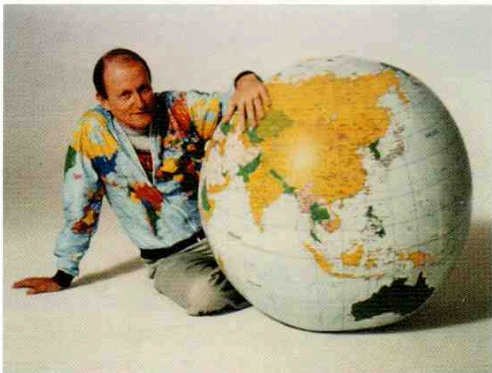


INTOUCH

ENCOURAGING WORDS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

by George Verwer

This is a first for InTouch. Previously, this front page column has been written by YWAMers. For a long time I have admired George Verwer, the International Director of Operation Mobilization (OM) – a ministry, similar in many ways to YWAM. Years ago I heard about George’s conversion in the early 50s at a Billy Graham crusade in New York City’s Madison Square Garden – a crusade that Billy’s own people considered to be one of their least successful. But look who came out of it! Look who founded a worldwide missions organization that has mobilized tens of thousands of missionaries, and been the means of uncounted souls coming to Christ. George loves books, and one of OM’s strengths has been book distribution. As you read on, you will sense George’s passion for God; his passion for the lost; his passion for books; and his passion for you – as one who has served in missions.



HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD... IN HIS HEART!

Life (lif) n. **Af•ter** (af'ter) prep.

I'm sitting on a train, heading back to my home in London after a church meeting in Bristol. I have been crying out to the Lord for the right words to put in this article. I long to be able to help and encourage those who have been out on the mission field and are now home, or headed home.

Re-entry, as it is sometimes referred to, can be a greater challenge than going to the mission field in the first place! Seven challenging biblical words come to mind. I would like you to think about these words and allow them to remind you of great themes from God's Word.

Integrity

One of the greatest words in the English language; it requires openness, honesty, purity and reality from us; it means we will not exaggerate what we have done or seen on the mission field; it means we will be especially careful about the sins of the tongue; and it means we must be absolutely honest and open in regard to finances.

Discipline

It has been proven thousands of times over that *grace without discipline can equal disgrace.*

After a tough missions experience that demands hard work and discipline, it is easy to drop our guard in this area. Outside a team situation and leadership structure, we will have to shift gears into more of a self-discipline mode. In

attempting to do this, it will be easy to mis-communicate and fail to find the balance. We might date a person who professes to be a Christian, but who wants to go to bed on the first date, or at least before marriage. Some mission situations leave people with a lot of pent-up sexual drive and when they get home to a loose and promiscuous environment, they easily let down their moral guard, ending up in a real mess.

Some folks quickly reject missionaries and don't want contact, writing them off as *super-spiritual* or ascetic. Efforts to prove otherwise don't always succeed and feelings of rejection easily come. Satan will do everything he can to discourage us because when we are discouraged that opens the door to other temptations. We must daily hold high that shield of faith (Eph. 6), and stop those fiery darts of discouragement.

Reality

I find that some people return from certain training programs and summer mission events having a rather *fantasy* view of the Christian life. (This also can come in some churches and from reading certain kinds of books.) We must realize that no matter how filled with the Holy Spirit we are, we are still very, very human. If we are realistic, we know that very good people – even committed Christians – can and will, say and do very wrong and sinful things.

Terrible things also happen to good people. We love the Psalms and some-

Life After continued on page 2

times read Proverbs; but we tend to forget that those two great books are preceded by Job.

Vision

We must battle hard to keep the vision that God has given us. We should become senders and mission-mobilizers – missionaries for missions – making every attempt to pass on to others, in reality and humility, what God has taught us on the field. This will not be easy and there will be many setbacks and discouragements on the way.

Sometimes it will be just one person at a time that we will be able to love, influence and help on the road to becoming a World Christian. Try to make good use of the tools, like books and cassettes, that can help people grasp what it's all about.

We also need to stay in touch with people in missions, especially those we have helped come to Christ. Try not to break promises. If you told someone that you will pray for them, then you must pray for them! Try to fellowship, even by phone if necessary, with like-minded people. Keep that missionfire burning in your heart.

Grace

I would urge you to read Charles Swindoll's book *The Grace Awakening*. This book, together with the book *Re-Entry* by Peter Jordan, could be major factors in helping you face – in the power of the Holy Spirit – the challenges and difficulties that you are sure to confront at home. These books will help you be big-hearted when people ask silly questions – or worse, no questions at all!

This revolution of grace helps us to accept and forgive people who seem so selfish or vision-less. We must learn to graciously agree to disagree. We will learn how to be aware of the most subtle forms of pride, even missionary pride. It will also help us keep on forgiving ourselves when we fail or sin. Grace will keep us in the center of God's *highway of holiness*. I also urge you to read Philip Yancey's book *What's So Amazing About Grace*.

