

# inTouch

YWAM

YWAM ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

by DAN SNEED

## Ouch God, That Hurts!



Several years ago, I asked a friend of mine to prune my favorite rosebush. To my horror, he hacked and butchered my beautiful and beloved bush until it was reduced to a bunch of thorny twigs, sticking up a few inches out of the ground. I was crushed and dismayed, while he seemed

to take great delight in his handiwork! It wasn't until several months later that I came to appreciate his *ministry*.

I had wanted my rosebush to look good right through the winter. Radical surgery on it, made no sense to me. But my friend, an expert in growing roses, knew exactly what he was doing. He was preparing my prized rosebush for a new season of fruitfulness.

This is exactly what the Father does in our lives. Many are in the process of radical pruning. It may make no sense yet, but it will. This is what I've learned about spiritual surgery, or pruning:

### It's not optional

...every branch (in Me) that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. Did you notice the word, *every*? There's no option! If you belong to Jesus, you're going to be pruned. It's inevitable! You will be fruitful! and, you will be pruned!

### It's the work of the Father

*I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.* I often meet people who have been *pruned* by others; a well-meaning friend or leader takes on the responsibility of dealing with someone's personal issues, almost always with devastating effect. We are not qualified to prune one another – that's the work of the Father. He knows what to do and how to do it.

### It's not always recognized

Pruning can come as a trial or can even look like an attack of the enemy. It might take the form of difficult life-circumstances. But God is in control.

### It always has a purpose

My friend cut out all the dead and diseased wood along with some of the productive branches. The spiritual implications are many. Dead wood represents all our old methods and human efforts. Diseased wood represents areas of bitterness, resentment and even sin - all these eat away at our lives. The most difficult *surgery* to understand though, is the cutting away of productive branches.

I believe this represents areas of gifting and ability, perhaps even our call or anointing. Don't forget, God's purpose in pruning is so you *bear more fruit*.

### It keeps us close to the Source

The further a branch gets from the trunk, the less vibrant and fruitful it is. Jesus said, *I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

### It can be painful

When the Father takes His pruning shears to our dead and diseased wood, it hurts! When He prunes areas of gifting, ability and anointing, it hurts more! But God is the expert. He knows what He's doing.

After my friend finished his work, my beautiful bush had been reduced to thorns and sticks. It seemed so ugly, and my disappointment showed. But by next spring, I noticed a miracle taking place! What had been a straggle of ugly, barren twigs, sticking grotesquely up from the ground, had been transformed into a most gorgeous bush with tall and graceful stems, flourishing with new leaves and buds. Then came the reward.

Later that spring, my roses were more beautiful, more plentiful and more fragrant than they had ever been. I was overjoyed!

Just remember, that by pruning you, your Father in Heaven is preparing you for a new time of fruitfulness! Spring follows winter, and the miracle of new growth will soon be evident!



### Dan Down Under!

In January, for the first time, Dan will bring his winning humor along with his prophetic teaching to New Zealand and Australia. Dan has pastored under Jack Hayford, and did his Crossroads DTS in 1986. He is a member of our Board of Directors. Dan needs to learn to like Vegemite!

## The JDs are coming!



## Upcoming Renewal Camps

### Kona, Hawaii

– November 12-18, with Dan Sneed

### Matamata, New Zealand

– January 7-13, with Dan Sneed

### Near Sydney, Australia

– January 14-20, with Dan Sneed

### Kona, Hawaii

– March 11-17, with Jim & Joy Dawson

### Restenas, Sweden

– July 15-21, 2001

### Riggins, Idaho

– July/August 2001 (exact dates to be determined – see next *inTouch*)

## Humor? In Missions?

Lots of Christians think missionaries are dull and not much fun to be around. This of course, is one trick the enemy uses to keep people from answering Jesus' call to, *Go into all the world...* If you have a true and funny short story or anecdote, send it to me – I am *seriously* going to edit a book that will show that missionaries can have fun, can laugh at themselves and are interesting people to hang out with. Your submission should be as short as possible (no more than 300 words), and should of course be 'appropriate.'

For every story accepted, the writer will receive three free copies of the published book. Editor's decision final. So there!

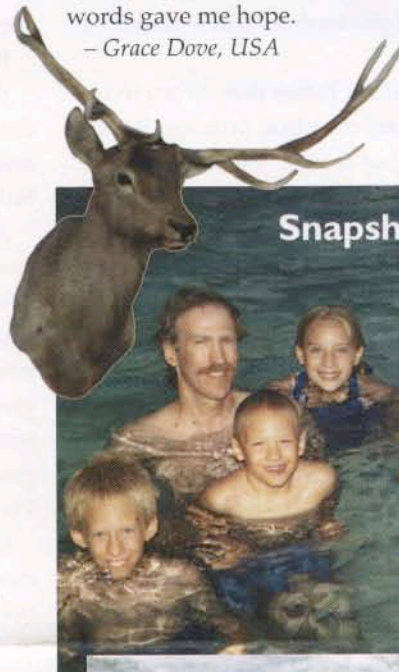
Ed.

