

The Journal of Ron Boehme - 2009

Port Orchard, Washington

January 1, 2009 – 20,128 – 10,696

The Christmas season was not an easy one. The weather made it difficult and treacherous. Some of the conversations with people revealed a depth of liberal attitudes that I am very concerned about. There was the **tension and sadness over Mitten's death that impacted the family**. Not easy stuff.

I believe the priorities for this coming year are clear: Do a good banquet in March, continue to write the bi-weekly blogs, persevere with the Masters program, engage in revival projects and thrusts, start the Worldview book as a part of the Masters program, take a team to China, minister once again in Mongolia, and pray about a trip to West and South Africa.

Lord – you are the focus on my life. Thank you for forty wonderful years in your service. Help me to grow in my love and commitment to you this year and live to glorify you in everything that I do.

Kirkland, Washington

January 15, 2009 – 20,142 – 10,682

I am just finishing my most recent week at Northwest University. Dr. Jesse Miranda, one of the foremost Hispanic Christian leaders in the United States, was our guest lecturer. He is a gentle, wise sage of a man. He has known many presidents personally and will be going as a VIP next week to the Obama inauguration. It was a treat to sit under his ministry. Our cohort continues to enjoy one another. We are becoming fast friends and are more and more enjoying going out for meals together—and just hanging out.

So far, I am enjoying this course and believe I am growing in my life and leadership. I especially appreciated a devotional time led this morning by Warren Bullock on leadership lessons from King Uzziah. “The greatest exercise of power is self-restraint.”

Lord, I pray you will really use these months in my life to make me a better leader—a better Jesus-like human being. Thank you for those who are on the journey with me. Conform us all to your image and your plans for our future.

Port Orchard, Washington

January 31, 2009 - 20,158 – 10,666

This week we received the sad news that Shirley's Aunt Margie has cancer that has spread throughout her lungs and vital organs, and that she has less than two months to live. On Wednesday Shirley and I drove mom and dad over the south Seattle to see her and Uncle Ralph. Thanks to being on oxygen, she was feeling well and in good spirits. We have a great two-hour visit, and at the end, I prayed for her. It was a touching time. As we were leaving, out of the blue, Aunt Margie pulled Shirley close to her and said that she wanted to give Shirley and me a \$30,000 gift as a part of her estate. We were dumbfounded by the news and thanked her profusely.

On Friday, we returned to Seattle for one more visit. Margie wanted to give us the check in person, and it ended up being over \$36,000. What an amazing gift. We encouraged her again and said goodbye—maybe for the last time. We hope and pray that she is in right relationship with Jesus.

Lord – your provision for our family is amazing- and you have no limits. Thank you for using Aunt Margie to bless us in this way. The gift is from you through our earthly family. We are thankful for her generosity, and more than that, deeply indebted to you for your love and constant care. Show us how to use it wisely in our family finances and the work of your Kingdom. We can NEVER out-give you.

February 26, 2009 – 20,184 – 10,640

It is Shirley's birthday and I called her early from Kirkland and wished her a great day. What a gift she is in my life. I am so glad, Lord Jesus, that you created Shirley Cookson some 57 years ago.

At the end of the day I talked to her and she really enjoyed her lunch with my folks and the boys, the phone calls from Nathan and David, a pretty banner that Bethany made for her, and dinner in the evening with Megan and Nicole. I am so glad many people blessed her today in my absence. She is so worth the attention.

February 27, 2009 – 20,185 – 10,639

Another week of school at NWU is nearly over. It has been a good one—but not extremely challenging week. Three of four inches of snow in the middle of it certainly prettied up the campus grounds. I had an interesting good check this week when I received my final paper grade from Dr. Miranda (past class). He gave me a B+ that I feel was unfair because I challenged him in the last class, and he carried over a personal offense.

I also feel that he wrote me down for my content—which he did not like (it was too well formed)—when he desired me to think “more creatively.” But my leadership philosophy has been clearly developed over thirty-five years of ministry, and it is sound and real—not in need of improvement at this time. I feel violated and am praying about what to do.

During one of our class quiet times the Lord convicted me of my pride over always getting A's. It is not wrong to strive for excellence, but that is not ultimately why I am here. I will now alter my view of classes, rest in humility, and re-focus my vision on why I am studying and pursuing a Masters degree.

This week has also been humbling from a standpoint of my preaching. I was visiting Lou Dickinson, who is recovering from surgery, when she told me that her husband left First Christian Church years ago because I had offended him about some political comments. He never came back—and died three years ago. Then Ray Jennings told me that some comments I made about Hurricane Katrina a few years ago at Christian Life Center took him months to “mop up” in his congregation.

Lord – please show me any insights that will help me be a faithful teacher and proclaimer of your words. I am feeling a little beaten down today. Keep me in this humble repose and show me your way.

Orlando, Florida

March 17, 2009 – 20,185 – 10,639

I took a quick trip this week to Orlando for a semi-annual meeting of the National Association of Evangelicals board. Was the second year in a row that I spent my birthday rooming with Paul Fleischmann. He was nice enough to bring me a birthday present this year. We stayed at the Hampton Suites about fifteen minutes from the airport and had our

meetings at a large Hispanic Church called Iglesia Calvario. It is home to multiple congregations and about 5,000 members.

The meetings were normal and non-descript. I am still feeling my way with this group and learning what my proper role should be. At the end of the time, I was convicted that I need to prepare better for these gatherings and then use my “shape, impact, impress” abilities to try to guide the NAE into renewal and invigorated leadership for the 21st century. It is a stodgy group of wonderful folks, but dry and beholden to the past. May their future be greater.

I flew back on Friday and when I arrived home the kids and Shirley put on a little belated birthday party for me. Bethany also gave me a beauty picture set that said, “I love you, Dad” and showed her and I in some photos. I learned from a recent physical that my cholesterol level is elevated, and I may need to take medication. That plus the tinnitus in my ears is making me feel closer to eternity—and a little older at 56. As the body breaks down more and more, may I be faithful to arise and do my best service to God.

Each day is now spent focusing on the YWAM Banquet on March 28th. Father, I pray your blessing and anointing upon it in abundant measure.

Port Orchard, Washington

March 30, 2009 – 20,185 – 10,626

We have been working hard on our annual **YWAM Westsound Banquet for the past three months, and Saturday night was the pay-off. Three hundred of our friends turned out and gave unbelievably toward our work.** Here is the story in today’s blog:

“On Saturday night, March 28, 2009 we held our annual YWAM Banquet to benefit the work of Youth With A Mission in the West Puget Sound area. In some ways, I was sweating both the attendance and the outcome of the event as we're limping through an ominous recession--things are much tighter than in past years--and all of us are having to squeeze our belts and whittle off the excess to survive.

Despite my fears, three hundred wonderful friends showed up for the full course dinner and two-and a half hour program. After hearing three moving stories of how YWAM links people together to change lives, **the crowd opened their hearts and gave five times more than we have ever received at any past event.**

I am stunned. I am deeply humbled. I am grateful for this incredible display of commitment to advance God's work in people's lives around the world. Why did they do it?

What caught their attention and moved them to sacrificially share in the work of Youth With A Mission? Some things come to mind that I believe are all worth thinking about for all of us in the coming days.

First, our guests responded to three heart-felt stories of life change. That is what it's all about. The centerpiece of every great movie or novel is the *redemptive story* of where a person came from, what they went through, and how their life was transformed through their circumstances and usually a hero, or savior. Three different folks shared their touching stories.

As the stories were told at the Banquet, the guests were asked to put colored paper clips together, symbolizing God linking people together to change lives. They were asked to think on the significant links in their own story, and how God wants to use them to build more links in people's lives.

