

GRACE IS SUFFICIENT

By Dean Sherman

God wants you to know it's OK to be where you are. It's OK to fail. It's OK to be in pain. It's OK to not be out in some remote jungle, or some other place trying to be significant for Him. Unless we're living in known disobedience, we all need to allow the favor of God – which is directed toward us - to bring us to a sense of security and well-being.

I have always been amazed at how I, as a YWAM leader, am more at peace with people being out of YWAM, than they are. The reason for this is because I really believe that God directs our lives, and that He does not expect as much from us as we often think He does.

There is a subtle attack of the enemy upon Christians that makes us feel we need to be somewhere else, and doing more, in order to please God.

The apostle Paul was given "a thorn in the flesh." (2 Cor 12:7-9) It frustrated him because he felt that success meant being with-

out that circumstance. He felt like he needed to be rid of the "thorn" in order to show his spirituality and please God. But God said, "My grace is sufficient for you" – even in the circumstance you're in. So Paul states in Philippians 4:11, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstance I am."

The nature of grace is that you cannot do something, or be somewhere, to receive it. It's a free gift. Success in grace, is simply in the receiving of it; because if we can be successful without it, then we don't need it.

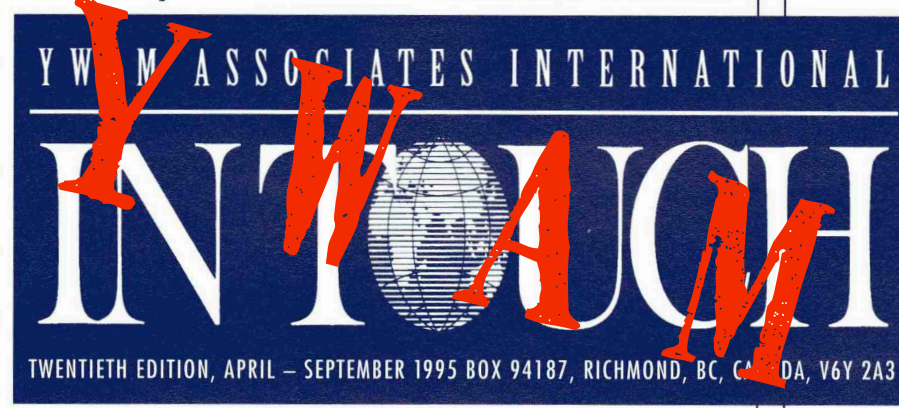


From his home in Salem, Oregon,
Dean Sherman continues
to teach all over the world.
In his role as International Dean of the
College of Christian Ministries
of YWAM's University of the Nations,
he speaks both for and to the mission.
Dean has a real heart
for those who have served in YWAM
and is a favorite
at IN TOUCH Renewal Camps
- when we can get him!

I am convinced therefore, that God is wanting us to receive grace where we are at. We don't have to go over there, be in another relationship, go to YWAM, get out of YWAM, change churches, go to the mission field, or even give more money, in order to receive the grace of God; He wants to extend grace to us right where we are. Truly knowing this, releases us from the frustration of thinking we should have been something, gone somewhere else, had another position or done something else.

I am convinced that in the ways of God, there is something totally fulfilling for you - and for the kingdom through you – in your present circumstances. The time has not been wasted. Don't wait for a future event. Just receive the grace of God, which is sufficient, and ask the Lord to show you what the overflow out of your life can be in terms of ministry, as you receive grace right where you are in your present circumstances.

There is grace to be single and a grace to be married; there's grace to be a widow and a grace to be old; there's grace to work and grace to take a holiday. What pleases God is not what you do or where you are, but your willingness to receive the grace He extends toward you. If you understand that victory does not always mean the cessation of circumstances, but sometimes means grace for those circumstances, then you will have total victory every day of your life.



"Dear Ed"

"I enjoy receiving IN TOUCH – especially because the articles are short, concise and powerful. I pass it on to other former YWAMers here in Germany – but only to those who can read English* well. Keep up the good work.

*Leonie Morgan,
Germany*

*[What's needed: "Germans IN TOUCH", "French IN TOUCH", "Chinese IN TOUCH", and soon Albanians, Russians, Kazakhs and a host of others IN TOUCH! Pray with

us that the Lord will raise people up for this ministry." Ed]

I've been receiving IN TOUCH since my DTS in England . . . each one I read eagerly and then share it with my husband. After one such edition he decided that he too



wanted to do a DTS . . . Together with our two children, we've just completed our Crossroads in Perth. God used IN TOUCH to answer a desire of my heart that we could share together a deep relationship with God that YWAM teaching encourages. Now we're back home with our hearts open to God . . .

