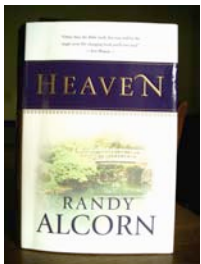


Global Youth Initiative

June 2005 Spader Update

I've been thinking a lot about heaven lately

The reason for this is simple. I just finished reading a five hundred page book by Randy Alcorn entitled Heaven.



It is one of those books that when you start it, it is hard to put down. He writes, “if we want to know what our eternal home heaven will be like, the best place to start is by looking around us. We shouldn’t close our eyes and try to imagine the unimaginable. We should open our eyes, because the present Earth is as much a valid reference point for envisioning the New Earth as our present bodies are a valid reference point for envisioning our new bodies.” Randy then develops this theme of the full redemption of earth into the New Earth and New Heavens, both biblically and practically, answering over 100 questions he has been asked.

Colossians 3:2 says “let heaven fill your thoughts” (NLT). This book has really helped me do that. So much so that I have already committed to being involved in a couple of studies this summer discussing the book. I believe Heaven is going to make the “top five” of my all time favorites! Randy’s biblical insight has already had a major impact upon my everyday thinking. I’d highly encourage you to get a copy and enjoy it this summer.

In an effort to shorten this prayer letter (my goal is to keep them to two pages), let me present seven major priorities in my role at GYI and suggest a couple of prayer requests for each area. Char and I so greatly appreciate your prayer support.

Defining Vision and Strategy

I continue to work on completing our new logo, web site, and ‘vision and values’ document. Unfortunately they are taking more time than I had anticipated.

Please pray for: Wisdom as these decisions are made. We are considering possibly a whole new name change to better capture the heart of GYI.

Identifying leadership

Over the last 40 days I have been on the road speaking 30 of these days...involved with leadership from around the globe. It has been extremely fruitful but demanding.

Please pray for: The ongoing coordination of my Fall schedule as it is becoming very full. At present I have speaking trips scheduled to Eastern Europe, Australia, and the Middle East.

Coaching Leaders

Over this next month I am meeting with several key leaders in a coaching and mentoring role. Key decisions are being made that will impact a number of ministries for the future.

Please pray for: Wisdom ‘from above’ in helping these leaders take that next step the Lord has for them.

Training in Christ’s strategy

Over this summer, the various ministries represented in GYI will have some great opportunities to train young leaders from around the world:

- In India** our partnering ministry will have up to a 1000 teens involved in a summer camp
- In Eastern Europe Josiah Venture will be conducting over 50 English-speaking camps.

•In North America Sonlife will be conducting several SEMP's (Students Equipped to Minister to Peers) with several thousand teens learning how to share their faith.

•In Latin America several youth groups will be working together with American churches to plant new youth ministries.

•In Iran and Iraq some Sonlife training will be conducted for several church leaders.

Please pray for: The leadership that will be leading these (Chris, Eric, Steve, Dave, Todd, Mark, Carlos) plus many other leaders imparting their lives to this next generation.

Representing GYI

This month as my travel schedule lightens I will again begin to focus on meeting with people and sharing the vision of GYI along with raising the remaining needed support for the GYI budget.

Please pray for:

- The remaining 45% of my budget that needs to be raised. I am so grateful for the many friends who have been standing with us in this transition. It has been a very deep encouragement.
- 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

I will begin to plan my writing schedule over the next few months, as I need to begin developing several training modules that will capture the core of GYI. We hope to write up to eight training modules in the next 4 years. I need to lay out that writing schedule this next month.

Please pray for: Wisdom on the planning and clarity for this project.

Family Priorities

Those of you with grown children know how hard it is to get them together for a family vacation. After much effort and the kindness of some friends, we are looking forward to taking our family to Texas for our first family vacation together in about four years. Already we are discussing some new games that we want to play as a family.



Please pray for: That, as the only male, I can hold my own with the four women for the week. (and win a few games)!! Pray that this would be a great "memory building

time" for our family. The Lord has blessed us with great girls and for that we are thankful.

On the lighter side

A woman was out golfing one day when she hit the ball into the woods. She went in to look for it and found a frog in a trap. The frog said to her, "If you release me from this trap, I will grant you three wishes."

The woman freed the frog, and the frog said, "Thank you, but I failed to mention that there was a condition to your wishes. Whatever you wish for, your husband will get times ten."

The woman said, "That's okay." and for her first wish, she wanted to be the most beautiful woman in the world. The frog warned her, "You do realize that this wish will also make your husband the most handsome man in the world, an Adonis whom women will flock to. "

The woman replied, "That's okay, because I will be the most beautiful woman and he will have eyes only for me." So, KAZAM! She's the most beautiful woman in the world.

For her second wish, she wanted to be the richest woman in the world. The frog said, "That will make your husband the richest man in the world and he will be ten times richer than you."

The woman said, "That's okay, because what's mine is his and what's his is mine." So, KAZAM! She's the richest woman in the world.

The frog then inquired about her third wish, and she answered, "I'd like a mild heart attack."

An English professor wrote the words "A woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed the students to punctuate it correctly.

The men wrote:

"A woman, without her man, is nothing."

The women wrote:

"A woman: Without her, man is nothing."