

intouch

YWAM ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

Fragrant in a Stinky World

Margie was single during her six years in YWAM during the '80s, serving in Asia & the Pacific. She met her future husband Jens, during a school of Primary Health Care in Kona. They were married a year after the Lord led them out of YWAM. They now live in Germany, and are still as dependent upon God's provision as they were in YWAM.

by MARGIE (WESTLUND) LIMBERG

How do short-term YWAMers adjust to the *in the world but not of it*, role? I hate the term *full-time* Christian service; it tends to divide those who serve the Lord in obvious ways, from those of us who earn a living by serving the Lord in the work place. It seems like we've chosen a *lesser* way. The high road versus the low road.

Being in a YWAM school was like a long retreat for me. Even when on staff, with all my responsibilities, I was given more to seeking the Lord and being fully concerned with things of the Kingdom.

Generally free from the normal daily tasks of providing food and housing, it was a tremendous opportunity to focus fully on Jesus and learn His ways. Marvelous teaching was available and during schools the daily input received would have taken weeks on the *outside*. It was a season of retreat – yet we accomplished much. The business was people – telling them about Jesus, or helping those who already knew Him, to come closer. It was marvelous – relationship is what man was made for – and what

fulfills him best... warm, open, vulnerable, loving, committed relationships.

In YWAM, each person normally experiences acceptance for who and what they are. For some, it is the first time in their lives they feel loved by a group. They *belong*. I have heard from some who have left, that one of the things they miss is the fellowship. It is that *group feeling* – being surrounded for the most part, by very dedicated believers who, by their very coming, have demonstrated that the Lord is more important than home or friends or career.

When we return to those homes and friends, that closeness is gone. In addition, we are again burdened with the daily task of providing for our own physical needs, along with those for whom we are responsible. But that very closeness we knew and longed to bring home, does not have to be lost. Our experience *should* help us to open up to others, giving them a taste of deep relationships. But that may involve the risk of being vulnerable.

There's another part to that spiritual dimension, compared to scratching for

a living outside. When we are surrounded by those seeking Him with *all* their hearts, *all* the time, we see our own dedication growing. How much of that though, is *really* ours? Is it perhaps just borrowed from the group? Are we spiritual because the group is spiritual? And do we give off the fragrance of His presence, *only* when we are in a field of fragrant flowers? Can He not send us out again to the stinky world to bring His fragrance there too?

We stand out here in the field, surrounded by grass and weeds, and wonder where the beautiful fragrances that enveloped us for six months – or six years – have gone. We got used to being filled with teaching, by simply opening our mouths to be fed. Now, our church gives us that once a week, if at all.

But if He had sent us to a remote village on the far side of Outer Mongolia, we would also have no daily teaching – other than what we received in our own quiet time. And close, daily relationships would not be there, initially at least. Missionaries have done that for centuries. What do we have to complain about, in comparison to their lot?

It's not easy, but we've got to go for it!





We've Struck a Geyser!

In the last *inTouch* we introduced our vision of building a worldwide network of YWAM Associate mind-molders. The response has been extraordinary, so its time to begin.

Over the next weeks we will be gathering an e-connected team that will begin construction of the website, development of the content and assembling of a database. So...

Please send your email address to intouch@cnx.net

Mark Lee (*inTouch* designer) has agreed to oversee the website development and he will need other team members:

- Someone, who from anywhere in the world, would collect and develop content for the site. This person must have a gift of unity and a love for YWAM Associates.

- Someone, to join our team in Deroche, BC to develop and maintain the database. This person needs experience in Information Technology, as well as a love for the vision to reach out to three million YWAM Associates.

If God is prompting you with any of this vision, contact us!

Mark Herringshaw – Board of Directors

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

- Retired? Bored? Pastoral gifts not being utilized? Like to spend six months in the Far East? Write or email me personally for details (address on Page 4), and I will introduce you to someone who can open the door for you to exciting and fulfilling ministry opportunities. (All expenses paid - by you.) Ed

- Ten carpenters needed – also in the Far East – minimum stay of two months, lots of hard work, and all expenses paid! Contact Glorious Group on www.glorious.co.jp

✉ A friend of mine has read a couple of editions of *inTouch*, and was really helped. After reading some of the articles, she realized that it wasn't God's fault for hard things that happened, and she's starting to open up to Him again.

– Beth Salt, Canada

✉ Your last edition, birthed in trial and worry was timely and good reading; especially Donna's Corner on Faith and Patience... I really needed the encouragement and understanding... having always struggled with "little faith = no answered prayer = less faith, etc." Donna said that our faith needs to be in who God is and what He says. Thank you. Also, lets awaken the Sleeping Giant!

