the *fund-raising* part which is a daily burden. God said he will give these to me, and I believe Him for it.

Olympia, Washington

February 23, 2006 - 19,707 - 12,106

I attended a fund-raising seminar in Olympia this week where the Senate's best fund-riser, Don Benton, laid out his secrets of successful money-raising. It was powerful, basic, and common sense. Like any area of life, it is basically an unflinching commitment to hard work and perseverance. Don puts it this way: "I will persist until I succeed." There were some enlightening pointers—especially the aspect of starting early and even completing 70% of your fund-raising by July 1 so that you can concentrate on people

activities from then out. There is much to pray about and ponder from this seminar, and I believe the Lord is showing me that I need to apply it in a very diligent manner for the next two months to 1) Show the Party and other challengers that I am a serious contender, 2) Discourage any opposition, 3) Build incredible momentum for the fall campaign.

This is how the Scripture states the persistence principle: “Jesus set his face like a flint to go to Jerusalem.” I must set my face like stone to raise the money necessary to serve in Olympia. Lord, strengthen my hands.

Port Orchard, Washington

March 12, 2006 - 19,345 - 11,680

I'm fifty-three years old today and I thank God for every day of life that he has graciously given me. I'm in a busy campaign for office—a giant new step in my life—and continuing to be faithful with finishing school and running the YWAM ship. This week I started the big fund-raising push for the campaign—and the doorbelling thrust. And then, a little problem came up. I began to have pain once again in my left hip.

The possibility that my resurfacing procedure has failed has really hit me this week. The hip (and back) are sore and I am crying out to God. Is this spiritual warfare or just a body part failure at a very inopportune time? It's really the last thing that I would have imagined as I looked at the “Valley Forge” that I knew I would enter this year.

I am numbed at the prospect of another hip surgery in less than two years and what that means for my run for office. Though I'm celebrating the gift of life today with family and friends, on the inside I am sobered and a little scared about what lies ahead. Lord—I need you so desperately to lead and guide me.

In my normal morning quiet time, God really spoke to me out of Psalm 71:

“Rescue me, o my God... for you are my hope. O Lord my God, you are my confidence from my youth. By you I have been sustained from birth. You are the One that took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of You.”

“Oh God, do not be far from me. O God, hasten to my help... But as for me I will hope continually. And I will praise you yet more and more.”

“O God you have taught me from my youth, and I still declare your wondrous deeds. And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare your strength to this generation, your power to those who are to come.”

On Wednesday I will get x-rays on the hip and then a lot of decisions will need to be made. Lord, strengthen my faith and carry me through this valley. Is this what you warned me about—and called me to be STRONG and COURAGEOUS? If so, then it is YOUR STRENGTH that I need.

Thank you that as you helped David in his heart cry for help, so you will also come to my aid. I do love and trust you alone

April 13, 2006 - 19,377 – 11,648

I have been too busy to write in my journal. Praise the Lord, my hip turned out to be only a soft tissue bursitis, and I started taking anti-inflammatories and hit the ground running. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your faithfulness and for helping me through this scare. I am so grateful.

The campaign is now full-tilt and the “Boehme Boom” has already done 4600 doors. I’m enjoying meeting the people and talking about their needs. The pace is hectic, but God’s grace is truly sufficient. I am so thankful for Gloria and my wonderful team. I couldn’t do it without them.

I’m in a crucial stretch of raising funds to put my campaign on the political map and will be speaking before the Pierce and Kitsap Conventions in the next few weeks to garner the 25% vote that’s necessary to get on the ballot. I’m a little nervous about that one but committing it to the Lord. Now that I’m fully declared for House Position 2, it is a race against Trent England, and I want to both honor him and run to win in the way that God would desire.

It’s also an important time in Discovery Bay as I try to liaison the property transition to YWAM (multiplying into two boards) and bring ORCA onto the property. I believe that ministry will take off when that partnership is complete.

Lord—I ask for your supernatural help in raising the necessary funds to win the House race, the grace to keep knocking on doors and attending meetings, and above all—that I don’t miss one aspect of doing your will in my life. I’m committed to this new leadership step. Be my Captain and my Guide. May it be for revival in Washington and the United States. This is a perilous and discouraging time. Lead me forward with the faith and hope that only you bring.

