

# IN TOUCH

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Box 94187, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 2A3

## "Dear Ed"

Due to a new and less expensive (read: "slower") overseas mail delivery system used for our last edition, we haven't received many "Dear Ed" letters from beyond the shores of North America. (Well, I *did* get one from my daughter in Australia. But she always writes and encourages her dad!)



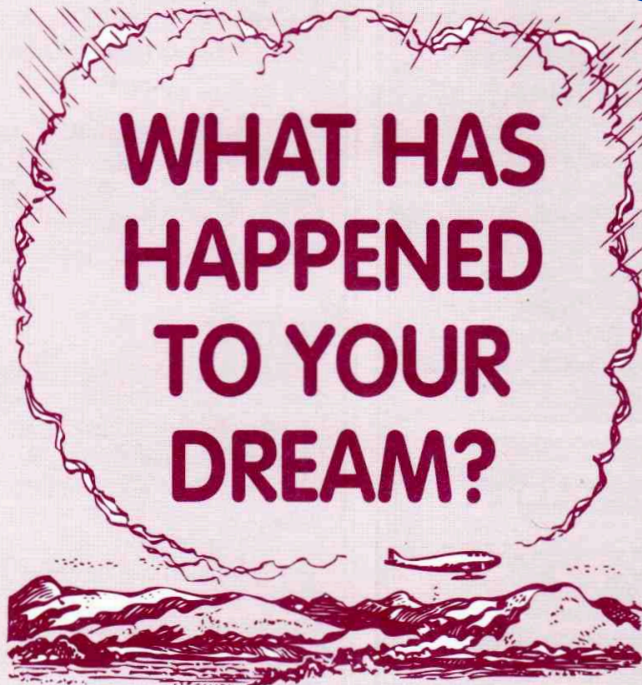
"I really enjoy getting IN TOUCH. I'm not sure how you got my name, but I'm glad you did. My husband and I met (on the mission field) but since then he has fallen away. My heart is still 'out there' so I appreciate being 'in touch' with others. Here's my new address . . ."

Name withheld



"Just finished reading the last IN TOUCH cover to cover and thought that before my smile fades I'd write a giant **Thank You!** This strange little magazine has been showing up for a long time, but until I got away for a week's Renewal Camp in Chico this summer, I never really 'got it.' (Wow!) But the big thrill is that I was able to introduce my newly saved daughter and her husband to YWAM as well that week. It proved to be life-changing for them!"

Gay Block, USA



For the past ten years or so, I have conducted a little informal survey. Whenever I speak in a Discipleship Training School, I ask the students some questions. Among them is, "How many of you feel that God has called you to some kind of missions work?" The response is almost always between 75% and 85%.

I then ask how many think it will be in the form of full-time work with YWAM. Nearly everyone who responded positively to the first question, will also raise their hand for the second. So, the great majority of people attending a YWAM DTS believe that God may well want them to become long-term staff in YWAM.

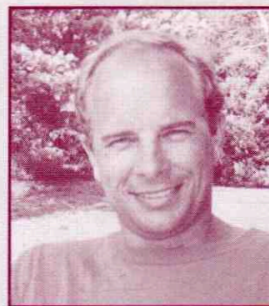
But less than 20% of DTS students remain in YWAM. What has become of all the others? What has happened to their dream?

I think I am safe in assuming that many of the readers of IN TOUCH come from that group of people who thought they might be called to full-time work in YWAM. But it has not worked out - at least not yet.

There are many reasons why such people don't end up staying in YWAM. Some can't see how the finances will work for them. Others may be disappointed by what they find in their training; they might experience poor leadership; or they might find that no specific opportunity opens to them.

For many people though, it is just a matter of timing. They may well be called to some kind of full-time service, but their preparation and training is not complete with the end of their DTS outreach. I believe this is the most common reason why so many DTS students do not immediately

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Lynn Green

"Thanks for the book "Re-Entry" . . . long overdue for a lot of YWAMers . . . we'll get a copy for our Missions Board. We have been working through the loss and grief of a failed mission attempt and yet know God's burden and grief is far greater than ours. Soon we'll be dreaming big dreams again."