Forgiveness

Have you really forgiven those who have hurt you on the mission field? What about yourself? Have you forgiven yourself for blunders, mistakes and sins that you have committed? If so, you're on a good road because now you will forgive those who hurt you back home. Beware of unrealistic expectations, most of all in connection with your mission agency and home church.

If you were greeted at the airport and given a royal reception, then praise the Lord. If not, still praise the Lord. Let your first source of joy and satisfaction be the Lord Himself. Let human love and help be the water that spills over the top of the glass – the icing on the cake.



Please beware of unrealistic – often biblical – expectations. You must learn to love and accept people back in your home culture, just as you accepted those new people in that foreign land in their culture. I believe we need a contextualized approach to going back home just as much as we do in going out. We need to be extra grateful to those who have prayed for us and supported us. We must esteem the senders and realize that they have an equal part in this great missions task.

Pro-active

How easy it is, when under pressure, to become re-active. Reaction is generally negative – the hard blows from life and people, seem to hit *below the belt*. Those hits are not fair! Let's remember First Corinthians 15:58, *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the*

work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Let's keep on keeping on, and try not to be critical or negative about the local church, particularly if they did not help or support you that well. Please try to listen and discern their situation and some of the struggles they experienced while you were away.

Remember Philippians 2:3, *...but in humility consider others better than yourselves*. It's easy to see the problems in your own nation, city or church and it can be very intimidating. We need that same boldness that we had when we stepped off the airplane in Turkey, India or somewhere else.

We should stay active in prayer and evangelism, seeking out those from the countries we worked in, who are now immigrants or students in our hometown.

We need to affirm that the mission field is everywhere and keep up a missions vision foundation.

Well, my train is about to arrive in London and I wrote this all by hand on a shaky train table. I hope my secretary can read it. Wow! I hope you have read it as well!

God Bless You.
George Verwer

Not knowing that George would refer to it, I recently read What's So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancey. This book has now joined A Tale of Three Kings in a tie for my #1 books to read after the Bible. You can order them from us – see Insert or contact us for details.

Wally Wenge – A Giant Gone Home



On January 22nd, following a lengthy illness, Wally moved in fulltime with his Savior. Pray for Norma. And pray for Gleanings for the Hungry, the ministry of fruit and vegetable dehydration that Wally founded and directed – and which **must** continue, with new leadership.

Con•tro•ver•sy (kon'tra'vur'se) n.

As editor of *InTouch*, I have noticed a curious fact. The more controversial we are, the more my mailbox gets jammed full of letters - pro, con (or just balanced like me!) A couple of years ago we started airing some 'hot' issues, about spiritual abuse, control, insecure and immature leaders, unresolved conflicts, wounded warriors, manipulation, unforgiveness, blessings and curses and more. Pain – and the memory of it – provokes passionate response. The last *InTouch* which dealt with more uncontentious topics, brought only a handful of letters – and they were all nice ones. I like receiving any kind of letters – it tells me you care.

Hid•den (hid'n) v.

InTouch reminds me that I have a family around the world which experiences and understands the YWAM longings and the YWAM withdrawals I go through. Since coming home, I have struggled to find my place and live the truths – in my home town – that I learned in DTS. Because I have not been 'out there' lately, reaching the nations for Christ, I was tempted to focus on everyday frustrations, languishing in the 'poor me' syndrome, and focusing on what I don't have to give, rather than what I do have. God, however, is very gracious and recently connected me with a former YWAMer who grew up in the same community as me, and whose outreach was in the same part of the world as mine! Now we are reaching out to street people in our city, and this has made me see that the unreached people groups God wants us to minister to, are not necessarily in an unfamiliar land, but may be hidden right where we live. Oh Lord, open our eyes that we may see the harvest.

Tracey Gieske, Canada

Con•science (kon'shens) n.

Having been in and out of YWAM, having served in several different countries and having had our challenges on both sides of leadership issues, we are very aware of how important your ministry is. In one sense you are a conscience to the mission, calling us back to the centrality that *relationships* and *loving one another*, are what Jesus expects of us as we go on with the great task we have before us.

John & Tove Paddon, Norway

it

The third in a series of YWAM's Foundational Values

YWAM is called to servant leadership. A servant leader is one who honors the calling of his/her followers and guards their rights and privileges. Just as Jesus served His disciples, we stress the importance of those with leadership responsibilities in our mission, serving those whom they lead. (Luke 17:7-10; 22:24-27; John 13:12-17 Mark 10:42-45)

Like a copy of all 21 Foundational Values? Just ask us.

UPCOMING RENEWAL CAMPS

Join us this year for times of refreshing! Sweden, British Columbia, Idaho, & Hawaii. Great speakers, great fellowship, great locations... simply great!