Linda(Schulz)Hoffman, Australia





1995

RENEWAL CAMPS

Here's a recipe for a healthy, relaxed holiday: combine a touch of rest with a dash of fun amongst like-hearted friends; then add a pinch of one of your favorite speakers; mix ingredients and bake lightly in the sun. NOW start planning! Send in your completed Registration Form on the enclosed brochure. (If the brochure has been taken by someone who got in ahead of you, just call, fax or drop us a note; we'll speed one to you.)

JUNE 11-17
CALIFORNIA

At YWAM's Richardson Springs hotel Conference Center near Chico. With Peter & Donna Jordan.

JUNE 25-JULY 1
NETHERLANDS

YWAM Heidebeek's the place — 1 1/2 hours by train from Schipol Airport. With Dr. Bruce Thompson, Dean of the College of Counselling & Health Care, University of the Nations.

JULY 9-15
RIGGINS, IDAHO #1

with
Joe Ferrante, much-loved DTS speaker.

JULY 16-22
RIGGINS, IDAHO #2

with
John Bills, YWAM's U.S. SW Director.

Come for one or both weeks to beautiful Rapid River Ranch in the solitude and rugged splendor of the mountains. Featuring the famous Salmon River Challenge white water rafting trip (see above) or horse riding for the faint of heart!

AUGUST 6-12
BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Amidst mountain grandeur, YWAM Winfield is the locale, Paul Hawkins — encourager *par excellence* — the speaker.

SEPTEMBER 2-8
BRANSON, MISSOURI

America's wholesome entertainment centre! Plus beautiful new Stonecroft Conference Center with old favorite, Dan Sneed. (He's so committed he's on our Board of Directors!)

OCTOBER 19-23
SINGAPORE

This one is unique! Dan Sneed joins us at the gorgeous Orchard Golf & Country Club.

NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 27
KONA, HAWAII

In the GO Center at the U of N Campus with a 'buffer' of YWAM speakers, plus all the other usual Hawaiian delights.

December & January signal Camps in New Zealand (two camps in January) and Perth, Australia January 14-20. Write to us for details of these and other Camps we're working on.

"Renewal Camp Registrar" In the U.S. — BOX 2060, Point Roberts, WA 98281-2060
All others — BOX 94187, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 2A3

THERE'S POWER IN THE BLOOD.

While on outreach to a village in Northern India, a small team of YWAMers were presented with a unique ministry opportunity. A local man fell critically sick and was in immediate need of a blood transfusion. The only blood group match to be found was with the YWAM team leader. Despite less than adequate hygienic conditions, he donated. Later, another YWAMer returned to the village to discover that the sick man, who turned out to be a village elder, had recovered as a result of the transfusion. And furthermore, he had given his life to Christ, along with about a dozen other families in the village.

THE TIRANA BLESSING

Not to be confused with something that is happening in Toronto, Canada, this is a blessing that is coming upon the needy nation of Albania and its capital city Tirana, just now emerging from decades of deprivation under radical communism. This blessing is in the form of foundational aid, for a people who have been without as much as a peek into the rest of the world for over a generation. The aid comes in the practical form of getting the medical, political, educational, business - and other - fabric of the nation going again. Together with other Christian endeavors, YWAM is in the thick of 'discipling a nation.' (Matt 28:19)

COFFEE HIGH.

Miles from anywhere, surrounded by rugged mountains and set beside the rushing Salmon River, Riggins, Idaho is famous for at least a couple of things. One is the YWAM base at Rapid River Ranch (the site of IN TOUCH Renewal Camps!); the other is the Salmon River Challenge - whitewater rafting at its best (offered at the Camps!). Now there is a third feature; an espresso coffee bar run as an outreach by YWAM leaders, LeRoy & Debbie Shaw. Having lived three years in Seattle, they have imported a little West Coast "coffee culture," into sleepy Riggins (pop: 450) as a means of friendship evangelism. Each cup of coffee is adorned with a Bible-based "Thought for the Day," and this leads into meaningful discussions. If you're driving through Riggins, stop for a free cup of the best — they're located halfway through town on the left, as you head north. Tell 'em Ed sent you — and oh yes, charge it to my account.

FIRE BELOW!

Dreaded words for sailors everywhere. Early in January, while on a mission of mercy to Ghana, West Africa (at the invitation of its government), fire broke out amidships aboard the M/V ANASTASIS. A fuel gauge for a diesel tank malfunctioned, allowing the flammable liquid to spill over onto the hot exhaust manifold of a generator. A blazing fire was raging within seconds. The well-trained crew reacted immediately, and rapidly the fire was smothered without injury to anyone. The damage was largely confined to wiring, gauges, controls and an incinerator. However, the estimated cost of repair is approximately \$150,000. Amazingly, the ship's ministry hardly missed a beat. Surgeries and dental work continued, patients in the ship's hospital were only slightly inconvenienced and a thankful crew of 341 were able to resume their duties. If you would like to help defray the cost of repairs, send your generous donation to: Mercy Ships, BOX 2020, Lindale, TX 75771-2020, USA and designate it to "Fire Restoration Fund."