Name withheld



"It's time to say thank you! Thank you for coming halfway around the world to serve 15 people. For me the Renewal Camp in Holland was a very pleasant time away from the daily routine . . . but best of all, once back in Copenhagen I immediately experienced that God had lifted the overwhelming feeling of hopelessness and discouragement away from my heart. I'm ready to face life again with hope and joy and purpose - and excitement!"

Ulla Friberg, Denmark

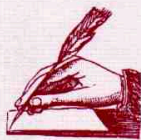


"In your little blip on 'The mother of all surveys' (15th Edition), I noticed 'women' included in the same category as young people and those from developing nations . . . gender-bias? (Perhaps a survey should be sent out to ex-YWAMers as well!)"

Lena Pecchia, Canada

## NEWS BYTES

### SO YA WANNABE A RITER?



Now that we have your attention, there's a Writer's Seminar planned for Spring '94 (location and dates to be determined). Did you know that YWAM Publishing has produced over 40 books in the last ten years? Seminars like this one may not teach you how to parse and spell, but they can sure motivate and help you to write. (*I are a living egsampul, Ed.*) For info contact: Writer's Seminar, YWAM Publishing, BOX 1380, Lindale, TX 75771 USA.

### A SLICE OF JOLLY OLDE ENGLAND - IN CANADA?



That's Victoria, BC on Vancouver Island, the venue for the 1994 Commonwealth Summer Games. YWAM BC is coordinating an outreach as the world comes to Western Canada next August. Bring a team from **your** church and you will be linked to a host church in Victoria. The outreach will be preceded by a Training Week and Go Fest. Dates August 8 - 30, 1994. Contact: "**Victoria Games Outreach,**" Box 922, Winfield, B.C., Canada V0H 2C0

### PRACTICING HOSPITALITY



Hospitality is not so much **what you do**, as **who you are**. A four-week School of Hospitality, presenting the Biblical as well as practical perspective on this essential ministry, will be held April 9 - May 7, 1994 at the House of Peace near Vancouver, BC, Canada. South African Rita Pretorius will lead; expected speakers include Dale Garratt from New Zealand and Donna Jordan. Write to Laurie at the House of Peace, Box 94187, Richmond, B.C., Canada V6Y 2A3.

### INSIGHT

Did you ever wonder why in organizations like YWAM, **anyone's** spiritual gifting can be recognized and released into service? And why this is often not the case in the "established church?"

In an insightful article, "Spiritual Gifting, Leadership of the Laity," YWAM Associate Dr Carl Armerding, clearly lays out answers - and remedies.

You can find this, and other stimulating articles, in the flagship edition of CONTEXT, a new quarterly publication edited by Ron Smith & Rob Penner. (Ron & Rob are authors of a brand new book, "Dear Paul, Am I On The Right Track?" See Order Form)

For a copy of Carl's article, write to: CONTEXT, BOX 3000, Lakeside, MT 59922, USA. And while you're at it, drop two or three bucks in the envelope to help them out. Tell'em Ed said to!



#### "Dear Ed" continued

"IN TOUCH is like a breath of fresh air, hearing what God is doing in other parts of the world. Being at home now, vision for missions is (in short supply)."

Peggie Adamson, USA

## S R s



The bus bounced and swayed as we sped along the interstate highway, returning from DTS outreach. Just two more days and we'd be back at our base. I could hardly wait for a hot shower. My head nodded as I relaxed. Soon my responsibilities would be over for a while. I could take a vacation. My eyes had just closed, when I became aware of a whispering in my ear.

"I have an SR!"

I must be dreaming. As the DTS leader, I prided myself in knowing just about everything that went on amongst the students. Three months of lectures; all the way to Costa Rica; powerful times of ministry in that country, and now we were virtually home; all that, with no major problems. Several times I had said to the students, "You're the best bunch I've ever had!"