Why did these stories strike such a chord and lead to such an overwhelming response? Because **there is nothing more important than a changed life. Movies tell these kinds of stories, and people throng the theaters to see them. But most of them are fiction. The ones we told were *real people* being touched by others through the redemptive purposes of God. There is nothing more impacting.**

I believe a second reason people gave is that the recent stock market decline of over thirty percent and government redistribution talk has alerted many to the fickleness of earthly riches. Our present economic circumstances are reminding us of these updated words of the Lord Jesus: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where Wall Street can destroy and where governments break in and steal. Rather, lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither Wall Street destroys, or governments break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

Giving your wealth to eternal things is the greatest investment you can make. Our economic woes are reminding us of where our hearts should be and where we will make our greatest returns. That is a lesson that worth its weight in gold (certainly not paper money).

Finally, I believe many responded positively because they know that it's not only money that is transient and fleeting--but our own lives as well. In my office I have a shelf that displays the pictures and memories of changing people's lives in many nations around the world. At the end of the shelf, which spans two walls in my study, I keep a plaque with these words: **"One small life will soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."**

We are learning that life is short. Give now! Give generously! What we do in the name of Jesus Christ is that which will go before us into an eternity with Him. I would like to thank all that came and gave to God's work at this year's YWAM Banquet. You are a part of God's great chain of salvation that is linking people together in every nation on earth. Keep praying. Keep going. Keep giving. Keep loving. Keep sharing your faith. Your reward will be great--your return will be sure. God links people together to change lives. Why not forge another link in some one's life today?

I have also been thinking about **the most important character qualities in life**. If I had to choose three qualities to build my life around, what would they be? Faith, hope, and love? Honesty, purity, and self-control? What would be the best? Today I felt the Lord give me an insight. **First, I would choose faith because "without it, no one can please God."** **Second, I would choose hard work (a form of self-control and perseverance). It is crucial to success in every area of life. And third, I sensed God saying that it would be important to choose the quality opposite of my greatest weakness. For me that might be humility.**

So, for me—I **begin with faith, live a humble life, and work hard**. Other would have number one and three and a different number two. I believe this is a great recipe for success in life. Thank you, Father, for the wisdom of your ways.

Estes Park, Colorado

April 25, 2009 – 20,201 – 10,600

I just returned from a tremendous time at the bi-annual YWAM North American Leaders Conference. **I so treasure the "inheritance" God has given me in Youth With A Mission and the many lifetime friendships that are a part of it.** Had special times with Wick & Jan Nease, Nick Savoca, Ramona Musch, and many others. The first evening we celebrated the life of Rod Wilson, our Native People's leader, who died a week ago (complications from a brain hemorrhage) on Easter. It was a special time of NP protocol, dance, song, and tribute. A few years ago, I roomed with Rod at this very conference. He was a special man—now in his eternal home.

During one time of prayer, Kirsten Jensen prayed over me that I am "a flag to this generation." Bronwyn Niles also delivered a prophecy about serving in high places in the coming years—**ministering to leaders and nations**. One conference theme verse really spoke to me: "Fear not—I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord; your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. Behold I make of you a threshing sledge, new sharp and having teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and crush them, and you shall make the hills like chaff" (Isaiah 41:14-20).

I am excited about serving YWAM in the coming years of my life. Here is the report I filed on the NALC.

Youth With A Mission was birthed out of a vision of waves of young people going onto all the continents on the earth with the Good News of God's forgiveness through Christ. Loren Cunningham received this vision as a young man, and it has been amazingly fulfilled, against all odds and mission norms, over the past forty-nine years of YWAM's existence.

April 20-24, 2009 over two hundred and fifty YWAM leaders from across the American continent gathered in Estes Park, Colorado for a week of vision-sharing, fellowship, strategy, and celebration over YWAM's work in North America. Tag and Deidra Larson and Caleb and Sarah Wilson represented our Discovery Bay campus at the NALC along with board president Ron Boehme. They participated in a very important week of training and linking together with other leaders and came away excited about what God wants for us in the future.

Times of worship and prayer together were awesome and frequent. YWAM Montana's worship team, led by Kristy Wilke, led the hundreds of YWAM leaders of all ages in the wonderful presence of God. One evening the group spoke out words over each other and individually prayed in small groups and one-on-one. Many were reminded of the calling and promises that God had given and experienced his renewal and power.

In one morning session, the entire group prayed over all the states and nations that make up North America (Canada, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Greenland, and the United States), asking God to shake up and awaken our nations and empower us to reach all the people that are a part of our region. Throughout 2008, a prayer team out of the North American Office, had visited every area and asked God for a fresh move of his spirit.

Jim Stier, YWAM's director of the Americas, gave a number of powerful messages on the problem of worldliness in the Church and our need to not fill our emptiness and insecurities with earthly things, but be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to do the works of God. He declared "The fruits of the Holy Spirit are the results of relationship—not rules. They are 'Christ in you, the hope of glory.'" Jim shared that this deep union with God through Christ is both scary and sublime. We asked God together for a fresh and total filling of his glorious divine nature in our lives and mission.

Tim Svoboda, our new YWAM director in San Francisco and pioneer missionary to India who spent twenty-five years in that great nation challenged the YWAM leaders to **not neglect the great cities of North America**. Paul's first century ministry was

primarily in the cities of the Roman Empire because 30% of the people lived there and they were the centers of culture and influence. He said that on **May 23, 2007 our modern world passed the 50% mark of people living in cities**. He admonished us to both reach the people groups in our cities and send them to reach their nations all over the world. Missions today is *both* here and there. He said: “the more faithful we are to reach the ethnic groups in our cities, the more passion we’ll also have for completing the Great Commission.”

John Dawson, YWAM’s’ international president, who the day before had just received his US citizenship, delivered an insightful message to the conferees on the shaking of the nation-states that is happening all over the world, and the great global celebration that is coming out of the ashes of the collapse of human idolatry and false securities. He warned us to use our earthly citizenship carefully to promote God’s kingdom, not to embrace unwise nationalistic tendencies that take the place of God. His exposition of Isaiah 40 was deep and revelatory. As many human structures are tested and collapse around us, we must hang onto the invisible kingdom that can never be shaken.

During the afternoons there were many break-out sessions on areas of common interest and missional activity. There was also some rest and relaxation. On afternoon Tag and Caleb went fishing and were rewarded with a foot long-trout—which was later consumed.

Probably the highlight of the conference was the thread of understanding that permeated all the sessions and activities that we are in the beginning stages of **a fourth great wave in modern missions**, and that God wants YWAM to be in the “thick of it”:

- The first wave in the 18th century, led by people such as William Carey, brought the Gospel to the unreached coastlands of the world.
- The second wave, with missionaries such as Hudson Taylor in China and C.T. Studd in Africa brought the message of Christ into the “interiors” of the unreached sections of the globe.
- The 3rd wave, led by innovators like Cam Townsend, Donald MaGavran, and Ralph Winter, focused the church on the remaining unreached people groups of the world.

Now a fourth wave is beginning to take shape in the 21st century. The Gospel is exploding in the Southern Hemisphere; technology has made the world reachable. And God is raising up people of all ages, all nationalities, on a truly global scale, using their gifts and specializations in every sphere of life, in a non-structured world-wide movement to complete the Great Commission.

The YWAM North American leaders committed themselves to jump with fresh intensity and commitment into the ocean of His love and join the emerging fourth wave. I am very excited to take my appointed place.

Washington, D.C. (Virginia & New York)

May 11, 2009 – 20, 217 – 10,684

Ryan and I are just completing a very worthwhile, whirlwind, trip to the east coast. It has been a great father-son time with good conversations, hanging out together, and many wonderful friendships and settings we shared together. Here are some of the many highlights:

We flew into Dulles on Monday, rented a car, and drove to Virginia Beach for my YMEC meetings at Regent University, Had a good stay with Rich & Nancy Ivy in Portsmouth.