"Be seeing you, Ken."



Ken Wright, a father to YWAM since the beginning, went to his eternal Home from New Zealand, in early February.

Ken will be dearly missed, for who he was as well as for his prophetic wisdom. Ken, and Shirley his wife, traveled the world as a ministry team, touching the lives of multitudes of YWAMers.

He was a strength and encouragement to us in YWAM Associates, providing valuable input for the book "Re-Entry." If Ken touched your life, write and tell Shirley: 30 Monrad St., Palmerston North, New Zealand.

"Dear Ed" continued . . .

"Dear Beloved Friends, (Sounds a bit mushy, but that's how I feel about YWAMers!). Just got the latest IN TOUCH and my heart aches because I still miss YWAM - and my DTS was in the 70s . . . I left YWAM not really wanting to, but I'm trusting Jesus to take care of my heart . . . I'm now married with four precious gifts . . . it would be wonderful to go to a Renewal Camp, but with my husband unemployed right now . . . OK yes! If God said we could go, then He'd help us get there! Didn't that sound YWAMmy? God has used this difficult time to grow our faith as only HE can. He has so blessed us!" Name Withheld

"Please change our address . . . we found YWAM to be life-changing and exciting. It equipped us for life, not to mention the ministry we are privileged to have today. We praise God for YWAM."

Rev. Chuck & Lynn Jonas, Philippines

"I would just like to thank you so so so much for the blessing IN TOUCH is to me. Just to encourage you, my copy goes through many hands in my workplace (Living Epistles T-shirts), and with my family and friends."

Crystalyn Drake, Oregon

DONNA'S CORNER

Corrie Ten Boom is one of my 20th Century faith heroes. She was an early speaker in my School of Evangelism in Kona, Hawaii in 1976.

Last June, the day before the start of our Dutch Renewal Camp, I had the blessing and privilege of visiting Tante Corrie's old home in Haarlem. I climbed a narrow staircase to her bedroom, where many Jews were concealed in the Hiding Place, a narrow, cramped space behind the plaster wall. Back downstairs again, I spotted a beautiful two-sided embroidered crown, hanging in the dining room.

How well I remember Corrie talking about that piece of embroidery. One side, she'd say, is chaos, while the other side is a beautiful picture. Then she read us a poem:

My life is but a weaving, between my God and me
I do not choose the colors, He worketh steadily.
Ofttimes He weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper, and I the underside.
Not till the loom is silent, and shuttles cease to fly,
Will God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful, in the skillful Weaver's hand,
As the threads of gold and silver, in the pattern He has planned.

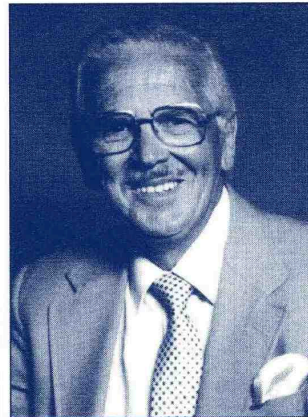
When I looked at the crown, I not only thought of life's challenges, but also of the relationships God gives us, every one of them important, many from different cultures and walks of life. We need each other to complete the picture. The underside of the embroidery is like the relationships that have come and gone; yet they're still part of our lives and often we can pick them up again.

As God's family, we are blessed. Remember, every relationship is meaningful — some more colorful than others, but all of them are important.



Donna Jordan at Corrie Ten Boom's fireside.

THE SHEPHERD'S HEART



Jim Dawson

prayed for you. Notes of encouragement would still be welcome at: BOX 296, Sunland, CA 91041-0296, USA.]

[A note from Ed: Call me stubborn if you like. With his dear wife Joy still suffering — Feb 16, 1994 was the date of her back surgery — Jim is once again quite simply unable to give us the benefit of some of his wisdom. That's where my stubbornness comes in. I just don't want to let go of Jim and what I believe he still has for us. Will you continue to pray for Jim & Joy? Whether directly or indirectly, they have

Instead of Jim's wisdom, will you accept a little anecdote about him that illustrates the humor and humility of the man? It was 1979, Switzerland's Geneva Airport. Jim and Joy along with Loren Cunningham and I, had just attended the wedding of Reona Peterson & Albert Joly in Lausanne. Joy and Loren had also been speaking non-stop at a conference for several days and were exhausted.

