

BUSINESS OR MINISTRY?

that is the
question

by JOHN DEVRIES

The first time I experienced God's love and heard His voice, I wanted to be in ministry. But my dilemma, as I grew in my relationship with the Lord, was that somehow my business activity – which at the time was not very successful – did not seem to cut it. It did not remotely resemble ministry, as I understood that to be.

It was during this time that the Lord began to expand my understanding – He made me aware that my business *was* my ministry and my ministry *was* my business. It was not so much about *what I was doing* – but more about *what I was doing with what He had given to me*.

It began to dawn on me that as a Christian I was called 'to serve' the Almighty God of the universe. It seemed so simple, too simple. Surely it must be harder than that.

I started to understand that *how* I live my life (my journey), is more important than what I *do* in my life. I believe it is the same for all of us – the lessons we learn on our journey and the experiences we have with God along the way, help us to identify our calling and enable us to reach our destiny.

Through prayer and listening to His voice, it became clear that He had called each one in our family to be His servants. We were *born to serve* (after all, ministry and serving mean the same thing). II Corinthians 5:15 became the motivation for *why* we serve. *And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.* This verse

became the calling for our whole family. We were 'Born to Serve,' yet the expression of *how* we would serve would be different for each of us.

It was not really important if we were in business, church, home, or any form of employment. What was important was how we lived and what we did with what He had given to us. As we started to emphasize 'being' (as in being rooted in the vine - John 15), our 'doing' became easier. We were consciously looking to each day with excitement and asking the Father how we could serve. He was always faithful to show us.

We had opportunities to serve by taking people into our home to live with us. We were able to give encouragement to others. My wife Sandra took a two-year counseling course so she would be better qualified to help those whom the Lord had put in her path. We did not need to go out looking for people to help or serve, but asked God to just show us *who* and *how*.

At the same time our business/ministry was growing and people were being saved. In the workplace we had the opportunity to be a fair and honest employer. We were also able to found and co-found a number of ministry/businesses and to even lead a church. We learned how to live by a set of values, which have become a tool to help us communicate with each other...

- Believe the best
- Speak to a person's potential
- Do the best we can with what we have
- Be open and honest
- Be congruent (consistent) in all we say and do
- Keep short accounts
- Be a giver

continued over...



We developed a concept of 'team,' where we all worked to develop consensus, ensuring that we were in unity and working for a common cause.

Our lives expanded to be able to do more as we learned to trust and walk in faith, based on what Father was saying. We learned this by taking baby steps and working with what we had. Before we could run, we had to learn how to walk.

As we took time to ask Him and to listen to, and obey His voice; as we learned to love Him first – and then each other – we were able to learn new skills from Him; and to practice His principles so that we came fully to the understanding that our ministry is business.

And our business is ministry!



John DeVries is a loving and compassionate man whose integrity in the scary world of commerce, truly models business as ministry. With over 30 companies now, ranging from real estate to technology, investments to leadership, John has designed each to further God's kingdom. With minimal formal education, he shows what character plus adherence to God's principles for life, can do. YWAM Associates is blessed to have John & Sandra on our Board of Directors

Time Warp

Amsterdam reunion – 30 years of relationships

165 of us who had served with Floyd & Sally McClung in Amsterdam during the 70s, 80s & 90s, met together in Atlanta earlier this year. We were taken back to our common history as we sang our familiar songs, some almost forgotten. We worshiped in Dutch and English, led by Karen Lafferty and our original Musicians for Missions team.

Some had married as 18 year-olds in Amsterdam, coming now with their teenage children! Many of these teens were young kids when they left Amsterdam, but they discovered they had an inheritance in a loving extended family. During our Love Feast worship service, Jon Petersen (the base leader when Floyd left in '91), gathered all the children – many now fully grown – he prayed for them, he blessed them and he thanked them for sharing in their parents' call; then he asked their forgiveness for our naiveté in not realizing the toll our mission field war zone had taken on many of them.

Carolyn Ros, representing the present Amsterdam leadership, added her thanks for the spiritual seeds that were sown (some in tears), many of which have germinated and sprouted into a harvest.