– Debbie Zanetti, Australia

✉ Reading *inTouch* brings back fond memories (from 1973-74), and it stirs the spirit within me... rich learning from which I still draw strength and knowledge and wisdom with which to go through life.

– Paul Hayden, USA

Marine Reach... a New Name, a New Ship, a Familiar Ministry

– by Captain Ben & Helen Applegate



Captain Ben, former Master of the M/V Anastasis, and Helen aboard the Pacific Link with David Cowie, Executive Director of Marine Reach.

She looked tiny! After ten years aboard the M/V Anastasis – a vessel the length of two football fields - this little ship could easily sit on our aft deck! But her smallness in size is not a reflection of the size of her new crew's vision. *Marine Reach* (formerly *Mercy Ships – Pacific*), has been operating small ships in the Pacific for ten years. Over 170,000 men, women and children have received dental and optical care across 15 nations. Thousands have come to know Jesus. The *Pacific Link's* new operating surgeries will be equipped to do dental and cataract operations.

Right now, YWAM's newest ship is being prepared for service, and she will be stationed in Lautoka, Fiji to serve the island nations of the South Pacific. As these two aging veterans of YWAM's ship ministry boarded the *Pacific Link* and were greeted by bright-eyed youthful crew, that old YWAMer enthusiasm was evident everywhere – gas torches cut through metal, sending sparks flying across the deck.

We felt old but young at the same time! We as alumni don't always realize the depth of investment we have made in the lives of these young people. It's the example we set and the stories we tell that make up part of their inheritance. As we toured this little ship, that pioneering spirit stirred within once again. That YWAM attitude that reminds us that, *If God be for us who can be against us*, was everywhere. Anchors Aweigh!

For more information: www.marinereach.com

THIS 'N THAT

How about this?

I have a friend serving time in prison, who regularly, out of his meager wages, sends \$5 a month to *inTouch*. That's more than a tithe for him!

Malcolm Heath, our resident computer specialist, has been home for two months, steadily gaining back his strength after almost seven months in hospital with severe pancreatitis. He and Rosalie are gradually easing back into the ministry.

How about that?

Honoring the JDs

"I'm overwhelmed!" gasped Joy Dawson as she entered the hotel suite in Kona. This was to be 'home' for Jim and Joy for more than two weeks – a gift from scores of people from around the world who had been ministered to by them in their 30+ years in YWAM. A rental car was theirs, incidental expenses were all covered and there was sufficient left over for a substantial gift. They were the honored guest-speakers at the Kona Renewal Camp.

Joy spoke three times, Jim once (on releasing his wife in ministry). Joy's messages were *Endurance*, *Preparing the Bride of Christ* and *Personal Evangelism*, her second message being preceded by a time of honoring that was witnessed by the staff and student body of University of the Nations – numbering 600.

With beautiful Hawaiian leis adorning them, Loren Cunningham, as Founder, and on behalf of YWAM worldwide, thanked the Dawsons for their years of consistent dedication to the mission; David & Carol Boyd spoke for University of the Nations; and standing in for the more than three million who have been involved with YWAM over the past 40 years, we (Donna & Peter), presented the Dawsons with a MemoryBook.

This MemoryBook – a memorial to the faithfulness of God in their lives, and which they can pass on to their children (Psalm 78:5-7) – was lovingly created by gifted artist Libby Goehner, and it contains dozens of appreciative tributes to Jim & Joy. Each page is unique, each page has Libby's touch and flair – many with original paintings she has added. Jim & Joy stayed up late that night, poring over what is indisputedly, a work of art.

Through it all, Joy still suffers almost constant lower back pain – especially in the mornings and especially before she ministers; and through it all, Joy has lost none of her love or trust in a faithful God. Please keep Joy and Jim in your prayers.



The Vision for Deroche



For 25 years it has been on our hearts to develop this lovely land in Deroche, BC, for the Lord's people – that it would be a haven where they, alone or in small groups, could come to seek Him, be spiritually renewed and personally refreshed. It is a gentle and quiet place.

Having set this forested, mountainside 40 acres aside for this purpose, and having operated in the past as a small group retreat center, it is with joy and excitement that Jean and I, along with YWAM Associates, have jointly embarked on developing it further. This pleasant place will then more fully accommodate our desires as expressed above. It will also function as a home and administrative center for YWAM Associates. Sure hope you can be part of it all!

Bill & Jean McAllister – Board of Directors, YWAM Associates

Profound & Pithy

All sunshine, makes a desert.