YMEC was good with a few younger leaders like Ryan in attendance this year. Before the meetings at the Founders Inn, Ryan and I visited CBN and Regent University. Ryan was impressed with their Performing Arts College and I also got some info. on their doctoral programs. That evening the Youth Ministry Executive Council meetings began. I do feel this will be my last time at YMEC due to it being in Virginia Beach again next year and not in DC.

My priority is the National Day of Prayer and DC events, so I believe next year I will attend the National Prayer Committee meetings there and the other events. That is really where I belong. It is sad to leave YMEC, but I feel confident about my decision.

Wednesday night we drove back late to DC and stayed with the Stach family in Centreville. It was good to see Dieter again and get to know the whole family. They are a close, Lutheran background family that I greatly appreciate.

Thursday, we had a long wonderful day in Washington D.C. We got up early and took the metro into the city, arriving early enough to walk by and pray for the Capitol, the Supreme Court, and the Library of Congress. The Cannon Building NDP started at 9am and was packed as usual. We got god seats very near the front. It was a great time of sharing and prayer—with the White House notably missing for the first time in sixteen years. Barack Obama also canceled the White House prayer meeting. His anti-Christian attitudes are now on full display.

In the afternoon we walked around together seeing the key monuments then joined the city churches for the evening celebration on the west steps. It was a great time. It rained throughout, but near the end the clouds cleared, and a rainbow appeared behind the Capitol building. It was awesome. At the conclusion, I had **Corinthia Boone pray for Ryan**. Wonderful day.

On Friday we took the five-hour drive to New York City, arriving about 4:30pm. We parked the car on Manhattan, looked around Times Square, then went to see the Little Mermaid on Broadway. It was fantastic. We then grabbed a room at the Park Envoy Hotel near Central Park.

On Saturday we toured the city with April Autry, especially seeing Ground Zero, the Statue of Liberty, and the Empire State building. In the afternoon we took the subway to the Upper East Side and attended David Sanborn's production of King David at the Promise Theatre. It was very creative and inspiring. We also met with him afterwards and chatted. I hope he and April can get to know each other. Then we hopped in the car and traveled back to DC late last night.

Sunday morning, I spoke at King's Chapel on the "Fourth Wave." They have a great new facility in Clifton, and it was great to see many friends. Dr. Earl Morey did some teaching prior to my message. I am deeply thankful for Bill & Melanie and their commitment to us over the years.

Now we are on our way home after a good week together. During this trip I believe the Lord gave me some real insights into Ryan and his preparations for the future. I feel it would be good for him to stay at home for a time, growing up and working, before he heads off for a YWAM DTS and/or University. He also agrees with my perspective and we had a good chat about it. I want to be a good father to him and help release him into his destiny in God.

Kirkland, Washington

May 27, 2009 – 20,233 – 10,568

It has been a busy stretch of varied ministry this late spring. The highlights have included a good week of school at Northwest University May 17-21. The class has become very close. Also getting involved in **the campaign to "Preserve Marriage & Protect Children" in Washington State. I am working on a committee with Gary Randall, Larry Stickney, Doug Simpson and others on Referendum 71.**

Port Orchard, Washington

On the “testing side” of the ledger I was doing a work project with Ryan and Jason over at Riedesels on Saturday and accidentally stepped on a rusty nail. Four hours later I went to Harrison Urgent Care and got it cleaned and updated my tetanus shot. But they did not give me an antibiotic. Twenty-four hours later I was in Urgent Care again with a serious staph infection in my foot.

This week I have had to juggle things, take large amounts of antibiotics, and wait to get well. I am very grateful this did not happen to me in either 1909 or 1809. I would be a lot sicker or maybe even dead. I am glad it is 2009 and modern medicine can cooperate with God’s healing purposes. Father God—I am very grateful to you. Continue to teach me patience and wisdom to cope with this “small inconvenience.” Our generation is so soft on these things. Teach us your ways.

Los Angeles, California

June 21, 2009 – 20,258 – 10,543

We just returned from our annual two-week vacation to Los Angeles to see Nathan and David and enjoy our four sons. It was a good trip in many ways. We got to see their new apartment in Winnetka which is the best place they have lived in yet.

I did many blogs, read many books, and relaxed away from the normal pressures of life and ministry. Shirley and I took many nice walks through the neighborhoods nearby. We didn’t do much but hang out, enjoy each other, have meals and let Shirley “mother everybody to death.”

We went to David’s church one Sunday called *In His Presence*. It is a great place with 2000 excited folks who know the Lord and want to lead others to Christ.

Port Orchard, Washington

July 8, 2009 – 20,275 – 10,526

I have been incredibly busy in the past few weeks. We have launched the “Preserve Marriage – Protect Children” campaign in Washington State and are trying to get the 120,000 signatures that we need to get the issue on the ballot. I truly believe that

saving marriage is the number one issue of the 21st century and I pray we will rise to do the will of God (Hebrews 6:4).

We had a nice Fourth of July gathering here—kind of like old times. We had about twenty-five people come over for food and fellowship. We did not do fireworks, but that was fine because I had to preach the next day.

Silverdale, Washington

July 5 was the Call2Fall and I enjoyed once again being at Crossroads Church where I share my heart. At the end, we went on our knees for five minutes together, repenting of sin and crying out to God. I felt God great burden and anointing upon me during the service and I pray that God will use it to light a fire around the nation. Our China team has been making good preparations and leaves today for our adventure in China. I am feeling weak. I have a cut finger that I'm trying to protect but thanking God for this my 39th year to go out in summer missions. I pray it will be the most fruitful yet.

Lord, the older I get, the more dependent I am upon your grace, strength, and help to navigate the circumstances of life. Help me to lead well on this trip—and for your Kingdom to advance mightily. I also pray you would really use it in the lives of Ryan and Jason. Turn their hearts solidly and passionately toward you.

Hong Kong and Sechuan, China

August 9, 2009 - 20,307 – 10,494

I'm two weeks back from a wonderful missions trip to China. Right after my return, I had to go back to Northwest University for classes. This took place during the hottest week on record in Seattle with Wednesday's temperature topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit). After my return home, we immediately got into home projects including a new chicken run and now painting our house after twenty years.

These and other responsibilities have kept me away from my journal for over a month. Today is the day to catch up. It's a fitting day to write on the China trip as we had our last China team meeting yesterday including a meal with chopsticks at the China Sun Buffet and prayer and practice for two services we did at First Christian this morning. The team did exceptionally well—a great way to end our service together. I am very proud of them. They really rose to the occasion of being a faithful mission team that God really used in the Middle Kingdom.

We did a “diary” together for most of the trip, so I think I will share the detailed highlights by individual day. There is much to remember and thank God for.

July 8 – This team includes Joel Morris and his two daughters, Elie and Sara, Lowell Miller and his daughter Quincy, Ryan and Jason and I, and “Asher” who has joined us from Washington DC. Had a good flight to Seoul. I sat next to a Chinese man named Mark who lives in Seattle with his wife and three kids. He was going on to Mongolia and I felt this was a real divine appointment. I shared the Gospel with him and prayed with him. The team did not seem extremely focused as they began, but God really started to work in them powerfully.

July 10 – We lost July 9 crossing the international dateline, and flew from Seoul into Chengdu, arriving about 11 pm. Aric Burger met us at the airport and took us to “Sam’s Guesthouse” for our first night in Sechuan. The next day we traveled by bus to Mianyoung--pretty city by Chinese standards. On the ride, I was really struck at how polluted the air in China is. There is a great need to learn godly ecology. We were met by Aaron and Anna Cyboron who have served in China now for almost ten years. What a great couple with a team of fourteen that are planting churches in the area.

