

by Kel Steiner

## “I Had Them Post-YWAM Blues...”

*Kel Steiner joined YWAM in 1970 on a 14-month outreach around Asia with Ross and Margaret Tooley, following which he pioneered YWAM's work in Micronesia and the Philippines. Kel, and Kristyn his wife, are the only senior YWAM leaders we know, who have left the mission for a significant time – seven years – and then returned. Perhaps that makes them unique in their understanding of what it is like to be 'former' YWAMers.*

After 20 years in YWAM, I sensed we were to take a one-year sabbatical leave in my home country of New Zealand. After that one year, now with two toddlers and a third baby on the way, Kristyn and I had come to a crossroads. Kristyn did not feel ready to head back into missions, and I could hear nothing *but* missions as I sought the Lord. Right at that time, I was approached by Asian Outreach (AO), another international mission, and asked if I would pray about directing their New Zealand operation. Having completed our one-year sabbatical leave,

### I was being asked to quit YWAM!

The upside, was that AO's national office was only five minutes from our home; I would still be involved in missions, and Kristyn could continue at home with our growing family. The downside, was that we were about to change missions; this was to prove agonizingly difficult for me, despite the fact that being with Asian Outreach proved to be a great experience. I had

never appreciated how important YWAM had become to me over the years, and it wasn't until I realized that I would actually be leaving YWAM, that the change hit me full force.

Leaving was not something I had ever wanted to do – or dreamed I would ever do. I loved YWAM and all it stands for, the Godly values, principles and ministry that makes YWAM uniquely what it is. Then of course, there were all the wonderful friends I had been privileged to work with and the many people we had served over the years; all these had become a second family to me, and I loved them dearly. I began to go through a terrible emotional wrenching that tore me apart inside; it was what I imagine someone would feel when going through a divorce. It was as though a death was taking place inside me.

Time passed, and after three years with Asian Outreach, I became Dean of Missions at Faith Bible College, serving there for three years. Meanwhile, our children were growing rapidly. Then God intervened again, and we found ourselves returning to YWAM.

The seven-year absence from my 'tribe,' has given me a new insight into post-YWAM life. I've been there, and it

sure wasn't easy. We'd been moulded by YWAM, and in our journey we discovered that although we could fit and function in other parts of the body, the part we fitted best was YWAM. Kristyn had been in YWAM only a few years compared to me and did not share my trauma in leaving. By the time God led us back to YWAM, she too felt the same thrill and excitement of 'Re-entry.' I realize that the vast majority of you who once served in YWAM may never return to this mission. I now have a much greater appreciation for you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your service to God and YWAM.

Instead of them "Post-YWAM Blues," I'm now singing that favorite old missions song, "The Harvest is Ripe, but the Workers are Few, Blues."



*Kel & Kristyn now lead the huge and beautiful YWAM base in Restenas, Sweden (we've held two Renewal Camps there). Set in gorgeous farmland right beside the ocean, Restenas is one of the best facilities-equipped bases in the world, yet with a great lack of staff. Kel's heart is for evangelism and he wants to see young people – and older ones too – released into ministry.*



## IN DEBT – IN MISSIONS

After 12 years in YWAM we were leaving. It wasn't because we felt called to something else, it wasn't a lack of vision, and it certainly wasn't because we didn't want to be YWAMers anymore. It was because we were broke and in debt.

My wife Kirsty and I had been in YWAM since our late teens. We had staffed DTS's, lead a School of Missions, worked in communication and hospitality, taught in various schools and been on many outreaches. We had moved our family (including our two boys, Jesse & Nicolas), a dozen times in order to serve the Lord. After all that, had God failed us? Why was His provision not there? We knew all the scriptures and encouragements like, *The worker is worthy of his wages; Where God guides, He provides*. So, why were we lacking?

Six years out of YWAM has given me some perspective on all this. Maybe you can relate to some of the things I learned...

### Look to God rather than people for provision

It's possible to let the notion creep in that 'ministry' is a higher calling than anything else; that anyone not in full-time ministry owes us their support. We can take on a 'receiver' mentality rather than a 'giving' attitude. We must nurture relationship and accountability with our local church, friends and family and realize that we are all partners together in building God's kingdom.

### Put family before ministry

I was so consumed with wanting to change the world that I put this ahead of my family's needs and subsequently put them through some pretty hard times. This family pressure, together with the financial pressure, made for tough times. I should have considered part-time tentmaking as a way to ease the financial burden on my family. If it was good enough for the Apostle Paul...

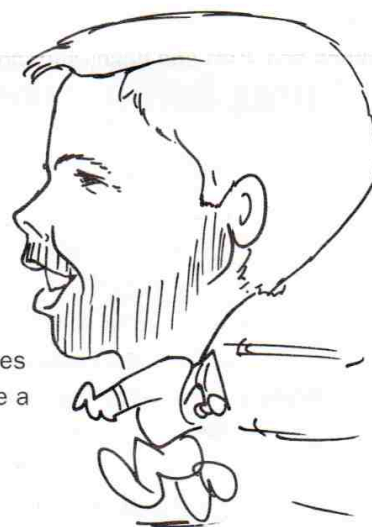
### Know when it's 'time to leave'

I certainly don't want to discourage people from being in YWAM, if that's God's clear calling; but I do believe there are people who God is calling 'out,' and they aren't hearing. YWAM can become a false security, and we must be willing to lay it down, just like anything else. Is God trying to tell you something through the drying up of your financial support?