Floyd shared a message on the radical nature of the life of Jesus, and what a radical choice it is to follow Him. Some folks who had been on the fringes, came back into the fold that night. It was a powerful time of the Spirit working to bring closure, healing, encouragement and wonderful affirmation, to a group of people who had given some of their best years to serving God in the city of Amsterdam.

The reunion went far beyond our expectations, as God was free to do multiple things among us *because* we gathered - not only as old colleagues – but simply out of love for Him and for one another.

– Sarah Lanier



Discipling a Nation Through Government



Two former YWAM leaders have been elected to the New Zealand Parliament!

Bernie Ogilvy, former New Zealand National Director, and Larry Baldock, Philippines Director in the 90s, now serve in *United Future New Zealand*, a political party firmly rooted in Family Values.



Let's pray for them as they attempt to make a difference – and any others who have gone on from YWAM into this challenging arena of society.





Our Board of Directors and staff, May 2002 (missing; Viva Doraisingham, Vae Eli, Jerry & Linda Praetzel and Dan Sneed)

LETTERS

✉ We, a group of 'old' YWAM gals, meet on a regular basis. The other day we were sharing about how much your March-June 2002 issue blessed us. 'Spiritual Miscarriage' by Joe Ferrante really touched us where we were hurting. Thank you!
 – Cathy Crowell

✉ Last year our first big wave of YWAMers came home and one of them led a group that included other interested people, in a weekly time of prayer and fellowship here at my house. Returning missionaries had a place to share, those of us that are interested in missions could participate, and we prayed for each other and were actually looking at doing a short-term local missions outreach. Then, God called three of the kids back to YWAM.

Sadly, no other YWAMers stepped up to lead, and the group dissipated. We are trying again. The new wave that just returned includes some very gifted young men and women, hungry for God. We (our Missions Board) are once again encouraging them to gather; we are providing them with Re-Entry books and we are trying to get them connected in a ministry at church. They will each be welcomed back individually at a Church staff meeting and have a time of sharing and debriefing. We also have a "Welcome Home" event coming up at the church where they will speak and we will express our love for them. It will be a night of music, prayer, food and fellowship!

Their hunger for God has shaken me from my complacency and taught me so much. Their passion is contagious!

How do we, the Mothers & Fathers, help these kids to keep the fire alive? How can we best support them as they now go back to school; begin working; or prepare to return to the mission field? How can we help them to continue to know God in a deeper way and keep Him Lord of their lives? Is it important for them to develop their group without interference? If it begins to wane should we step up to help organize, or just sit back and encourage?

– Leslie Parish

[Ed's note: Great questions! You're doing a whole lot of things right. Keep on asking, and God will give you the answers for each person and for each situation.]

Profound AND Pithy

some wisdom
from somewhere

Is the quality of my life dependent on the actions of others?

There is nothing you can ever do to make God love you more.
 There is nothing you can ever do to make God love you less.
 – Joe Ferrante

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough – and more.
 – Melody Beattrey

Am I grateful for what I have, content in my circumstances? Is it possible that until I am, my life will be empty?

Hurting people hurt people.
 Healed people heal people.

Joy is not the absence of sorrow, it is the presence of God.

Evangelism is nothing more than one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.

Upcoming inTouch Gatherings

Kona, Hawaii – Nov 17-23

Health for the Whole Person – a focused gathering for those in the healthcare and counseling ministries. With Dr Bruce Thompson.

Matamata, New Zealand – Jan 5-11

With Peter & Donna Jordan

Sydney, Australia – Jan 12-18

With Tom Hallas, Peter & Donna Jordan

Singapore – April 9-13

With Frank Naea, Peter & Donna Jordan

Richardson Springs, CA – June 8-14

Details next time...

Europe – July-Aug

Sweden, England & Switzerland
 Stay tuned for dates & speakers

Gatherings led by Peter & Donna Jordan



TRUE HOSPITALITY!

In May, I spoke for a week on Listening to God, at Onnuri church in Seoul, Korea, a church of approximately 27,000. As I finished, and just the day before I was to fly to Kona to minister in a DTS, I got a terribly infected right ear. I was immediately hospitalized and put on intravenous for seven days and nights. I was about to learn true 'hospitality'.