July 11 – Did a prayer tour of the city from our hotel which is located near the town square. We are staying on the upper floors with a great view of the city. It was hot, but we really enjoyed praying over the “aggressive” Buddhist temple in the city, including seeing the 400 foot “Dead Buddha” statute on the hillside. I am glad my Redeemer is alive. I paired with Ryan and we had a great prayer time. After lunch we met at the missionaries’ new offices where they are birthing a business to help teach people Chinese—prayed for them there—then walked to the government buildings and prayed for revival among China’s leaders. Great day of prayer.

July 12 – Spent our first Sunday in China by sharing at two “underground” churches—one for the missionaries at 9:30am and one on a college campus at 3pm. I met Linda and Cleo at the second meeting, and we became fast friends. Linda would later join us in Outreach to the earthquake area.

July 13 – Monday morning we took a bus ride two hours north to Sangzao, our destination for ministering among the survivors of the 2008 earthquake that killed over 80,000 people. Many of them died when two mountains collapsed into a valley area wiping out all the villages. There are two hundred of these camps scattered throughout the area. At the first, the survivors stayed in tents, then they built portables to hold the people. The Chinese government has a three-year plan to return people to their village in the mountains. I was impressed with their work. We are staying at a hotel in town where

it is only about a five-minute walk to the campsite. In the afternoon we split up into two teams and worked at the middle school and elementary school with the kids and met some of the staff. The “program” is run by a Christian Chinese girl named Summer who is a stick of dynamic and is engaged to Dan, a MK from Hainan. We had a great first day though I was struggling with some cold symptoms.

July 14 – Continued our ministry at the camp with the kids—teaching English, doing games, building friendships. I did not feel well, and it was a sheer perseverance day for me. Each lunch and dinner we have found a great restaurant in the town where the kids even love the food. Linda “Love” and Sunny “Watermelon,” one of the YWAM missionaries, are working with us at the camp and we are also enjoying the company of Greg and Alice, two of the English teachers. The kids also did their songs today and I had great conversations with “John” and “Sophia.” May they come to you, Lord Jesus.

July 15 – We ministered again all day today, and in the evening, we participated in a cultural celebration with the entire school which went quite late. Many of them did cultural dances or presentations and we did our songs and Redeemer. Powerful. I had a good time talking to some “Chung” girls—and really felt a burden for their people. The kids also finished up their friendships and we said goodbye to a place that had really grown in our hearts. My burden for the peoples of China is growing.

July 16 – We did a lot of praying for China today as we traveled back to Mianyoung by bus. Had a final dinner with the missionaries there and then had a ten-hour travel day by plane (on Dragon Air) to Hong Kong. Met Carol Kauffman at the airport and then traveled with a few other teams from the airport to Lingnan University where the Gateway Conference will be held. It is a large university with many buildings and area. We are staying in Hostel F on very hard plywood beds. I asked the Lord to help with my aching bones.

July 17 – This was really our free day, so we took the team to the “Ladies Market” in downtown Kowloon, and then back to the university for swim in the pool before the opening rally began. Was great to be united here with Bold and Dorchand and Sodoo and Altaraaa from Mongolia. We paid their way here to take in the conference and be with our team. The opening session was powerful with about 1500 in attendance.

Eight hundred are from around Hong Kong, four hundred are from mainland China (praise the Lord), and the other three hundred are internationals from forty different nations. The worship and speaking are in three languages—English, Cantonese, and Mandarin. These was a wonderful experience—a taste of heaven. Dale asked me to give some leadership in various parts of the conference, and it makes my schedule busy, but is a delight to serve.

July 18 – The second day of the conference was tremendous. God also healed my ear from a water related problem and I had a powerful revelation of God’s great holiness and my own sin. Very eye-opening. **The main sessions today focused on God’s Father Heart and I helped share this with Dale from the podium.** Was also a great message by Jason Young on Linking the Generations—being God’s “Arrow.” It was a wonderful day of experiencing God’s global family. I was also able to introduce Bold and Sodoo to Dale and I believe this will have great ramifications in the future. The team had a fantastic time in the 24/7 Prayer Room—Jason was especially touched by God.

July 19 – God is doing great things at the Gateway Conference. There is a building crescendo of praise and passion for Jesus. **It is a revival atmosphere.** May Christ be uplifted. The themes today focused on reconciliation between nations, especially China, Japan, South Korea and India. I had a good dinner with Cindy Chung who will be my translator tomorrow for a seminar I am doing on “World Missions.” We have also been meeting with “Steve” and his team from Love Jesus Church who we will be linking with in ministry after the Conference.

July 20 – **It was my great privilege today to teach and train 150 mainland Chinese leaders on world missions. I was humbled by the opportunity since I have so much to learn from them. They drank in the Word,** and we talked and took pictures together afterwards. It was a time I will cherish for life. There was a great emphasis today at the Conference on personal salvation and the power of the Holy Spirit. Our team is really being touched by God. Our kids really enjoyed a dance seminar today with one of my former Puerto students named Hamid. It was a highlight for them.

July 21 – **I did my final seminar today for 100 international leaders on world missions.** I am feeling stronger and am excited about finishing this adventure for the glory of God. I am so grateful for God’s goodness in my life and the privilege of his call. In the final evening session, **we commissioned the 1500 outreachers by giving them a Gateway “key” and praying over each one.** It was an awesome display of passionate worship with the kids dancing in the gymnasium and fervently loving God. Again, I had a great revelation of God’s holiness as well as his love. It was also great for Ryan and I to be re-united with Pieter, who came to stay in our room unexpectedly. He’s a South African friend from way back.

July 22 – Gateway is now over and has changed many lives. It was a privilege to be a part and I pray that many young lives will be impacted for eternity. Late morning, Steve and Manson led us by subway (MTR) to the Lutheran Church in Tung Chung which will be our final outreach stop. After dropping off our stuff and getting settled, we again took the MTR and a bus up to the “Peak” on Hong Kong Island to see the sights

and pray over the city. We then enjoyed a good McDonalds meal in the city before returning to the Lutheran Church where we slept on concrete floors and froze to death because the air conditioners were turned up too high. It is great to have the Mongolians with us as well. **Bed-wise, we are following the biblical pattern of going “down” not up. We started out on nice beds, went to okay beds, then to plywood beds, now to concrete. If the team does not mutiny, we just may yet become sanctified for God’s service.**

July 23 – **We began today our “On Fire” seminar with Christian kids from the Lutheran, Presbyterian, Love Jesus, and Salvation Army Churches. The kids taught their songs and interacted with the other kids all day long. I also did a class with non-believers, and in the evening, we did two open-air in the city square beneath the high-rise buildings where everybody lives.** God really impressed us again with the need for the message of God’s Father love in this nation of China. It was wonderful today to hug many teens who were hungry for God’s love. Bold and Soodoo also did a great Mongolian presentation for the gathering.

July 24 – Today was our last day of outreach and we wanted to finish strong. The day’s training with the church kids was powerful, and in my unbelievers’ class, **both Tobey and “Chicken Wing” gave their lives to Christ.** Praise his Name. In the evening we did a rally at the next-door community center with about 100 kids and adults from many nations who live here. We did all our songs and Redeemer and preached the Gospel.

Then after a time of refreshments, the kids also did some cultural dances. It was a wonderful evening. After our evening dessert at McDonalds, we met “Allen” who came over to talk to us about Christ. He was “close to the kingdom of God.” We spent our last night on the concrete and put the Mongols into nicer rooms where I encouraged them to have a little “honeymoon” for the next few days. They really appreciated it.