I now work as a Product Marketing Manager for a software company, and Kirsty homeschools our boys. We believe we are where God wants us to be right now, and are experiencing His blessing. We still have our ups and downs financially and still must look to God for His provision – as much as ever. In our hearts we are still YWAMers and I'm glad for the chance to keep *InTouch* by helping produce this magazine.

Sometimes the answer to a lack of provision is endurance; sometimes it's God wanting to change our attitudes or deal with issues in our lives; and sometimes it may be a wake-up call that's it's time for a change.

We'd like to hear *your* thoughts and experiences on this subject. Feel free to write to me c/o *InTouch*.



MARK "I NEED MORE WHITE SPACE" LEE – INTOUCH DESIGNER



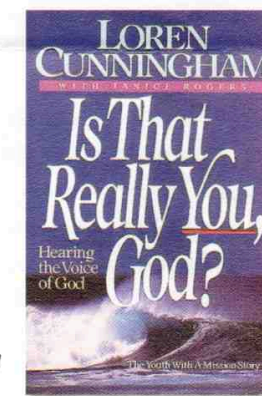
Malcolm & Rosalie Heath hail from New Zealand, and have been with us now for two years. After staffing several Crossroads DTS's Down Under, they joined us for five months – and are still here! Malcolm is the sort of person who can do most anything electrical, practical, mechanical and computational – in short, he's invaluable. Rosalie (or Roses, as we call her), is Mrs Steady in the household, ministering to us through cooking, hospitality and an always-cheerful spirit. They are 'safe' people, sensitive to the Spirit and a real strength to the ministry.

## Was That Really You, Bob?

In 1983, as Loren & his sister Janice were putting the finishing touches to their first and bestselling book, a message was sent out all over the YWAM world asking for title suggestions. Hundreds came in, and the rest is history: *Is That Really You, God?* was chosen, and is now in 50 languages.

But who sent in the winning title? Somehow, in the excitement of getting the book out, the name of the person whose inspiring title was selected, has been lost. Do you know who that was – and how we can get in touch with him or her?

Loren wants to express his appreciation, and will send that person autographed copies of all three of his books. In addition, if you can point us to that person, you will receive from Loren, an autographed copy of *Is That Really You, God?*



## Update On Our Move

In the last *InTouch* we showed photos of our new ministry center and told of the miracle move. We are progressing (patiently, we hope) towards building a retreat center, RV hookups and staff and hospitality housing. All the money from the sale of the old House of Peace in Richmond is in a term deposit, awaiting the start of construction of the new facilities. In the meantime, our staff fits (snugly) into a 70-year old home and a small trailer, while a lot of our 'stuff' sits in storage. We're attempting to seek God at every step as we move ahead. More next time...



WHITE SPACE

I just finished reading *InTouch* from cover to cover. Thanks for honoring and fulfilling the vision given to you for encouraging others in the journey, and for recognizing the seasons of life – the changes, the storms, the sunny skies – all make up the texture of life which we can celebrate with Him and one another.

- Patty Driggs in South Africa

It just hit me... the same week in which I received *InTouch*, I also received a copy of the alumni magazine from UNC Charlotte, the school where I earned my undergraduate degree. It struck me that I spent practically no time on the magazine, but I read *InTouch* from start to finish. Given how little time I spent in YWAM (DTS & SOE), compared to the time I spent earning my BA, it tells you where my heart is!

- Peter Braun, NC

I think your last *InTouch* was the best ever! Good job! I enjoyed the Goode's article and was blessed to see they are still ministering in Thailand. What a beautiful piece of property and new home you have! It would be good to have a brief explanation of what the House Of Peace is all about. Have I missed it in past articles? Peter your article on relationships was great but did bring up some pain/disappointment that I have experienced in the past few years since my own personal 'fall.' The pain and disappointment comes from the fact that since that time, all YWAM contacts have dropped me (from my perception). Instead of being there to help me pick myself up, they just left me to walk it out with the Lord on my own. In recent months I have established contact with one old YWAMer which has been a 'picker upper.'

- Name Withheld

### Once Upon a Time...

If you have a testimony as to how you've been able to integrate your YWAM training into life at home, at work, at school, would you tell us about it? This will be an encouragement to others. Write to *InTouch*.

# PROFOUND & PITHY

Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders than from the arguments of its opposers.

- William Penn

The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom and power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.

- Omar Bradley 1948

Clarity brings freedom.

Are you a human being, or a human doing?

You can't have intimacy with God, unless you trust Him.

You can only grieve if you first love.

- Joe Ferrante

Character is a victory, not a gift.

