

inTouch

YWAM ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED



THE LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

“What I said is not what you heard”

In the May edition of *eTouch*, (our monthly email – do you receive it?), I approached a sensitive subject. It was entitled ‘A Modest Proposal,’ and was a satirical look at the issue of why there are so few men, in proportion to the number of women, on the mission field – and indeed in the church as a whole.

My intention was purely and simply to challenge men – real men – to take a greater place in missions and in the church; and that it seemed as though men are not as responsive to God’s call to service, as are women. I went on to propose, tongue-in-cheek, that one answer to the problem – especially on the mission field – would be to encourage couples to take in single women as part of their families. I stopped short of advocating anything illegal, unscriptural or immoral, though if it had been pure satire, I might have done something mischievous!

Well, I wish you could read the responses I received – all the way from “one of the worst in a long time” to “bravo!” To say that I was confused, would not nearly describe the way I felt!

I quickly sent out an email of apology to those who I had offended, and followed that up with another one to all 3500 who receive *eTouch*; this last I called, “Unintended Consequences,” as it dealt with some of the issues that a number of people “heard me say.” Again, I asked forgiveness. My, oh my, was I unprepared for the more than 200 responses that came back! Almost all wrote that they totally understood the original article, realized

it was satire (it’s on our website). I was blessed that people were reading *eTouch*.

By writing this now, I don’t want this to be seen as a defense of what I did. I believe that I have learned some things from the experience that I want to pass along.

Satire, I have learned, is to be used very sparingly, if at all. This form of writing is designed to raise hackles and motivate people to look for the real message. Satire uses *irony, sarcasm or ridicule* in trying to make a point.

I discovered that satire cuts right across generations, cultures and relationships – although certain ages and cultures understand and appreciate it more than others. Brits especially, and their former colonials, get it (it must be that ‘dry’ sense of humor!) A woman of 81 got it, as did a young woman of 24; and people who know my heart, got it.

Here are some excerpts from people who ‘got it’ (in kindness and fairness, I will not quote the ‘others’).

Unfortunately we shy clear of controversy a little in the church - not wanting to be ‘negative’ or stir up enmity and strife and all that. So much so, that sometimes I think we walk namby-pamby around issues that need thoughtful analysis. Inadvertently and without malice, you have probably provoked far more discussion and thought than a religiously correct article would have done. Ask yourself permission to write something like that, and your caring, compassionate, sensitive self, will deny you the right; but make a mistake, and...! May much good come of it.
– Middle-aged Kiwi bloke

I am presently Chaplain at a University and I loved your article, you made me laugh out loud! Thank you again for your breath of fresh air!” – Spinster aged 42

Peter, relax I thought it was great, it gave me a good laugh that was well needed! Keep writing from the heart. – Woman

I forgive you on behalf of balding, real men everywhere.

I love it. It woke some people up from Evangelicalitis. – Psychologist

Sure, I knew what you meant all the time. I am 80 yrs old and I love satire.

Peter, my husband kind of likes the idea of having single women added to a family! I’ll have to beat him again!

As I sit in my cube preparing taxes, I wonder if I have to hear thunderbolts before I take a step to the field of missions. When will I stop worrying about my house and making money and other cobwebs like that? You can pray for a clear direction, and most of all guts to obey. – Man

If you’d like to receive the monthly *eTouch*, drop me a note at peter@ywamassociates.com My *intended consequences* were a) a recognition that women carry the majority of the load, and that, b) more men would be stirred up for God’s service.

The *unintended consequences* were unexpected. I can’t promise that I’ll never use satire again... I will always attempt to be edifying, interesting and accurate. So don’t be surprised if you run afoul of the *law of unintended consequences*! What you said might not be what they heard.

– Editor

WRITER NEEDED!



www.ywamassociates.com

Looking to grow in your creative writing ability? We have just such a need on our Team - for our website - someone who can convey the spirit of this ministry by writing and editing articles and features, so that we can provide a constantly interesting and updated site.

WANTED
ADDRESSES WANTED REWARD OFFERED!

Would you like us to mail *inTouch* to your friends? Send us their info - including their email address! If you send the most names, you win a book of your choice from our bookstore. (Speaking of email... do we have yours? If not, write us at info@ywamassociates.com and we'll have a draw from all the new email addresses that come in: also a book of your choice.)

DTS: A 'Hungering' Experience

by KEVIN MILLER

For many people, going to a Discipleship Training School is about gaining new skills and experiences they can apply back at their home church. However, upon emerging from five months of intense, spirit-filled community life, returning DTSers often find themselves disillusioned with the local church they once held so dear. What's the matter with these people, they wonder. Was this church always so 'dead'?

Fortunately, my wife, Heidi, and I had none of these frustrations upon our return from DTS this spring. The reason? Simple: Before we went to DTS we weren't even attending church. We already 'knew' it was dead. Some friends and I had even registered the domain name www.toomuchchurch.com, from which we planned to trumpet this fact.

