

# inTouch

WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED THE MISSION

## What Might Have Been - an anonymous lament

[This inTouch is mostly devoted to letters and emails we received in response to our last edition. If you missed it, go to our web site or request a copy from us.]

I've been reading the DTS grad's 'Re-entry Pain' in the March inTouch and trying to figure out why it touched me so. It's not just returning missionaries that need extra support. Her disappointment in 'life outside the YWAM bubble,' stirs up some old pains from our own YWAM experiences... disappointment being the operative word.

20 years ago, my wife and I, with two youngsters, wanted all we could get from our DTS - a pioneer school at a new base. We knew God wanted us there, and we were encouraged to come, even though the money wasn't there. We knew we were prayed about before being accepted.

Hoo-boy, we had some faith!

Some talented musicians and speakers in our school got distracted by ministry opportunities during the lecture phase. Move them to the front! Others were doing DTS because they had to. They were already committed to staff positions and just wanted to get through so they could get on to *real* ministry.

Some got badly hurt but went on to good works anyway; they reached for the deep truth of deep change that God designed into the DTS program. Some just kind of disappeared. Others just wanted to get their problems fixed and when they didn't, they turned their backs on God and everybody else - the change would hurt too much - so they crashed.

My wife and I watched the outreach bus leave without us, even though we held on to faith up to the last minute. Somebody somewhere was supposed to send us, but they didn't. So the direction of our lives changed.

DTS had cracked the surface for the deep change we craved. We had no idea what to hope for anymore, just convinced that somehow God would vindicate and heal us. Little did we know how much more disappointment we were in for - at our own hands and the hands of others.

We loved what YWAM was doing and wanted so much to be part of it. We lived next door to the base, so we went to seminars and community meetings. We tried to keep friendships going but we saw the 'YWAM bubble' from the outside. We'd push up against it and try to get in... "Sorry, you're not one of us." What? I thought this was the Body!

Swallowing bitterness and disappointment, we moved on, had a son, then

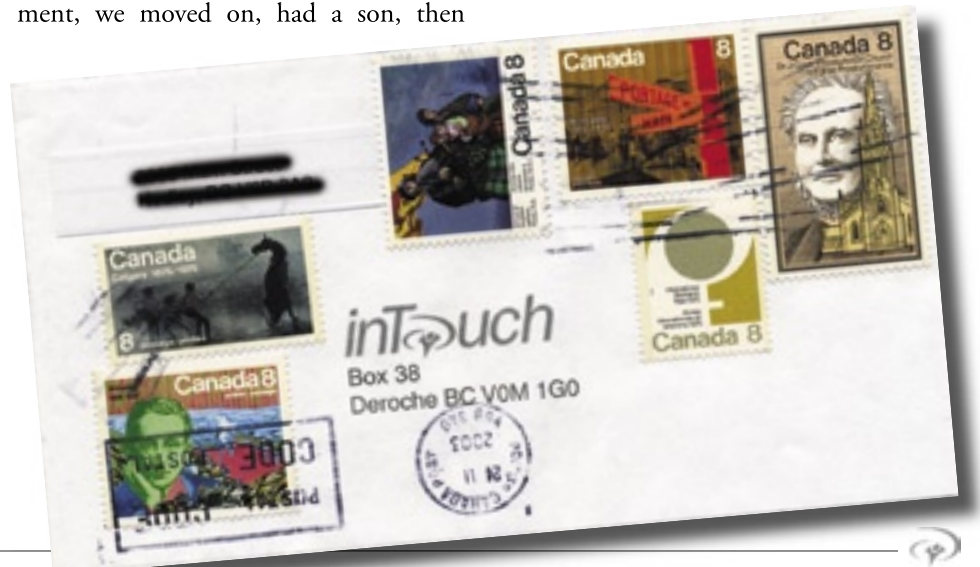
entered the fray of making money and getting in debt and home-schooling and wrestling with sin and trying to be part of whatever God was doing in our proximity, all the while trying to live a full Christian life. They say that YWAM ruins you for the ordinary. Is that positive or negative?