Tacoma, Washington

April 17, 2006 - 19,381 - 11,644

April 15, 2006 will go down in my early political career as **Black Saturday**. At the Pierce County Convention, we were shell-shocked by smarter campaigning by Trent England and a bit of torpedoing of my campaign by 26th Chairwoman Marlyn Jensen and Co. I received a very cold welcome from the delegates there, and when the count was taken, Trent received 32 votes and I only got 4. That's only 11%. I now need 36% at the Kitsap Convention to even get on the primary ballot and that won't be easy.

It was sickening to go through this experience, but since coming home and collecting my wits about this disastrous performance, God has encouraged my soul to go for broke this week and win my way onto the ballot. We underestimated Trent and did not pay close attention to the change of rules this year. I will not do that again.

Here is the plan I will pursue this week to keep my campaign alive:

BATTLE PLAN

After much prayer and thought I offer the following strategy to get my name on the Republican ballot next Saturday:

1. Mobilize extensive prayer
2. Form an Alliance with Lois - I'll get my solid 15-20 delegates to absolutely vote for her and you have her do the same for me.
3. I'll drop everything and work the PCO/Delegates this week. I will aim for 40 of them to commit to me.
4. We must beat our opponent at his own game:
 - (1) We need some signs for the Convention - Doug
 - (2) I will bring many guests there - with T-shirts - Doug & Gloria
 - (3) They will form a "cheering section" for me during my speech. - Ron
 - (4) We'll set up a first-class table. - Gloria
 - (5) I'll bring my family and include them in my presentation.
5. I'll send a second letter to the delegates - it is attached above (Convention Letter 2)
6. You need to come here this week to help us. We can chat about it later.

Port Orchard, Washington

This week I'm "strengthening myself in God" and going to work. We were out strategized and out-worked last week. Time is short, but we can do it--especially with Lois' help.

This morning in my quiet time I meditated on 1 Samuel 30:1-9 about David's disaster when Ziklag was burned and his wives and children were taken. He was greatly distressed (the same way I felt on Saturday). But verse six proclaims that "*David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.*" And he inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue this band? Shall I overtake them? And he said to him, "*Pursue for you shall surely overtake them and you shall surely rescue all.*"

That is where I stand this week. Through God's strength I'm going to give it everything I've got to rescue my campaign. Part of this predicament is my fault (and my opponent's wiser strategy). Part is an attack from the enemy (through Marlyn). Lord, I will pursue. I ask you to give me FAVOR with those with whom I speak.

Silverdale, Washington

April 23, 2006 – 19,387 – 11,638

We did it. Here is the letter I sent to our Campaign Team night acknowledging our great victory yesterday at the Republican Convention. Black Saturday turned to Victorious Saturday.

Thanks to your help and prayers, we worked a real miracle at the Kitsap County Republican Convention **where I won the vote for Position 2 by a 28-23 margin** thus securing my place on the primary ballot. After what had happened in Pierce County, this was a crucial victory. It was quite a week--but I thank the Lord for his grace and wisdom in guiding us to a positive result.

This was the week where we really **learned to campaign**. Thirty T-shirts were printed, signs were made, a professional display table was put together, many volunteers were mobilized, and I personally worked 53 delegates for five solid days. **At the Convention on Saturday, our Boehme Boom volunteers were out in force and really stole the show.**

We had sign wavers at street entrances, greeters everywhere, and when I spoke to the delegates, there was a great cheering section to back me up. Even when my opponent tried to use every tactic in the book to disqualify some of our delegates, we prevailed in the end. I was stunned by the final victory--an amazing turn-around. A week ago, we

were on the ropes due to the new Republican rules and our opponent out-maneuvering us. Today, we can run full speed toward victory in the primary.

Thank you, my friends who came out to help--and thank you to all that prayed. Now it's back to doorbelling, fund-raising and continuing to serve in our area. May God continue to strengthen us as we move forward. If you are helping door-to-door, we'll see you again this week. If you are prayer warriors, please don't let up. And if you want to get involved in other ways, please give Gloria a call at 360-440-9969. It is a privilege to serve with you. May God be glorified in every way through our run for the state legislature.