Heidi and I each had our own beefs against the church. Heidi had gone through a terrible abuse experience at the hands of a former pastor that resulted in her being ostracized by her church and the community. And me? I was just too smart for the church. Burdened by a critical spirit, when I looked at the church, all I could see were the flaws.

At the same time, Heidi and I both knew something was desperately wrong with our lives. On the outside, we had a veneer of Christianity; but inside we were withering away. Strangely enough, we never considered looking to the church for help. We thought we needed to get with some Christians who were radical-you know, Christians like us.

Thus, we turned to DTS as a sort of 'spiritual re-hab' that we hoped would jump-start our lives.

Little did we realize that attending DTS would land us smack in the middle of the very institution we so loathed and feared-the church. At first, we wondered if we had made a mistake. But as time passed, our defenses began to fall, and soon we found ourselves drawn deeper into this Christian community. Before long, we couldn't get enough of life 'in the body.'

During this time, God also gently revealed the depravity of our own hearts. We came to realize that we were standing in judgment over the church when all the while we had failed to understand that we *were* the church. We were like football players who weren't even showing up at the

game, never mind giving their best effort on the field; and yet Heidi and I still felt we had the right to tell others how to play.

Needless to say, attending DTS was a humbling experience. But it was also a 'hungering' experience in that it ignited a strong desire to get involved with a local church once we got back home. We knew that was the only way we could satisfy the spiritual hunger that DTS had awakened. Now that we are home, we have no illusions about finding the perfect church. We know there will be problems wherever we attend-some of which will be caused by us. But we're still excited to see how God will use us to help build a Christian community that can truly transform society. We've had a taste of it at DTS. Now we're ready for the full meal deal.

Kevin & Heidi with Huw & Gretchen



Breaking Free by Judson Brohmer



Almost two years ago, we reported that Judson (Jay) Brohmer, husband, father, original King's Kid and award-winning aviation photographer, had died in the crash of a fighter jet. His wife Alessandra and their three kids, Stephanie, Juliana, and Sean, have just completed a Crossroads DTS. Alessandra has compiled a classy 'coffee table' book of many of Judson's best photographs, and we encourage you to go her website - and maybe purchase this great memorial to a real man of God. For more information www.ThinAirPublishing.com

inTouch readers can get a special price of US\$55 + S&H (regular price \$70) by calling Alessandra at 888 275-1202

LETTERS



& EMAIL

✉ I always read every word of *inTouch*! Thanks. This time I've read Donna's piece "Truly Mine" several times. As I was preparing for tonight's home group, I decided to translate it into Norwegian and use it as a starting point for sharing and seeking the Lord. I trust that is OK as it says "feel free to use anything from this publication..." on the back of *inTouch*.

It's been 15 years since we left YWAM - where we met and married - but the YWAM lifestyle and teachings have definitely influenced us and given us a common foundation in our relationship.

- Agnes M. Lid, Norway

Development of Deroche

We are very happy to announce that Mission Builders International has agreed to take on our long-prayed-for project, utilizing volunteer workers. As a bonus, Jim Miller who has been the architect and master planner for the whole Kona University of the Nations campus since 1978, has offered his services. Lynn Batterman is overseeing the project. Nothing but the best!

We expect to start construction soon on the planned Gathering & Retreat Center. This project, which will be a joint venture of YWAM Associates and Mountain Terrace Ministries, is intended for the use of the whole Body, and is expected to house up to 40 people in Prayer Cabins, a Center and Staff Housing. As you can imagine, there will be lots more prayer and planning needed from now on. If you would like to join us as a prayer partner in this adventure of faith, I will send you regular updates. Write or email me personally at peter@ywamassociates.com More than anything, we need an under-girding of prayer.

For our Vision Statement and ongoing developments, see our website www.ywamassociates.com

Soon we will need volunteer Mission Builders to come and help us build. We also need construction equipment and more specifically a heavy duty pickup truck right away. If you can help us, contact Dwight Greiner at dwright@ywamassociates.com or call 604 826-9937.



Profound AND Pithy

some wisdom from somewhere

If you're afraid of God, you don't fear God

Grace: the supernatural ability to cope in different situations with praise on our lips, thankful hearts and peace of mind.
- Joy Dawson

If talk is cheap and silence is golden, some of us should shut up and get rich!

The worker is more important than the work.
- Jean Darnall

The flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today.

