

The Journal of Ron Boehme – 2016

Port Orchard, Washington

January 7, 2016 - 22,730 - 8,201

It's a new calendar year and I'm always excited about what it holds. This is the time of year that I pray about the coming twelve months, do a lot of planning and organizing, and then set my sails to do it.

We did start the year on a bit of a sobering note--at least related to cars.

On Saturday, January 2, after Shirley and I had gone out to breakfast and seen her folks, we decided to take a drive to enjoy a beautiful sunny and crisp day in the Northwest. The mountains were full of snow, and the tide was high as we drove around Beach Drive just taking in the beautiful scenery. After going through Manchester and South Colby, we followed the road right at the Harper dock and continued to slowly cruise up Southworth Drive. Seeing Seattle on our left across the shimmering water was a gorgeous sight.

Then the problem happened--in a split second. I noticed a car in front of us going into the left lane as if she was going to make the left turn on Southworth Drive (which goes to the ferry dock). Thinking nothing about it and our lane being clear ahead, we continue traveling forward, obliviously to what was about to take place.

As we neared where we thought she was turning (she was completely in the other lane), suddenly, she turned her car hard right, perpendicular across the road and directly in our path. In that split second, I thought about trying to avoid her to the left, but she was taking up too much of the roadway and it would also be dangerous to turn into potential traffic.

I hit the brakes as hard as I could and veered off to the right as our cars made impact--our 2010 Santa Fe hitting her near the front of the passenger side and shattering the window. We then bounced down onto a driveway and both vehicles came to a stop.

I haven't had an accident for over thirty years--and I was sick to my stomach as I got out of our car, surveyed the damage (soon learned to be about \$7800) and then walked over to her car to see if she was okay and survey the damage there.

The drivers name was Stephanie Brash, about forty years old, and quite shook up. She told me she had her blinker on and was making a right turn into her driveway. What she didn't say is that she got all the way into the left lane to make the turn because her driveway was a 120 degree turn off the road. That is what caused the accident. She didn't see us and turned right into us.

The dust has settled now as both cars are being repaired. It took me a couple of days to process it, forgive myself, and try to learn from the unnerving encounter. Of course, it could have been worse, and people could have been injured. Praise the Lord that it didn't include that--just some fender-benders on both vehicles.

In the end, the insurance companies are saying that she is 70% at fault and we are 30% to blame. It has been a humbly experience of again recognizing the importance of insurance(!), the fragility of life, and the importance of driving defensively.

Lord - I want to drive like a "little old lady" for the rest of my life and hopefully have no more accidents. I have now had three in my lifetime--about once every twenty years. I hope this is the end and want to do my part to assure that result.

That you for your protection and constant lessons. We never stop learning from the circumstances of life.

San Diego, Baja California & Mexico

January 17, 2016 - 22,740 - 8,191

Just returned from the second meeting of YWAM's new structure in the Americas (that is also reflected worldwide). Our region is now called the Western North American Area Circle Team (WNA-ACTS). About ninety leaders gathered from our region for four days of vision, teaching, fellowship, strategizing and sharing together just south of the border in San Antonio del Mar, Mexico. YWAM San Diego/Baja has a lovely 15 million campus there especially committed to building Homes of Hope (of which they have built 5,000 in the past twenty years).

Here are the highlights of the conference:

I roomed with Paul Martinson and John Briggs, two seasoned YWAM leaders and spent special times with others such as Peter Iliyn, Fred Markert, and many other leaders in our NW arena.

We received good teaching by Darlene Cunningham on the importance of staying Mission True to the values that bind us together in pursuit of the great Commission; great teaching by Peter Warren on God's Testing of Mission True Leaders (a study in David), and some very loaded and tantalizing sessions from Fred Markert on where the world is headed and what YWAM must do.

I also enjoyed doing as worship for leaders and staff on "Is YWAM a Non-Prophet Organization"-- a plea for YWAM to move away from self-centered prophecy to the biblical message of the prophets speaking to nations and cultures.

I got up every morning and walked around the entire property before sunset during my quiet time, asking God for revelation and praying for everyone.

We experienced wonderful times of worship and intercession--especially focused on the Muslim world and meeting the needs of the new wave of refugees.

As I begin 2016, I'm well aware that my role in YWAM has now changed and is diminished. All this year I will seek God about what that means and how I can continue to serve and work in YWAM while fulfilling God's call on my life. I don't have all the answers yet, but "those who seek, find." Lord, show me what to do in my new YWAM responsibilities and at this stage in my life. I'm so grateful to Youth With A Mission--and the privilege of serving in this dynamic family.

Help me to be Mission True--to YWAM, to Faith, and ultimately to YOU. I want to be Mission True to Jesus! You are the only One worth living and dying for.

Tacoma, Washington

February 17, 2016 - 22,771 – 8,160

It has been a wet January and February as I've stay home most of the months. Last year we had a bit of a winter drought, but not this year as we are already 109% of snowpack and had plenty of drippy days.

I am now going to Faith Seminary three days a week and feeling more and more at home in the college teaching atmosphere. Last week I finished my winter class called "Vision, Values and Organizational Effectiveness" and really enjoyed the twelve students, the teaching opportunity, and finding my "voice" in this new environment.

Came across a great quote from Henry Adams today: "A teacher attains a kind of immortality because one never knows where a teacher's influence ends."

That's the kind of "teacher" that I want to be. Have been working hard on my next course for the spring quarter which is called "The Dynamics of Team Leadership." I am honestly enjoying putting these courses together from my life experience in YWAM and imparting knowledge to hungry students that I can encourage to become world-changers.

It is still a difficult time at Faith with a recent accreditation audit and continuing to persevere under the pressures of a bare-bone budget. But I hope we will stay the course, live up to our name (FAITH) and see God bring us into a time of great growth and blessing.

I met with Dr. Adams a week or so ago and shared with him by vision for "Great Sayings" on the walls, a dynamic prayer room, and a completed student commons area. May God help us to help Faith grow and experience revival.

It's also been good this time of year to pray over many financial goals and set the course for 2016. For the first time in our lives, we can build up our savings and lay a foundation for the future. I am excited about that and trying my best to be a good steward.

God showed me recently that life really boils down to two things:

1. Being a steward of things, and
2. Being a servant of people.

I want to pass both those tests with flying colors.

The US presidential race is really heating up, and Donald Trump is amazingly in the lead with Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio trying to make a move. I have been writing much on this subject, praying for our nation, and supporting both Cruz and Rubio.

Just last week Justice Antonin Scalia passed leaving a huge vacancy on the United States Supreme Court. I'm praying that God will use it to awaken this land to elect a godly president who chooses a great replacement and points the nation back to repentance and renewed faith.

Lord Jesus--help me to be faithful in the reviving of America.

Port Orchard, Washington

March 12, 2016 - 22,795 - 8136

I am now 63 years old. Nine sets of seven years have now taken place in my life--and nearly 23,000 days. I am very grateful for the life God has given me. And aware of the closer that I'm getting to glory.

On dad's birthday I went up and visited the gravesites. Always a touching time. On my birthday I thought long about my mother Dorothy and gazed at her picture in my office. It always looks like she is staring right back at me, with a bit of wistfulness in her face.

Been thinking much this week about the brevity of life and being faithful. I was encouraged that over eighty people responded to the *Facebook* announcement of my birthday. They included students from all over the world. friends in the mission, classmates, and many others.

A man is deeply blessed when he has many friends.

I am now primarily a professor with a heart for America and for world mission. Lord Jesus, as I begin the next seven years of my sojourn, please show me your priorities, your heart, and how I can bring pleasure to you at this stage in my life.

To live is Christ and to die is gain. Faithfulness and holiness are the freeway of that pursuit.