Gratefully yours in Him,

Ron

Last week I learned a lot about myself, about political campaigns, and how to run full tilt with a knot in your stomach all week. If we hadn't prevailed, it would have been the shortest political campaign in history. But we did.

Acts 23:11 was the anointed Scripture this morning: "The Lord stood at his side and said, 'Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to my cause in Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also.'" I know what that means for me.

"Bless the Lord for his wonderful works—for his miracles to the sons of men."

Washington, D.C.

May 5, 2006 – 19,399 - 11,626

I'm just finishing a great trip—my annual trip—to Washington D.C. for the National Day of Prayer and other meetings. This year contained some nostalgia for me as it has been exactly twenty years since we left this area. Amazing how quickly twenty years has gone. The capital is a changed place, and I am a changed person. Only the work of God in individual lives reveals a continuity and stability that time and place don't equal.

Below are the God-highlights:

Youth Ministry Executive Council – We met again this year at the Bolger Center with about forty ministry leaders in attendance. As usual, it was an inspiring time of fellowship, vision and prayer. The second day I joined Becky Tirabassi and others in an hour's prayer meeting for revival. Also enjoyed sharing my call to run for public office with the group and deeply appreciated their prayer and support. In the final session God really spoke to us about the need

for revival in our lives and among young people, and the importance of confession of sin. Reminded me of my roots—and lifetime message.

National Day of Prayer – I went downtown about eleven am and got to walk through 133 C St. for a time while no one was there. It is in beautiful condition and being used of God as a place of prayer and ministry. They have added a prayer room and other amenities. I thank God for how He is using this ministry. I then visited the Bible Reading Marathon and then went to the celebration in the Cannon Building which lasted from about 1-4pm. It was a powerful time of prayer, worship, and great messages by many godly people. Henry Blackaby was the main speaker this year. It was extremely uplifting.

I then joined Corinthia Boone's rainbow coalition for the evening event on the Capitol lawn. There was a good crowd of between 500-1000 on a gorgeous sunny day. At the end of the service, I was asked to come on stage and exhort the youth and pray for their destinies. That was a privilege. God was manifestly present at the event and it greatly uplifted my spirit. Afterwards I spent some time with Nancy Wilson and Pat hen who showed us her "Secret Place" prayer room just around the corner from 133 C. St. She's taken a basement suite and turned it into a lovely office and prayer room where she brings leaders and others to pray for America and the world. Just a half a block from her place is the Judicial House of Prayer run by Lou Engle.

How exciting it is to see God multiplying intercession in the heart of the nation's capital. He must be about to do something great.

At the end of the prayer service near the Capitol steps, I had a unique encounter. After coming down from the stage, I was approached by a woman with a ten-year old African American son who said they were looking for "Brother Ron." When I said I was he, they asked me if the boy could pray for me. God had given them my name in the crowd, and they wanted the boy to bless me. I knelt on the ground, and the young man named Emmanuel Burgess began to pour out his heart on my behalf. It was a fervent and eloquent prayer that focused on praying for relief from my weariness and power in ministry.

I took it as a sign of God's confirmation of my calling into the public arena. It was just amazing that it took place through a ten year old boy who prayed like a seasoned pastor—and that, right beneath the steps of the Capitol dome where twenty years ago God met me in a powerful way and reassured me that there was a "future and a hope." I also encouraged Emmanuel in his gifts and predicted that God would use him in many nations around the world.

Today I'm seeing a few friends before catching a plane back to Seattle for my college graduation tomorrow from Northwest University. It takes place at Overlake Church at 10am. This is quite a year. Lord, thank you for my wonderful stay in the

nation's capital. We are in precarious times in world history and the American destiny, but I'm trusting you to do great things which will glorify the Name of Jesus. May my life be lived in that pursuit—and nothing less.

* The graduation service went well. There were a few thousand people in attendance, and I was honored with a special award. It was great to have my folks there along with a few other friends. I teared up as I thought about God's faithfulness to me in finishing this degree—about 35 years late. Things are never late in God's timing.

Los Angeles, California

June 12, 2006 – 19,437 - 11,588

Time has gotten away from me again—and that is due to the busyness of the campaign. I'll try to catch up today.