When the doctors said I had no choice but to be admitted I had a good cry, then God's peace came, and He said, "You have been hit by the enemy; always remember, in all things I work for the good of those who love Me and who have been called according to My purpose." The enemy hates me teaching on 'Listening to God' because he does everything he can do to stop us from having intimacy with God.

Korean Christians are a committed people – a praying people – and they are hungry to know how to listen to God. Like all of us in God's family, they can be kept busy, busy, busy doing good things, but not necessarily doing God's best; and they too can be driven by needs, programs, position, numbers, even by giftings, instead of waiting on Him and listening to Him.

I have never experienced such amazing hospitality and love as when I spent that week in hospital. Peter the apostle says, "The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply... Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (1 Peter 4:7-9)

Someone was always with me - sometimes several people. A young woman slept in my room, washed my hair; others filled the room with balloons, prayed and prayed and prayed for me; and worshiped around the bed; and brought an abundance of food so we could share with each other. On the final day, the leaders of the church sent my dear friend who is a pastor and a YWAM Associate, to pay the bill and make sure all financial needs were taken care of.

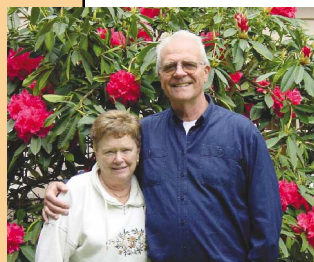
This is what my Korean family taught me; "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Rom 12:12-13

Then the added blessing, the frosting on the cake! Two days after my release from hospital, the day before I was to return home, my pastor friend and I were given tickets to the World Cup football game between the U.S. and Korea! What a joy and privilege to be part of that sporting celebration, as three young men from Onnuri church, played on the Korean team. We are believing that someday Korean stadiums will be filled with people worshipping Jesus!

Thank you my Korean family, for modeling true hospitality.

Love & Blessings,

Donna



Peter's Pet Peeves

Do you have 'pet peeves'? Irritating stuff that really bugs you? Way back in the dim and distant past of YWAM Kona, I used to express my 'pet peeves' at Staff Meetings. I tried to do it humorously, but I was really trying to make a point. Though I attempted not to be judgmental, I probably didn't always succeed, because by their very nature, peeves are about annoying things that *other* people do, or don't do. They're never about *me!* (Oh my! I would *never* peeve anyone, would I?)

To this day, people from that era in Kona come up to me, and say, "I'll always remember your pet peeves at Staff Meetings." What a way to be remembered! So, if they're that memorable, I might as well update my list for the benefit of all (though actually, as I think about it, I don't get nearly as peeved as I used to; well, maybe not). Here we go:

1. Newsletters that begin with, "We're sorry we haven't written for so long..." If you haven't written for so long, why not? Communicating with friends and loved ones is a priority, and only the gravest of circumstances should stop you from staying in touch with people who care about you.
2. Moms & Dads who are inconsistent in their child-rearing values and are therefore inconsistent in the way they discipline their kids. This can lead to anarchy in the home.
3. Almost empty gas tanks. It really bugs me when I get in a vehicle and the fuel needle is just about on 'Empty.' Why is it so difficult to fill it up and then determine to keep it above the 1/2 full mark on the fuel gauge? Does this have something to do with a poverty mentality?
4. Litter. It is mostly for this that I am remembered in old Kona days. I was a bit fanatical about picking up every last piece of trash on the property. To me it was about ownership; even though hundreds of people lived there, that was *my* home, and *my* home should look inviting to others.
5. 'Dog ears' on pages of books. Bookmarks were designed for this duty – they are not a feature only found on the internet!
6. Left leftovers. I hate to see food thrown out from the fridge. My kids will never forget Sunday dinners – all the leftovers from the week thrown together and reheated. Waste not, want not. And finally, two more...

7. People who don't agree with me!
8. The lady over there to the left who keeps trying to push me off this page! (Just kidding, dear!)

Peter