July 25 – After a final “love feast” and time of honoring one another, we traveled the short distance to the airport and took our flights home. Arrived before we left Hong Kong. **This team really rose to be a good outreach team. I am grateful to God for a wonderful outreach in this my 39th year in summer missions. Lord – you as worthy now as 39 years ago. I love you far more and want to serve you for the remainder of my days.**

Kirkland, Washington

August 23, 2009 – 20,321 – 10,480

After getting back from China, I jumped right into my Masters week at Northwest University. It was also the hottest week on record in Washington State with temperatures reaching 104 degrees on Wednesday—the first ever in triple digits for Seattle. Shirley said that

the nighttime temperature in our house that day was 89 degrees. Pretty stuffy. Fortunately, it did not last.

The school week was followed by our house painting project which we had been planning for a year. Twenty years has now gone by in our wonderful home and it was time to put on a new coat of paint. With the help of our faithful neighbor Rich Riedesel, we got the house done in about a week (Safari Beige for the walls and Snowy Dusk for the trim), and then Shirley and I took the second week to do the out-buildings. We worked hard, and it is now finished. Rich also put new soffits on the house which makes quite a visual difference. The whole project cost us under \$2000.

Thank you, Jesus, for helping be good stewards of the home you have provided. We moved into this place exactly twenty years ago this month. Our four oldest kids were only eight, six, and three. It is amazing how fast the hands of time travel. Help me, Lord, to keep numbering my days and using every one of them for you.

September 8, 2009 – 20,337 – 10,464

I spent this week at NWU in the Masters program and daily we had to keep a journal for some specific assignments—so I threw them in here. They are not the same as my normal writings, but they give a bit of a pulse of the training I am receiving.

It was also a treat to stay with my Aunt Shirley in Bellevue as the Giaimos were on vacation. So, we hung out together and had a great time. Here are four days of journals:

Tuesday - I really appreciated Chuck's reminder that the purpose of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 18 is to "get people to listen." That spoke to me deeply because I really do not consider myself a great listener. During the past twenty years, I have worked hard at this area in my life and certainly become less dogmatic and more "slow to speak," but I still have a long ways to go and deeply desire to learn to be a good listener.

I never really thought about the fact that this passage presents a series of situations in which the person being corrected is given multiple opportunities to listen and learn. It is not simply a process of dealing with sin. It is all about presenting increasingly strong influences into the heart and mind of a person to get them to listen to wisdom and right behavior. In that sense it is a very redemptive chapter.

For over thirty years, my wife has been my greatest example of a good listener. I have watched her so often engage with people—even stand on the front porch for hours,

not moving or looking at her watch—as she gives total attention to the person in need. That is quite a gift, and I have asked God to disciple me through her wise example and exhortations. Another thing I must learn to do is not to be so “quick to speak” which then occupies the space where my active listening is needed. This is both a matter of self-control and true love and respect for the other person. I will make this growth in grace a matter of prayer more regularly.

I was very encouraged by Chuck’s definition of righteousness as the “fulfillment of obligation within the context of a relationship.” I have taught for many years that right living includes how we “ought” to love God and “ought” to love our neighbor. It is all about obligation—oughtness—but in the context of loving relationship—not just a job to do. I am on the right track here.

Erikson’s stages of cognitive and moral development that Nancy shared were challenging to me. At the root they are somewhat insightful into human stages of growth, but I feel they are too forced into a grid of behavior that teachers tend to construct. The grid is nice and symmetrical, but it really does not jive with reality. For example, I do not think shame and doubt are the opposite of autonomy, and guilt is not the opposite of taking initiative.

I think Erikson and others are trying too hard here to make human faults and patterns fit into a package. I think we are far more complex than that—and re-cycle through many of these stages at different times in our lives. I know that I do. I will keep an open mind here and continue pondering the perspective. Am I missing something, Lord? Am I reacting to something that clouds my mind to this perspective?

I really liked Nancy’s presentation today on Vygotsky. I have said for many years that our social and cultural backgrounds greatly affect who we are. This was a great confirmation to me that we experience every day in our multi-cultural mission. I will continue to study, learn from, and accept the divergent views that I receive from other nationalities in YWAM. Their breadth and depth will make me a better person.

Wednesday - I was challenged today by Chuck’s presentation on bounded and center set thinking set forth by Peter Hiebert. Though I agree with the basic concept that bounded thinking can tend to be too narrow and exclusive and that centered thinking is more accepting and liberating, it appears to me that this analysis is typical of other deductions in the social sciences today that lean more toward secular than Christian values. It seems to me that the “bounded” analogy most clearly is a reference to Christian thinking and absolutes which the secularist loves to dismiss as lacking openness to diversity. On the other hand, centered thinking is more fluid and “open” to new ideas—one that conforms to secularism’s moral relativism.

But as I pointed out in class, I believe both concepts are imbalanced in the way they are presented. Yes, bounded thinking can lead to narrowness, but that is not bad when the boundaries reflect true realities. There are clear boundaries between the Kingdom of God and the King of darkness; There is a narrow way that leads to life and a broad way that leads to judgment. Those boundaries are necessary and helpful borders that point us to correct decision-making i.e. repentance and faith. They are not a burden—but a blessing if we make the right choices. All my life I have desired to find God’s boundaries and stay within them. Or would that be hurtful to my relationship with God?

And it seems to me that the centered thinking path can sometimes be too broad—where there is no definition of whether the “journey” is in the right direction or not. Of course, in the secular worldview, in moral areas, there is no right direction. So, this is good for the secularist—but not if you are a believer in the absolutes of God’s kingdom. I want to judge (discern) all ideas through a healthy narrowness to retain God’s boundaries and a healthy broadness to accept all people and ideas that can help me and not be hurtful. I want to be both bounded to truth and centered in freedom. Lord – help me to wisely navigate both courses with wisdom and humility.

Nancy’s introduction to depression was helpful and affirming to me. I have dealt with some depressed people over the years and currently am working with one twenty-something girl who clearly falls in this category. I appreciated the simple tip exercise is helpful to restore the body’s equilibrium, and that oftentimes medication is no more helpful in than a placebo.

I have wondered about that for years and felt buttressed in my hunches today. I am going to pray about recommending a healthy exercise regimen to my depressed friend as one aspect of helping her cope. I also want to apply these simple ideas in my own life by exercising regularly, even as I get older, and having a balanced view on medicines. Lord – help me also to lead a healthy lifestyle that will not allow the cobwebs of despair to envelope me—or those that I counsel.

Thursday - Chuck spoke in the morning about the importance of not “being uncomfortable with silence, or “presence” during the Withdrawal/Confusion stage of Norman Wright’s grid for dealing with crisis. Ouch. Though I consider myself a self-controlled and disciplined person, that advice is a very hard choice for me. Because I am also very verbal, and people look to me for wise words and counsel, it is extremely difficult to “shut up” when I am with a person that is grieving. It seems awkward—I wonder if I am helping the person by just being here—and in general, I often try to maneuver my way through the silence.

I need to pray more--and intensely during those times—and be thoroughly convinced in my mind that silence is often the best medicine. I guess I have questioned that premise for years in various ways. But deep in my heart I know it to be true. I probably need to practice this type of presence more in my daily quiet times with the Lord also. In those encounters, I oftentimes feel the necessity to fill the space with either meditation or conversation also--so this a good place to learn to practice the value of silence. The Lord is the ultimate listener who understands. I will work to make silence a more normal part of my devotional routine and then bring the practice over to difficult times with friends and clients. Lord, help me to grow my ability to be silent.