[I could fill *inTouch* with the letters I receive from readers, each one special and from the heart, and I love to read them all. Choosing which ones to feature each time, is one of my most difficult jobs as editor. Keep 'em coming though, I need your feedback. Ed]

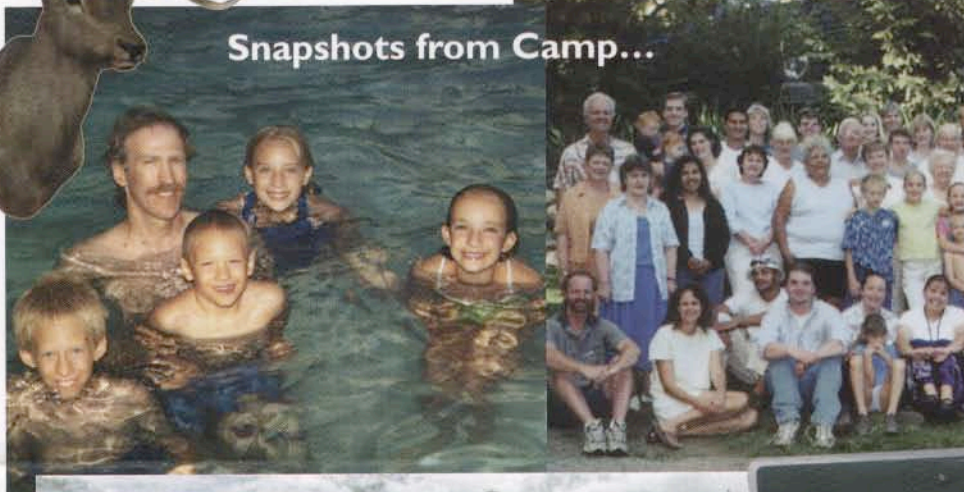
## the Sleeping GIANT

I was incredibly blessed by Frank Naea's *The Sleeping Giant*. A recent move has been shockingly painful for me, and Frank's word about accepting *the new*, was very timely. I *did* feel like I lost my identity and my bearings in every way, spirit, soul and body. His words gave me hope.

– Grace Dove, USA



## Snapshots from Camp...



*inTouch* made me want to be an Associate after reading Frank Naea's quote, "You have greater freedom by not being in the YWAM structure." Smile. The whole edition rocks, it is alive, relevant and exciting. As for the photo *What's Ed up to?* I knew right away... "Peter Jordan slam dunks in Al Akimoff's court!" Do I win?  
– Yolanda Olson, Hawaii

[Turn to Page 4 like everyone else, Yolanda.]

Thanks for sending a magazine like this to people like me who are having a spell @ being salt and light within the wider community. It has been a major struggle trying to re-adjust into life outside the safe surroundings that YWAM offers – I have been headlong in a battle trying to find out who I am outside of the YWAM circle. Frank Naea's article on being involved in a sleeping giant helped me to realize that I am still on the field and on the cutting edge of attack.

– Matthew Finlay, Australia

Thanks for *inTouch* and news of a new YWAM President... I would love to hear the bigger news of what YWAM is up to... Keep up the good work and thanks for being there for us sleepers.

– Leon Strait, USA

[Leon, there are several excellent newsletters & magazines published that would meet your need for news of YWAM. Try *The International YWAMer*, PO BOX 26479, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-6479. We may be a bit presumptuous, but we think of *inTouch* as more a magazine than a newsletter. Ed]

I got involved (with YWAM) something like 35 years ago. I have no idea how you got my address, but I'm thankful you did and read *inTouch* eagerly. I left YWAM when I didn't know what God wanted me to do. I returned to my pre-YWAM plan – becoming a counselor. I now have my license in California, have 17 years experience

working for the largest HMO in the US. I feel lost, burned out and frequently very much alone. Seeing health care listed as an arena of society (in *inTouch*), got my attention. Could you direct me to more on that idea. Is there some type of group for Christians in health care that is connected to YWAM?

– John Faas, USA

Receiving *inTouch* has settled that nagging years long question. I am a YWAM Associate, with all of the love and commitment to YWAM that I had when I was on the base in L.A. I do not want to go ahead of the leading of the Lord, but as I read *inTouch*, I felt "strangely warmed in my heart," to use Wesley's words.

– Burt Bialek, Japan



Charlie

## Profound & Pithy

The rule in a monastery was not "Do not speak," but "Do not speak unless you can improve on the silence."

– Anthony de Mello

Those who listen carefully to others are in the best position for hearing God.

