

intouch

YWAM ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

Spiritual Miscarriage

by JOE FERRANTE

When I was younger, I had big dreams for my life. A few times they came to pass but many times they just died. Never knowing what to do with those dead dreams, and not wanting to wallow in self-pity, I would anesthetize my pain with some bright new venture. What I didn't realize though, was that I was carrying death inside of me.

My dead dreams surfaced one night quite unexpectedly. I had spent an evening with friends whom I had not seen for five years, reminiscing about the good times we had shared together in ministry. (We avoided however, talking about the conflicts that had brought *that* ministry down.) Later that night, as I was thinking about those years – out of nowhere – a tidal wave of grief crashed onto the shores of my mind. Through my tears I cried out, “God, we had such big dreams for our lives back then! Why did they all have to die? And why does this still hurt five years later?”

God showed me that I had never grieved through my emotional and spiritual losses. Like a pregnant woman whose unborn child is miscarried, so my ministry and relationship visions also had miscarried, sometimes through circumstances beyond my control. I had the same symptoms of suffering for my shattered dreams that a woman often experiences after miscarrying a child...

Feelings of loss. For a woman, the life lost was part of her body, not a separate person – so no one else knew that life. Since my dreams had been deep inside me, no one else fully understood what I had lost.

Feelings of grief. Without a tangible body to mourn, there's no rite of grieving for the mother's loss; so her miscarriage grief becomes dammed up in a reservoir with no outlet. Not knowing what to do with the pain of losing my visions, I had simply buried them all inside of me.

Feelings of fear. If her past grief is unresolved, a woman will often fear another pregnancy because she may lose that

child, too. After losing several ministries that I had helped lead, I became fearful of having anything to do with spiritual leadership again.

Instead of grieving through my losses, I had become stuck in my grief. I needed a funeral for my miscarried dreams. Over the next few months, the Lord took me through a period of healing, out of which I learned some important principles...

I had to acknowledge the pain, because my pain revealed where I needed healing. It was not something to be ashamed of – the reason I had pain was because I had really cared, really trusted.

I had to ask God to heal. I had asked Him for help to forgive those who killed my dreams, but I had never asked God to heal the wounds left by those losses. Some of the pain remained buried within me.

I had to take the risk to love again. Since my shattered dreams involved relationship failures, I had to love again if I ever hoped to be healed. And that meant risking pain all over again.

And then I could *dream again!* It's never too late to get pregnant with new vision! When God heals the hurt from our spiritual miscarriages, we can face the future with hope instead of fear.



Joe Ferrante, along with Mary Jo, his wife of 35 years, have founded three churches, pastoring for 20 years in California and Canada. Since 1980, Joe has ministered in YWAM schools around the world on *The Extravagant Love of the Father*. Currently they live in California.

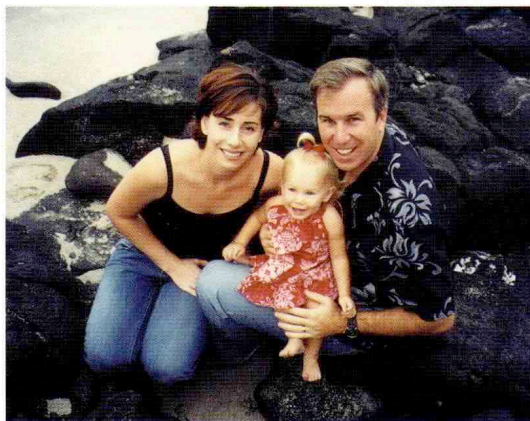
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"I was hooked the first time I got behind the camera," says David Cunningham, son of YWAM founders Loren & Darlene Cunningham. "I knew that was where I wanted to be." With communication degrees from the U of N and the prestigious USC film school in Los Angeles, David was on his way. His first project, "Beyond Paradise," was a cross-cultural portrayal of teen pregnancy, drug and domestic abuse – and how to deal with these issues.

