

INTOUCH

SEVENTEENTH EDITION, APRIL - JULY 1994

Box 67, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 2A3

"Dear Ed"

"Donna, you seem to have a microphone planted in our home. Your 'Corner' always seems so timely and just what we need to hear - especially the last one."

The Steinhardts, CA

"That was a cheeky article about SRs - cheeky, but sadly very true. I left YWAM burned and wounded (because of the handling of my Special Relationship), but today my husband and I have a high respect for the work that YWAM is doing."

Names withheld

"The sense of 'family' never ceases to overwhelm us when receiving IN TOUCH. We're Kiwi missionaries (formerly with YWAM), and when we teach in YWAM schools here, we always have the feeling we receive more than we give."

John & Nicola Mickan, Chile

"The article by Jim Dawson (IN TOUCH #16) was interesting and also shocking to hear that YWAM is now in the environmentalists' bed ... is YWAM foolish enough to believe in the ozone hole, poisoned air or denuding forests? For every one of these issues, there are scientists (who) say these are not happening or of no effect on the earth ..."

Names withheld

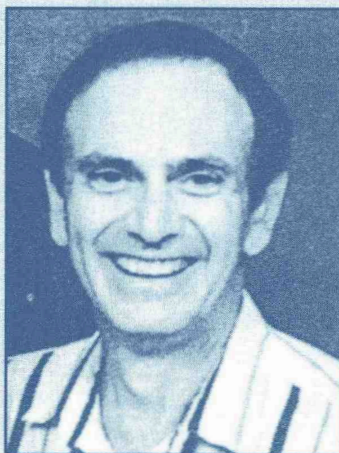
Ed's note: in my opinion, Jim's article urging us to care more for our planet, presented a balanced and biblical view of this current and controversial issue; it does not represent any "official" YWAM position.

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WALKING IN DARKNESS

Winkie Pratney



There is a darkness that can come to men and women of God that has nothing to do with sin, that has nothing to do with lack of wisdom, and has nothing whatsoever to do with the devil. And the tragedy is, when this darkness comes upon certain people of God, they don't understand what it is and it nearly wipes them out.

Everyone who has set his heart on serving God will have this darkness come at some point. Has it happened to you? You wake up one morning to find all spiritual feelings gone. You pray and nothing seems to happen. You read your Bible, and you understand the

words - but there is no Light. You search your heart and find nothing to match what you are going through. You rebuke the devil, go to hear your favorite Christian speaker - and nothing happens. No counsel seems to help. There seem to be no answers.

St John of the Cross called it "the dark night of the soul." Tozer called it "the ministry of the night"; Spurgeon preached about "the child of light walking in darkness." Each writer dealt with this differently, but the experience is common. It is not darkness of wrong or guilt or demonic expression. It is not sin. It is instead, an inexplicable sense of loss; an uncertainty. It is above all, a withdrawn sense of the presence of God.

You might be wondering, "Why is God doing this to me? How long will it last? How come when I talk to Him, He doesn't answer? Why am I not getting any revelation in my life?"

Probably because this is the only way that God has of teaching you some very important lessons. And those lessons are basically: Will you obey Him whether you feel like it or not? Will you do what He asks you to do? Will you hold on to the truth He has given you whether you feel He's there or not?

You say, "Of course I will!" Even when there's no sense of His presence?

Some of you have convictions that God has written and locked into your heart. You think that these are so strong and so unshakeable that you will never ever doubt them. Then the darkness comes and you begin to ask Questions. Are these convictions really true or not? What you will find out is whether you really do believe them. The darkness will test your convictions and the only thing when the darkness lifts from your life is what you really do believe.

Author Winkie Pratney is a much sought after camp and conference speaker. We have much sought after him for a camp! But the search is over. Winkie will bring his marvelous gift of communication, spiced with a delightful sense of humor, to our Renewal Camp at Richardson Springs, California, June 12-18, 1994.