In 18 years, we still haven't been able to stay with a church for more than a few months. We're not malcontents; we just wanted more of God and His Body in fellowship, and we wanted to 'belong.' We always held on for the sake of people we'd gotten to know, but then we always left because the church and its leaders were not willing to go any deeper with God.

Please don't judge us. The deep calling we felt so many years ago is deeper and stronger and closer, but right now I echo the DTS grad who expressed such re-entry pain, "I don't want to be here."

I guess what I'm trying to communicate

*continued over...*



## CityGatherings in Singapore & Arizona

Gwenda Loong in Singapore, and Dale & Evie Buehring in Phoenix, are holding regular YWAM Associates CityGatherings with visiting YWAM speakers. Hong Kong will start soon. Contact us for more information: [info@ywamassociates.com](mailto:info@ywamassociates.com)



YWAM Associates International Board Meeting, Deroche, BC  
May 14, 2004

## Global Target Network

Dave Gustaveson is establishing this network of alumni leaders in cities in North America to mobilize churches to reach strategic outreach targets. ACTS teams (Associates Called To Service) will lead global and local outreaches, prayer movements and discipleship training. [globaltargetnetwork@ywamconnect.com](mailto:globaltargetnetwork@ywamconnect.com) or [www.globaltargetnetwork.com](http://www.globaltargetnetwork.com)

## WHAT WE WANT FROM YOU!



- Your email address (if we don't have it).
- Names & Addresses (postal & email) of your friends who served in YWAM – and of course, your new address if you move.

*an anonymous lament continued from page 1*

is my frustration with the Body of Christ. Too much of the church's (and YWAM's) attention is focused on making sure we look good. Isn't that sinner stuff? We really don't want the fellowship of His suffering. The rejection and misunderstandings are to be avoided at all costs, right? It's likely I would not have chosen these paths if I'd known what would happen.

But what I've learned and re-learned and will probably have to learn again is that my goals *cannot* be in this gigantic 'reality' show. As much as I'd love to have nice stuff and faithful friends, and sometimes my heart breaks that I don't, my will is slowly setting firmer and stronger on the real reality – His Presence, His Love, His acceptance of me the way I am, warts and all.

I still live my life kind of like Eeyore, I'm sorry, but there is still a bitterness. I can't afford one of your wonderful-sounding *InTouch Gatherings*. All the good stuff:

the seminars and Christian cruises with dynamic teachers, all of that is out of reach to us "the down and out but holding on."

I'd love to have a break – maybe a spiritual massage for my wounds; or to have someone faithful walk me through all the things I already know; to let go of being a victim. A vacation! Do I get one on this side of heaven? Maybe so, maybe not.

Will all the powerful promises and dreams come true? Maybe so, maybe not. I guess it doesn't matter. It's not about me. Or you. Or all our hurts. It's about Jesus. He took the pain He knew was coming.

For the joy set before Him... For the joy set before me, will I hold on? Will I go on through the pain and loneliness to the joy?

Why does it seem like I have to go alone? Can't I have help? Someone to walk with?

Isn't the foundation of what we do in His name built on how we care for each other?

In Him... still.

– Name withheld by Editor

## More Letters and Emails...

✉ 'Re-entry Pain' struck a chord – that was my experience when I left YWAM about 11 years ago to return to the work force and the church.

I was immediately appointed to lead and serve, and I quickly realized that people work and think from different principles than what I was taught in YWAM.

After some struggles, one piece of advice I was given was that whatever life principle I learned from YWAM, I should share it without mentioning its source – non-YWAMers can be defensive about such things. Sad but true, it's hard for them to receive. I learned to adapt and move on.

Once a YWAMer, always a YWAMer. After all these years, my notes from DTS and IBC are still in my 'library of reference' when I teach. The principles and discipline that were laid in my life have been the foundation of my Christian faith.

– Name withheld by request - from SE Asia

✉ The 'Re-Entry Pain' letter from 'a DTS grad,' grabbed my attention. I was in YWAM twice, the first time for seven years (then three years back home), then five years back in. It was truly different being out of the community after those first seven years, and it was at times difficult. But I had already begun going through a "dark night of the soul" time while still in YWAM, so being in or out wasn't the issue.