Restenas, Sweden - June 27-July 3, with Dr Bruce & Barbara Thompson

Okanagan Valley, BC, Canada - July 18-24, with Joe Ferrante

Riggins, Idaho - August 15-21, with Jerry Praetzel

Kona, Hawaii - November 14-20, speaker TBA

All Camps directed by Peter & Donna Jordan

PROFOUND & PITHY

Some quotes from Philip Yancey's must-read book, *What's So Amazing About Grace...*

Grace – it may be the most important word in the Bible, the heart of the Gospel.

Grace – a gift that costs everything for the giver and nothing for the recipient.

Grace – Christianity's best gift to the world.

Grace – does not depend on what we have done for God but rather what God has done for us.

Grace – is not about finishing last or first; it is about not counting.

Jesus saw grace everywhere. Yet He never analyzed or defined grace and almost never used the word. Instead, he communicated grace through stories we know as parables.

I would far rather convey grace than explain it.

Grace – the last best word.

HELP WANTED

Staff person (or couple) to help in our expanding office; computer reception and general office type of ministry. Friendly people (we have to be!) Contact Dan.





Pres•ence

(prez'ens) *n.*

Do you hunger to be in God's presence?

To be in His presence is my heart's desire – to continually know He is leading me, guiding me and working His will, in and through me.

You have said, Seek My face – inquire for and require My presence (as your vital need). My heart says to You, Your face (Your presence), Lord, will I seek, inquire for and require (of necessity and on the authority of Your Word). Psalm 27:8 Amplified Bible

His presence is what we seek in our Renewal Camps. We bring no agenda, and though God has given us a plan, we try to stay available to Him to change it if He wants. When teaching, I seek His presence - for in His presence there is peace, joy, love, tears, revelation, power and healing. And then I know He is in control.

What else will distinguish you and me from all the other people on the face of the earth, if His presence isn't with us? See Exodus 33:12-15

In His presence there is rest – a comfortable, quiet rest. Do you really know (not with your mind, but deeply and trustingly in your heart), that you are loved by God? – and that He is saying to you, *Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest (I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls).* Mt 11:28 Amplified Bible.

Practice being in His presence and listening to Him. There are many storms in life, but in His presence there is rest and peace.

Donna

Use•less (yoos'lis) *adj.*

Borrowing from Agar's creative way of saying things in Proverbs 30, a pilot would say, *There are three things that are useless, four that are futile:*

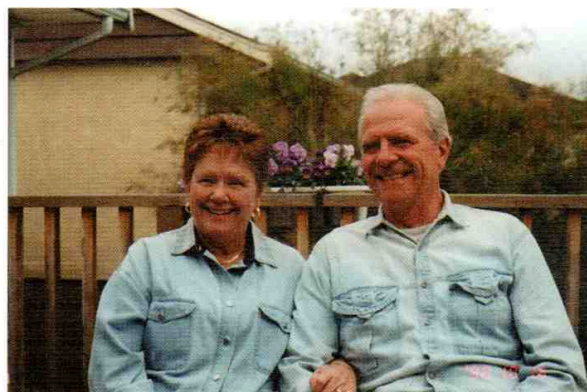
*The altitude above you,
The air in your fuel tanks,
The runway behind you,
And an airline pilot's 60th birthday.*

The first three are of no use to a pilot in an emergency. The fourth is the date on which skilled and veteran airline pilots are grounded. At the stroke of midnight, in the first minute of their sixty-first year, they are supposedly transformed into incompetent and useless has-beens, safety hazards because of their age. (This traveler would ride easy in the hands of a grizzled old sixty-something captain, one who has experienced everything the dangerous skies could throw at him, and who knows his airplane like he knows himself.) Putting practiced pilots out to pasture is a waste, and makes many of them feel useless.

Have you ever felt useless? That you really haven't much to contribute to this world? That your talents and gifts are wasted or don't measure up? That others are far better than you – in all areas of life? I have – especially when I was younger, when I didn't think I fit in; or as a mediocre student when I failed in university; or when I couldn't land a job I wanted.

The job I wanted was airline pilot. Trained to fly by the Air Force, I felt I had finally found my 'niche' in life, something I loved doing. My vision was in the clouds (which made it hard to keep my feet on the ground!) Trouble was, a recession gripped the land, and all the airlines were laying off their pilots. Thus my considerable talents went unappreciated and unutilized, laying fallow for all time. I confess to having been somewhat unhappy with God, and I went through a bleak season of the soul, believing that I was good for nothing. Today, I am grateful that He blocked that aerial avenue - it was not for me. Marriage and missions were. How I got there, is another story.

As Forrest Gump might say, "Useless is as useless does." The key to getting out of 'useless' and into 'useful' is to find the will of God for your life. God is not One who delights in taking the pleasure out of your life. He delights in setting you in a place that will bring the greatest fulfillment for you – and pleasure to Him. Here's my definition of useful – *Liking what you're doing and knowing it pleases God.*



Peter

(ed'i'ter) *n.*