

**W**e get letters, but this is ridiculous! For some reason the last *InTouch* brought more responses than any other edition - way more. I love it! Most are encouraging; all have an aspect that is unique and often challenging; many come with gifts so that *InTouch* may continue; some are plaintive cries for the 'good old days.' I wish you could read all of them. I want to devote the bulk of this edition to letters we have received over the last four months. Will you trust me that what follows, is a representative sampling?

But first, a re-humbling. For the last two editions of *InTouch*, I failed to include the surname of the writer of the front page article. In the last edition it was Frank Naea from New Zealand.

## Dear Ed...

"Receiving *InTouch* has always been the brightest moment of a day. It's short, but immensely touching. Enclosed is a little something for more editions of *InTouch*."  
 Bernd Starke  
 Germany

"Thank you Frank, thank you God. The whole 23rd edition spoke to my needs, including Donna's dream and Ed's final words. Dean Sherman's 'Grace,' a few editions ago, still ministers to me powerfully."  
 Mathilde Feringa  
 Netherlands



"Don't know how I got on your mailing list... I always notice when *InTouch* hasn't arrived for a while, and anticipate its coming soon."  
 Alexandra Dunnett  
 England

"Out of all the stuff that makes it to my mailbox, *InTouch* is the most welcome (next to Income Tax refunds!) Thanks for bringing so many friends and memories back into my life."  
 Ex-YWAMer (name not given)

"Thanks a million for your vision for us former YWAMers out here... It is such a joy when I work with others who have been in YWAM - I know what to expect and it's easy to move into unity!"  
 Sheila Penney  
 England

"Appreciated the last *InTouch*... I do feel (and always have), that I am still a part of YWAM - just 'buried deeper' in a particular 'mind molder': the world of business."  
 Diana Thomas  
 USA

"I didn't know *InTouch* existed, haven't lived at that address for many years and don't know how it found its way to me. Smells a bit holy, eh? Enclosed is a gift."  
 Tom O'Neill  
 England

"Thank you for saying, 'Thank you' to us former YWAMers. I felt a surge of emotion when I read that... it gets overlooked... and is partly why re-entry is hard on some of us."  
 Brian Powell  
 ex-Japan

"*InTouch* really does wonders in my day-to-day life... my sincere gratitude for the wonderful ministry which reaches me regularly. I've been blessed a fat lot!"  
 Ajano Belho  
 India

"*InTouch* is a real joy - I feel like I'm still a YWAMer when I read it."  
 Carolyn Alsup  
 USA

"How we look forward to *InTouch*! We are former YWAMers (Anastasis DTS, '84; Kona CDTS '85), and we have continued in full-time missionary service, though not with YWAM..."  
 Anne-Lise Debrot  
 Rep. of Guinea

"Your team is doing a great job - keep it up."  
 Lynn & Jacky Batterman  
 USA

"Thanks for the encouragement... *InTouch* usually arrives on 'one of those days.'"  
 Beth Hiscoke  
 England

## Profound & Pithy

He gives the very best to those who leave the choice to Him.

Only look to spiritual leaders as much as they look to Jesus.

If you're looking for guidance, follow Jesus - He will lead as you listen to His voice. *DRJ*

If we have trouble hearing God's voice, should we ask Him to speak louder... or should we draw closer?

Our minds understand, but our spirits know. *Watchman Nee*

Are you who you are, because of what you've done? Or... because of whose you are?

## Upcoming Renewal Camps



• Kona, Hawaii  
Nov. 17-23, 1996  
(There's still time!)

• Near Auckland, New Zealand  
January 6-11, 1997

• Near Sydney, Australia  
January 12-18, 1997

• Madras, India  
Week of March 16, 1997

• Perth, Australia  
April 12-18, 1997

• Singapore, late May, 1997

• Next Summer - July in Idaho and August in Virginia!