March 27, 2016 - 22,810 - 8121

It's been a sobering and wonderful Easter weekend. Mom's friend Jan Barcott is dying. That's the sobering part. Life is very fragile and we all experience death. Thinking about Jesus' death and resurrection for our sins brought great contemplation today--how the cross dealt with our powerless and guilt and his resurrection brought the New Covenant--the agreement that those who believe will experience eternal life.

On Good Friday I participated in the 24th annual crosswalk through town. I have only missed one in that quarter century, and this was the first one that Orval Heath missed due to moving to Warm Springs (we had a good chat on the phone). There is a special place in heaven for those who are faithful.

I personally carried the cross three times on the walk--and the entire experience and prayers uttered during the time were quite moving. There was even one place where a biker saw the cross and came over the knelt by it, grateful to what Jesus had done for him.

Really enjoyed the Easter service at church today and was nice to have Jason and Elena sitting beside me. Lord--bring all our children back into your fullness of worship and joy!

We begin the spring of 2016 in the throes of a difficult political season, another terrorist attack in Belgium, and the world being reminded that Jesus is the way.

I am so glad You're "the Way" in my life. Help me remain faithful to You alone.

Washington, D.C.

May 6, 2016 - 22, 850 - 8081

It has been an awesome and prayerful week here in Washington, D.C. for the National Day of Prayer. I know I say this every year, but it's hard to believe that it's been thirty years since we left the DC area. It is still a very special place for me and I'm grateful o God to have the connection all these years.

I flew into Reagan Airport on Saturday night and made my way by subway up to Capitol Hill. I'm staying this year at Dick Simmon's place on 2nd Street which is being turned into the

American Center for Prayer and Revival (ACPR). Dick Eastman's Every Home for Christ organization has bought most of the townhouse (the part I'm staying in used to be used by Senator Sam Brownback). The funding for the new center was provided by the Green family of Hobby Lobby. They are the ones building the Bible Museum that will open next year.

A YWAMer from the past, Wayne Garland and his wife, now live in one of the apartments and manage the place. When I arrived, they were all scurrying around to ready the building for a mid-week dedication time.

I stayed in the penthouse apartment—really, a cubicle—that met my needs well. This is the first year I had trouble arranging housing and I'm really grateful that this finally worked. I'm spending half the week here and the other half at Rob Schenck's home. Thank you, Jesus, for your always-on-time provision.

On Sunday morning I met up with Inece Bryant in Springfield and we traveled together out to The King's Chapel in Oakton, VA. I spoke there in the morning service on "Servant Leadership" and the message was well received. The church gave me a \$500 donation for the Mongolian Gateway this summer. I am so grateful for their many years of support.

After the service, I spent time with Inece's family, her boss and his wife, and also Bill and Melanie Jeschke at Inece's place. We had wonderful fellowship for the afternoon, and she served us a great roast beef meal.

When Inece dropped me off at the metro to make my way back to Capitol Hill, I noticed that I had mistakenly left my cell phone at Inece's place. Trying to figure out how to retrieve it, I approached an older gentleman standing by the curb and asked to use his cell phone (I had to call Shirley to get Inece's number). I asked him what he did, and he said he worked for the CIA in Forensic Science.

During our conversation, I learned that he managed the number one website in the world for "Fingerprints" which was, unknowingly, serviced by the CIA. I eventually got my phone back and made it home to 2nd Street.

On Monday, I was able to go by 133 C Street. The entire outside of the building has had the mortar "pointed" and some new renovations are taking place inside. While I was there, I watched a group of Fellowship interns dig some post holes to erect a new fence between C Street and the property next door. Nine Republican Congressmen and Senators live there (the first time it's been all of one party) and on Tuesday nights, about 30-35 gather for Bible study and small groups.

I am grateful for the small part we had in birthing this ministry. Lord—continue to use it to disciple the leaders of our nation.

In the afternoon I met with Jason Hershey, our YWAM leader in DC, and went down to David's Tent for about an hour and a half. It is now located in a pretty location east of the Monument. YWAM has five houses and about forty workers and volunteers who taken seven hour shifts at the Tent. It was glorious to be there to sing and pray in this 10,000 hours of perpetual song to the Lord Jesus.

After the tent, we came back to Capitol Hill for a time of sharing and praying over Jason. He is a great young leader that I truly admire. He believes that after eighteen months is over, the "Song" will continue permanently, first on the Hill at the ACPR and then where God establishes it. I knew generation of prayer and praise is being raised up in the nation's capital, and I couldn't be more pleased. God is faithful to raise up His people in every generation.

In the evening, I shared a nice dinner with my cousin, Jim. He's been through a very painful marriage and divorce recently and handled it very admirably with great character and patience. I let him talk and we used the time to encourage one another in the Lord. I'm grateful that he is a part of our family.

On Tuesday I spent the morning participating in the dedication of the American Center for Prayer and Revival (ACPR). There were people on closed circuit on all floors as we dedicated Dick Eastman's new prayer condos to God's purpose in renewal. It was a moving time, with Mark Batterson, a key pastor in the city and author of *The Circle-makers* being the highlight of the time. It was also awesome to contemplate how God has used this piece of real estate, starting with Tom Hess in the 1980's, as a real portal for prayer and awakening. God's faithfulness continues to the generations.

In the evening, I made my way over to the Reagan Building for a special banquet associated with the NDP which was honoring Shirley Dobson for her 25 years of leading the event. Shirley is a quiet and unassuming person who has truly built the NDP into a national phenomenon. I am grateful to have worked with her all these years, and especially served God's purposes in linking her to the city-wide celebration many years. She deserved every bit of praise that she received tonight.

It was announced at the meeting that Anne Graham Lotz will be taking her place as the head of the National Day of Prayer. She is a great choice due to her heart for evangelism and the Word, and her prophetic anointing related to repentance and the End Times. I believe she is the right person for the hour.

We began Wednesday with a men's prayer meeting at Family Research Council. The highlight words were from Bruce Wilkinson on "Forgiveness," and Tony Evans. I enjoyed talking to Tony Perkins—one of today's most important prophetic voices in the media—and spent some time with Pierre Bynum and Jason Hershey. Glad that God is burdening many men to stretch forth in prayer.

The evening gathering took place at the J.W. Marriott and was a wonderful evening of worship, prayer, and honoring Vonette Bright, the original founder of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. Had a good conversation with Rep. Louie Gohmert who shared with me about his time with Ted Cruz on the campaign trail in Indiana. He was very sobered because that evening Ted lost in Indiana and then withdrew from the campaign.

That loss was heavy on my heart as well. God spoke to me that “Christians Had Voted for Judgment in the Land.” Donald Trump is now the nominee of the Republican Party which has lost its way. I will write on this in the coming weeks. I believe we now have two progressives running for president for the first time in our history. One is a Secular Progressive and the other is a Secular Regressive. Much more on this later.

But I was encouraged by the evening that God’s people are still seeking his face. Even in judgment, revival is coming.

On the National Day of Prayer—May 5-- I began the morning as usual by joining Rob Schenck’s special prayer meeting on the steps of the Supreme Court at 7 am. It was a solemn time of crying out to God for justice in our land.

Then I made my way over to the Cannon Building, as I have done for decades, to join special with hundreds in the main prayer service. This year I saw many friends and sat next to Nancy Wilson and Cindy Jacobs. It was nice to get to know her in a deeper way.

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Here is a report from John Bornshein, the Vice President of the event. I will make some personal comments between his commentary.

"Every year, the National Day of Prayer (NDP) Task Force facilitates several events on Capitol Hill including the National Observance at the Cannon House Office Building. With speakers like Tony Evans, Chuck Swindoll, Oliver North, Max Lucado, Beth Moore, and Franklin Graham, the expectations are always high, and the response is overwhelming."

