

SPADER'S APRIL UPDATE

GLOBAL YOUTH INITIATIVE

Inspiring Indigenous movements of multiplication...by focusing leaders' attention on the Life of Christ...multiplying from everywhere to everywhere

Recently, while studying Luke I was reminded that there are only two times when the Lord was "amazed". Both times were connected to faith! Once, in His hometown, He was amazed at their "lack of faith" (Mark 6:6) and then in Luke 7:9 he was amazed at the Centurion's "great faith".

My hearts cry... my deep passion... and my confidence is that through the alliance of GYI over the next few years that the Lord will look down and truly be amazed at "great faith". My wildest dream over the next few years is to have the Lord.... at least a couple of times... stop the activity of heaven and say with a smile to his angels..."Look. Look. Did you see that...what great faith!"

That is what I believe He wants out of the ministries of GYI and that is how I will seek to live and lead in GYI. It is going to be fun, challenging, and sacrificial! The alliance we are creating will probably be different than anything in the past, but it will be deeply rooted in seeking to bring Him great pleasure...a pleasure that will come from displays of great faith (Heb. 11: 6).

Again this month, I will report what is happening in the seven major priorities of my role as President of GYI.

DEFINING VISION AND STRATEGY

I have spent the month in a rich time of prayer and fasting (I did a modified soup fast ☺), asking the Lord for his direction. I sensed God clearly giving me some short-term priorities and goals. Amos 3:7 tells us that the Lord "does nothing without revealing His plans to His servants". It was fun to take extended time to listen and hear what I believe the Lord is saying. (*If you would like the details of this short-term plan, let me know and I will gladly send these goals to you*).

After extended time in prayer, I continue to sense that the Lord wants us to aggressively go after the following two major BHAG's (Big Holy Audacious Goals):

1. By 2020 to have some level of movements of multiplication in at least 100 countries around the globe. Presently we are in 43.
2. To trust the Lord for 100,000 emerging young leaders to be raised up and sent out—from everywhere to everywhere. This will involve each country leader involved in raising up and sending out emerging leaders in obedience to the Great Commission.

Please pray for: Our GYI meetings in Costa Rica April 12-20 where our leadership team will be working on the long-term vision in more detail.

IDENTIFYING LEADERSHIP

Each day I have had the privilege of answering 20-40 e-mails from leaders around the world. I have marveled at how rapidly the Lord is opening doors. Very honestly, I felt that it has been a "month of miracles".... let me give you just one illustration. Two weeks ago I received this e-mail from Kuwait:

"My name is Pastor Dan Waterman and I am a pastor at the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait. I am one of the pastors of the English Language Congregation. We are one of 55 churches that meet in 27 different languages on a compound in the heart of Kuwait city. We are experiencing phenomenal church growth here. The English language congregation is over 2000 people and the combined attendance of all the churches who meet in our buildings is in the vicinity of 20,000 per week. The English language congregation has people from 30 different countries and at least 50 different denominations. Each month the English Language congregation alone baptizes approximately 10-20 people from 5-6 different faith backgrounds.

Although our adult ministry is booming, our youth ministry is still in a very primitive state. Years ago I took the Sonlife Strategies course as part of my seminary training under John Wilkinson at Ontario Theological Seminary. I was considering sending one of our youth leaders for training when I suddenly had an idea...would it be possible for you to send us a trainer and work with us personally.”

Obviously this becomes an exciting opportunity. They anticipate bringing together over 100 leaders from their 55 churches. Since we have been praying for a beachhead in the Middle East, this became an unexpected answer to prayer. As I was working on November training dates, I received another e-mail from one of our best trainers in Michigan, letting me know that God was calling them to work with Youth For Christ in Oman (near Saudi Arabia). They plan to leave in August. YFC wanted the Sonlife training offered there in the churches they work with.

In a matter of a couple of weeks, the Lord orchestrated an incredible opportunity in Kuwait, plus raised up one of our trainers to live in the area...providing ongoing training and coaching. What a GOD THING!

