

inTouch

WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THE MISSION

Times of Refreshing

by REONA (PETERSON) JOLY

While the notes of bellbirds resonate from the tall graceful gum trees just outside our room, I've decided to delay taking a swim and put pen to paper instead. For several years Albert and I read about *inTouch Camps (or Gatherings)*, taking place in different parts of the world and we wondered, "What must they be like?" Now, participating in our fifth camp... this one in the Blue Mountains, just west of Sydney, we wonder no more!

In one word, they are FANTASTIC! My one regret is that there are many thousands who are missing out; missing out on the rest and renewal, the fun and the fellowship; the time to reflect on the past and take stock of the present; and committing the future into the Lord's all-caring and all-capable Hands.

The daily schedule is such that while children have a program of their own in the mornings – the adults enjoy prolonged times of worship, prayer and teaching.

Afternoons are entirely free. In the evenings there is great variety offered... a luau in Hawaii, water balloon volleyball in Switzerland, an Aussie culture night around an imaginary campfire (the land is tinder-dry, so no fires!), talent nights, concerts and always a love feast on the final evening. The range of age and YWAM experience is broad – and folk who are just interested in YWAM are also welcome.

Jesus looked at His band of disciples

one day, and said to them, "Come apart and rest awhile." If that was necessary in His day, how much more in ours! In fact someone has humorously said... If we don't come apart, we will come apart!

The testimony of many at inTouch camps has been amazement that God can do so much in the space of five or six days. And the high percentage of those who return year after year, speaks volumes. However the proof of the pudding is in the eating! Don't take my word for it. Look ahead and plan to experience it for yourself this year – in Hawaii, in California or in Europe; in Singapore or Down Under in early 2005.

From the earliest days of our Mission, God made it clear that He was raising YWAM up to be a servant to the church. Many would come to a school, an outreach, a global event and return home. Others would spend a significant period – months or years – doing schools, staffing our bases and then also being led to do other things.

The bonds formed and the experiences shared, would shape our lives forever. Renewing friendships, reliving both precious (and yes, even painful YWAM experiences), recharging the batteries for what lies ahead – that's why YWAM Associates and inTouch camps exist. Don't miss out on what God in His love has planned for you!

We've had 100+ inTouch Gatherings in various parts of the world since 1990. See the line-up for this year on Page 3.



Reona (Peterson) Joly was an early YWAM pioneer, well known for her dangerous, but prayer-guided outreach to Albania in the early 70s. Her book 'Tomorrow You Die' came out of that experience. A Kiwi by birth, Reona's husband Albert is Swiss, with pastoral and administrative giftings. The Joly's now live in England.

**"Times of refreshing,
Here in Your presence,
No greater blessing
Than being with You;
My soul is restored,
My mind is renewed,
There's no greater joy, Lord,
Than being with You."**

– Marty Nystrom

Mercy Ships

Excerpts from a Report by YWAM's Global Leadership Team (GLT). The GLT is the eldership body that gives spiritual oversight to YWAM, guarding its vision and values.



August 2003

The M/V Anastasis and other vessels in Mercy Ships have visited ports all over the world, and YWAMers have always been very proud of these 'mobile bases.' Wonderful ministries have operated on and from the ships, and they have touched millions with medical and dental care, agricultural assistance, evangelism ministries, and much more.

Some years ago Mercy Ships felt that in order to achieve their goals, a change in governance was needed. Mercy Ships decided that in their case that authority would not rest with the GLT, but with their own international board.

We bless Mercy Ships and know that they will continue to bless the world.

For the full GLT Report, go to our website www.ywamassociates.com or contact us by email, or you may request a hard copy.

Note: Marine Reach, with one ship in the South Pacific, remains in YWAM.



A Cup of Cold Water

Here's the ultimate 'how to' of hospitality by Debbie Rottier who has been practicing the art for many years. To obtain this great guide to 'guesting' go to www.ywamconnect.com/sites/Rottier

LETTERS



& EMAIL

Re-Entry Pain

From: a dts grad

Date: february 23, 2003

To: my ywam friends

Subject: email from the home front - post dts (UNEDITED)