The issue was my heart's cry for intimacy with the Lord. Everything else started to fade in importance for me. God began stripping away a lot of stuff that I thought was Him, but which were really religious ways and trappings. I thought I had learned the lesson about Martha and Mary, but I found I was just beginning.

That insight – sitting at Jesus' feet as the better part – grows



more profound with the years. The Lord has recently taken things even further for me through the film *The Passion of the Christ*. I want to say to that dear DTS grad, "He is in you. In fact, you've died and your life is hidden with Christ in God (as Paul states). Fix your focus on Jesus; ask Him to make you hungry for Him alone."

– Kathy McMillan, Georgia



✉ **Re-Entry Pain...** My family and I served with YWAM on two occasions. Our last term of service was 11 years in London, establishing and directing a residential rehabilitation centre for men with drug & alcohol problems. Prior to leaving we were on the London leadership team, teaching and preaching regularly.

When we returned to Australia we seemed to fall into a very large pit. Suddenly I was not a leader in a large city, or anywhere else for that matter; I was not being asked to teach or preach anywhere and I was the only person who seemed to know how incredibly important I was (my honest, but ugly thoughts at the time.) The struggle lasted many months. I learned just how much of my self-worth came from the things I did and the position I held, instead of from Father. God allowed the pain for me to grow so I could see things in their proper perspective.

After going through this period, Father has led us to begin a new work here in Australia. We now run a counselling and support ministry for individuals and families struggling with drug & alcohol problems. We are a professional body and 80% of our clients are church-related families; we have the awesome privilege of walking down a long and painful road with many of them.



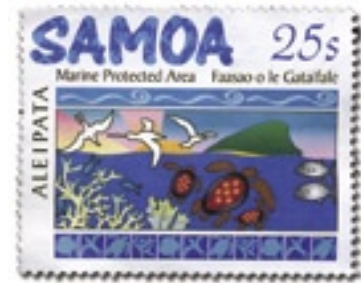
My wife June, who is a trained nurse, has just started a midwifery course with a view to working in Asia. What have I learnt? That the term, 'Re-entry' is only part of the equation. We need to look beyond our immediate pain to where Father is taking us. I would suggest that the full equation looks like this:

*Re-Entry, Re-Cover, Re-View, Re-Fresh and Re-Focus.*

One of the great lessons from "The Lord of The Rings" is that everybody had to do their part, even when they were unsure if others were doing theirs. Let's make

sure that we are all doing what Father has shown us to do, trusting that He knows how it all fits together.

– Warwick Murphy, Australia



## Refresh - Hawaiian Style!



**Kona, Hawaii**  
**November 14-20, 2004**  
**with John Dawson**  
and Peter & Donna Jordan  
Joellyn Wright, worship leader  
Contact: [laurie@ywamassociates.com](mailto:laurie@ywamassociates.com)

# AND Profound Pithy

some wisdom  
from somewhere

The Kingdom of God is structured by gifts of friendship.

– John Dawson

Make new friends – and keep the old  
One is silver – the other is gold.

Hearing is with the natural ear but  
listening is with the heart.

– Donna Jordan

If your ministry (read: job) doesn't have  
challenges, you may not have a ministry.

A point of view is a view from a point.

– John Dawson

### Upcoming *inTouch* Gatherings

#### **Restenas, Sweden – July 11-17**

With Albert & Reona Joly & Peter.

Contact Christine:

[christine.terrasson@ywamrestenas.se](mailto:christine.terrasson@ywamrestenas.se)

#### **Switzerland – July 24-31**

With Peter & Donna Jordan

Contact Roy: [jem\\_intouch@swissinfo.org](mailto:jem_intouch@swissinfo.org)

#### **Dalarna, Sweden – August 1-7**

With Alv Magnus, YWAM Regional

Director for Northern Europe

Contact Lotta: [lotta.stevens@ywam.se](mailto:lotta.stevens@ywam.se)

#### **Switzerland – Aug 29-Sept 4**

**(Adult Gathering)**

With Daniel Schaerer

Contact Roy: [jem\\_intouch@swissinfo.org](mailto:jem_intouch@swissinfo.org)