Since then, David has directed and produced a number of television projects. He realizes though, that all his accomplishments to this point have been preparation for admittance onto a much larger stage and wider audience. *To End All Wars* – David's new \$14,000,000-budget movie – is next. Based on the book by Ernest Gordon, it is a true story of Allied POWs in World War II who endured brutal treatment at the hands of their Japanese captors, while being forced to build a railroad through the Burmese jungle. Ultimately they find true freedom by forgiving their enemies. It is an epic film, with a cast that includes Kiefer Sutherland and Robert Carlyle, and with an original score by the London Symphony Orchestra. For two hours, you will believe you are in a Japanese concentration camp. It is impossible not to relate to the central characters as they struggle to deal with feelings ranging from hatred to love for their captors and each other.

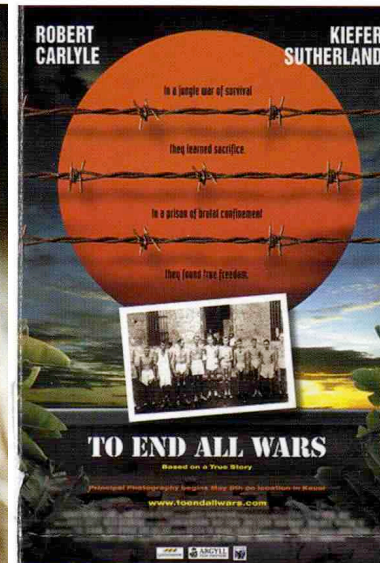
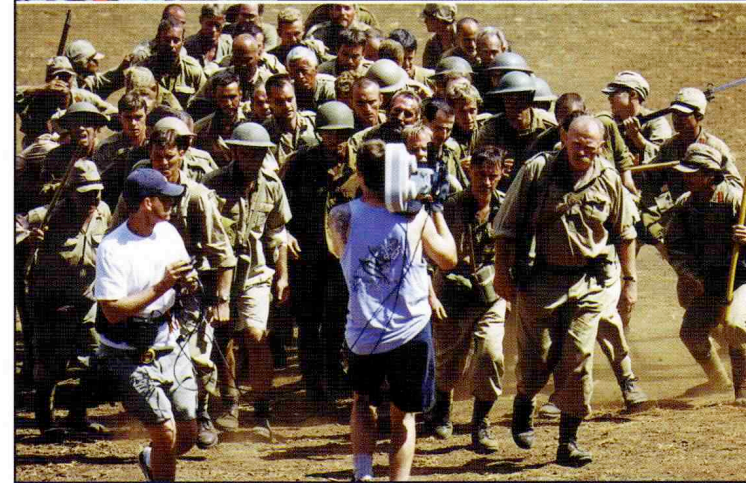
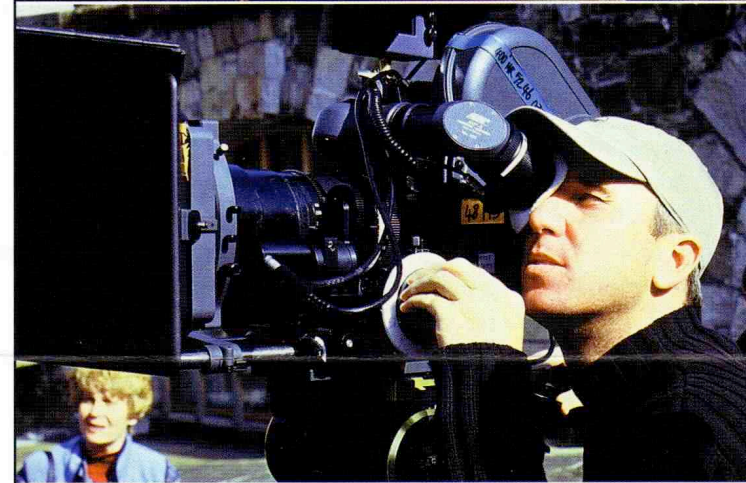
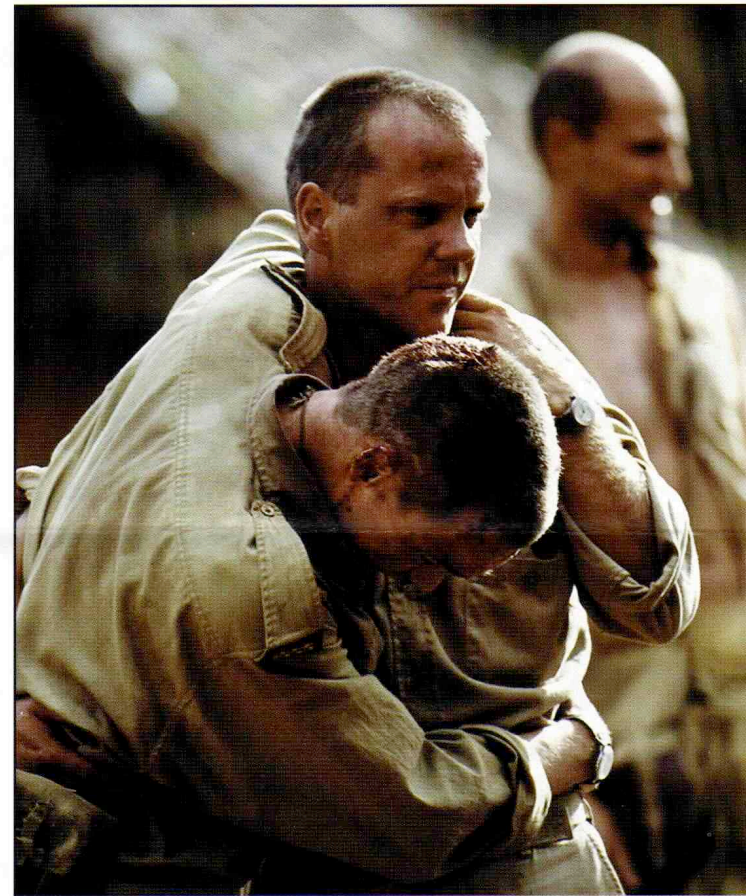
Although not a film for children because of realistic wartime violence, it is a true portrayal of what really happened. The message of forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption is clear. Believers and non-believers alike will find common ground to begin discussion on some of life's most important questions. *To End All Wars* gives us as Christians an ideal opportunity to introduce Biblical principles to our entire circle of influence in a non-threatening way; and at the same time we can support a project dedicated to spreading the gospel.