The last two weeks in May we drove to Los Angeles to be with Nathan and David. As usual, it was a very good time of hanging around their apartment, lounging at the pool, going out to eat together, and allowing the four boys to enjoy each other. The only hitch in the wonderful two weeks was the day we were scheduled to go to Disneyland, I walked out to the car to get my cell phone (which had been accidentally left there the night before) and realized that the car had been stolen.

In talking to the police, it is probably related to illegal immigration. In Woodland Hills alone, thieves take 7-11 cars per day. It was a punch to the gut, but God quickly reminded me that “our lives do not consist in our possessions” and that we should “not lay up treasures on earth...where thieves break in and steal.” Instead of being down about this violation, we hopped in another car and still had a great time in the Magic Kingdom. We rented a car to return to Port Orchard at the end of our stay.

Port Orchard, Washington

I consider my campaign as heading into the 3rd quarter. Through much hard work, I have now raised over \$31,000 and we have door-belled nearly 9000 houses. I need to up my quota of homes to reach the 5000 mark personally by July 10 to be invited to an elite meeting of candidates—but I know I can do it. It is hard work—but that's true of any area of life.

We also had our first parade on June 3 and over 38 volunteers turned to man our large float that had been built by Rich [Riedesel], Tim [Allen], and Jim [Powell]. It was the largest political float in the Gig Harbor Maritime parade. It was a lot of fun.

Lord – continue to sustain and bless me during this time. I need your energy, grace, and power to meet the goals and rise to the prize. Thanks for encouraging me to take the high road in all things—and to persevere in your power. I'm going to Olympia to help bring your awakening power to this state. May you be glorified.

August 13, 2006 – 19,468 – 11,588

This is one of the longest breaks I have ever taken from my journal, but it is due to the pace of the campaign and all my responsibilities with it. Whew. It is a steep learning curve, but God has been helping us to persevere and make progress. I'll mention some of the highlights of the past two months below:

Discovery Bay, Washington

On July 1 we reached a real milestone at Discovery Bay when the DBCF board turned over the leadership of the corporation to YWAM. We now own and operate the property and are very excited about it. The new board has eight members composed of people from both groups. Praise the Lord for his abundant goodness at Discovery Bay. I now pray he will lead us into an incredible future of ministry and growth in missions.

Port Orchard, Washington

We have now doorbelled 19,000 homes and are still on a pace to reach our 31,000 goal. It has not been easy doing 500 doors a week myself, but I am learning much about the community that I want to represent and praying over many homes.

God has really helped me meet financial goals in the past two months that have made us the number one GOP fund-raiser in the state among new candidates. As of this week, we had crossed the \$53,000 mark in contributions and in-kind donations.

Our signs are now out—being vandalized, replaced—and expanded. I struggled with the vandalism at first but now have become resigned to it. In everything I must persevere to be the best candidate in the field.

We made a great splash at both parades with a large float and many enthusiastic supporters. In Gig Harbor we had over 40 volunteers, and at the Fathoms O Fun day we topped 56. I am so grateful for all our wonderful supporters.

This past week we had a scare when it was reported that a newspaper may do a sleaze story on some of our campaign financial dealings. God really used it to wake me

up to the importance of having high integrity and standards in every aspect of the campaign. I know I'm going to get shot at—I just must not give the enemy any ammunition by being careless. **Diligence and integrity are the keys.**

The primary is now a month away. Lord—strengthen my hands as I continue to take this step of faith for you. I want to serve You and You alone.

August 25, 2006 - 19,480 – 11,545

Well the dreaded media hit took place on Wednesday—in the Peninsula Gateway newspaper. It was a real hatchet job of questioning my integrity with finances and taking a broad, nasty swipe at my face. It was a front-page article that was **pure political sleaze**. I would have expected this in the general election—motivated by the Democrats—but not in the primary. It was like a dagger in the heart to me and made me realize how much I need to toughen my political skin while keeping my heart teachable and correctable by God.