Lynn Green's, What Has Happened To Your Dream? in the last IN TOUCH, struck gold. His column brought more response - glad and sad - than any other single article we've run. Here are some excerpts ... (Oh yes - if you missed Lynn's moving message, drop us a line and we'll have it in the mail to you pronto!

Jan writes, "I was really encouraged by Lynn's article - my DTS seems a lifetime away, but I still look forward to when God will fulfill His word to send me to 'the four corners of the world'. I'm a teacher now and will be ready when He sends me!" ... James confesses, "Tears came to my eyes - I've been mad at God for not doing things my way, and at times I've given up on the idea of missions." ... Elaine pens, "The highlights of my whole life were the two summers (72-73) I served in England under Lynn's leadership. His article touched me at a personal level - first I was depressed, then was able to cry out to the Lord some of the pain and disappointment I had tried to cover up for all the dreams that never came to pass. The Lord has used this for good." ... Helen wonders, "if I was the only one who went through heartbreak because of not reaching the destination I believed God had

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FRIENDS FOREVER

Friendships are forged in the crucible of difficulty. When two or more people go through adversities together, a bond not easily broken, is fashioned.

So it was with Brenda & Heather & Lisa & Michelle - four young girls who woke up one day as MKs (Missionary Kids). Each of their families had joined YWAM Kona, Hawaii in the late 70's and early 80's, and thus much of their growing up years were spent in a missionary community, attending Grade and High School together.

Despite many people's concept of Hawaii as being the most exotic and romantic place on earth, these four girls took it as a matter of course: it was home because that's where family was.

Life on any YWAM base can be pretty challenging for kids, particularly when it is a pioneering situation, as Kona was in those days. Finances always seemed in short supply; living quarters 'snug'; food a bit on the dreary side; separated from aunts and uncles and grandparents; and perhaps hardest of all, friendships terminated when whole families frequently moved on.

But it wasn't all tough. These girls' family units were stable (as long as Mom & Dad were stable!); there was always lots to do - Heather and Michelle were in on the very beginning of King's Kids and travelled to Japan with the first KK Int'l outreach in 1979. All four girls served with King's Kids eventually, then following graduation went on to DTS - three of them to Australia.

Today all four are happily married; none of them are in YWAM - yet all of them are missionaries: Brenda (Shrock) Gibson is with Young Life in Colorado; Heather (Mansfield)

Galloway serves as full-time secretary in her local church in Illinois; Lisa (Herman) Shuler is Missions Director at Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma; and Michelle (Jordan) West is Fundraising & Programme Director at Wollongong City Mission in Australia.

Recently the four friends 'reunited.' Brenda has a baby, Lisa expects one in April and the other two are wishing. One can only imagine the fine times they had together, reminiscing and revelling in their friendship, which is strong as ever. Here are some reflections that came out of their four days of fun:

"Growing up in YWAM was the best thing that ever could have happened in my life; from being in King's Kids to seeing God miraculously provide, I had experiences in my school years that most people would never have in a lifetime." ... "For some, to have friends like this is a lifetime dream. For me that dream came true." ... "YWAM has had a tremendous impact on my life ... my closest friends in life were made in the eighth grade at (YWAM's) International Christian School." ... "I am forever grateful for my years with YWAM. Not only was I given a strong spiritual foundation that will never fail; I also made the greatest friends I'll ever have." ... "There were hard times, sure; but when I think of growing up in YWAM, I am blessed and honored - I wouldn't trade those years for anything." ... "I'm so glad that my parents were obedient to God by going into missions."



Then



Now

A BORDER CROSSED

"Sacrificial Fruit"

by Donna



Our outreach team was entering a very large Communist country after a three-day voyage by ship. Each team member was given the option of carrying Bibles in their luggage. All of us did, and I packed about twenty copies in amongst my clothes. And then we prayed for the safe passage through immigration, of these precious books.