✉ it is friday night around 11:30 and i find myself able to do nothing but sit here at my computer thinking about the things that have been clouding my mind and relationship with God. tonight I saw the movie 'phone booth'... for those of you who haven't seen it, don't... it sucks. However, for some strange reason it made me think about a lot of things. this guy is being held in a phone booth by a sniper until he confesses all of the lies that he has told to everyone. there was a point in the movie where he completely broke down crying on national television confessing the reasons that he was a phony... it broke me. i need prayer. i don't know what exactly i am trying to accomplish by writing this email, but i know that i have not been completely transparent lately. i need prayer. my pride is taking over and I have been trying to find happiness through the things that the world is offering me, yet at the same time knowing in my head that I cannot find this happiness except through Jesus so i have been playing the role of the perfect little christian who leads a small group and goes to church like 3 times a week, I must be walking with God then... no. well, i don't feel like i have stepped away from God, i know he is here and i call upon him in brokenness occasionally but i am now realizing that it is going to be harder than i thought to live here at home and let him guide my every step. i miss my dts family... i feel like there is no one around me any longer who i can come to, putting my pride aside, and ask for prayer... that is why i am writing this email... i need to get this out... i need to confess. i feel like i want to run away, run away to the ywam bubble and do mission adventures or softm... it is so hard to accept that that is not what God wants for me right now... I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE... i feel like i will feel more of him somewhere else, but i know he wants me to be strong here... i am not strong, i am the weakest person i know, maybe it is because i know myself and my weakness more and more every day. God won't let me forget what i have learned about myself at dts, and about him. to be more specific, i am struggling with relationships... i find myself getting discouraged around people... i know i shouldn't expect people to lift me up, but the people around me, i feel, sometimes use me as their crutch... i can't hold them up and they expect me to... it's wearing me down. it could be me just putting this pressure on myself and trying to play God. pray that God would speak to me clearly and break down these walls of pride that are so clearly in front of me. thank you, i love and miss you all.



I feel that this message, 'this cry for help,' this need for 'team-ship,' is not uncommon amongst returning missionaries. What is your take on this?

– Ed

✉ Just had to say how much we enjoyed and appreciated the latest *inTouch!* We especially related to, and were inspired by John Dawson's article, *My Big Fat Multi-cultural Family.*

We are blessed with a great inheritance and a wealth of experiences and relationships from our history with YWAM.

– Beth Bachran

A Cure for Re-Entry Pain

(a response to the last edition of *inTouch* about Adoption)

The World at My Doorstep & the Seasons of My Life

✉ Thirteen years ago when I left YWAM I was overwhelmed with sadness, thinking my days of exciting ministry for the Lord were over. I had just spent ten great years with YWAM in Europe, Asia and at U of N in Hawaii. I was a 35 year-old single woman joining the workforce again in what seemed to be the boring heartland of the USA: Columbus, Ohio.

God had great surprises for me. I connected with a terrific international student ministry, working with our local university campus. I had a blast inviting small groups of Chinese students over for dinner and taking them camping. Ten of the students I was sharing with became Christians. At the age of 42 God brought a wonderful man, Gary, into my life through a singles ministry. Suddenly my personal missions focus became the *wives* of the international students who often couldn't speak English, so I helped start an ESL (English as a Second Language) class.

During this time, Gary and I felt God wanted us to have children. After fertility treatments failed, we pursued international adoption. We signed on with a terrific agency, requesting an infant son from Russia. Alex was six months old when we brought him home from Moscow. What a treasure he is to us. Alex also opened a new avenue of ministry to me: reaching out to international student *mothers*. I helped a good friend start an international student version of MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers.) Through MOPS meetings, motherhood has opened doors for me into the hearts of mothers from China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Turkey and Egypt.

So, if you've just left YWAM, save your tears. You probably have the world at your doorstep. With God's help you can minister to foreigners in your own land, making the most of the season of life you are in.

As I write this I smell the scent of the fresh lavender paint on the walls. We are converting our office into a little baby girl's nursery. At the age of 46, I am waiting for a photo from Russia of a baby girl that will be Alex's little sister. I never dreamed that God could do so much for me after my incredible years in YWAM.



Kathy & Gary, Sarah & Alex

STOP THE PRESS!

(Late January 2004)

We have just returned from our second trip to Russia – this time with seven-month old Sarah, that sister for Alex.

– Kathy (Warden) Davis

For Kathy's complete story, go to www.ywamassociates.com



Get Refreshed - Hawaiian Style!

Kona, Hawaii

March 7-13, 2003 with Dan Sneed

Dan Sneed, noted and funny raconteur, self-deprecating and ever-popular DTS speaker, is also a member of YWAM Associates Board of Directors. Dan has a powerful up-to-date message and the Lord often graces him with words of knowledge. Ask the Lord if you can come!

**Profound
AND
Pithy**
*some wisdom
from somewhere*

Only the dishonest fear the truth.

An unguarded strength is a double weakness.