Trent England and I also did our final debate yesterday before the Gig Harbor Legislative Forum and a media interview with the Seattle Times. On the same day, The Sun endorsed Trent in the primary which caught me a little off guard. But the more I thought about it, it made sense. They are a very liberal newspaper that is strongly opposed to Christian conservatives. Since I am the strongest of the two, they took their shots at me.

Both experiences just reminded me of the grasp that the enemy has on the media. For some of the day I was down, but then I strengthened myself in God, eventually got a good night's sleep and was encouraged by this Scripture this morning in my quiet time:

“Listen to my prayer, O God. Do not ignore my cry for help! Please listen and answer me, for I am overwhelmed by my troubles. My enemies shout at me, making loud and wicked threats. They bring trouble on me, hunting me down in their anger... Give your burdens to the Lord and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall... I am trusting you to save me” (Psalm 55).

Lord I cast my burdens on you and look for you to guide me. I am feeling very weak but will continue to move forward in your strength alone. Turn the tables on the enemy and vindicate me! I have listened to your wise words of counsel, humbled my heart, and made the changes that you showed me. Now—go before me O God and have your will be done in this election—now just 25 days away (primary).

September 19, 2006 - 19,505 - 11,520

Those twenty-five days have come and gone in a whirl of activity. **Today is my first election ever, and I am cautiously optimistic as we await the results. In the past month I've increased my own personal doorbelling to 9,575 homes and the “Boomers” have added another 14,000 bringing us to over 24,000 doors.** In the past few weeks we've focused on the media

campaign and sent one piece to 28,000 homes, another to all the Republicans, a third to the pro-life element, and a final piece to the 18,000 homes that were slow to send in their ballots. We also sent a recorded phone message to 15,000 homes. We believe that our doorbelling and the media blitz have set us up well for tonight's vote.

Win or lose, I believe I've been obedient to the Lord in this first run. I've learned much about the area in knocking on 10,000 doors, and prayed many prayers over neighbors, friends, and new acquaintances. We have also done quite a few forums and events where I've been able to polish my message. I feel like I am still in a steep learning curve—but that's to be expected. I've never done this before.

On Sunday I ran into a major speed bump on the campaign trail when I woke up in a lot of pain, emanating from my back and right leg. An MRI yesterday revealed a herniated disk in my lower back that is pinching a nerve. I've been in quite a bit of pain and was tempted to get done about this unfortunate timing. But in looking over my diary for this year, this appears to be par for the course in God teaching me to be humble, faithful, prayer and hard-working.

Though I am limping toward the primary finish line, I am reminded of my need for GOD and the importance of giving Him the glory in everything I'm doing. We had to cancel our primary party for tonight, but if I win, I'll need to get my back fixed and keep on moving. Not a dull moment in a life spent pursuing the call of Jesus.

Gloria had a prayer meeting with a few friends last night, and these are the notes that were given to me:

"I saw a picture of you standing with all of your armor on, but your back was left unprotected. We prayed for God to raise up people who would stand behind you in prayer and guard your back."

"I also had a sense that the enemy had overplayed his hand. Through this we saw our need for God's continued protection, covering and sustaining power. This whole event served as a wake-up call."

"Mike had this picture of the partnering of the intercessor and the visionary. The visionary ones are busy looking and moving forward as they are gifted and called to. The intercessors come behind and protect the Achilles heel. They see the archers on the hill that take the cheap shots, and they see and guard over the chinks in the armor."

"Mike had a very clear sense of the Scripture with the phrase 'the glory of the Lord will be the rear guard.' When I looked it up later it is Isaiah 58:8. The whole verse is very powerful. It says 'Your light will go forth like the dawn, your healing will quickly arise, your righteousness.... And the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.'"

“Mike had a picture of people fighting on a battlefield. Ron was going forward, and you could see where Ron had been by the enemies that had fallen on either side. Rarely would the giants of the land take him on, but it was the archers who would come from behind. Ron could go much farther than most before a breakdown, but he was not invincible and there were still breakdowns. Needed God’s grace and glory as a covering and people to be there to encourage him as the weak times come.”

“Mike also had a picture of Ron carrying the flag. Those are the most influential people in the battle because they are the soul and the backbone of the army. They are a person of leadership and influence and they carry the morale of the people. They become prime targets and those with great courage and the biggest hearts for the move carry the flag.”