There was the voice again, this time louder, more urgent: "Pete, I have an SR!"

I was not dreaming. There, right beside me, crouched George, the quiet, bespectacled and rather serious young student who hadn't given me a tense moment in five months. He was the last person on the team I would have suspected of having an SR. But it was definitely George who had just whispered the dread words in my ear. Talk about a bombshell! I couldn't believe it.

George, who was barely nineteen, usually sat near the back of the bus, with his nose buried in a book - often his Bible. He had always been cooperative, teachable, flexible - the very model of a modern YWAM missionary. How could this be happening? My mind raced, as I desperately searched through the banks of my memory for a godly way to handle this crisis. In my imagination I even leafed through my own DTS notes, seeking an appropriate answer. None was forthcoming.

Like Job, what I feared had come upon me. Perhaps shortcomings in my own character had precipitated this potential disaster. I knew the answer - it always seemed to be the answer! - I must repent and be open; humility would win the day. But from what should I repent and how should I be open?

George rescued me from my musings, for evidently he wasn't finished. Tightly squeezed into the narrow aisle - George had been a fullback in high school - he said it again; "I have an SR!" Then he continued, "Mary has too."

He glanced behind us - furtively I thought - at someone in the back of the bus. I too, looked around. Mary gazed unconcernedly out the window, and in my opinion, was doing a good job of hiding her guilt. George turned back to me and pressed on, "It's not only Mary and me, but just about everyone else does, too."

It was more than I could handle. "George," I said, "Let me get this straight. **Most** of you have SRs?" I was incredulous.

"Well," George replied, rather diffidently, "It's been a long trip. And with us sitting in this old bus for nearly 24 hours a day, is it any wonder that so many of us have Sore Rears?"

For the uninitiated, "SR" is really YWAMese for "Special Relationship," an archaic ritual that Young Women And Men enjoyed **prior** to an engagement. (Maybe we should have called it "PB" for Pre-Betrothal.) The concept of having an 'announced' Special Relationship was - and is - a good one, especially in a community setting. It allowed a couple the opportunity to get to know one another as friends, leading up to a possible next step, engagement. For a number of reasons the term "SR" fell into disfavor, and is nowadays rarely used.

# ZACH & LIZ



Zach and Liz were middle-aged. (Truth is, they'd left middle age behind some years before!) They were good Christians, doing their part in the local church - mostly I guess, because they'd never been able to have kids. This left them with a lot of free time, but not having a family, hurt. It hurt bad.

From time to time, Zach would go off to another district to serve God. He really enjoyed getting out of his home town because he reckoned it gave him a bigger picture of the world, and besides, he did it in obedience to God. These weren't long trips, but they were fulfilling and gave Zach the sense that he was pleasing his Boss.

One time when he was away serving God (I suppose you might call it a missions trip), Zach was chosen to be honored in a special way. If you guessed it was because of his faithfulness, you'd probably be right.

Now Zach was **no** kind of a preacher. He couldn't teach, he couldn't sing, he couldn't even play a musical instrument. Fact was, he couldn't do any of the things you're supposed to do around a church. But he was faithful. And **very** obedient. (He once heard a visiting preacher say that for OBEDIENCE to be OBEDIENCE, there's three parts to it: first, it must be instant; second, it must be complete; and third, whatever you're being obedient about, you've got to be happy about too. But I digress.)

So here's Zach, away on a mission, and he's been selected for this special honor. I can tell you, there were those around who didn't think he deserved to be honored since he seemed to be so ungifted. Actually, all Zach had to do was go into a big church and burn some smelly substance. But the leaders said it was important, so he did it right away, he did the whole job and he did it with a song in his heart. (He practiced what the preacher said.)