"More than five hundred thousand people tune in live each year, via video stream and televised broadcast, for what is sure to be a prayer event highlight reel as representatives from each branch of government, prominent ministries and businesses share encouraging and convicting messages with ambassadors, delegates, and individuals from all walks of life in the historic Caucus Room – and the 65th annual National Day of Prayer observance did not disappoint."

This year's NDP featured up to 47,000 different prayer events all over the nation with millions of people involved. It was the largest day of Americans crying out to God in the history of the nation.

The morning began promptly at 9:00 a.m. eastern with the presentation of the colors by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard and the National Anthem. Mrs. Shirley Dobson, Chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, kicked off the momentous celebration with a warm greeting and introduction of Rabbi Jonathan Cahn. She then had everyone on the edge of their seats when she made the following statement: "

"In 1988, the late Vonette Bright began petitioning Members of Congress to support a bill that would designate the first Thursday in May as the annual National Day of Prayer. By a joint resolution of the United States Congress, it was signed into law by President Reagan on May 8th of that year."

"Mrs. Bright continued in leadership until 1991. Then she and the National Prayer Committee asked me to succeed her as chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. After much prayer and careful consideration, I accepted the responsibility and have now served for 25 consecutive years. The Day of Prayer has been observed by more than 33 million people at 630,000 prayer gatherings around the world...and today, another chapter begins."

"I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of Dr. Billy Graham, will succeed me as the new chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force. It is imperative that we preserve this American heritage so that this powerful expression of our religious freedom will continue for generations to come. I couldn't be more grateful that the Lord has laid upon Anne the mantle of leadership for national prayer. She is eminently qualified to serve the nation in this capacity. We honor her for accepting this responsibility."

I truly believe that Anne Graham Lotz is God's chosen leader for the next era of the NDP. Her strong evangelistic voice, commitment to God's Word, and prophetic understanding of the dark days we're in are utterly crucial to what lies before us.

"The National Observance continued, and Rabbi Jonathan Cahn (author of *The Harbinger*) took the podium first and blessed the occasion with eloquent words and a personal challenge for how we should view the exercise of prayer and solemn assembly. He then put the Shofar to his lips and belted out what seemed to be the longest held note to echo throughout the halls of Congress in the history of our nation. At that moment, we knew the prayer event had begun and not just in Washington D.C."

Cahn was powerful and moving--like hearing a modern-day prophet of God. We must turn from our sins or America will cease to be. The atmosphere was electric as he called the nation to repentance.

"The line-up of speakers that followed were second to none with each building on the other, emphasizing repentance and a return to the God of our Fathers. After a series of convicting messages and prayers of reverence to the Almighty, Dr. Tony Evans, the 2016 Honorary Chairman, concluded the gathering with the National Prayer that was spoken aloud in unison by

the standing-room only crowd that had remained steadfast throughout the full 3-hour plus gathering."

The biggest tremor of the day occurred when Glenn Sheppard called us onto our knees and faces to cry out to God. Groans and cries for mercy were heard all over the chambers of the Cannon Office Building for minutes. We had touched the agonized heart of God for America.

"It was a powerful and fitting way to conclude the National Observance while serving as a springboard to more than 47,000 similar gatherings that took place from coast to coast. In addition, an estimated 90 nations participated in the annual observance along with South Korea, India and Australia where prayer coordinators mobilized thousands to fast and pray for the United States."

"From pilots flying over capitols to petition from above, to balloon launches, parades, park gatherings and more, there were millions of prayers lifted up at an unprecedented level. President Barack H. Obama and all 50 Governors unanimously called on Americans to pray."

"Truly, the 65th annual National Day of Prayer was a historic moment in time for God's church, across the oceans, to unite in prayer in One Voice. It was the largest such day of prayer in the modern era and already, many have started their planning efforts for May 4, 2017. "

Following the Capitol Hill event, local believers gathered as God's rainbow coalition to pray for the city. Prayers were offered in many languages, Pastor Lon Solomon repented on behalf of the city's pastors for pride, isolation, and division between churches. The young generation was prayed and for and encouraged to take their place in a genuine American revival. It was an awesome experience of praise, tears, prophetic words, and hundreds of prayers going up to God on the west lawn of the US Capitol.

When the day had finished, I was convinced that God had heard our prayers and His tremors of revival had begun,

"Immediately following the National Day of Prayer, the NDP Task Force, announced that it was partnering with Pulse Ministries to rally intercessors far and wide back to Washington D.C., July 14-17 (National Prayer Summit and Together 2016) for what will be one of the largest gatherings of prayer at the National Mall."

I was privileged to be a part of the first large prayer gathering for revival in America-- Washington For Jesus--on April 29, 1980. God used that event to bring many streams of renewal into our land that lasted for nearly a generation, *Together 2016* is the rallying cry of the next generation for God to do it again.

It has never been more needed. But be encouraged.

After National Day of Prayer 2016, some tremors of revival have begun.

What wasn't mentioned in this report is that prior to the evening celebration I participated in an inner-city dialogue with Corinthia Boone and many city leaders on the NOW generation. It was a powerful time of sharing and vision for the next generation of leaders. Then in the evening celebration on the Capitol lawn, it was again my privilege to share at the event—which was powerful and wonderful. The spirit of unity experienced at the end was electrifying.

No matter how dark the clouds are gathering on the American horizon, here is hope in God through the love and prayers of His people.

For the last three days in DC, I stayed at the condo of Rob and Cheryl Schenck near Catholic University. It was wonderful to get to know them in a deeper way and experience their hospitality. Rob is quite a mover and shaker in America with a great anointing on his life. I value his friendship deeply.

On my final day of this incredible week, I attended the annual Christian Solidarity meeting at the Israeli Embassy, visited an inner-city pastor (Louis Jones) and fellowshipped with the Shencks.

God has been so good to me over my lifetime with the experiences and friendships that He has given me. Much of it is tied to the nation's capital, the destiny of America, and the prayers and revival of His Church and nation.

I want to be just as faithful as those who have gone before. Here are a few action items to pray about:

1. Revival book – The Days of Jeremiah: Why Western Civilization is Finished Unless God Changes His Mind.
2. Two blogs – The Church Votes for Judgment in America, The Rise of the Secular Regressive Party.
3. Uniting the Church in South Kitsap (calling the leaders together).
4. Meeting with FCC Elders about sharing our campus.

Los Angeles, California

May 15, 2016 - 22,863 – 8,068

I am on my way back to Seattle after a fruitful but short visit to the Los Angeles area. This trip was a great combination of family and fellowship with my friends at the Youth Ministry Executive Council rendezvous.

First stop was to rent a car and drive up to the Valley to spend some time with David. David and I spent some time strolling the beach waiting for the others to return. Then we drove down to Manhattan Beach and enjoyed a fabulous meal at Pancho's.

After our dinner, I drove David home and strongly encouraged him to "come back to WA sooner than later." I hope he prays about this and God nudges him to step out in faith. I read him a passage from Mark Batterson's *The Circlemaker*:

"You are only one defining decision away from a totally different life. One defining decision can change your trajectory and put you on a new path to the Promised Land. One defining decision can totally change the forecast of your life. And it's those defining decisions that become the defining moments of our lives."

Costa Mesa, California

Then I had to leave for the hour's drive to Costa Mesa for YMEC.

This is the 26th year of the event. We began with a ninety-minute prayer meeting with about fifteen of us, then launched into an evening banquet and message by Monty Hipp about "Succession" in grooming future leaders. During that time, and then for hours that night, God really spoke to me about the importance of YMEC "dying" to its old forms and leadership and really launching new leaders to reach "Every Kid in America by 2020." We need to PRAY for every kid in the US and give each one an opportunity to receive Christ--disciple those who respond--and give all an opportunity to serve.

I pondered this vision all night. It was a very clear word from the Lord.