ED'S NOTE: From 1942-1945, my family and I were held captive in a Japanese prison camp in Shanghai, so I am eagerly anticipating the release of this movie. I have seen some scenes and have no illusions about this being a 'family film.' Faithful to the true story, and without avoiding some raw language and violence – even the crucifixion of one of the Allied soldiers – it is a graphic portrayal of a shameful chapter of man's inhumanity to man. The message? Forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption. Check <www.toendallwars.com> for the release date.



Judith,
Madison
& David
Cunningham

TO END ALL WARS – Directed by David Cunningham



Profound AND Pithy

I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.
– Bill Cosby

Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.
– Karen Kaiser Clark

We are not interested in the possibilities of defeat.
– Queen Victoria

Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do on a rainy afternoon.
– Susan Ertz

The great advantage of telling the truth is that one's so much more likely to sound convincing.
– Susan Howatch

Upcoming inTouch Gatherings

Kona, Hawaii – Mar 17-23
with Dan Sneed

Restenas, Sweden – July 7-12
with Joe Ferrante

England – Aug 11-17

Chatel, Switzerland – Aug 18-24
(bilingual French/English)

Kona, Hawaii – Nov 17-23
with Dr Bruce Thompson (this Gathering is primarily for those in the healthcare/counseling fields). Start planning now!