“The flag is the sign to the people that the revolution is going forward. They keep the unity for if the flag falls the people scatter.”

Later in the week it was confirmed that **I won the election 54% to 46%**. Trent called me on Thursday to concede, and we had a good chat and pledge to really work together for a win in November.

Silverdale, Washington

On Thursday I was able to see Dr. David Mourning of the Doctor’s Clinic in Silverdale who is an orthopedist. **He confirmed that I have a ruptured disk between the L1 and L2 vertebrae’s and it is probably pinching no less than three nerves in my right leg. In a miraculous answer to prayer, he agreed do surgery the next day to take care of the problem.**

On Friday my folks took me to the hospital and after a lengthy wait, Dr. Mourning operated on me at about 2:30pm. I woke up in recovery, ate a few crackers and drank some water, and then they released me home—**with my miracle fix!** Today I’m a bit washed out and sore, but the leg pain is behind me and the disk material removed. It’s only been six days since the trauma, but a doorway has opened for me to heal and get on with the campaign.

Lord Jesus – I give you all the glory for arranging this amazing timetable and being the ultimate Great Physician in my life. I commit to lose weight, take better care of my back for the rest of my life, and to finish the race you’ve placed before me. I can do absolutely nothing without you and your strength. Thank you for “saving” me again. You’ve done it many times over the past fifty-three years.

Port Orchard, Washington

October 28, 2006 – 19,544 – 11,481

In the busyness of the campaign, I have neglected my journal again. I've glad that the Living God had not neglected me during this time. He is always on the move.

After recovering from the ruptured disk, I resumed doorbelling and we moved into high gear to finish the race. In the past week, the dreaded attacks from the opposition have come forefront with **three different hit pieces sent out from the "Truman Fund" to try and discredit my campaign. The last piece took a direct swipe at my writings and Christian faith and pained the picture that my views are "extreme" and even "out of this world."** On the humorous side, I guess that means that I will have to confess that I came from Krypton and really am Superman. On a serious note, I have been staggered for a day by these low blows and have really cried out to God.

Earlier in the week he answered me with this encouragement:

"O Israel, trust the Lord! He is your helper; he is your shield! O priests of Aaron, trust the Lord! He is your helper; he is your shield! All you who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord! He is your helper; he is your shield! The Lord remembers us, and he will surely bless us" (Psalm 115:9-11).

After the brutal day of direct mail attack, I am "strengthening myself in my God" to finish this race strong. I believe that I made a rookie mistake by keeping all my articles on the web, that the deed is done. At this point I believe God wants me to edit them for clarity and then remove them after the election. I've learned a great lesson here. **My newsletter articles were never as carefully edited as my books. I can't make that mistake in the future. I must speak with clarity, but also be wise as a serpent.**

In ten days, the election will be over. Lord, strengthen my hands to finish strong and to put my trust in you.

November 4, 2006 - 19,511 – 11,474

On a rainy blustery day where I got soaked, slipped four different times and fell once, I knocked on 132 doors off Banner Road in PO to complete the doorbelling phase of this campaign at 11,001 doors. Our team total will probably end up near 27,000. What began in Overlook on March 13 has now concluded. This two-to-four-hour prayer walk that I took five days a week really taught me a lot about the people of the District. They are quite diverse, there are many unpaved roads, every home has about three dogs, I was bit twice, and primarily used one pair of black tennis shoes that made the entire journey.

Now only a few days remain until the people render their verdict. Sometimes I feel very confident and other times not. The negative hit pieces have taken their toll, but I also believe we have run a very savvy and excellent race.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for sustaining me and being with me every step of the way. I thank you that you to answer every prayer prayed, and work powerfully in every home according to your great mercy. I pray that every step I took will be territory gained for the Kingdom of God.

November 7, 2006 –19,514 - 11,471

On Saturday I finished the doorbelling campaign by doing 133 doors in the pouring rain. It as a miserable day where I slipped and fell once on the soaked ground, nearly lost my balance a few other times, and even went into the home of a friend to dry my hair because I looked like a drowned rat. But by the end of the day, I had crossed the 11,000-home threshold that had become my goal. It was a great relief to finish this part of the campaign—though I enjoyed meeting people very much.