#### **Singapore – 1. Sept 5-8 (Mandarin)**

**2. Sept 9-13 (English)**

With Donna & Peter Jordan

1. [mandarinrenewalcamp@yahoo.com](mailto:mandarinrenewalcamp@yahoo.com)

2. [intouchgathering2004@yahoo.com](mailto:intouchgathering2004@yahoo.com)

#### **Sydney, Australia – Jan 2-8**

With Peter & Donna (speaker TBA)

Contact Peter West:

[westfolk@ozemail.com.au](mailto:westfolk@ozemail.com.au)

#### **Matamata, New Zealand – Jan 9-15**

With Bruce Thompson & Peter & Donna

Contact Dianne: [dingle@clear.net.nz](mailto:dingle@clear.net.nz)

## Truth

Knowing our God is our most important priority for the days ahead.

We get to know Him by abiding in Him, reading His word and listening to the Holy Spirit who is living within us. He is the Spirit of **truth** and He will lead us into **all truth** (John 16:13).

Jesus kept saying, "I tell you the **truth**" (read the book of John). He is the Way, the **truth** and the Life (John 14:6). His **truth** will set us free (John 8:32 & 36).

When you listen to **truth**, you will have peace beyond your understanding and He will remind you of everything He said to us (John 14:26). He is the Counselor and He will teach us and guide us into **all truth**. He will comfort us with **truth**, bringing hope and healing.

We as God's people, have listened to so many lies. The enemy has been out to rob, kill and destroy us, but Jesus came and sent His Spirit to give us life more abundantly (John 10:10).

We have listened to the voice of others so much, and that has brought legalism, tradition and bondage.

A lot of what we do in 'the church,' has little to do with what Jesus said to do.

Listen to Him. Be led by him (Romans 8:14-18). He will reveal **truth** and the **truth** will set you free.

Love,




## A Couple of Shorties...

### The Times They Are A-changin'

Last time, we talked about our natural resistance to change – with special reference to The Galloping Gourmet's introduction of the breakfast buffet we called 'birdseed.' In the early 70s, I read a big fat paperback called Future Shock, by Alvin Toffler - a secular prophet back then. You could summarize in one sentence what it took Toffler about 800 pages to say... "Get used to change because change is going to happen, and it's going to happen faster and faster."

An elderly man who was set in his ways, came to YWAM Kona years ago, ran afoul of Graham Kerr's birdseed and was heard to proclaim, "I'll never eat that stuff!" After a few days, hunger got the better of him and he gave birdseed a try, becoming an instant fan, showing up early for breakfast every day. It seems that his normal diet had been white bread, peeled potatoes and steak; every day. Though his dietary routine had been regular, other matters were not.

### Quality Time

We talk a lot about having 'quality time' with our kids and our spouses. You know, five minutes of total focus on the kids before Dad (and/or Mom) go off to work (not to return until the little ones have gone to bed), will just not do. Donna doesn't come into my office in the mornings and say, "OK, Peter, you have my undivided attention for the next ten minutes. Talk to me."

Quality is good, but I'd like to suggest that quantity time is more important (which doesn't mean that 'quantity time' lacks quality).

Your kids – and your spouse – need to be with you plenty, and be able to observe you in all aspects of your life. Five or ten minutes a day does not disciple your kids rightly – except to model an absentee parent. (Nor would a few minutes together a day, continue the growth of an intimate relationship with your spouse!)

Preachers of 'quality time' sound to me like they're saying you should be willing to share a little chunk of your life with someone, but only on your terms and while you're on your best behavior.

Our families need to see us in our weaknesses as well as in our strengths – ready to humble ourselves, even to our kids when we blow it; and instant to forgive (or discipline in love; or give grace), when others make a mess.

When you're courting, you're never satisfied by just a little 'quality time' with your sweetie. You want lots of hours together – that's how relationships blossom and grow. And that shouldn't change after marriage and when the kids come along.

As a child of God, you have 24 hours of every day with Him. How much of that is quality time? King David understood... read Psalm 63:1-8. He started early (verse 1); he recognized God was a part of his whole day (verses 2-5); and he meditated on Him at night (verse 6).

David spent great quantities of time in God's presence. Shouldn't we?