- Ivor Griffith

## UPCOMING RENEWAL CAMPS

*Come and delight in a truly meaningful vacation – in the sun and with the Son.*

Singapore - October 23-27, with Paul Hawkins

Kona, Hawaii - November 14-20, with Jean Darnall & others

Sydney, Australia - January 2-8 with Dr Bruce & Barbara Thompson

Matamata, New Zealand - January 9-15 with Loren & Darlene Cunningham and Frank Naea

Kona, Hawaii - March 12-18 with a variety of speakers

Restenas, Sweden - July 9-15 (unconfirmed)



## Balance

The other day I was walking along the road and looking at our vegetable and flower gardens. They have not done well this year because of an over-abundance of rain and under-abundance of sun. I felt the Lord was showing me the need for balance in our lives.

Too much rain and the plants don't grow properly; too much sun and they dry up. Given a good mixture of rain and sunshine, the plants grow and produce fruit, and the flowers bloom beautifully.

We're a bit like that. When we focus only on the rain of the Spirit, we don't grow up. If we concentrate just on the written Word and don't include the Spirit, we dry up. We need both the Spirit and the Word (2 Cor 3:4-6).

So often we see people wanting only a blessing – but repentance and commitment are not for them. They will go from speaker to speaker to get blessed, but are not willing to repent of sin (Acts 3:19). Others are steeped in the Word, attend conferences and study in libraries to add to their store of knowledge, yet leave little room for the Spirit in their lives. In order to mature we need to strike a balance between being bathed in the Spirit *only*, and being puffed by the Word *only* (1 Cor 8:1).

Another area we need balance is in receiving and giving. Some people expect to receive all the time, but never think of giving. Others can give, but find it hard to receive.

God is calling us to Unity, Balance and Maturity. Where else do we need balance in our lives – in order to mature? What are some of the areas where we can so easily topple off God's balance beam?

*Donna*



## Faith & a Full Tank

In my early YWAM days, I was nurtured and nourished on extraordinary stories of faith working. There was a memorable story of a van full of out-reachers that kept going for endless hours through unknown territory on a dark night, long after the needle hit empty. The motor kept running by faith – and fumes from the gas tank! (I have the sense that many of us in YWAM like to live close to the edge with our vehicles; step into most vans and you'll find the fuel gauge hovering at  $\frac{1}{8}$  – or less! Does it take more faith to operate in the nail-biting zone near 'empty,' or up near 'full?')

Reona Joly Peterson told of standing on a windswept Edinburgh street corner, desperately in need of money, and how God answered her prayers immediately – she looked down to see two bank notes, one under, and one on top of her shoe!

Then there was Loren Cunningham, obeying God by going to the Los Angeles airport to board a hopelessly overbooked Continental 747 bound for Hawaii; then to be led past other waiting passengers to the last seat – his favorite, by a window.

There were those Iron Curtain Border Guards whose eyes were blinded – by prayer – to the precious Bibles in the van; the multiplying stewpot that kept on feeding people long after it should have been scraped clean. Every YWAM speaker in those early schools of mine, told their own stories of how they had to trust God in sometimes nerve-wracking situations – and how God came through at the last moment.

Next it was time to be weaned off the stories of others, and start putting my own faith in God to the test. Did I have the guts to live on the edge? Would God supply all the needs of my family of six, through His riches in glory? Would he provide an airline ticket to a place that I believed He had asked me to go? And so the life of faith in God's provision, through obedience to His word, became natural – most of the time!

Faith in God for His wisdom, discernment and my daily needs, can become a normal way of life. I try to ask not only for my daily bread, but about each step of life's journey, the small and the great. Do I go there? Do I buy that? Do I meet with this person? Can I trust the Lord with all aspects of my life and its daily decisions? Do I obey Him when He shows me what to do? Or am I selective in my responses, overruling Him sometimes with my earthly wisdom? That's a scary thought – overruling God with *my* wisdom!

There have been failures too – usually through my own presumption; my own desires getting in the way of God's best for me; or simply not even asking Him in the first place.

It's often easier to trust and obey in the big things than in the small. Eleven years ago, we started charging gasoline and groceries to our credit card. It was simple and convenient – and oh! so presumptuous. Before long, we found ourselves in debt to the tune of \$3000 – without the means to pay it off. We were slaves to plastic, rewarding this master monthly for my stupidity! *The borrower becomes the lender's slave.* Proverbs 22:7

We repented of our sin and got back on track as soon as we could. Now we only use our credit card for charges that we know we can pay off at the end of the month. (I recently learned that credit card companies have an intriguing name for people who make their payments on time: 'deadbeats.' That tells us something about *their* philosophy!)

Faith is demolished by debt. The two are diametrically opposed, and cannot exist alongside each other. Faith flies out the window when the slavery of debt takes hold. Some have gone into debt, just to stay in missions. And many have left missions because of debt or the tragedy of insufficient support – read Mark Lee's story on page 2.

Each of us has a measure of faith (Heb 12:3). Is yours 'full-tank' faith? Or is it dropping like the needle on your gas gauge? Jesus said, "Have faith – in God!"

*Peter*