Following are some "Bon mots" (good words) from a week with Reona Joly...

A Bible that is falling apart is usually owned by someone who is not.

Obedience without intimacy, is simply rule-keeping.

Joy is peace dancing;
Peace is joy resting.

Upcoming *inTouch* Gatherings

Kona, Hawaii – March 7-13

With Dan Sneed, Peter & Donna
Contact: info@ywamassociates.com
or write or call Laurie: 604 826-9937

Chico, California – June 6-12

With John Bills, Frank Naea and Peter & Donna.
Contact: info@ywamassociates.com
or write or call Dawn Michelle:
604 826-9937

Restenas, Sweden – July 11-17

With Albert & Reona (Peterson) Joly and Peter. Contact Christine:
info@ywamrestenas.se

Switzerland – July 24-31

With Peter & Donna Jordan
Contact:
Roy: jem_intouch@swissinfo.org

Switzerland – Aug 29-Sept 4

(Adult Gathering)
Speaker to be announced
Contact:
Roy: jem_intouch@swissinfo.org

Singapore – Sept 5-8 (Chinese) Sept 9-13 (English)

With Peter & Donna Jordan
Contact:
intouchgathering2004@yahoo.com

Your Job

When you left YWAM, you were called back to your city to be 'salt and light' (Matt.5:13-16) - as an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, a teacher or a pastor. You are called back, *to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature* (Eph 4:11-16).

When you leave YWAM, you can be a powerful source of bringing restoration and reconciliation in your city and nation. All that is required is that you listen to God, then walk and talk in obedience to Him. The place where you function in ministry is the place of your occupation, not just in 'church' activities. If you see it that way, what you are doing will become far more fruitful and fulfilling.

Know this – that you are called back to your city by God in order to reflect Jesus. It is so fulfilling to see others restored in their relationship with the Lord, and then going on to bear fruit for Him. The Lord doesn't want 'the fruit' of YWAM to be wasted; He wants it to reproduce.

You should be able to prophesy or function in any of the gifts or ministries of the Spirit, just as easily on Monday morning on the bus or train; or around the lunch table, in your office or in your home, just as you do on Sundays.

Be careful about saying, "Thus saith the Lord." Just say and do what Jesus tells you to say and do, listening to Him throughout the day. You can simply teach through your lifestyle, pastoring or 'shepherding' those around you, evangelizing those who are lost and creating with God through intercession; in other words, include Him in all that you do.

You were called to be in YWAM 'short term,' but He has given you 'long term' vision, which is to see *His Kingdom come, His will be done*, and this includes making disciples of all nations.

That's your job.

Love,




Change is Here to Stay

You've probably heard that hoary old question, "How many Lutherans (or Baptists - or pick a denomination), does it take to change a light bulb?"

The answer of course is "Change??" – with the implication being, "Why would we change anything? We've done it this way since we started, and it's never been a problem. If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Just the other day, I heard from a friend that someone had moved the piano six feet at her local church. There was a huge outcry at the next meeting! Churches have split over such great issues – and less!

It sometimes seems as though the very foundational doctrines of the faith are being undermined if we modify or change any old holy cow to do with our 'sacred' activities. (Remember the man who hotly exclaimed, "If the King James Version was good enough for Paul, it's good enough for me!")

In YWAM, we often pride ourselves on our flexibility – being able to adjust to changing circumstances. And boy, do we get tested on that one! We leaders may even use the 'need for flexibility' as an excuse for poor planning more often than we care to admit.

It reminds me of the introduction of 'birdseed' to YWAM Kona back in the late 70s. (For the uninitiated, I should tell you that birdseed was a buffet of breakfast blessing brought to us by none other than Graham Kerr, the former Galloping Gourmet.)

This mélange of all sorts of seeds, grains and other goodies such as lecithin, yogurt, honey and brewer's yeast, became the breakfast of champions for many years. We became champions alright! Champions of excellent digestive processes – but I have to tell you, there was a lot of whinging and whining before we got used to it – and maybe some of us never did. Many a cry was heard, "Bring back our white bread!"

Why do we resist change? It's because we get familiar with the familiar. Early Christians didn't have time to develop theologies on the placement of furniture or the kind of food they ate – they were too busy growing in relationship with God and each other, winning the lost and enduring persecution. And maybe that's what we need today! Stuff that take us out of our comfort zones.

Are you ready to change old habits? You know, those fixed positions in your life that have little to do with real Kingdom living? Do you ever ask the question, "What would Jesus do – or what would He say?"

Blessings,