God gave me a strategy. We were fairly sure we could not take fruit with us into this country, so as I approached the Customs & Immigration desk, I carried quite conspicuously in my hand, a brown paper bag full of oranges and apples saved from meals on the ship.

I stepped up to the desk and thrust the bag of fruit right under the nose of the uniformed inspector. "Can I take these with me?" I innocently inquired.

"No! No! Not possible!" stammered the somewhat flustered official. He was embarrassed to have to inform me that I would not be able to keep my fruit.

"OK," I said, smiling sweetly, "You have them - take them to your family!" This threw him into an even greater state of confusion and he vigorously shook his head to indicate he could not. As he stamped my passport and waved me through, I think he was happy to be rid of the western woman who had almost caused him to lose face.

The fruit was gladly sacrificed - and I really hope it found it's way to someone's home to nourish a poor family. The Bibles were delivered into the hands of a pastor, and to this day should still be providing nourishment to hungry Christians.

[If you have a border crossing story, telling of God's deliverance or keeping hand, we'd love to print it. Keep it as short as possible - no longer than the story above - about 200 words. Thanks, Ed.]

PROFOUND & PITHY

Ministry is a choice to serve others out of a motivation of love.

(We've made it into a position and a performance.)

Dean Sherman

All of life flows out of relationships.

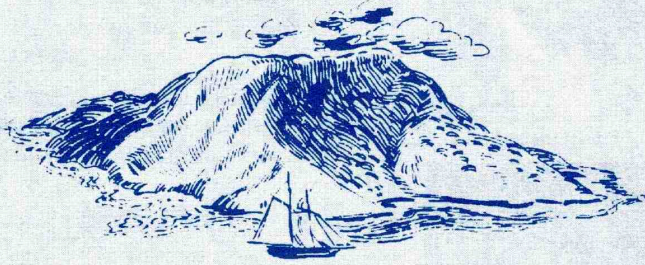
David Boyd

Sharing an experience with a friend, either doubles your joy or cuts your pain in half.

Some people have plenty to live **on** - but nothing to live **for**.

THE HILL OF DIFFICULTY

Pitcairn Revisited



To negotiate the short distance from its wild and storm-tossed boatlanding, to the tiny settlement perched on Pitcairn Island's mountain, one must scale the Hill of Difficulty. The present road is an almost 45-degree, muddy cart-track, worn away by erosion. It is the islanders' lifeline for provisions.

In 1991, Loren & Darlene Cunningham along with others, visited remote Pitcairn aboard YWAM's third Mercy Ship, the Pacific Ruby. The need for concrete paving was obvious; a pledge to return and construct a permanent roadway was made, and now sometime between August and November 1994, an intrepid band of skilled carpenters and concrete workers will give a minimum of four weeks of their time and expertise in the adventure of a lifetime. Wanna go? Contact: Impact Teams, 75-5851 Kuakini Hwy, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 USA.

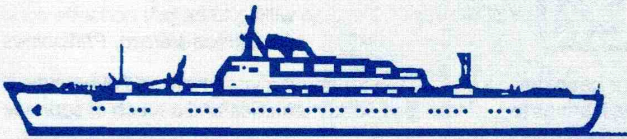
Tel: (808) 326-4464 Fax: (808) 326-4434



GOWN & GOSPEL

Today, most Japanese opt for a "Christian" wedding - it's the in thing to do. Though the matrimonial motivation may be wrong, nevertheless, some YWAMers in Japan see these weddings as an opportunity for creative evangelism. Currently as many as 20,000 Japanese - families and friends of the bride and groom - hear the gospel clearly presented by ordained YWAMers each year. These "captive audiences" would not normally ever hear the claims of Christ.

PORTS OF CALL



After five years of medical, dental, relief and development ministry to countries in West Africa and Europe (including Scandinavia and some Baltic states), the 12,000 ton M/V ANASTASIS, YWAM's first ship, is making a four-month tour of U.S. East Coast ports this Spring and Summer. She will visit Wilmington, NC; Norfolk, VA; Philadelphia, PA; and Albany, NY. Following this visit, the ANASTASIS will head back to Ghana, West Africa for further ministry.