Gatherings hosted by Peter & Donna Jordan

We have **BIG PLANS** for the YWAM Associates website, but it can't happen without the right people. We need the following long-term, skilled staff:

- Website Manager/Administrator
- Content Director
- Online Bookstore/Commerce Manager
- Database Manager
- Technical Support person

For details, email us: info@ywamassociates.com



Change is Here to Stay

Many years ago I read a bestseller called 'Future Shock' by Alvin Toffler. In a big, fat paperback, his message (which really would have fit on one page), was simply that change was going to come, and with each succeeding year, it would come faster. Call him a futurist (or a prophet), but for sure, call him rich. He made a bundle on that book.

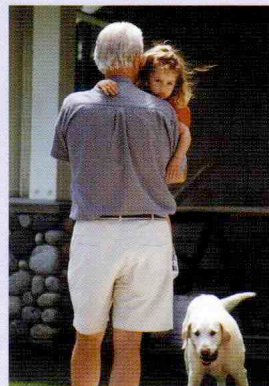
I am no stranger to change - in fact it has been the norm for my life, ever since I was very young. Born in China, imprisoned for 3 1/2 years in Shanghai, high-schooled in England, an immigrant to Canada at age 17, a jet pilot, a salesman - all these before joining YWAM... and so it has gone ever since. And yet, there are areas of my life where I resist change - especially in my attitudes. Sometimes it feels good to settle into a steady routine (or is it being stuck in a rut?)

Before Christmas each year, Donna and I ask the Lord what He would say to us for the coming year. This past December, I sensed the Lord say to me that I was to stay open, to seek Him for each step, that things would not always happen the way I might plan; and to expect change. The year has just started and already this has proven to be true! Just in January, God changed my plans - and my heart - more than once!

Have you asked the Lord what he has for you this year? If necessary, are you flexible enough to allow Him to change your plans - or even change your heart? It's not too late.

Peter

On the way out?



God's Army

In early October I was preparing to go and teach and disciple in three Discipleship Training Schools. Our daughter and family had just arrived from Australia a few days before and it was almost Canadian Thanksgiving. I found myself crying and complaining, "Lord I don't want to go." He responded in that loving gentle way, "I need you, this is war time, not only physical but spiritual war. Many will be going to Afghanistan physically and some will not return; but you will return." Right away I said, "Yes Lord!" and repented of my self pity.

I believe God showed me at the beginning of this year that He is raising up an army to march across the land...

- An army listening to Him
- An army preparing for the last days. (Rev 19:14)
- An army that is alert, pure and holy, not letting anything hold it back from its mission - things like unconfessed sin, the fear of man. (Material possessions, family, friends and other entanglements can hold us back too.)
- An army that is devoted to Him and desiring to see His Kingdom come and His will done on earth as it is in heaven.
- An army that is in unity - no infighting - but one that is totally committed to Him and His purposes.

The soldiers in this army will have resurrection power because God will open their spiritual eyes and ears like never before (Eph 1:17-21); and He will baptize them with the Holy Spirit (love), and Fire (purity and holiness). Matt 3:11

The soldiers in this army will have resoluteness and oneness of mind and spirit; purity of desire and motives; and a wholehearted love for Jesus Christ their Lord and Commanding Officer. They will see miracles, as together they take back land and peoples, stolen by the enemy.

It is time for the nations to be disciplined (governments, media, etc.), through an army that will march in obedience to its Commanding Officer. (Matt 24:14; Matt 28:19-20)

The world will become darker and darker but His army will become lighter and lighter as it reflects Him. (2 Cor 3:17-18). It will march out in victory.

Do you want to join this army? It will cost you everything, even to the point of being willing to lay down your life for Jesus - a living sacrifice.

Keep your eyes on Him, not the circumstances. Be a people of faith in *Who He is and what His word says* - not a people that lives in fear and unbelief. God's Resting Place will be in the midst of this army and His Glory will shine on it. There will be joy and strength as we worship and wait on Him for marching orders.

I believe we are at a time where we have to choose whom we will serve - our flesh or the enemy - or our God. (Josh 24:14-27)

Love and Blessings,

Donna

Donna with
Patricia Talbott (YWAM
Associates Director for
England) and Joellyn
Wright (worship leader at
many of our Gatherings)