– David Adam

The difference between Western culture and other cultures is that in the West human beings exploit other humans, whereas elsewhere in the world, it is the other way around.

Thank God religion to me has always been a wound, not the bandage.

– Playwright Dennis Potter, before he died of cancer.

Life is 10% of what happens to you, and 90% of how you respond to it.

– Chuck Swindoll

Following the path of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked.

The best way to show a stick is crooked is not to argue about it or spend time denouncing it, but to lay a straight stick along side it.

– Archbishop Janani Luwum, Uganda

### Correction

In the last *inTouch*, credit should have been given to Kathy Fitts for the photo of Frank Naea.

### Intercessors

Donna asked for 100 to stand with us in prayer for this ministry. We're halfway there – if God is speaking to you about this, contact Donna at: <ljordan@rapidnet.net>

### Addresses

We need names and addresses (email and snail mail), of your friends who have been in YWAM, so we can send them *inTouch*. And if you are moving, or if we have your name or address printed incorrectly, please let us know.

## The Cry of God's Heart

While speaking at the August Renewal Camp in Riggins, Idaho, I started to weep. I sensed God saying, "My people who are called by Me, are taking My glory. I trust them with gifts, position, writing books, TV ministry, worship-leading (new songs), and the next thing I know they are wanting others to look to them, instead of looking to Me.

"There are those who exalt giftings, position and even ministry, and they even follow people instead of lifting Jesus up and following Him – the One who came to bring glory to Me. And some who minister, use *their* ministry for profit and for their own security, instead of looking to Me.

"Where are those I can trust, those who will follow Me wholeheartedly, those who will listen to Me and will walk in obedience to Me, those who will give Me all the glory?"

*If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory... | Peter 4:11*

*...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. | Cor 10:31*

Let's all examine our hearts, then whatever we say or do, let's do it for His glory. He's looking for friends He can trust.

Love,

*Donna*



### Photo Contest

Last time we asked you for a creative answer to what Ed was up to in the photo. Well, we were overwhelmed by the responses – emails and letters galore. The winning entrant was unfortunately disqualified on two counts: she is related to Ed; plus it was not printable in a nice magazine like this. Anyway, the winner is Jeremy Olson with, *Ed faces a rough landing upon re-entry*. Jeremy wins – you guessed it – an autographed copy of *Re-Entry*. What was he really doing? Actions to the old Sunday School song, *We are the sheep and He is the Shepherd*.

## Clangers

Airplanes still manage to fly into each other. Despite improved navigational equipment, radar and other collision avoidance techniques, we still have mid-air collisions. Moving around on the earth's surface, we only have to maneuver in two dimensions – *right/left and forward/reverse*. Aviators must contend with the *up/down* factor as well.

While there seems to be a lot of sky up there, it's getting crowded – there are seldom survivors when two flying machines converge on the same spot in the sky. Aviators, with their colorfully dark humor call a mid-air collision, a clanger.

Clangers almost always happen in good weather and are usually the result of human error. The most common cause is not maintaining a good lookout for other airplanes. When I was learning to fly, my instructor used to drill into me that I had to keep my head on a swivel.

Formation flying is for skilled and disciplined pilots. They minutely follow every move of their leader, all flying in the same direction at the same speed and altitude. With wingtips mere inches apart, often at hundreds of miles an hour and treetop level, it is thrilling to watch them perform their seemingly effortless precision maneuvers. But formation flying is plain hard work. Seldom do these *pros* have clangers because they spend so much time in disciplined practice.



During my flying days, I had two near-clangers. One was entirely my fault. I believe God had His hand in both – I and others were twice spared from sure death in tangled masses of fiery wreckage that would have rained down upon the earth.

In our life on this earth, if you and I are not on the lookout, we too are in danger of clangers – the clash and crash of two or more human beings in earth-collision. Unlike midair collisions, we don't die and we usually have opportunities to put the pieces of the wreckage back together again. If we choose to.

Jesus said to His disciples, *...be at peace with one another* Mk 9:50. They weren't – until Jesus was resurrected and they had a ten-day DTS in the upper room.

Paul and Barnabas had a clanger (Acts 15:36-41), which was later reconciled. Paul said, *...so far as it depends on you, be at peace with everyone* Rom 12:18.

Jesus said to His 12 disciples – and to us today – *Get along with each other*. Paul said to the Romans – and to us today – *Get along with everybody*. Do we? Is it easy?

James said, *...do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor* James 3:18, The Message. So it's hard work. We all know that, but are we willing to do that hard work?

To avoid clangers, keep a sharp lookout so as to avoid trouble before it hits you; and do the hard – and disciplined – work of getting along with people. And to live in unity with others – flying in formation with them – keep your eyes on the Leader.

*Peter*