Grown up love is wanting someone else's happiness as much as your own

Upcoming *inTouch* Gatherings

Richardson Springs, CA - June 8-14
With Donna (Listening To God) & Peter Jordan.
Contact: info@ywamassociates.com

Restenas, Sweden - July 6-12
With Kel Steiner and Donna & Peter Jordan. Contact: christinet@swipnet.se

Switzerland Family Camp - July 28-Aug 3
With Donna Jordan (Listening to God)
Contact: roy@ywamalps.org

Chatel, Switzerland for adults - August 17-23
With Albert & Reona (Peterson) Joly
Contact: roy@ywamalps.org

Kona, Hawaii - Nov 16-22
With Albert & Reona (Peterson) Joly and Peter & Donna
Contact: info@ywamassociates.com

New Zealand - Jan 4-10,
with Albert & Reona (Peterson) Joly and Peter. Contact dingle@clear.net.nz

Australia - Jan 18-23
Albert & Reona (Peterson) Joly and Peter
Contact: westfolk@ozemail.com.au

Donna's Corner

Mother's Day has just passed, and I love the way Jesus honored His mother. When He was nailed to the cross and dying, He looked down at His mother and John the disciple He loved, and He said, *Dear woman, here is your son*; and to John He said, *Here is your mother*. And from that time on John took Mary the mother of Jesus, into his home (John 19:26-27). Another time Jesus said, *Whoever does God's will is My brother and sister and mother* (Mark 3:35).

I am the birth mother to three girls; 'adopted' mother to a son; mother-in-law to two sons; and spiritual mother to hundreds of sons and daughters worldwide.

What makes us 'mothers and fathers'? We are to love, nurture, encourage, comfort, exhort, pray for and teach each child their heavenly Father's ways, so that they will listen to Him and walk in obedience to Him. True mothers want their kids to be greater in God than they ever were; and a true mother will do everything she can to help them please their Heavenly Father, so when they see Jesus face to face, He will say to them, "These are my sons and daughters in whom I am pleased." As a mother, that makes me want to cry and rejoice.

I want to tell you about one of these 'sons' I was privileged to teach in a DTS recently. A year ago he was found behind a garbage dump in a Muslim nation by an 'angel of mercy' in human form. He was dying. His legs were ulcerated, his mind deteriorated from drugs and he had no hope. He was refused admission to hospital because of his condition, so his 'angel' took him home.

While he was being healed in body, soul and spirit, he came to know Jesus. I wish you could meet that 'son' of mine. He has a heart of compassion and he reflects the love of Jesus. He listens to God and walks in obedience. He is a miracle of God. I believe the greatest miracle God does, is to change hearts.

The only gift this 'son' could give me was a letter he wrote to his own mother who has not seen him since his life is changed. It is entitled, *You are His Daughter*, and these are his exact words:

*Mum, if only you knew, what have I gone through.
Where was I before and where am I now
You would definitely thank God
For answering all your solemn prayers
My eyes get blurry with tears - as I am pouring my heart out
I am happier now mum, for someone have found me
This someone is He and He is very kind to me
First He seek me out
Literally picking me up behind a garbage dump
I was naked body and soul
For Satan had thoroughly rob me of everything
I was bleeding profusely - dying a certain death
Out of nowhere He came knocking at my door
In brokenness I let Him enter
And mum since then life has never been the same
I am saved and born again
How I long to tell you all that have happened
For I am going through the best time in my life
I am supposed to share everything with you
But I just could not right now.*

*For just like what happened to me earlier
God is waiting for the right timing
A son's prayer is most require
And his grace is for everyone
And this includes you mum
For you are my mum
My precious jewel
But still a daughter to Him our Savior
I want my mum.*

Please pray for his mother and that God will use him mightily with his family and people.

I'm writing as a father to you, my children. I love you and want you to grow up well, not spoiled. There are a lot of people around who can't wait to tell you what you have done wrong, but there aren't many fathers willing to take the time and effort to help you grow up (1 Cor 4:15 The Message).

How old do we have to be to be to become a father or mother?

Love,



and FINALLY...

The Power in Forgiveness

In the last inTouch, we took a look at Friendly Fire - that horrible phenomenon of war. In war, it's never intentional; but sadly, in the presumed safety of the church (the body of Christ), 'friendly' fire happens and can actually be very deliberate. Brothers and sisters kill, wound and maim each other by means of words, attitudes and actions. As Paul might have said, "This should not be so."

But since it does happen, forgiveness is our 'friendly fire-fighter'; it is perhaps the most powerful way to pour water on that fire; forgiveness brings wholeness and release. Forgiveness is the *only* way.

There are so many misconceptions about forgiveness, that it is often ignored as a means of release from the prison of unforgiveness.

Forgiveness is not an emotion; is never impossible; does not take more time than a decision; is not conditional on the offender asking for it (or on their eventual punishment); does not mean forgetting; and once may not be enough.

When forgiveness is extended, the pain does not disappear immediately. Healing takes time as with any wound or injury. Just do it, remembering, *Forgive us our sins as we forgive others*, which is closely followed by, *If you do not forgive... your Father will not forgive your sins*.

Forgiveness kick-starts healing - and even brings resurrection from the grave of unforgiveness.

Peter