Please pray for: The scheduling and coordination of this Kuwait training and the establishment of a key ministry leader in the Middle East.

COACHING LEADERS

One of our supporters graciously allowed me to use their second home in Galena to work on a paper to present at GYI. It turned out to be an incredible study on the “role of suffering in the life of Christ”. This paper will be presented in Costa Rica and eventually will be on our web site for emerging leaders to use. *If you would like a copy of this...just let me know and I would be glad to send you a copy...it is 25 pages long but I can easily e-mail it to you. ☺*

This month, while meeting with a young leader, the Lord also allowed me the opportunity to share the gospel and see this friend trust Christ. Nothing in the world compares to that privilege! Your prayers make those opportunities possible!

TRAINING IN CHRIST'S STRATEGY

I received some great reports from Sonlife training going on around the world this month:

- **In Singapore** we had over 60 leaders from several different countries at our “Disciplemaking” conference. We also had another 50 in training in Thailand.
- **In Poland and Slovakia**, Josiah Venture conducted two different youth conferences and had over 600 youth leaders in attendance.
- **In Africa** we had our regional leaders together and they trained our newly translated Foundations and Strategy seminar in French. (for a full report with pictures go to www.sonlifeafrica.com and click under newsletters.
- Just this morning I received a phone call from Latin America, with our leader there excited about two SEMPS (Uemps in Spanish)...our youth evangelism training...that was conducted this last week **in Panama City and Medellin, Columbia** (the center for the drug cartel).

And these are the events that I have heard about...I'm sure there are others done by our trainers which I have yet to hear about. In the near future, I hope to have a web site where these reports can be presented in detail...as it is so exciting to see what the Lord is doing around the globe.

Please pray for: Training I will be doing on the Sonlife campus April 4-8.

REPRESENTING GYI

Most of my efforts this last month continue to be focused on meeting with people and sharing the vision of GYI and my new role. I have had the privilege of meeting with 17 different people. Several of these have chosen to be supporters of GYI. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 a year of support, one third which will be salary, one third which will cover administrative and travel costs, and one third to be used as “third world trainers fund” to meet the training needs of third world leaders. At present I am encouraged to report that we are at 53.4% of that goal. PTL.

Please pray for:

- The remaining 47% that needs to be raised.
- That the Lord would provide exactly the supporters he desires, and that they would find great joy in the furtherance of His Kingdom through GYI

MOBILIZING RESOURCES

God allowed Char and I to have a great privilege this last month. One of our key leaders in GYI had a pressing financial need. Through the generosity of one of our supporters, they presented Char and I with a significant gift to be used for GYI. As Char and I prayed about this gift, we felt constrained to give a major portion of that gift to our GYI leader who had a need. It was with great joy that we were able to channel these funds to them...only to have those funds immediately replaced by the donor who gave another gift. God clearly used this situation to teach Char and I again, that He is a generous God. We were deeply moved by the generosity of the donor...and deeply humbled by God’s ongoing provision. Our God is truly a GREAT GOD.

FAMILY PRIORITIES

By the time you will be receiving this update, I will be in Oklahoma fishing with eight of my brothers for three days. We will be “paddle fishing”...(see the pictures below for what a paddlefis looks like). To be honest, I really don’t enjoy paddle fishing that much, as you use a huge 5-6 inch hook, work up a sweat dragging the bottom of the lake trying to snag one, and then spend up a 20 minutes getting it into the boat☺. But it is a great opportunity to be with my brothers...most of whom are not Christ followers...and this I enjoy..

Please pray for: Good opportunities to share with my brothers....and, that I catch the biggest fish☺.



SCHEDULE

1-3	Fishing with brothers	Oklahoma
4-7	Teaching GHC and Advanced 1	Sonlife Campus
8-10	Meeting with a Foundation	Nashville TN
11	Office Work	Wheaton, IL
12-20	GYI meetings with country leaders	Costa Rica
22-23	Wrap up meetings with GYI	
24	Speak at Pastors Conference	Ohio
26-29	Work on web site development	