In the middle of his obedience, with smoke billowing all over the place, Zach looks up and sees none other than Gabe, the famous angel. This tends to throw our hero into something of a panic, because Gabriel (for that was his full name) proceeds to tell Zach that he and his wife Liz are soon going to be in the family way. Now Zach knows all about the birds and the bees, and he's well aware that old birds and old bees don't have little birds and little bees. So basically he says, "No way Gabe!"

This was a mistake, because you don't argue with an angel, especially one sent by God, and this one was. Zach has blown it royally, and moved into what is for him, an unfamiliar area known as unbelief. (At this point, a little bit late, he recalls the visiting preacher's other sermon which was on UNBELIEF: "It's negative faith! It's a sin!" Once again, I digress.)

There isn't room to tell the rest of the story here. (Yes, Zach and Liz **did** have the baby (some baby!), but not before Zach is struck dumb and all sorts of other good stuff. You'll just have to read the original report for yourself. You'll find it all in the first chapter of Dr Luke's book.)

The moral of this little story is that if you're faithful and obedient at home and go when God says go, then He'll make you fruitful no matter who or where you are. (**Fruitfulness** to you, could mean something entirely different than it did to Zach and Liz!) Just don't make Zach's mistake! Although he gained a son, he lost his voice for almost a year. And he didn't have to.

Thanks to "Kiwis IN TOUCH" & Hank Overeem, for the idea for this story.

## DONNA'S CORNER

### WHERE ARE THEY?

Where are the mothers and fathers in the body of Christ? (I Cor 4:14-20)

Mothering and fathering have less to do with age than with imitating Jesus and seeing people through God's eyes. Are you someone that others can imitate?

Love covers sin (I Peter 4:8) and does not expose it to others. Are you a 'safe' person - a person with whom God, and others, can share their secrets? (Prov 11:13)

If you're a 'discerner,' that's God's call to intercession - never to fault-finding. Intercession is a major tool in pastoral care and identifying with the heart of God.

YWAM hasn't taught us all we need to know, but rather we have been taught how to "seek the One who knows all we need to know."



Donna Jordan

### PROFOUND & PITHY

"Behavior is a function of my decisions, not my circumstances."  
*Don Stephens*

or

"It is not my situation that makes me happy or miserable; it is the way in which I react to it."  
*Dan Sneed*

"I'd rather be here than Disneyland."  
*Eight year-old at IN TOUCH Renewal Camp.*

"The world entertains; Christians show hospitality."  
*Darlene Cunningham*

Question:

"What's the greatest distance between two points on earth?"  
Answer: "Between the head and the heart."

"Just let go!"

*(Dean Sherman's paraphrase of Colossians 3:13)*

"Relationships are only as deep as they are open; as strong as they are broken."

### BE AN ADVOCATE

An advocate is one who "speaks on behalf of another, to plead for, to defend, to recommend publicly." If you have been a missionary, you can become an advocate for the people group you have served among. You can speak to other Christians on their behalf. You can help Christians to see the desperate need these people have to hear the Gospel. You can inform others about people they know little or nothing about. You can rally people to pray for them, to give toward other missionaries serving among them. You can even challenge other Christians to consider going on a short-term outreach to work among the people group.

You are the advocate for these people, and you must use every opportunity available to advance and articulate their needs. You are the champion of their cause in your local church and geographic area. Your work among this people group on the mission field does not stop when you get home; it expands!

From the book, "Re-Entry - Making the Transition from Missions to Life at Home."

## A bit about us...

This, the Sixteenth Edition of *IN TOUCH*, marks the Fifth Anniversary of our first feeble effort in late '88. Does anyone remember that far back, when total circulation was less than 1000 - worldwide?

God is so good! He's allowed us to build and preserve relationships through this little magazine, now with over 12,000 copies going out each time. (That's just a drop in the potential bucket. Some estimates have it that well over 1,000,000 have been involved in some way with YWAM over the past 33 years. Which reminds us: early December is the 33rd Anniversary of YWAM!)