It was wonderful to be back with so many of my ministry friends and make new ones. In a private afternoon session, I shared my revelation with a few, and we discussed its implications. One thing God is clearly leading us to do is to return the gathering to Washington, D.C. next year and have each leader bring another young leader to mentor and encourage.

In the afternoon we watched a movie preview of "I Am Not Ashamed"—the story of Rachel Scott's testimony amidst the Columbine massacre. I was moved by its message. We ended the evening with a good "Concert of Prayer" for the students and schools of the nation and I blurry-eyed made my way back to Marina del Rey late at night. Then after some personal time with Nate (In & Out Burgers), I dropped off my rental car and made my way to LAX.

I am very grateful for the blessing of YMEC over the past quarter century. May its future include an even greater revival of the youth in this nation.

Port Orchard, Washington

June 19, 2016 - 22, 898 - 8,033

It has been a busy month of family, end of spring, finishing the quarter at Faith Seminary and preparing for summer ministry. Here are the highlights from a quick but productive month:

I finished the quarter at Faith Seminary (soon to be called Faith International University) with my 27 students and continue to feel more at home and "in my element" in terms of teaching and mentoring students. As God has seemingly begun to close YWAM doors, the Faith door continues to open, and I feel at peace in my new role as a professor. Thank you, Lord, for guiding every day of my life.

We are beginning to plan our 45th High School Reunion and I am once again excited about using the occasion to point classmates to Christ. We will have a "Friday Night in the Pews" on August 26 (for believers and seekers) and then the main event, "Saturday Night in the Park" at Sehmel Park in Gig Harbor the next day. Larry Sharrett and I decided to pay Joe Washington's way to the event. He seemed to need and appreciate that. It was our privilege. I'm glad he's coming.

Have been meeting with all the YWAM Port Orchard board members individually and letting them know what the future holds. I would love to keep YWAM Port Orchard open at least until 2024 and continue to mentor leaders, attend conferences, and speak in any settings in which I can be a blessing.

Olympia, Washington

On June 4 I drove down to Olympia to help in the dedication of a new 20-acre property for YWAM Faith Harvest Helpers. They are a very faithful ministry committed to distributing food to the needy, and I appreciate Paul and Rose Shorb and stand behind them. They have purchased this land debt-free and I am excited about their future vision.

Seaside, Oregon

Drove down to Seaside, OR on June 5 to speak at the Lighthouse Church there with Pete and Vivian Battjes. Though they are a small congregation, I spoke on "Servant Leadership" and the vision for Mongolia and their generosity gave nearly \$1500 for this year's project. It's amazing how God moves upon certain congregations to give abundantly and freely! It was totally, unexpectedly a God-thing.

Port Orchard, Washington

On June 19, I had the privilege of speaking at my home church--FCC- On Sharing Your Faith. It's a part of a 32 week "Believe" series and they wanted me to do the teaching on evangelism. I shared seven points of why we *don't* share our faith in Christ the way that we out, and at the end, many stood and came forward for prayer to ask God to make them bold in evangelism. I believe God touched many lives this morning and I give all the thanks and praise to Jesus.

Today was also Father's Day and David and Bethany's birthday and I received a wonderful group of texts and phone calls that really meant a lot to me. Shirley and I also visited dad's grave and thanked the Lord for how He used him in our lives.

I will always be grateful for my dad who made my life possible. Thank you, Heavenly Father for being behind it all. Help me to be more like and You.

Bothell, Washington

July 4, 2016 - 22,913 – 8,018

On June 26, I had the privilege of speaking at Calvary Chapel in Bothell and commissioning a King's Kids team to go and work with David's Tent in Washington, D.C. I spoke on the "Character of David" to this vital group--then gave an hour's seminar to them after the service helping to prepare them for the nation's capital. God--use them in the city of Washington.

Olympia, Washington

On June 29, I went with Joel Morris and others from our church to the Franklin Graham *Decision 2016* prayer meeting on the grounds of the state capital. Beforehand there was a gathering for leaders and partners down near the waterfront, then over 5,000 people joined in for the hour of prayer, repentance, and a clear call to get involved in changing America.

I deeply appreciate Franklin picking up with father's mantle to speak prophetically to the United States at this time of great need. Wonderful afternoon with God's people crying out for His intervention.

Port Orchard, Washington

Then on Sunday I helped lead the *Call2Fall* part of a whole morning of prayer at First Christian. Great time communing with God in worship, intercession, and supplication.

Finally, today on our nation's birthday, we used the occasion of Jim Hay's visit to the west coast to have a small family reunion and meal together at mom's place. Great time of fellowship around the tables and thanks to God for the blessings of liberty, family, and all He have given us.

Jim hasn't been to Port Orchard much in the past forty years, so we threw a party for him at mom's--which was a great success. He is a strong follower of Christ though he has gone through the devastating circumstances of a painful divorce the past few years. But he's moving on with his faith intact.

God has been at work in many of our family members. It was good to be with many of them on Saturday. *Family is a treasure*. I hope that our kids' generation will learn that same truth and keep the family together for the sake of Jesus.

Tomorrow I fly to Mongolia for this year's adventure in the land of the Khans. Lord, use me once again for your glory alone.

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

July 16, 2016 - 22,925 – 8,006

I just finished my nineteenth year of ministry in Mongolia, and again, it was a wonderful time in the nation which has become my number one adopted people group. I didn't plan that years ago—God did. I simply obeyed over the past two decades and have now taken about 20 trips to this far away part of the world to further the advance of the Gospel.

The sixteen-hour plane ride from Seattle via Seoul was uneventful. Sodoo met me at the airport about midnight and we spent the wee hours of the morning at his apartment in UB before going out for Mongolia Gateway GPS Camp the next day. It was held at the Korean campground once again that is to the east of UB where it has been for the past few years.

This 2016 GPS Camp was extremely special, and here are some of the highlights (in which we sponsored the poorest “half” of the kids who wouldn't have been able to come without the help):

This year was our biggest—320 young world changers from four different nations sent on twenty church teams to do evangelism in the nation. I was possibly the only person there who spoke English as a first language.

I taught three main sessions at the camp and the theme was “Jesus First.” I tried to give a very practical message to the kids and staff

--Make Jesus your *best friend* and give Him your time (devotionally)

--Make Jesus your *Lord and King* by giving Him your will (death to self).

--Make Jesus your *Wonderful Counselor* by submitting to Him all the big decisions of your life.

The times of worship were dynamic and powerful as always. This generation really loves to pray and worship. One night they spent four hours in worship until about 2 am in the morning.

I stayed as usual in the “Brick Ger” on the edge of the camp—this time with three other couples, some singles, and kids (probably about eleven people each night). It was a wild experience of constant Mongol fellowship and family atmosphere.

Each morning I climbed up to the Cross on the hillside behind the camp and prayed for everyone and sought the Lord there. The last day I was impressed that this might be my last time to do so—a melancholy feeling. Next year I might not be able to stay at the camp because of my age and needs. I am grateful for these years of “praying on the mountain” for the youth of Mongolia.

On Saturday, after a good day of rain, the clouds parted for a few hours and we baptized 51 Mongols in the Tuul River. That is truly a highlight each year.

Had many wonderful times of talking to students, staff, and leadership. I’m very grateful for the way they’ve invited me into their lives and are so eager and willing to learn about Christ.

This camp really lived up to the purposes of Go, Partner and Serve. YWAM sponsored many kids; World Vision provided the buses; Cru did two evangelism workshops. And Sodoo and YFC Mongolia underwrote the rest.

After the four days together, the teams spread out around Mongolia and Korea to share Christ’s Good News. Every day kids are posting “selfies of evangelism” on the GPS Facebook page. What a smart tool.

On Sunday, I spoke at Sodoo’s church which is now called “Light of His Love.” Many of the campers were there as well. I shared on being a part of the “David Generation of Destiny.” (Really, it was my *destiny* message through the eyes of King David.) They we sent off all the teams share their faith around the country.