Upon checking in and discovering that our flight was delayed, Joy and Loren each found a bench in the crowded main concourse, lay down and promptly fell asleep. That left Jim and me standing there, wondering what to do next. We decided to go to the cafe and have a cup of tea.

You should know at this point, that when Joy Dawson travels, she doesn't exactly travel light. And that goes for her teaching notes too. She has a big leather note case in which, Jim told me, there were notes for at least 300 of her messages. This is a serious note case!

As we were about to abandon the two tired teachers, stretched out and oblivious to the hustle and bustle around them, Jim faced a quandary. Would Joy's notes be safe if they were left alone beside his slumbering wife? For the product of so many years of study to be stolen was too horrible a thought for Jim to deal with. He turned to me and said, "Here, I'll leave my carry-on bag and take Joy's with us. Better that my two messages be stolen than Joy's 300!"

PROFOUND & PITHY

"Gratitude is the memory of the heart."

Poster on wall of hospital delivery room: "The first twenty minutes of life are very important!"

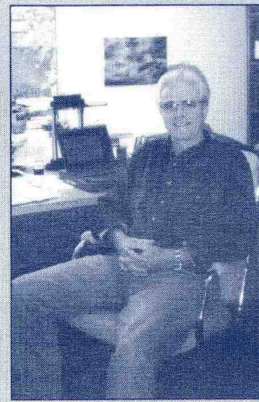
Scribbled underneath: "So are the last twenty!"

"If you take care of the depth of your relationship with God, He will take care of the breadth of your ministry."

Scary thought: "If the Holy Spirit withdrew from the earth, 70% of Christian endeavor would continue."

"The best vitamin for making friends: B1."

"Frogs have it easy. They eat what bugs them."



....AND FINALLY A WORD FROM Ed

Renewal Camps are popping up all over! This past January, Jim & Ali Wescombe (our Kiwi Connection for YWAM Associates), led two camps in New Zealand, while Donna and I helped kick one off in Perth, Australia. Then in early March we had our first camp in Singapore. Our Northern Hemisphere summer is full, with a new camp in Branson, Missouri rounding out that season. (Branson is a unique little town that has become the family entertainment capital of North America.) Several other countries are asking to have camps, which thrills our hearts, because that's when we get to be with you!

But we can only do what the Lord tells us. I believe He has said we need a five-year plan for YWAM Associates International. Part of that will be to have others join us in the ministry, to carry it with us. And then to carry it further. Will you pray with us for this to happen. (We certainly don't want to get larger for the sake of getting larger. But the fact is we're only reaching out to a small proportion of those who have served in YWAM — some would estimate that number to be between one and two million! IN TOUCH is read by around 20,000 - 25,000 people each time. So there's a long way to go!

There's a trick question that I often pose when I meet people. "What's your ministry?" I innocently ask.

The responses more often than not, follow a clearing of the throat, a shuffling of the feet or perhaps a slightly embarrassed pause. "Well, ahem, I teach Sunday School." is a frequent answer. Or, "I help out with our Home Group."

Of course those aren't the answers I'm fishing for.

What I really want to know is what that person *does*. Because what a Christian does, is his or her ministry. If you're a plumber or a farmer, then plumb or farm the best you know how, being the best witness you can; if you're a homemaker, make that home a place where Jesus — and anyone else — will feel welcome; if you're a stockbroker, broker stocks for Christ's sake.

In other words, whatever God has called you to right now, is your ministry. None of us is called to a 'part-time' ministry. We're all in ministry together — 'full-on, full-time.'

So if I meet you someplace and pop the 'M' question, now you know how to put me in my place!

Tongue in Cheek

Do you ever wonder why bad news is more appealing than good? I do.

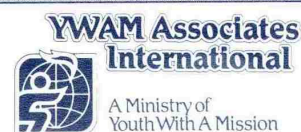
Sometimes I'm asked, "Why is IN TOUCH always so upbeat about everything?" or "Why do you always put a positive spin on your stuff?"

I dunno, but for those who want us to present a more balanced diet, the following should satisfy. Here's the latest scoop, a few choice tidbits, hot from the wires of "Body Gossip: Every Christian's Guide To What's Goin' Down." Included are lists of recently fallen leaders, imminent divorcees, impending church splits, upcoming lawsuits and much, much more! PLUS, a special guide on how to write a book that is a guaranteed, #1, top-of-the-charts, sensational best-seller! (Hint: you'll need to come up with a well-known brother or sister in Christ, who's doctrine doesn't quite line up with yours. Then attack!)

PLEASE NOTE: due to the controversial nature of this material, and in order to cover probable legal action by those named, this dynamite exposé is available ONLY to those with spiritual maturity - and of course, sufficient resources. Send just \$19,999.97 (USD only please), and I will personally rush your autographed copy to you. All sales final, no refunds.

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