*Inneke Elashuk from Indonesia, YWAM Associates staff.*

*IN TOUCH* is published three times a year; and three times a year we throw ourselves before God and say, "We can't; but You in us, can." That's probably the way it's supposed to be, living on the edge. We're so grateful for those who have stood with us in prayer and generosity, so that we may continue this ministry. Thank you!

But building relationships through a piece of paper called *IN TOUCH* is a little tenuous, at best! That's why we have Renewal Camps, where we can go and 'touch' one another's lives through encouragement and refreshing; that's why there's a Down Under part of us - known as "Kiwis *IN TOUCH*" - in the capable and loving care of Jim & Allison Wescombe, who maintain contact with the many hundreds of New Zealanders who have served in the mission.

Speaking of Camps, in 1994 there will be a total of twelve to choose from. Two Camps in South Africa are being added in December. If you did not receive a brochure describing dates, locations, speakers and other relevant information, drop us a note and we'll get one to you. The Camps are designed for your vacation, and as such they are a blend of the three R's - Rest, Recreation & Renewal.

Peter Jordan, Editor



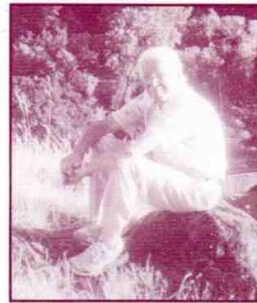
*A perfect conclusion to a perfect day at camp - worship on the water.*

PRINTED IN CANADA



*First Edition, Winter 1988.*

## THE SHEPHERD'S HEART



*Jim Dawson savoring the environment at Renewal Camp*

In the Amazon area of Brazil, a YWAM team is taking advantage of the present international furor over the environment. This team is providing "safari" trips for interested groups to see for themselves the ecological devastation that is taking place.

Their prime objective is of course evangelism . . . fulfilling the **great commission**. (Matt 28:19) But they also keenly feel their responsibility to the **first commission** found in Genesis 1:28

" . . . fill the earth and subdue (govern, or manage) it." And again in 2:15, "Thus the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and to keep it."

Clearly, God handed man the stewardship of managing (keeping, protecting, looking after) the resources of this planet.

But mankind's disobedience, abuse and violation of God's laws has polluted our rivers and lakes, expanded our deserts, poisoned the air of our cities, denuded our forests and produced a gaping hole in the earth's protective ozone layer.

The impending ecological disaster that the scientific community is so concerned about, was predicted nearly 3000 years ago by the prophet Isaiah (Chapter 24).

The question is, should believers ignore, or even denounce the causes taken up by environmentalists? Decidedly not. To our shame we have allowed New Age and similar humanistic causes to assume the lead in environmental action.

But the responsibility has always been with God's people. Today we are just as accountable as our Bible ancestors.

You see, God has never cancelled His '**first commission**.' Ask yourself, "What steps must I take **now** to change the predicted certainty of the demise of the world as we know it?"

If what the scientific world is telling us is true, then only a mighty worldwide spiritual awakening in **this generation**, resulting in a deep respect, care and 'tending' for our environment, can delay this fast-approaching disaster, the likes of which the earth has never experienced since the days of Noah.

A YWAM team in Brazil has found a creative way to make a difference. What about you and me?



## WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOUR DREAM?

*continued from page 1*

find a place of permanent service in YWAM. God still has His own, tailor-made school of the Holy Spirit for each person.

If you find yourself back in a local church and a job (or looking for one), consider it to be God's special place of training for you. Work to apply all that you have learned. Be a servant. Tackle the tasks that need to be tackled - even the ones that carry no recognition.

**AND DON'T GIVE UP THE DREAM!**

If God has called you, he will send you. It will happen, in **His** time.

Lynn Green is YWAM's Director for Europe, the Middle East & Africa, and as such, is a member of the International Council. Lynn, his wife Marti and their four children, make their home near London. Hailing originally from Colorado in the USA, the Greens have lived in England for over 20 years.