Monday through Wednesday was the annual Nadaam festival and I really got a taste of Mongolian family and culture during those days. I think they consider me an honorary Mongol now and include me in everything they do.

The first day we had a genuine Mongolian barbecue up on the mountainside behind Zaisan, which is south of the city. It’s incredible how that area has developed, but up on the

hillside we found a spot in the trees to look down on the city. This barbecue included most of Aldaraa's family—probably about fifty people. I learned a lot about the blessing of family, clear roles, love, and serving each other by watching the Mongols do what they do best.

The second day of Nadaam, we looked at possible future apartments for Sodoo's family. God is really putting it upon my heart to help them “buy” an apartment to really establish their home and give them a great financial base from which to serve. I don't know of any two young Christian leaders in the world who deserve it more. I'm really in prayer about this. If “this is You Lord,” then we need you to guide and provide.

We also visited briefly with Pastor's Tsogo's family who was visiting from America. He is the pastor of the Mongolian church in LA where I have preached many times. We had a nice picnic with his extended family on the north side of the city. We also got to see Bold and Dorchand and their children for a few moments. I have known Bold for nearly twenty years. He's a great leader of Living Word here in UB.

A Korean team had spent Monday ministering in Darhan. Great bunch of kids. On Tuesday, they joined us for an occasion of cooking mutton with hot rocks—it's called khorhog-- in the pot and feasting on everything Mongolian. It was great to see the two cultures interacting together. We prayed over one another at the end and sent them on their way back to South Korea. These two cultures are a blessing to each other.

On Nadaam's third day we had a wild and long “Indiana Jones” ride up north to help with another family reunion. Sodoo's brother-in-law is one of their church planters in the Gobi area. He hadn't seen his family in two years. We all trekked north to Tunkhel—about half the way on decent roads, and the other half bumping and jolting across the vast Mongolian prairie and through the mountains. (On the way back, Sodoo showed me how they even use GPS in these circumstances. There are no streets or names, but Google earth will say “Turn right or left” at the next mountain or stream! Pretty amazing.)

It took five hours to drive up (a lot of Mongol stops and fellowship on the way). We arrived in Tunkhel about 5:30 pm and were all treated to Mongolian hospitality at the family home with about thirty people present. After the required meal, we drove over to the river to spend a few hours fishing and relaxing. The father and oldest brother of the family caught about ten fish (like trout), but Sodoo and I came up empty. Maybe we better stick to being “fishers of men.”

Then, as always, we sat down to another meal by the river (where horses were a herd of horses were bathing and the Mongolian countryside glistened with light and the abundance of God's green earth). We started the long trek back about 8:30 pm and arrived about 12:30 am. Parts of my neck and shoulders are sore from the bouncing ride. The old gray mare just ain't what he used to be.

On my last day I had an honest but hard meeting with Zaya in her police office. She is very disappointed that I have not given more time and attention to her family and about the lack of progress on a camp property. I shared with her my disappointment also, but that the vision was never ultimately about land—but about investing in kids. She shares my heart for the youth of Mongolia but is tough as nails on what she wants.

Many pastors don't trust her, and I really don't know her heart. But I am open to the idea of helping build a fence around the property that the government has offered and want to do everything I can to believe in her and be faithful to God's vision. She also served me khorhog—third day in a row. That evening before I left, I enjoyed a wonderful final meal with Sodoo's family (and others).

Had a little rough patch going home that required faith and perseverance. When I arrived at the UB airport, I was promptly told that I was scheduled to fly the day before—big mistake by Sharp Travel—and that they could get me on the plane to Seoul, but that there were no seats on to Seattle. In Seoul, I prayed and prayed and talked and talked to agents (and Sharp Travel), and God finally provided a seat for me and settled the drama. (Cost Sharp Travel over \$1000 for the booking error). I am so grateful that the God of the universe is an intimate part of our everyday lives.

Now I'm on my way home to my family and the rest of the summer's priorities after a memorable time in Mongolia. I *am* aware of getting older on trips like this. I don't have the energy and stamina that I once had and may have to make some more changes in the future. But I am committed to this nation for the rest of my life. Lord Jesus--be greatly glorified in the land of Mongolia.

Port Orchard, Washington

August 28, 2016 - 22,968 – 7,963

Been away from my journal for far too long, but not away from the one of the busiest summers in my life. I set some goals for various projects this summer, and so far, have been able to accomplish them with God's grace. Here are the highlights over the past six weeks:

It was a good summer quarter at Faith Seminary where I enjoyed the students and continue to bond into my new role there. I have now become the director the Masters In Leadership (MAL) program and will soon add the BAL as well. It's feeling more and more at home at Faith International University--the new name and hopeful future.

On July 6 and 7 we celebrated Chuck and Margaret's 66th wedding anniversary and Chuck's 90th birthday--big milestones. They have lived in their apartment for 66 years and that

must be a Port Orchard record. Their simplicity of lifestyle and faithfulness at what they have done is a very high bar.

In early August, Rich and I chose the hottest days of the summer to build a greenhouse for Megan and Nicole. It's now finished, and we surprised them by making it a gift. That's the hardest I've worked for a long time, with the seat dripping off of me in the 90 degree sun, but I view it as a labor of love for our daughter and a desire to see both of them come to Jesus. They were very appreciative, and I pray God will use it for great good.

A week ago, I participated in First Christian's Church annual Block Party which was a great success. Hundreds of people attended, and I believe God will use it to thrust us forth more into evangelism. The car show was excellent, the bands were also good, and the people did a great job of serving. As an aging church, that is a critical thing to do in the future. God--bless the efforts of FCC to reach people for Christ in our community.

This past weekend we held our 45th High School Reunion. The first night called "Friday Evening in the Pews," about forty gathered at FCC for food, worship, testimonies, and a very powerful time in God. We also watched the "Memorial Tribute" honoring our deceased classmates, and it really moved many hearts.

I shared a short message with everyone about living out Faith, Hope and Love in this final section of our lives and sharing it liberally with the rest of our classmates the following evening. People stayed until 11 pm--hungry to enjoy fellowship with their brothers and sisters in Christ from the class of '71.

The next afternoon and evening we gathered at the Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor for the main event called "Saturday Night in the Park." It was a very special time as 100-120 showed up--many of them having never come to a reunion before or doing so many years ago. Joe Washington and Ruth Thomas gave up front leadership, but all of us served and reached out to our classmates.

I had some very significant sharing times with friends, and all our Christian classmates "sprinkled" the love of Jesus throughout the night. A special treat was the appearance of our old football coach, Bob Ames. All the players gathered to have their picture taken with him. The Memorial again was powerful, and afterwards nobody really wanted to dance because the renewing of friendships was deep and sweet.

The events really moved me this year and I thank you, Lord, for laying my classmates upon my heart. As in past years, I spent some weeks praying over my annual, uplifting every living classmate to the Lord. Very special time indeed--and now I look forward to the 50th in five short years.

Upon my return from Mongolia, I began fund-raising for Sodoo and Aldaraa's apartment and God blessed the effort with the \$10,000 that I had believed Him for. I will be sending it this week and am very excited about them buying and enjoying their first home in UB. Thank you, Lord, for the burden of this, and I pray you will help me raise the final \$25,000 to completely pay it off. Here is the way I look at this need:

Operation Strategic Leadership

Pastor Sodoo & Aldaraa (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)

I have been working in Mongolia for nineteen years, serving a first-generation Christ-harvest in that nation. In 1980 there were ZERO Christians in this poor, nomadic land. Today, by God's grace, there are over 100,000 Mongol believers in 500 churches.