This is a great opportunity to visit the ship and take your friends on a tour that may change their lives. For a schedule of Ports of Call, contact: Mercy Ships, BOX 2020, Lindale, TX 75771-2020. While you're at it, ask about our Mercy Ships Renewal Camp in Texas May 29 - June 4.

In February, on the way back from teaching in three New Zealand DTSs, I paused somewhat wearily in Los Angeles, to attend a Conference on Spiritual Warfare & Intercession. There I believe, the Lord confirmed to my heart three 'P's, which I feel He wants me to share with you.



Donna Jordan

1. **Prayer** . . . Pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:12-25). Let us be intercessors for, not accusers of, our brethren (Rev 12:10-12). When we bind the 'accuser of the brethren', we can loose the power of the intercessor.
2. **Perseverance** . . . A Native brother prayed Is 40:29-31 for me. May those of us who hope in the Lord, renew our strength, soar on wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not faint. Ponder too, James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-8.
3. **Power** . . . We must get our strategies from God in prayer - and then be **patient!** We must give ourselves to God's sovereignty (Is 40:10-12); His power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9-10), and you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Acts 1:8; Eph 1:18-21). The more we move in the power of the Holy Spirit, the more we need to move into intimacy with God.

HIDDEN PEOPLE

by Ed

It was a dark and stormy night. I carefully manoeuvred our car through inch-deep puddles and a driving rain, toward our assigned parking slot in the apartment complex where we used to live; and where we shared very cramped quarters with the YWAM Associates office.

As our headlights stabbed at the streaking raindrops, sweeping across the cars in the adjoining spaces, my eyes caught sight of a familiar object in an unexpected setting.

"Did you see that?" I asked my daughter Laurie in consternation, as I completed parking the car. She hadn't noticed anything out of the ordinary.

As we made our way speedily to the front door of the apartment building, I paused to check out what I thought I had seen. There it was - a small square bumper sticker, adjacent to the next car's license plate. It showed the likeness of a person carrying a flame, superimposed over a globe. The YWAM logo!

Was it possible that former YWAMers lived in our apartment complex? - and we didn't know it! Perhaps someone had bought a car once owned by a YWAMer. Maybe the owners of the car were just visiting friends. I was determined to find out.

In the shelter of the front doorway, I scribbled a note on the back of an old envelope, identifying ourselves and asking these 'phantom' YWAMers to call us if they had indeed served in the mission. Already thoroughly soaked, I splashed out to the car and placed the note under a windshield wiper blade.

We soon heard from them. Their names were Ken & Claire Pollak and they had indeed served in YWAM. He was South African, she Canadian, and they had settled in Richmond, BC - **one floor down** from our apartment! He worked as an electrician, she as a teacher in a Christian school. They now have a child.

Hidden people. We must have passed each other many times in the halls, yet we never recognized our common heritage. So keep your eyes open on dark and stormy nights - or any time. There may be a hidden YWAMer living near you!

Abitaboutus . . .

This year we're having **twelve** Renewal Camps in **five** countries (New Zealand, USA, Holland, Canada and South Africa), with Australia coming on line in January '95. Speakers will be Don Stephens, Winkie Pratney, Barry Austin, Dan Sneed, Dean Sherman, Peter & Donna Jordan. Y'all come and have a great vacation week with us, eh? Here's how camp touched the parents of some YWAMers ...

"Of all the holidays we've ever had, the IN TOUCH Renewal Camp was the best ... now we know why are daughters are sold on YWAM."

Dieter & Rosemarie Steinruck, Canada

IF YOU ASKED US, WE WOULD TELL YOU, that IN TOUCH is a venture into faith three times a year. This little magazine, as near as we can figure, is read by close to 20,000 people. (Circulation is around 13,000, with some copies being read by more than one person.) Each copy costs about 75¢ printed and delivered anywhere in the world; which means that for each edition we trust God for almost US\$10,000. Scary!