## Heal Our Land Tour

Jimmy & Carol Owens are looking for singers and musicians to tour the U.S. for up to three months at a time - YWAM-style - with their new musical. Also administrators needed. Contact: Mary K. Ridley, Heal Our Land, Box 4600, Tyler, TX, 75712 tel: 903-882-6113

### PAIN

Though it seems a contradiction, I would have to say *InTouch* was both painful and encouraging... It was comforting too, to hear Jeff & Elizabeth Lyons say of their post-YWAM experience, 'We wonder where (God) went and why He stopped speaking to us. Why has it been so hard?

I share their pain... and wrestle constantly with feelings of inadequacy and feel as though the simple little things I do - giving a ride to church, a word of encouragement - are insignificant. Thanks for the reminder that whatever I do, I should do it for the Lord.

The painful part was in Ed's description of former YWAMers who watched the Global Perspectives video in Sydney... 'tears from memories, tears of sadness and tears of lost dreams. Maybe some tears of unfulfillment. Loose ends. Unfinished business.' My tears come often and easily.

The Lord has spoken to me though, about allowing myself to *feel*. It's OK. It's a process not unlike grief, and can be beneficial. It pushes me to pray for YWAM, for the people groups that so touched our lives; and for myself. Thanks for listening, sharing and encouraging us all.

*Name Withheld*

### THANK YOU

I appreciated the 'words from Ed' very much... 'Thank you,' may have seemed trivial to say to former YWAMers, but I am sure many of us needed to hear someone say it. I know at times I have felt my service in YWAM was taken for granted (but not always). Because of this, I felt the servant attitude once freely expressed in my life was dampened, and needed to be relearned and put back into practice after my eight years in YWAM.

I met my wife in the mission and after our first year of marriage we decided to take time out of full time ministry.

Years later, we looked into the possibility of returning to YWAM; in the places we inquired, we felt we got the cold shoulder and were not really wanted back. It may just have been the Lord's way of closing doors.

After being out of YWAM for eight years, praying and seeking the Lord's

# OPEN HEARTS

## Letters that Reach and Teach, Deeply

direction, He opened a door for us back in Canada, working as an assistant pastor in a church, and we are very grateful for this.

I received a lot from YWAM - and gave a lot. It does my heart good to hear you say thank you. So thank you for being grateful to us who have also served with you in the Lord's work.

*Jeff Wharton, Canada*

### THE CALLED AND THE NOT-SO-CALLED

We do recognize that some folks feel a loss - like once they were part of YWAM, but now they're not... Our only 'full time' experience was a five-month Crossroads DTS... yet I've pondered much over why we feel so much a part of YWAM, when others don't. We have been involved with YWAM before and since our Crossroads, in every way you can imagine, and we think the deep, underlying reason why we believe we're still YWAMers, is that we have overcome the pervasive, wicked thinking that there is a difference between one who is 'full time' and one who 'earns a living.' In fact the phrase 'full time Christian service' has done immeasurable harm to the church; the notion that the calling or accountability of Christians differs according to the source of their income (support), is a monumental lie from the enemy...

My husband and I are just as called of the Lord as an engineer and a homemaker, as we would be as church planters or medical mission workers. The point is not what we are doing, or how it is funded, but Who called us to it. Our circumstances may be different to those who go cross-culturally on 'support,' but our total dependence on the Lord, and acknowledgement of Him in everything, is exactly the same. The Scriptures are clear on this: every Christian is equally called and responsible to live a righteous, holy separated life. Being culturally 'ordinary' - whatever we do - doesn't make us any less 'full time.'

Yet the lie that some are called and some are not, is so pervasive that most Christians believe it totally, and react in one of two

ways: 1) They decide they aren't called, and live out their lives vaguely disappointed, supporting some of those who ARE called; or 2) They decide they ARE called, and live out their lives vaguely disappointed, envying those who have 'normal' lives.

My husband and I must seek the Lord and obey Him just as YWAM staffers do. We are just as dependent on Him as our Source, and accountable to Him in just the same way for how we manage that which He entrusts to us.