I really enjoyed, and felt affirmed by Nancy's list of "Well Functioning" support systems which include peer support, stable personal relationships, supervision, a balanced life, good affiliations, personal mentoring, continuing education, good family values, coping mechanisms and rest.

As I ponder this list, a deep gratefulness wells up within me that my wonderful Savior truly has provided me with exceptional help in every single one of these areas. I can't think of a weakness among them. That's amazing to me, and I realize that it is not something I have done, but something God has given to me as a gift as I've endeavored to love and serve him. He takes care of his children. And as the Scripture says, he will "strongly support those whose hearts are perfect toward him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

I know that I must continue to be *diligent* to use these "gifts" in my life and do my part to increase and maintain them. None are automatic. They are akin to the price of liberty that Thomas Jefferson said can only be sustained through "eternal vigilance." Lord, help me to me vigilant to use and guard the many wonderful protections you have given to adorn my life and ministry. I am very grateful for them and love you for being a Father who protects me.

Friday - I really enjoyed and was challenged by our discussion on ethics/conscience which was led by Nancy. It was great to see our passions flowing in the room but with great love and respect for each other. Ray and Jeff seemed to agree on a certain interpretation of an "avoid any appearance of evil" which meant that they never travel in a car alone with a single or married woman under any circumstances. Jeff seemed strong in his view that there were no exceptions to this rule—not even giving classmate Bethany a ride in his car. After talking to Ray in the restroom, I realized that his view had a few exceptions which included emergencies and compassion circumstances.

Bethany I seemed to have a less legalistic interpretation of the above Scripture—and I argued strongly that that how you interpret 1 Thessalonians 5:22 ("avoid any appearance of evil") depends on your own individual conscience as it is laid out in Romans 14. We are all to

have high standards (ethics) in areas like this—especially those of us that are pastors or Christian leaders in the public eye—but our individual consciences may have slight differences on where you draw the line. Romans 14 ends with this important reminder: “Happy is the man who does not condemn himself in what he approves.” The implication here is that we, as individuals, will differ in the things (details) that we approve. We just better do it with the fear of God upon us.

Our discussion reminded me how valuable various viewpoints are to me because they challenge me to think through what I believe—and to appreciate differences in others. Having convictions and having humility toward others’ opinions are both extremely valuable. Lord – help me to love both truth and mercy with equal power. Following Chuck’s presentation on Empathetic Connections and “suspended judgment” in which I commented on whether humility and civility as character qualities that are another way of stating the same thing,

Tyson strongly affirmed me in this concept. He said he had noticed that oftentimes in our classes I refer to “character” rather than “techniques”—and that I had developed a “state of being” (character) that became an automatic default to right responses in different situations. He saw this as extremely important and commended me in my character focus.

I felt extremely built up by his observation. I mentioned to him that character is the fruit of Christ’s work within us—that it is our cooperation with his life and power (2 Peter 1:2-11). Lord Jesus—I do want to grow your character within me through every situation in my life to where “being” swallows up all aspects of “doing.” May I grow the character of Christ.

Port Orchard, Washington

September 13, 2009 – 20,342 – 10,459

It was a blessing to give the message on Sunday at First Christian Church at both services on “The Fourth Wave” of modern missions. I was short in the first service, long in the second, and passionate in both. May God call many of our people to join the emerging wave of everyone going everywhere. Ron Finney also taped the message so we can put it on the Youth Leaders University site. May God bless its impact worldwide.

October 4, 2009 – 20,363 – 10,438

A couple weeks ago, some YWAM leaders around the world complained about the political content of the Revive America blog, and the top leaders in our organization asked me to pull all these kinds of writings from the site. It was very discouraging to hear this news, but the Lord helped me to keep a good attitude and spirit, and out of it has come a new web-site—*Revive America Project*—where I can be free to be prophetic and speak to the issues of the day. The US Renewal site will now be used exclusively for prayer and missions thrusts—not cultural reformation.

After making the corrections asked of me, I responded with the following e-mail to Lynn Green and the YWAM leaders. I hope they take it to heart and that some changes are made in YWAM's approach to politics and cultural issues:

“Hi, Lynn. It has taken us quite a bit of time and expense, but I believe we have finally satisfied the requirements. The YWAM US Renewal site now offers only my "Fresh Fire" blog on personal spiritual growth along with prayer, evangelism, mercy ministry, and mission thrusts. My personal site, Revive America Project, will contain the Revive America blogs on current events and all aspects of my cultural renewal writings and projects.

I want to again ask for your forgiveness for the problems I have created for YWAM and hope to never repeat them. I love Youth With A Mission and want to remain (after 35 years) a loyal and faithful co-worker. Now that the changes have been made, I want to share some constructive input with you on what happened. Please feel free to share it with other members of our leadership if you think it would be helpful. I share it in a spirit of desiring our organization to be all that God wants us to be. I won't be sharing these thoughts with anyone else.

First, I believe there is a need for clarity on YWAM's corporate position on personal commentaries or teachings by YWAM leaders. In our original discussions of what YWAM can sanction and what should be personal, you communicated that the issue was avoiding partisanship in political commentary. I agreed with you and made the changes. (Just for the record, I have never considered myself a political partisan since most of my life I have been an Independent as I am today. However, the recent incident went beyond partisanship to issues relating to tone and specific issues (in this case politics--i.e. governmental leaders in general). If this is the YWAM stance, then I think that needs to be communicated with clarity. It encompasses a much larger area than partisan politics.

Second, in looking back at the blog which brought offense (We Need Leaders Who Lead Like Jesus), I agree that I could have toned down the offensive line. That could have been done quite easily--just by asking me to do so. Blogs are not books--they can be easily edited (in

seconds) and I do it all the time when I get input from around the world. They are not set in concrete. That would have been a more constructive approach rather than a demand to remove YWAM's name. It also might have been more beneficial to enlist some editorial "eyes" to make it better--not shut it all down. That is what I am going to do with the new site. I am bringing on a board of advisers who will help "sharpen" the content. I think that could have been done within YWAM and could have been very helpful to many of us as leaders.

Thirdly, I know we believe in the prophetic in YWAM, but I am not sure we're as comfortable with it in all spheres of leadership. The realm of government--politics--is probably our queasiest area due to our diversity of nationalities and the fact that civil governments handle power--and this leads to clearly defined public policy positions. In some of the leadership spheres it is much easier to simply encourage people to serve in them and live out their faith--expressing it in art, film, teaching, etc. But in the governmental area, one's involvement in handling power (the force of law) demands positions that are more clearly defined and thus can be reacted to either for or against.

The prophetic voices in Scripture spoke clearly and strongly to corrupt or evil governmental leaders. I did the same in the blog because I believed every word could be backed up by facts. I was not judging hearts--simply describing actions. Interestingly, the very same week you asked me to remove YWAM's name because you were "appalled by these sweeping, heart judging statements that certainly are not mine nor of all YWAMers," our YWAM Prayer Diary reading from Isaiah 3:12, contained these words, "Children oppress my people and women rule over them. O my people, can't you see what fools your rulers are? They are leading you down a pretty garden path to destruction" (New Living Translation).

My comments were prophetically similar--and are being said in much stronger ways by many voices in America and around the world.

The number one book on the New York Times bestseller list this week is Michelle Maulkin's "Culture of Corruption." So--I was not way out in right or left field--I was simply trying to be accurate and prophetic. Other prophetic voices that YWAM supports such as Lou Engle, Gary Bergel, or Rick Joiner are saying similar things about the dearth of godly leadership. Last month's rating of the US Congress at a 16% approval rating was the lowest in all of history.