Sunday and Monday, we finished waving signs, got out the remaining signs and prepared for our “Evening of Thanks” on Tuesday night at First Christian Church. Now all that was left was thanking all who’d served and awaiting the election results.

The Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated for the evening with red, white, and blue balloons, pretty table settings and other mementos. Kari Creed did a great job with the food and Gloria put together a nice slide show. Nearly 80-100 people showed up during the evening. We had a program from 7:30 to 8:15 pm in which we thanked all the volunteers, gave a special photo collage to the McNurney family, and I especially thanked Gloria and Shirley for their unwavering support throughout the year. It was a very special time of honoring people and honoring God.

At about 8:30pm the first results began to trickle in—and they were not encouraging. As the evening developed, we realized that a “Blue Tidal Wave” was going across the nation and many Republicans were losing. By the time it reached 10 pm, we realized that we too had lost—56% - 44%--to Larry Seaquist. After quietly cleaning up the hall, I went home to a fitful sleep, thinking about my loss and trying desperately to put it in perspective.

The next day things were much clearer as we realized that this year, we hadn’t stood a chance. Because of the scandals and poor leadership of the national Republican Party, along with the weight of the Iraq War, the American people had “fired” the Republicans and given the Democrats a chance a chart a new course. In fact, many conservative Democrats had been elected across the nation and the national Democratic Party was soon to claim both the Senate and the House, reversing twelve years of Republican rule.

In Kitsap County, every challenging Republican lost by even higher margins than I. The race that really told the story was for county commissioner where 25-year old Berkeley grad named Josh Brown, a young man with no job and no resume, beat highly skilled and well qualified Jack Hamilton by 17 percentage points. If Harpo Marx had run for Kitsap County Commissioner, he would have won in 2006—if he had a D by his name.

Unfortunately, I made my first run for public office during a Republican repudiation year—and got swept up in the tide. This was the reverse of 1980 when the Reagan Revolution swept the R's into power and 1994 when the Republicans reversed forty years of Democratic control of Congress. But the R's didn't steward the nation well and the people ousted them. This was the wrong year to have an R after your name.

The next two days I spent from morning to night taking down our large signs around the District and collecting my heart and thoughts. It was painful to lose—but I certainly knew going in that it was a possibility. The more I meditated and prayed about it, the more my heart settled. I had done my best. It just wasn't meant to be this year. As I prayed over the events and conclusion of the past nineteen-month journey, God helped me to bring various things into perspective.

Political campaigns are not easy—they are like a lifetime squeezed into a small space of time. There are staggering highs and lows in a six-month time period. For me, the greatest high was meeting many wonderful people door-to-door--working with fantastic volunteers and winning the primary. The lows included the many hit pieces in the mail, the hostility of the press, and the final loss.

But just like real life, the main aspect of the campaign is daily, grinding perseverance toward the goal. Steadiness and hard work are the main ingredients of life—and a political campaign only reveals that. I now have great respect for anybody who seeks to serve in public life. It is a difficult process and calling.

It's not whether you win or lose; it's how you play the game. This was a famous sports proverb during my childhood that I still believe to be true. And I'm very grateful that we set some high standards in how we approached our run for office. We decided early on that we would not negatively campaign. We would rather lose honorably than to win with questionable tactics. As Ray Allen rightly says, "The way you rise to leadership is the same means you will use to lead."

We also gave the campaign our all—doorbelling 27,000 homes, being who we really were in debate and message, having a quality sign presence, raising \$110,000 from primarily friends in the local community, and doing things in a polite and professional manner. Our campaign excellence didn't translate into victory in the minds of the voters,

but I believe we earned the VOTE of the only one that really counts—the king of the Universe. I believe that He says to us, “Well done.”