Conscience is the little thing that tells you someone is sure to find out.

What really matters is what happens within us, not to us.

Speech is the gift of all, but the thought of few.

Be realistic, aim for the impossible.

Two things are hard on the heart... running up stairs, running down people.

Purpose is what gives life meaning.

People who live in the past rob the future.

If we don't stand for something, we'll fall for anything.

To know one's ignorance is part of knowledge.

Worry is the interest paid on trouble before it is due.

The above were printed on bus tickets in Adelaide, Australia

Upcoming inTouch Gatherings (Renewal Camps)

Singapore/Malaysia – June 23-27 with Paul Hawkins

Restenas, Sweden – July 15-21 with Joe Ferrante

Riggins, Idaho – Aug 5-11 with the Lord leading

England – Aug 19-25 with Lynn Green & Donna Jordan

Washington, DC area – Sept 7-9 with Peter & Donna Jordan

Kona, Hawaii – Oct 28-Nov 3 with Frank Naea

Matamata, New Zealand – Jan 6-12 with Winkie Pratney

Sydney, Australia – Jan 13-19 with Frank Naea

All Gatherings hosted by Peter & Donna Jordan

Everyone in Their Place

I believe God is trying to get everyone into his or her place in the body of Christ. 1 Cor 12:12-27; Rom 12:1-8

God is going to answer His Son's prayer from John 17, that we will be one, as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one. This unity will come through listening to the Holy Spirit, who is listening to the Son (John 16:12-15). The Father wants to see His Kingdom come, His will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Instead of His children listening to God and encouraging and caring for each another, there is still a lot of competing, comparing and complaining among the members of the body. This breaks the Father's heart.

Whatever you do, whether it is waiting on tables, pastoring a church or serving as president of a nation – all must be done to please our heavenly Father, not to please man (Col 3:23-24).

We must encourage each other to fulfill our destiny with His strength and grace. Being content with whatever our circumstances may be. Paul was able to say... *I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances... I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation... I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.* Phil 4:11-12

Godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Tim. 6:6-7

God's picture is so much bigger than ours. Let's listen to Him, be obedient and be content in our right place in the body. And let's start by encouraging one another.

Love,

Donna



I Commend to You...

I've made many mistakes in life – and here I would distinguish mistakes from sins: mistakes are errors in judgment, made with out malice, sometimes carelessly, sometimes willfully. For a follower of Jesus, sins are premeditated choices that hurt God, others and ourselves. Guilty there, too.

In the church tradition into which I was born, and to which I still adhere, it used to be that every time a new person came to our main service, whether visiting or joining, he or she brought a letter of commendation from their home fellowship. It was – and is – a biblical principle, that the Apostle Paul practised.

Read Romans 16 – which starts with, *I commend to you our sister Phoebe...* Paul goes on to commend dozens of others, many by name, his commendations coming in the form of greetings. Later, Paul actually commends John Mark, the young rebel who had caused so much grief between him and Barnabas (Col 4:10 & 2 Tim 4:11).

Back to me and my mistakes in this area. For most of my life, before and in YWAM, when employing someone, or inviting them to join us in ministry, I have trusted my own discernment. I have often been guilty of not obtaining commendations – just too much trouble; *or*, unnecessary in this case; *or*, we need to get on with things; *or*, let's just take the positive report and ignore the others.

I suspect that this malpractice is a common dis-ease of the body of Christ, in which we are taught to trust and believe the best. (Suspicion and believing the worst, are sin-diseases.)

But even when we do the right thing by obtaining the appropriate commendations, things can go wrong. I remember getting burned back when we were leading schools; glowing reference forms came in – on at least two occasions from spiritual leaders – and when those particular students arrived, the reason for the strong commendation soon became obvious! In charity, let's just say that the *commendors* thought we could help these folks.

In one smallish town where we lived for many years, the pastors of the various churches had little to do with each other. A certain worthless man would go from church to church, knowing he would receive charity, 'taking' them for food and even money. When suspicions arose, he would move on to another church, and so it went. Finally, one pastor became concerned, and upon checking, discovered what was happening. The upshot? Many of the pastors started meeting regularly to pray together, to encourage one another and to prevent the sort of fraud that had been happening.

It should be noted that Paul also practised negative commendation! (Check out 2 Tim 4:14)

It happens in YWAM too. Leaders, trusting in themselves, will take on new staff without a commendation. And I've seen some people drift from base to base, burning and being burned in the process. As James once said, *Brethren, these things ought not to be this way!*

Of course the bottom line question is, are we asking God – and each other? Or, are we just plain desperate to fill a need?

Peter