I met Pastor Sodoo in 2006 when he was the youth pastor of the nation's largest church (Living Word Church). Today he pastors one of forty church plants from the mother church and serves as the national director of Youth For Christ (YFC) in Mongolia. He is one of the most diligent, teachable, faithful disciples I have ever worked with in the Two-Thirds World.

Both Sodoo and Aldaraa come from very poor backgrounds and have never owned their own home (they also have a fourteen- year-old daughter). They have been urban nomads in the 1.5 million-person capital city for many years. Two years ago, YWAM and a Malaysian Church helped them rent their first apartment.

I have also been funding youth missions camps (Mongolia Gateways) over the past decades and other projects. God has now given me a new burden. Since Sodoo is the key youth leader in the nation, I believe stabilizing his family in a permanent home is one of the most *strategic things* we could do to advance God's work there.

This summer, after the Gateway Camp, we found a two-bedroom apartment that would make a great, permanent ministry home for Sodoo and Aldaraa. It is on the outskirts of the Mongol slum where Aldaraa was raised. Due to a current financial crisis in the nation, the apartment can be purchased for \$45,000 (half the recent value). Buying apartments is the new normal for residency in Mongolia. We have already raised \$10,000 to hold it. For another 10,000 we can finalize the purchase of the apartment and either mortgage the balance or trust God for more funds to completely pay it off.

Can you make a \$500, \$1000, or \$5000 gift to this strategic leadership project? All gifts are tax-deductible and can be sent to YWAM, 6831 Arlington Pl. SE, Port Orchard, WA 98367. Sodoo is 39 years old and could have many more decades of ministry in Mongolia and Asia. Let's help him plant some roots! Thanks in advance for your *strategic generosity*.

Yours for a Mongolian harvest, Ron

Tacoma, Washington

Over the past six weeks I have been working steadily on the **Prayer Room at Faith**. Tomorrow we will put up the flags (which my mom made a labor of love) and the prayer station bulletin boards and the shelving in front of each station. It is really coming together, and I am very excited about completing it and bringing prayer into the center of the school at which I serve.

Lord, thank you for a busy and yet fruitful summer. I'm tired, but truly want to live my life full tilt without regret for your Kingdom and glory. Thanks for blessing the vision you have given. Help me to see every one of them to the completion that you desire. I love serving You.

Kansas City, Missouri

September 12, 2016 - 22,983 – 7,618

YWAM Together, Kansas City

I caught a plane to Kansas City for a global gathering of my spiritual family. This turned out to be a great but grueling week of uplifting Jesus in the nations. Here are the highlights:

I roomed with Allen Weed from *Interlinc*, shared many thoughts and words with him about his future, and introduced him to many YWAM leaders. Though intensive, it was nice to not be alone as I have been at most YWAM gatherings over the past thirty years.

The richness of celebration, worship, teaching, vision, and passion was vintage YWAM and really elevated my soul. The two major themes were releasing YWAM fully into the Spheres of Society (theme of my 1989 book) and also adopting the final nations in the world that still need the Bible in their heart language (Ending Bible Poverty Now).

I was also able to do a surprise visit to Margaret Cookson's childhood friend named June who lives in Olathe near our hotel. One afternoon I left the meetings and went with her pastor-son to see her. June is deaf and barely speaks, but we had a great time communicating through sign language and bringing back some pictures for Margaret. I believe she will be thrilled.

Also got to spend some time getting a personal tour of the International House of Prayer run by Mike Bickle and Co. It is quite an amazing place--and I brought back many ideas to use at our nearly formed Prayer Room at Faith Seminary. God is really merging the prayer and missions streams of the world for the final harvest of souls.

Was great to talk to Loren and Darlene and many other leaders and have a special time with John Dawson and Dale Kauffman. When John prayed for me, he used the term **"Teaching**

Elder. "That's really what I've been in the YWAM universe for over forty decades. That meant a lot to me.

This may be the last YWAM conference that I ever attend. It appears that God has been winding down my YWAM career for reasons that only He knows. In fact, if no invitations come this fall, **this will be the first year in forty-two years that I have not spoken at a YWAM school or event.**

That is quite a stunning change. But I am prepared for it, will throw myself into the work he has given me and always consider myself a YWAMer. Nothing lasts forever in this life. Only the call of eternal life with Christ.

What sustained through this nostalgic and visionary week was daily reminding myself of the riches of passion and vision that I've received through Youth With A Mission and the joy of many life-long friendships--many of which were renewed at the gathering. I'm a very rich man because of Christ and His friends. That is something I will always treasure.

Tacoma, Washington

September 19, 2016 - 22,990 – 7,611

It was wonderful this week to dedicate the new Prayer Room at Faith Seminary (now Faith International University). After the morning faculty meeting, all the staff and faculty gathered for a time of dedication and prayer. I'm so grateful for my mom's help with the flags and believe that the time and effort putting it together will change the spiritual atmosphere of the college.

Lord make the new Prayer Room the engine of revelation and blessing at FI! **Because when we work, we work. When we pray, God works.**

Tacoma, Washington

October 8, 2016 - 23,009 – 7,592

On Tuesday, Shirley had major female surgery at St. Clare Hospital in Tacoma. Dr. Leon Plowright did the seven-hour procedure, and after a night in the hospital she is now home and convalescing--albeit with a catheter hooked up to her bladder for a few days. All-in-all, we are very grateful for the successful surgery, and pray that it will greatly improve her quality of life going forward.

Here is the blog that I wrote about this momentous event. These days were emotional days for me as I waited for and prayed for my bride. Now I'm committed to serving her for 6-8 weeks to bring her back to health.

It's Only Real Love When It's Hard

I possess a doctoral degree in Strategic Leadership, but sometimes I feel like I'm still in Kindergarten when it comes to some areas of life. One such course of needed study and growth is the biblical quality of love.

Next week my wife, Shirley, and I celebrate forty years of marriage. I would have liked to have taken her on a cruise, a romantic getaway, or even to a nearby Bed 'n Breakfast. But yesterday, Shirley had major female surgery (a seven-hour procedure), and for the next 6-8 weeks she will be convalescing, and I will be her main caregiver at home.

But that's okay. I know I have a lot to learn about the greatest subject in the world--*love*.

It's only real love when it's hard.

I know I could be writing about a lot of world events today. As I punch the keyboard, Hurricane Matthew is bearing down with ferocity on the US east coast. Two nights ago, Mike Pence proved his worthiness of Donald Trump's VP pick by easily upping Tim Kaine in the vice-presidential debate.

In about thirty days one of the most important presidential elections of our lifetime will take place between Donald Trump--weak on character and good on policies--and Hillary Clinton--who is corrupt in character and disastrous on policies. She would lead the American nation off a progressive cliff.

But today, I'm thinking about none of those issues because *love* calls. My wife is resting comfortably at home while still hooked up to some technology. Her seven-hour surgery two days ago was longer than the four surgeries that I have experienced before combined.

While I waited anxiously for her in the waiting room, two hours beyond the scheduled time, I thought about our lifetime of love and countless expressions of it. I pondered the privilege of having six great children—ironically, the cause of her female surgery. I also had some tearful moments wondering why it was taking so long while pushing the thought from my mind that maybe something was wrong.

I knew she wasn't having life threatening surgery, but this was the first time in six decades she'd been under anesthetic--and at our age, anything can happen. I was a little surprised at how emotional I was throughout the day. Tears came to my eyes when I saw her smiling face a few hours later.

Our love goes deep, and it's only real love when it's hard.

What do I mean by that?

Jesus told us that it's easy to love people when things are familiar and good: " If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? (Matthew 5:46,47).

What's hard about love is when you are not friends and things are not going well. That applies to two primary situations--loving your enemies and loving sacrificially when times are difficult. Let me focus on the second scenario.