*Bill & Jeanne Lyman, USA*

### LIFE GOES ON...

My YWAM experience was a great time in my life, one I will always treasure; and yet I find that life has gotten better and better with each passing year. But for some reason I could relate to the 'tears of nostalgia, tears of memories, tears of sadness and tears of lost dreams.' In trying to get in touch with why, I came up with this:

For most people, including myself, our YWAM time was one of the most intense and deeply challenging life experiences we will ever have. To live, eat, sleep, cry, feel, break, give and receive forgiveness, worship, and serve with a group of individuals for a period of six months or more, turns you inside out. At what other time in your life are you surrounded with that much unconditional love, acceptance, support and encouragement from God and His people? It's an incredibly touching encounter.

And yet, life goes on after YWAM, with new, wonderful and marvelous things happening to us that we wouldn't exchange for anything; I look back on that time with such love and wistfulness... did I make the most of it?... how can the names and events of that time be slipping from my memory?... why can't church be more like a DTS?... will I ever feel that 'used' of God again? There really aren't answers to these questions - it was what it was, an especially anointed time - and I'm so glad I was part of it (and still am, through *InTouch* and personal contacts).

We shouldn't try to re-create our YWAM experience. Experiences are like children... we love, cherish and embrace each one for who they are. We can't make them all the same, nor should we want to. And just as with children, as much as we'd like to hold onto those YWAM times forever, we have to eventually let them go. We have to trust God, that He will anoint our present and future experiences as well. Knowing this, helps me to tie up the loose ends, as life goes on. And I can't wait for that great big reunion in heaven, where we will once again live, worship and serve together again - for eternity!

*Onie (Fretz) Ward, Hawaii*

### DEAR DONNA...

Thank you for wanting to bless and encourage former YWAMers around the world. My experiences with YWAM have been almost entirely positive, however I know there are many out there - the silent ones you seldom hear from - who through circumstances, misunderstandings, etc., have been deeply hurt from their involvement with the mission. I for one, have a heart for the broken.

A few years ago (1992), you wrote about our disappointments, even with God. Sometimes during difficult times, it's harder for Christians than it is for atheists, because we are so idealistic; we expect change; we expect a loving God to deal right away with injustice, evil and the like. Perhaps YWAMers can be the most idealistic of all, and in being so, the most deeply hurt - and disappointed.

Have you ever thought about running an edition dedicated to the 'wounded warriors of YWAM?' Though YWAM is a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful organization, perhaps just admitting that there are people who have been hurt through it, would bring healing to some old wounds out there. Saying 'thank you' to those who served, was a good beginning.

*Patti Kidd, Canada*

### UNPREPARED FOR GRIEF

None of us was designed to say goodbye. Letting go of relationships we cherish, does not come easily. The process of separation requires that we run the full emotional gamut, from

fierce denial, anger and isolation, to aching sadness and acceptance. These are the time-honored mechanisms we use to help us deal with grief.

Ten years ago, waving goodbye and walking out of YWAM's door - though saddening - was not difficult to do. After almost six years in the mission, we'd become accustomed to saying mini-farewells, moving from one outreach to another. Not until we were continents apart, with a few dollars in our pockets, a 12 week-old child, and the challenge of a new life on the 'outside,' did we begin to understand how much we had sacrificed by spending our young adulthood as missionaries.

Meanwhile, our peers had spent their time developing careers, families and homes, making the various sacrifices required to achieve domestic security. We had to start from scratch, again. The struggle to fit into pre-established friendship circles was so difficult, we may as well have been aliens. The isolation hurt more than the poverty. As we stumbled along from one rejection to the next, it became apparent that we were desperately lacking in some vital information about what to expect from life on the outside of YWAM.

YWAM took great care to prepare us for outreach to the lost. However, when it came time to leave, the mission we knew was unable to prepare us for our own loss. Maybe we came across as self-assured or didn't ask the right questions; whatever the case, no one gave us any advice as we prepared for our final goodbye. Had debriefing been available, working through our grief may have been easier.