Do we really want to limit YWAM's prophetic voice in the government realm? Will we become like the German Lutheran Church and not allow any Dietrich Bonhoeffers among us? It was YWAM that introduced us to his book "The Cost of

Discipleship" which was required readings for our early SOEs. In my article I devoted one sentence to the leadership problem and then used the other 99% of the blog to share YWAM's shared perspective on the humble, servant leadership of Jesus. Isn't that a biblical tone and position that YWAM can support?

Finally, I think this would be a good time to discuss in our mission what we mean by unity and diversity. The left (secularists) uses those words to enforce political correctness of ideas. Others use them to allow for robust debate. Which do we think is more biblical? Diversity is not diversity if it cannot be expressed. There were leaders in our mission that complained about my political views. I was shut down--and the disclaimer now on our website confirms that we did it because we believe in diversity. But doesn't that go both ways? Couldn't the leaders who complained have been told: "Ron says on his blogs that he speaks for himself and not the organization. If you do not agree with him, that's fine, but we will allow him to speak because we believe in diversity."

I thought we were united on our mission statement and seventeen values--but allow diversity in other non-essential areas. Do we really allow diversity, or only in selective categories? From the early days of YWAM I loved the robust debate of theology, worldview, and applied aspects of faith. Are we changing that now because of our size or desire to protect our reputation? If so, what really are the areas in which we require unity, and in which ones do we allow diversity?

In non-partisan political areas we have many different views in our mission. For example, though YWAM leadership questioned my sentence in the article, one of the deans of the University of the Nations wrote me on that same day and thanked me for having the courage to tell the truth. Another YWAM leader on the North American Council forwarded an e-mail to their entire mailing list that same week on political corruption that was far stronger than my comments.

Are those voices of diversity no longer appropriate in Youth With A Mission? Can YWAM get involved in social justice issues, but not allow involvement in causes like abortion or gay marriage because some in our mission do not approve? Or is the only appropriate YWAM stance that of compassionate responses to evil, and not the obligation to speak to that evil as well?

A Foursquare pastor who partners with us in Mongolia saw the disclaimer that you asked me to put on the YWAM website. He commented: "I don't understand YWAM doing this. Their disclaimer is the same as the one you've always used, communicating that there is diversity in YWAM and that no individual speaks for YWAM. So why did they do it? It's almost like they felt a need for political correctness or needed to publicly humiliate you."

I do not feel humiliated but do have some questions. If God can use this situation to bring greater clarity in YWAM on these important subjects, then I believe it will all have been worth it. **We live in marvelous yet ominous days in which our answers to these questions on political opinions, the prophetic among us, and unity and diversity will be crucial to God using us in the 21st century.** I know that you agree--and I support you all the way as we answer those questions and fulfill God's calling on our individual lives and that crazy, wonderful tribe we call YWAM.

Your co-worker for world evangelism, Ron

This letter shares my heart and perspective. Lord Jesus – speak to our mission and continue to use us as a prophetic voice in this darkening world. **Friday night I spoke at a Extravagant Praise Celebration in Bremerton.** It was a very powerful time in which God was really speaking to me overtime about many things. It is amazing how God reveals himself in praise.

One revelation was the importance of “intimacy with God” during these latter years of my life—growing intimate with him by learning to be more responsive with him as a bride to her lover. As a man, I am used to leading, initiating, “penetrating” in the sexual context. But during these latter years of my life, I need to learn spiritually to take the woman’s role of letting God penetrate my heart and mind and then respond to his love. I am excited about our spiritual intercourse together. That is a biblical idea.

Hood Canal, Washington

October 11, 2009 – 20,370 – 10,431

Shirley and I just returned from our 33rd wedding anniversary—this year celebrated on beautiful Hood Canal in the “Beach House” owned by Pat & Bonnie McCullough of Selah Inn. Last year we traveled across country to Orlando for a great vacation. This time we stayed closer to home in a gorgeous and tranquil setting. As usual, we had a wonderful time together.

Most of the two days were spent walking the beach, sitting in the secluded home right on the water, reading books, and feasting on our lifetime of love. **Marrying Shirley is one of the wisest decisions I ever made. She is a wonderfully loyal and beautiful person inside and out—and God has greatly used her to teach me many aspects of his character. But her loyalty and faithfulness to Christ are the true bottom line.**

Neither of us has wavered in our faith over these three decades—including our trust and commitment to one another. That is a precious gift to share—hopefully, for a lifetime. Lord – thank you for giving Shirley Jean Cookson to me as the gift of a wife many years ago. Help me to love her as you do, cherish our days and years together, and point her heavenward. I am so appreciative of her companionship and love.

Seoul, South Korea

October 23, 2009 – 20,382 – 10,419

Spent a wonderful and busy week in Mongolia October 12-20. Here are the daily highlights:

October 12th – took a twelve-hour flight to Seoul then four hours into UB. Encourage a guy named “Chris” on the plane to live up to his name as a Lightbearer. Talked to a Russian named “Marie” on the second flight. Met our friends at the airport and spent the evening in a nice hotel catching up on my sleep.

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

October 14th – had a great morning quiet time walking through the streets of Ulaanbaatar. Met Sodoo and Aldaraa for lunch and then went out to the Korean Prayer House near Zaisen where the nation’s youth leaders were to gather for a three-day time of training and retreat. Got settled and went to work. Preached in the opening session on the “Fourth Wave” and it was well received. Am enjoying the great worship and fellowship. First time I ever preached in my socks.

October 15th – Got up early and had a quiet time out in the cold. The group started the day with devotions from 1 Timothy. During the day it snowed about 3-4 inches and in the evening, I spoke of “Character” from 2 Peter 1. God greatly blessed the word. In the evening they treated me to a shower, and I went to bed early about 9pm.

October 16th - Had a good quiet time in the Prayer Room. Took a walk in the snow and prayed for Mongolia. Enjoyed a good conversation with Axel Fischer of Help International and then a great ending to our three days with the “seventy youth elders” including creative presentations and commissioning them to go forth and make disciples. Late in the evening, Sodoo, Aldaraa, and I returned to UB where we will be staying for a few days in a Christian owned “Olivet Guesthouse.”

October 17th – Had a good prayer walk in the morning near the Guesthouse. Taught fifty youth leaders at Living Word Church and then preached on “Destiny” at the afternoon youth service. Lunched at a Russian restaurant, visited and prayed over S&A’s little home in Zaisen, prayed for Aldaraa’s brother at a hospital and returned to Guesthouse.

Sunday, 18th – Went to Living Word Church which is back to meeting in multiple services at their theatre building and preached on the “Fourth Wave” in two of the services. Called on Mongols for the first time to “adopt nations” themselves and join the 21st century harvest. Had a great Korean meal afterwards which included my friend Bataa, then had a good time counseling and encouraging Sodoo and Aldaraa in some personal situations in their lives.

October 19th – Another good, brisk prayer walk in the morning. Much faith and revelation on many fronts. Had lunch with S&A and Sodoo’s daughter, Enushka. She is an eight-year old miracle that has just this week come back into their lives. She had been living with her grandmother who is a Shaman, but on Saturday night the Lord opened the door to a meeting between her and Sodoo and it appears to be leading to them adopting her in the future. I am thrilled for them.

In the afternoon I had another good meeting with Zaya and really sensed it was time to commit to help the believers in Mongolia establish a sports camps that can be used for evangelism and missions. I hope it is named Camp Battulga and will carry on his legacy. Lord—lead me in this project. It would be wonderful to have it up and running by 2010—ten years after Battulga’s entrance into heaven. I also met with Sharva and his player named Ebey and will continue to try to bring basketball players into Mongolia for discipleship and evangelism.

My final meal was with Bold’s family—great time. Then went to the airport, but my flight had been canceled due to ice, wind, and snow. Had to return to the Guesthouse and then come back to the airport the next morning—then flew the long trip back to the US through Seoul. I arrived in Seattle one hour after I left UB (!), took a taxi to my car and went straight to school.