For many years, I've defined love this way: *Love is doing what's best for another person from God's point of view.* In difficult circumstances or situations love oftentimes demands great sacrifice and continual death to self to really benefit another. The other person needs you, sometimes desperately. You need to change your schedule, your commitments, your likes and dislikes, and many other self-oriented things.

Right now, that's what love demands of me in caring for Shirley. For the next week or so I need to carry her through a difficult time--loss of sleep, caring for wounds, dealing with the unpleasantness of restoring her body and cleaning up messes.

For weeks after, I will cook some of the meals, do the grocery shopping, handle the laundry, and care for Shirley's shut-in parents. For quite a while I need to do all the lifting--even a gallon of milk. Classes must be canceled, appointments postponed.

In the past when I have had surgeries or accidents, Shirley was my gracious caregiver and performed it beautifully. Now it's my turn to learn true servant-oriented love.

When she came home from the hospital yesterday, I needed to make her some dinner. Since moving to a new home three years ago, I've never cooked a meal and don't even know where many of the kitchen utensils reside. I even had trouble turning on the gas stove! Then, I made the only thing that I'm really able to cook--scrambled eggs. It will be a miracle if Shirley nutritionally survives the next month. But I've got to rise to it.

It's only real love when it's hard.

While I was waiting for Shirley's surgery to be completed, I read the current Number One bestseller in America--Bill O'Reilly's *Killing the Rising Sun*. I strongly recommend it. It shares the horrific story of World War II in the Pacific Theater where the United States defeated the militant Japanese Empire. Twenty-four million people died because of Japanese aggression and savagery.

The book is dedicated to all those who served in the military to defeat Japan. It tells numerous stories of heroism and bravery of those who laid their lives down to free the world from tyranny. They did it because they loved liberty and their own nation more than themselves.

While I was waiting in surgery, I needed someone to deliver something to me at the hospital. I called a nearby family friend who had just gotten up. He didn't seem too interested in helping me and kept trying to find a way out of the errand. Eventually, I did it myself.

His response instructed me. You don't love if your heart isn't willing to sacrifice. It's easy to "love" when it costs you nothing. But that's not true love--just doing what's convenient.

It's only real love when it's hard.

I've seen real love demonstrated by my parents. For some years, my mother took care of my aging father as he faced various medical problems. Occasionally the roles were reversed. There were numerous ambulance trips to the hospital and the anxious prayers that accompanied them. There were weeks and months of exhausting care.

They both needed to look past the beauty of youth and deal with sagging skin, no privacy, clipping aged toenails, and cleaning up errant bedpans. This sacrifice usually fell to my mom and she did a superb job of serving my dad until he drew his last breath. I learned much by watching them.

It's only real love when it's hard.

I also know that I haven't come near to experiencing what some people have faced in the "exam" of real love, such as:

--Caring for a dying child who passed at a young age.

--Dealing with a handicapped relative over a lifetime--putting another's greater needs ahead of your own.

--Serving in a war zone or caring for the destitute after some terrible natural disaster.

--Enduring sex slavery, being abducted to fight as a child soldier, being raped and abused by evil aggressors--and having the opportunity to help.

Many people in our world daily face terror and difficulty that can only be eased or erased by those who reach out with true love.

Jesus is, of course, our greatest example of true self-sacrificing love. He left the comforts of heaven to walk the dusty streets of earth. He healed the sick and raised the dead, and most did not respond favorably to his compassion and concern.

He ultimately laid his life down on a barbaric cross to make atonement for the entire world--and this after they had spit on him, whipped him and yelled "Crucify him!"

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

It's only real love when it's hard.

Our 40th anniversary arrives on Monday. Between now and then I will be at home, caring for Shirley and trying to nurse her back to health. When our special day arrives, the only thing on the calendar is a trip to the doctor to have some technology removed. Then we will return home to keep healing, loving, remembering that we made a pledge four decades ago to stand by one another "in sickness and in health."

It might be easy to feel sorry for ourselves. Wouldn't our love be greater if accompanied by the blessings of health and excitement or luxury and travel? No. Absolutely not.

This year we get the privilege of experiencing the true heart of love which is intimate sacrificial caring for another. The fluff will be gone, the dross burned away, and the real deal left to sparkle and shine. **This is going to be the most *loving* anniversary we've ever known or experienced. It's only true love when it's hard--and very precious to God.**

Port Orchard, Washington

November 8, 2016 - 23,040 – 7,561

We have just finished one of the craziest and most historic presidential elections of our history. It ended last night with Donald Trump amazingly winning the presidency of the United States of America.

A stunner. Answered prayer. A faulty candidate. The Church rising.

I must admit that this political year was difficult to chronicle because I had so many mixed feelings about Trump and many other candidates had great character and credentials. I believe for the first time in my life I gave money in the presidential race (first to Ted Cruz, then to the Trump campaign), and always saw this election as one of the most important of my lifetime--after the 1980 victory by Ronald Reagan.

Here is what I wrote today on this historic election that I believe can be greatly used by God.

Yes, Virginia, There's a God in Heaven

Every Christmas Day, our local area newspaper publishes an editorial that is titled "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." It was written many decades ago to remind a girl that Santa Claus is real, and it is okay to believe in him.

Last night's stunning and historic American presidential election brought those words back to my own heart and mind--with a little twist. Prayers were answered. A miracle happened.

Yes, Virginia, there's a God in heaven.

Against all odds, Donald Trump was elected last night to be the 45th president of The United States. He is a man who has never held public office or served in the military. He was not given any chance of receiving his party's nomination, and after he triumphed over sixteen other highly qualified candidates, nobody believed he could really win the general election.

But after nervously watching the vote count last night for seven hours, the unforeseen occurred. On the screen appeared the electoral vote count of 274 for Donald Trump and the announcement that he was projected to win the state of Pennsylvania.

Within seconds, the screen boldly announced: *Donald Trump was the new US President-Elect.*

Here are some observations of what happened on November 8, 2016. I welcome your comments.

1. Donald Trump was not my first choice for president. He possesses some obvious character flaws. But he grew in presidential stature over the past year. He does have many admirable traits including a strong work ethic, good family, and an incredible business acumen success story. He will bring the greatest set of CEO skills ever seen in the Oval Office. I also believe he will grow in wisdom, character, and faith through the new responsibilities soon to fall on his shoulders.
2. This election turned out to be the American Brexit (Britain leaving the European Union). The people turned against both the Republican and Democratic establishments and said with a loud voice "We want government of the people, by the people, and for the people." The elites have been toppled and I am sure many are wringing their hands and looking for therapists today around the DC Beltway. Trump will champion the common person and reverse the trends of socialism and globalism.
3. For the first time in ninety years (since 1928) people have chosen a Republican president, Senate, and House. That same Republican sentiment controls 33 statehouses and many state legislatures. That means for the first time in my lifetime, good laws will be easier to enact in Washington, D.C. The regulatory state can be peeled back. The financial noose of Obamacare will be repealed and replaced. Bad executive orders will be rescinded. Morale can be

restored in the US military. We can fight ISIS and win. We will take on the challenges of the inner cities including school vouchers. We can cut taxes, boost growth, get people back to work, and take aim at the national debt. To quote political advisor Dick Morris, "We saved America last night through a peaceful revolution."

4. The US Supreme Court will be stopped from destroying the US Constitution. President Trump will appoint constitutional literalists (in the spirit of Antonin Scalia) that will preserve the First and Second Amendments (and many others) while dispensing justice from a biblical point of view. In fact, it's possible that President-elect Trump will nominate one to four justices--preserving the world's greatest legal document (The US Constitution) for a generation. This is an incredible win for freedom and rule of law.