So where do the finances to pay for this come from? Since you asked us, we will tell . . . they come mostly from gifts big and small; and from the sale of YWAM books, including all proceeds from the book "Re-Entry." But really it all comes from God; so to Him goes all the credit.

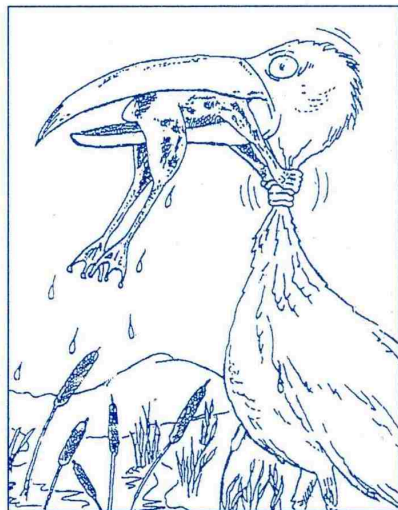
Layout: Bill Cozens
Editor: Peter Jordan

Staff: Donna Jordan, Laurie Jordan, Patrick & Inneke
Elaschuk & someone new! Check the next
IN TOUCH for a profile.

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What Has Happened To Your Dream? (cont. from page 1)

called me to. Healing has come through His love and grace." ... **Robert** cries out, "I don't know what happened to my dream. What's more I don't know how to regain that fire that burned so bright. I want to serve God but I'm afraid - my heart is hard and I'm not communicating with my wife. Please pray because I feel so alone." ... **Eve** shares, "It may be a few more years, but I really hope to make it back to YWAM one day! I have been recovering from a crashed marriage and Lynn was a great encouragement."



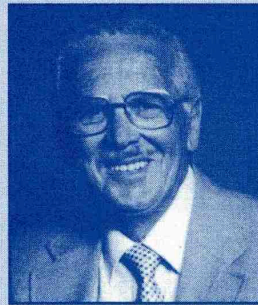
Never, Ever Give Up!

Lina writes, "I read IN TOUCH from cover to cover and was very much 're-challenged' by Lynn's article." ... And finally, this from **Darlene**, "Lynn really hit home with us. We've been through devastating health challenges in and out of YWAM, experiencing despair, hopelessness and pain, watching our dream fall apart. Missions has not left our hearts. Why God? Why can't we be out there in YWAM again?"

... and a last word from Ed ...

"Never, **ever** give up your dream."

THE SHEPHERD'S HEART



Jim Dawson



Joy Dawson

The shepherd has his hands full.

In February the shepherd's wife, Joy, had a serious operation on her back. The decision for surgery did not come lightly; it followed months of seeking God's will, and was accompanied by intense pain. As of this writing, the pain is not much better.

Joy Dawson is a foundational value of YWAM. Anyone who has served in the mission has benefited from her life and ministry.

So the shepherd is caring for his lamb and is unable to bring us his usual words of wisdom - this time.

But perhaps his actions speak louder than mere words. Pray for Jim and Joy during this trial. If the Lord gives you a word of encouragement, write it down and send it to them at: BOX 296, Sunland, CA 91041-0296, USA.



Come to Renewal Camp!

"Dear Ed"

continued from page 1



"I'm always blessed to receive IN TOUCH - maybe without it I would have backslidden. I hope and pray that God will send workers here to Tondo (formerly a YWAM base). I'm also willing to help."

Teresa Veloso, Philippines

"We've been getting IN TOUCH for about a year, now and every time it comes it brings joy, wistfulness, fond memories and a touch of sadness ... thanks for your *labor of love."

Robin & Greg McAtee

*IN TOUCH is a labor of love ... but love's labor sometimes gets lost ... people move, get married and change their name and what we get is an envelope like this (if we get anything at all):



PLEASE, PLEASE SEND US YOUR NAME & ADDRESS CORRECTIONS!