We were unprepared for the grief of separation. Our acquaintance with it has changed us forever. But first we had to work through it and let go of the past. Now we're more able to enjoy the present, looking to the future with hope and courage.



Tom & Cindy Vogel & daughters, Australia

## Donna's Corner

As a 'spiritual mom' to many who read this, and a sister to others, I want to thank you for sharing your hearts. Be encouraged! Whatever you do... do it as unto the Lord (Read Col 3:23-24). He looks at your heart - is it a heart of love for Him and others?

If you love Him, feed His sheep, take care of His lambs and at the same time, receive from Him - He's the Good Shepherd. (John 21:15-17). Stand firm in His grace and don't compromise on the truth found in Romans 5:1-2.

Jesus is coming, and He's looking for a pure and spotless bride. Keep your eyes on Him, not the circumstances or people around you, and return to your first love - Jesus (Rev 2:2-7) You're special, and very precious to Him; for many of you it's a day of new beginnings (Is 43:18-19).

That is what I sensed the Lord wanted me to say to you this time.

Love & Blessings,



Donna



Please note our new address...

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Feel free to use anything from this publication,  
in whole or in part, that will glorify God and  
advance His Kingdom.

## Accountability

Perhaps you've wondered... to whom is YWAM Associates accountable? Glad you wondered! We have two bodies of men and women, who oversee this ministry - one directly, and one 'from a distance.' We thought you'd like to know who they are.

The Board of Directors meets at least annually (usually in May), at the House of Peace in Richmond, BC. This board is responsible for the right running of the ministry, is always available for consultation, and its members are:

Dale Buehring, Tom Buehring, Viva Doraisingham, Vaeluaga Eli, Denny Gunderson, Peter Jordan, Bill McAllister, Jerry Praetzel & Dan Sneed. Several of the wives are closely involved.

Our Council of Reference does not meet together, and is set up for three purposes: to provide us with the protection of a godly group of men and women; to be available for us to seek counsel on major issues; and to correct us should they see error. They are:

Bob Birch, David Boyd, David Cole, Loren & Darlene Cunningham, Jim & Joy Dawson, John Dawson, Gordon Fee, Jeff & Romkje Fountain, Lynn Green, Tom Hallas, Paul Hawkins, Graham & Treena Kerr, Sarah Lanier, Gwenda Loong, Floyd McClung, Frank & Sonia Naea, Leland Paris, Eugene Peterson, Glenn & Jackie Sheppard, Dean Sherman, Jim Stier, Dr. Bruce & Barbara Thompson & Dr. John White.

## ...and Finally, a Few Words From Ed

It is said (jokingly, I hope!), that doctors bury their mistakes, while architects cover theirs with ivy... What do YWAM leaders do with their mistakes? I'm referring specifically to the situations where people leave the mission with unresolved leadership conflicts, and where the leader does not see that he or she, might in any way, or in any degree, be responsible. Case closed. I'm the leader, you're the follower, so shape up or ship out.

It's never that simple - there are always a multitude of angles from which to view any conflict. We all have our viewpoint and we all make mistakes. But are YWAM leaders (am I?), open to the scrutiny of the Holy Spirit and others? We should be. Or do some of us deny making mistakes with peoples' lives?

Patti Kidd asks in her letter, "Have you ever thought about running an edition dedicated to the 'wounded warriors of YWAM?'" (Yes Patti, I have thought about it.) Are there any wounded out there? I know there are, and some of the wounds have turned septic - and have even infected others.

We all should know how to deal with our mistakes, once we are willing to recognize them for what they are; humble ourselves, accept responsibility, ask forgiveness and make restitution. Is it just possible, that there are some YWAM leaders who cover *their* mistakes by living in denial? I'm not looking for accusations, I'm looking for pain. Continuing pain from unresolved conflict, *after you've done your best to resolve it.*



Peter 'Ed' Jordan