5. After sitting on the fence for years, Bible-believing followers of Jesus turned out in mass to vote for the Trump-Pence ticket. I believe that desperation over American cultural demise motivated many believers to do their duty and vote. According to the *FiveThirtyEight* blog, evangelical voters were among the strongest demographic groups. Trump's margin among evangelical white Christians was 81 percent to 16 percent. If that mark held, it would be the widest margin for a Republican presidential candidate among evangelicals since 2004. Over eighty percent of secular atheists voted for the Democrats. America is divided because two worldviews are battling for supremacy in the nation. During the Obama years, secularism reigned. The Church and American public finally woke up and voted to reel us back away from the abyss. It's a civic beginning of "If my people" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

6. I agree with Gary Randall that "God intervened in the direction the leadership of this country has been going and has allowed a flawed, non-politician to be elected to the highest office in the world. This election impacts the Supreme Court for a generation or more. And reaffirms our religious freedoms. It is indeed an historical moment in the history of our country." Many describe Donald Trump as a "Cyrus" candidate that God could use to take us through a tumultuous time.

7. It is interesting to me that Trump's first pivotal state was North Carolina--the home of Billy and Franklin Graham. I believe God greatly used Franklin Graham's ambitious Decision 2016 tour to all fifty state capitals to call God's people to pray. Over 100,000 attended and thousands gave their lives to Christ. One day before the election, Dr. Bill Graham turned 93, and on election day he and his son led America in praying for the election results. I believe their prayers were answered.

8. Speaking of prayer, Pierre Bynum reminds us that "We owe the outcome of this pivotal election to God. And we owe it to the large mass of praying Christians, who have been crying out to God for a massive shift in the direction of the United States. Thousands of churches and prayer groups across our nation -- though not organizationally connected -- have been praying at a crescendo pace over the last weeks and days, many sponsoring 40-day fasts and 21-day fasts,

and de facto leaders of the most influential prayer organizations in America consecrated themselves in late October to a three-day "Esther Fast" (three nights and days of prayer without any food or water). Rank and file believers have been praying as never before. Most have taken care not to appear overtly partisan but have cried out to God for mercy upon our nation, especially in the presidential election."

David Kubal agrees: "I can tell you that more unified prayer went into this election than any in our nation's history. I can say this simply because of the use of technology to mobilize prayer. Social media, webcasts, conference calls, and prayer resources were all used in great measure to bring people together to pray the promises of Scripture. There have been nationwide fasts and prayer desperately calling out for God's hand to move in America across many prayer networks. It is incredible to join God in shaping history through prayer and fasting!"

9. Donald Trump has changed the electoral map in our nation. He not only won back many "Reagan Democrats" from the Midwest, but also claimed more Asians, Hispanics, and blacks than did Mitt Romney four years ago. Those increases, plus the evangelical vote, were probably the difference. It seems like all sectors of American society woke up during Election 2016 and realized we badly needed a change of direction.

10. They will get it with the new administration. One of the more promising notes is the wealth of great talent that Trump is sure to stock into his cabinet and government. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see folks like Rudy Giuliani as Attorney General, John Bolton as Secretary of State, Ben Carson as Surgeon General or Mike Huckabee as director of HUD? One of the greatest blessings of the Trump win is getting Mike Pence as vice president--one of the most principled and godly men on the political scene. Ronald Reagan chose great people to lead the country during the 1980s and God's blessing was evident. I believe businessman and CEO Donald Trump will do the same.

Yet, I know many people are hurting and discouraged after this election. I know their pain.

Four years ago, when Barack Obama won his second term after lying about the Ben Ghazi attacks, I felt the same shock and disbelief. While on a trip to Texas, I took a long prayer walk in the east Texas countryside to cry out to God and ask his guidance. He showed me many things and dried my tears. And he gave me renewed faith that revival could once again come to America.

I almost lost that hope in an American renewal a few weeks ago. Then God led me to begin praying for a *tsunami* of freedom-loving people to rise and vote.

They did. It was historic, and at least for now, thwarts the designs of a demonic triad that seemed hell bent on destroying this nation. A "present darkness has been pierced."

Whether elections promote righteousness or wickedness, our response must always be the same:

"Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in Me." No human leader is our hope. We must keep our eyes on Jesus.

"Occupy until I come." What are your assignments to advance God's kingdom on earth?

"Go into all the world and preach the Good News." In the end, good governments and nations are simply a means to peace and outreach. Let's use this election to point many to Jesus.

Yes, Virginia, there's a God in Heaven.

November 27, 2016 - 23,059 – 7,542

We just finished the Thanksgiving holiday with a small gathering at mom's place. It is always a special time of year to reflect on God's goodness and get together with family and friends.

It seems like we are speeding toward the end of the year and there are many thoughts (and prayers) in my heart regarding what has been happening in my life and what might lie ahead. Here are a few of my random thoughts:

This looks like the first year in 42 that I will not have spoken at a YWAM school--signifying a real shift in my teaching for the future. It appears that YWAM is fading and Faith International University is rising--and this is all of God, certainly not of me. Please show me, Lord Jesus, what that continues to mean and place my heart at peace about it. I see your hand in it all, but it still surprises me. I only want to obey you.

I just finished my ten-week teaching course at First Christian on the "The Kingdom of God." This was the first teaching series I ever gave in YWAM in the fall of 1974. It was wonderful to get it filmed so it will be available on YouTube for future generations. Amazing how my foundational beliefs have not changed over four decades. I guess I found the truth and established my life upon it. May that be true with many others to come!

Soon we will have many visits from kids over the holidays, but for the first time to about 35 years, our family will not be together. We even bought an artificial tree this year. Times do change over a lifetime. Lord - help us to love on, bless, and point of children to you during this special season of the year.

There is much to pray about as 2016 ends and 2017 begins in about a month. Shirley is still healing well, and I am grateful for that. On the other hand, I feel more and more alone in my spiritual life and companionship, but must just accept that and realize that maybe the last third of my life will be similar to the first third--going it alone with my Savior. Wow--are there changes in life that you never see coming.

That is why it's important to trust God every day and live them to please Him. He is our only constant in this rapidly changing world. Lord, lead me forward as You've always been faithful to do. I love you.

December 16, 2016 - 23,978 – 7,523

I received an encouraging call this week from Jason Hershey, the young, dynamic leader of YWAM Washington, D.C. and David's Tent. He shared with me a great story that shows God's faithfulness over the years--and through his people.

YWAM-DC got a call this week from CBN--the Christian Broadcasting Network (Pat Robertson). They said that a man named Levi Smith had gifted a portion of his inheritance to CBN and he had designated \$40,000 to go to YWAM Washington, D.C. because our ministry backed in the 1980s had blessed his life. Apparently, Levi had been touched by our work and remembered us all these thirty years. And when he died recently, he wanted to give back a portion to the YWAM work in the nation's capital.

Jason Hershey told me that they had just found their first property that they felt they should buy in the DC area to "put down roots" in the city. The call came the same week they had found this particular property and they felt it was answer to prayer that these funds could be used to help with a down payment. I was blessed when I heard the story. God remembers. People remember. And his timing is always perfect in blessing His children.

Lord--I once again thank you for our DC years and for the life and blessing Levi Smith. He is now with you and your work carries on. Help us to be as faithful as he was.

December 31, 2016 - 23,993 – 7,508

Another year ends today, and I begin the 10th group of "sevens" that have made up my life on earth. At 63, I open another chapter of whom God is the author.

The greatest change of this past year is the seamless transition from YWAM to Faith Seminary. 2016 was the first year in 42 that I did not speak at a YWAM school or setting. That's amazing to me, but as I gaze at God's wise purposes now, I see His hand in giving me a new "home" at Faith and a deep appreciation for my generation of service in Youth With A Mission.

Lord, as always, I have the past few weeks thinking and praying about the coming year and writing down in my various notebooks what I believe are your "assignments" for 2017.

I place them before you. I want to glorify you in all things. I want you to be at the joyous center of my life and being. I owe everything that I am to you and your love.