There is no lasting grief in obedience—only in disobedience. Though it was disappointing to lose, we knew in the end that we had obeyed God by running for office and striving to do things his way. There is joy in my heart that I did the will of the Father. It is only when we disobey the Master that the lasting fruits of disobedience can bring torrents of disappointment and confusion. We ultimately didn’t run to win—we ran to faithfully serve God. Because we accomplished that task, there is a smile on our face and a bounce in our step. *It is time to move on to the next steps of obedience in every area of our lives.*

The national Republicans lost this year because they failed to live up to their own values—and the people rightly rejected them for it. It wasn’t because we had the wrong values—it was because we didn’t live out those values to bring blessing and change to the nation. *The Jack Abramoff scandal, the Mark Foley affair, and even the moral failure of Pastor Ted Haggard just a week before the election showed a level of hypocrisy and corruption in our ranks that God could not bless.*

Many of the Democrats that won were pro-life, fiscal conservatives that deserved a chance to lead after the Republican failure. There is a great lesson here: Power must be used humbly and wisely in serving the needs of the nation. If it isn’t, that power will be rightly taken away.

Lord Jesus, I am thankful for the past nineteen months. I made many mistakes as a first-time candidate, but I learned from them all. You gave me many wonderful people to work with and we did your will to the best of our ability. So, what does the future hold? *Only you know--and you usually don’t tell.* I retreat to Jeremiah 29:11-14 as a guiding verse in my life:

“For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord. They are plans for welfare and not calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you call upon and come and pray to me, and you will search for me and find me when you search with all your heart. And I will be found by you, declares the Lord.”

Juncos, Puerto Rico

This week finds me, as usual, in Puerto Rico speaking to a number of churches and eager missions students. The week has gone well as God has blessed his words. During the afternoons I’m spent some time praying and thinking about the future and some initial steps are emerging. I need to strengthen our support base and provide for my family. I need to establish a new YWAM WA Coordinating Office in Port Orchard and get back to work in revival and missions in our

area. And I need to be open to anything God tells me to do in the future. He is still the Lord, and worthy of all that I am.

Discovery Bay, Washington

December 4, 2006 - 19,541 –11,444

It's been a busy few weeks winding down the campaign, traveling to Puerto Rico, having a good family-oriented Thanksgiving, and then speaking on worldview at Discovery Bay. I finally have some time to think about the future, wrap up completely this past stage in my life, and move ahead. I'm excited about the future because God is in control of it. I don't want to shrink from anything that he has for me. Lord – I ask you to pilot my ship through my present passageways of time. May your will be stamped upon everything I now set my hand to do.

Port Orchard, Washington

December 29, 2006 - 19,566 - 11,419

The month of December has come quickly to an end among many priorities and changes. A couple of weeks ago we had a “50-year” windstorm that knocked out power to over 1.5 million homes in the Puget Sound area. Many trees fell on homes and many areas looked like a war zone. Our power was out for over 48 hours, and we turned on the generator and stoked up the wood stove. I enjoyed the survival atmosphere that drew us together because of the crisis. It was good for our family.

Mid-month we had a YWAM board meeting in which we split up the assets of the Port Orchard corporation into YWAM Discovery Bay and the new PO work. I had a good meeting with Peter Iliyn and Steve Kilpatrick about the changes but have yet to decide on the final name of the new PO corporation. However, we did leave \$30,000 in the Port Orchard accounts and gave \$50,000 to Discovery Bay—plus most of the tangible assets. I'm glad about the decisions which will help me make a new start here in Port Orchard.

It has been great to have David and Nathan home for Christmas week. I have really enjoyed talking with them and just being “dad.” Our family Christmas was a large affair with many people at our home—and Jesus at the center. This was the 17th year of celebrating Christmas in our Arlington Place home. It's a wonderful tradition that I appreciate more and more as the years go by.

The only other difficulty I'm dealing with right now is that I believe I have ruptured another disk in my back. It is very painful, and I've begun the process of medical discovery to find out what to do. In my quiet time this morning, the Lord encouraged me out of Zechariah 8:9, 13:

*"This is what the Lord Almighty says: Take heart and finish the task...
I will rescue you and make you both a symbol and a source of blessing!
So, don't be afraid or discouraged, but instead get on with rebuilding the
Temple!"*

I took this to mean that God doesn't want me to be down in the dumps about my new physical challenge, but to **courageously navigate the rapids of recovery and continue to be a voice for revival in our nation and world**. These words greatly strengthened me today and I am taking them to heart. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for speaking and being my strength during this time when I am weak.