Thank you, Jesus for a tremendous time once again in Mongolia.

Here are some of the trip “revelations” to prayer about:

- Pursue purchasing back the Dullum House. May God guide and provide.
- Support a Mongolian Gateway Camp June 24-26, 2010.

- Help launch “Camp Battulga” by 2011.
- Believe God for the best at our 50th Celebration March 27-28.
- Consider starting a discipleship or small group around the *Ishbane Conspiracy* book.

Kirkland, Washington

After the Mongolia trip I had a few days in Kirkland at the Masters course, stayed at the Giaimos, met with Mark Alman and Steve Hall about the R&R thrust, then made it home this evening. I’m doing my Masters thesis on “The Fourth Wave” and pray that God will bless it all over the world.

Juncos, Puerto Rico

November 7, 2009 – 20,397 – 10,404

Just finished a “wonderful-as-usual” week’s trip to Puerto Rico to share in churches and train the latest crop of Jucum missionaries. I arrived late last Saturday evening on a flight through Washington DC and am currently flying home to Seattle. I always enjoy my trips to PR. It is a beautiful place with godly, passionate people who are hospitable, respectful, hungry to learn and passionate for Christ. It is a privilege to share the things of God with them.

After a short night I traveled to the center of the island on Sunday to the city of Rio Grande where I spoke at a large Baptist Church. They had asked me to speak on Ephesians 5:19, and I wove that into the message of “I Will Build My Church.” There was a great response to God’s Word.

Monday morning, I began teaching my “Character” series to the twenty students in the current Juncos DTS. As it is each year, I really enjoyed the students and their love of learning. In the evenings I spoke on “Revival” and especially on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, God really touched some lives. We spent hours in prayer confessing sin and then dying to self and committing our lives afresh to Christ. God always gives me great boldness and clarity in this setting. I’m grateful for the friendship I share with Yarley and Lissette and many younger staff.

Friday morning, I spoke to the entire staff on the call the “Fourth Wave” and that was wonderfully received by these eager missionaries. After a good lunch with Pastor Nelson and a few counseling appointments, I did an impromptu seminar to all the married couples on the base, talking about the “Marriage Feast” from my teaching series, sharing many examples out of Shirley’s and my marriage, and answering their questions. I believe God will show these

precious young people the heights and depth of unconditional love in marriage. They are all well on their way.

I go home to decisions about the house across the street, and other pressing matters. I submit myself to you, Lord Jesus, in all these matters and want your highest will. Please lead me to make wise decisions to the glory and honor of your name.

Port Orchard, Washington

November 20, 2009 – 20,410 – 10,391

I have a few things going on right now—especially pursuing the re-purchase of the Dullum House across the street. After much prayer, and seeking counsel, and waiting upon God, I feel we should proceed. Yesterday, we made a \$199,500 offer on the place...and now we wait. They put up a “For Sale” today, I spoke to the agent, and continue to pray/plan as to how to get this asset back into the YWAM family.

I put together a paper on the purchase that I will paste in here. It tells the details.

Reclaiming YWAM's former Port Orchard Ministry Center

Providing a permanent income stream for renewal & global missions

BACKGROUND

YWAM began working in West Puget Sound in the late 1980s and established our first ministry headquarters in Port Orchard in 1994 when we purchased a property for \$145,000 at 6831 Arlington Place built by long-time supporter Larry Dullum. Upon Larry's sudden passing in 1994, the facility was named the Dullum House and was used until 2003 as our coordinating center for revival projects, King's Kids, Gleanings for the Needy (food bank), and many other aspects of ministry. YWAM sold the property to a Christian family for \$245,000 in 2003 and used the proceeds to launch its thirteen-acre Discovery Bay Training Center in Pt. Townsend. Recently, the former Port Orchard YWAM property went into foreclosure—and now we have an opportunity to re-purchase and utilize this valuable piece of real estate.

THE PROPERTY

The Dullum House is a 3200 square foot two-level rambler with six bedrooms and four meeting areas, a 675 square foot shop, RV bus barn, basketball court, and landscaped grounds on ¾ of an acre of land. The house is located directly across the

street from the twenty-year residence of Ron & Shirley Boehme. The 2009 tax appraisal for the property is \$311,000.

RE-PURCHASING THE DULLUM HOUSE

YWAM is being given the first chance by the listing agent to re-purchase the property. We believe the bank will accept a \$215,000 offer. Because of the tight credit markets that currently exist and the higher interest rates for commercial loans, we are looking for three friends of the ministry to loan Youth With A Mission \$50,000 for three years at a 5% interest rate. Ron & Shirley Boehme are also providing an interest free loan of \$65,000. The three \$50,000 loans plus \$7,500 in accrued interest will be paid back in full to each donor by January of 2013.

PAY-BACK PLAN AND PURPOSE

For many years, YWAM has spent a great amount of time raising money via banquets and other events to fund its renewal and missions programs out of Port Orchard. Our plan is to rent out a portion of the home to Megan Boehme, Ron & Shirley's daughter, who works for Bank of America. YWAM will use the remaining space for an office, conference room, food bank, and hospitality. We will then work hard and smart for three years raising money to completely pay off the Dullum House by January 2013. For the coming decades, the property will be a steady funding source (via the rental income) for YWAM's ministries. This will allow us to devote far more time to ministry than fund-raising over the long-term. We view the re-purchase of the property as a wise new income stream for Youth With A Mission that fits Larry Dullum's old adage about investing: "The only investment I trust is one I can walk on." We agree.

At this point I still need one more \$50,000 investor. From a long-term standpoint, I believe the purchase of this house is a bit like a "Trinity" strategy for support in our later years.

- The "Father" house is the one we inherit one day on Cabrini Dr.
- The "Son" house is ours at 6830 Arlington Place.
- The "Holy Spirit" one is right across the street.

With these three homes debt-free and available for family members in the coming years, we have a "three-fold cord" or financial support, based in the kind of "investment you can walk on," that is a wise foundation in a shaky world. Only God is our rock and fortress, but through wise plans victories can be achieved.

Discovery Bay, Washington

December 1, 2009 – 20,421 – 10,380

I enjoyed a good, shortened week speaking at Discovery Bay for the DTS. They were a good group who responded well to my series on “Worldview.” I also enjoyed an evening with the Hemsleys—great to see Brianna again. She is praying about going to West Point. I did a letter of reference for her. I pray that God will open the door for her.

As usual we enjoyed a great Thanksgiving gathering. We appreciate these times so much with our families. God has truly blessed us—especially with our parents’ long lives and the many times we have shared in the company of each other.

The next week I had my final four-day class at Northwest University in the Missional Leadership program. I have really enjoyed the past eighteen months with Dale Oquist, Nick Buehler, Tyson Devries, Bethany von Steinbergs, Andrew Fox, David Westman, and Ray and Sandy Jennings. We have gone through much together—become quite close—and really grown to love each other. I will miss the fellowship. All that is left now is the Masters thesis which I’m doing on the “Fourth Wave.” May it be a prequel to a book by the same name.

Port Orchard, Washington

December 26, 2009 – 20,446 – 10,355

This month has sailed by, but there have been some large highs and great lows. The high has been the closing on the Dullum House across the street. Three days ago, we took possession of it to the glory of God! His miracles are many:

- The property did not sell at auction
- Shirley met the real estate agent while I was away—and he gave us an inside track.
- We offered \$199,500—God provided the donors—and through a clerical error, only our offer was allowed on the table.
- This all happened after we daily marched around the property, claiming in in Jesus’ Name.

The kids have all come home for Christmas and it has been good to see them. We will always keep praying for them to become all that God wants them to be.