

My Trip to Australia



I wish you could have been there!

This was one of those trips where God significantly **expanded** my world view, **stretched** my appreciation for the Great Commission, and gave me a **deeper respect** for my brothers and sisters ministering in difficult regions of the globe.

Not only did I have the privilege of spending quality time with Bill Hodgson, director of Campus Crusade of Australia and a part of the leadership team of GYI; but, I also met Thomas Abraham...the 72 year old co-founder of Campus Crusade India. A man who I have heard much about, but never had a chance to meet. A man of great passion and a tremendous sense of humor, a rich history of God's miraculous provision, and a passion for the Great Commission. I truly felt an incredible privilege of meeting a man of such great distinction and fruitfulness in God's Kingdom.



I also heard stories of God's miraculous provision following the Tsunami in South East Asia. A Muslim island has gone from having one Christian church to over 26 churches because of the "little Jesus" who came and helped in the form of relief agencies. The Buddhist's did not send help, neither did the Muslims, but the Christian's came and stayed. When the Indonesia government demanded that they leave by March 31, the people revolted and demanded that the "little Jesus" be allowed to stay. As a result, the church is spreading...an answer to years of prayer with no previous breakthroughs. But God is making it happen in just a few months! And it is happening with much persecution and pressure upon the believers...but they are serving with great joy.

My messages were well received. I raised three questions...How Big is your God? How Real is your Jesus? And how Young is your heart? Added to these messages, I had a lot of time training the staff in the life of Christ...how Jesus created a movement of multiplication. God richly blessed and I received several other training opportunities throughout SE Asia. Thanks so much for your faithful prayers and support. I truly felt that I was your ambassador.... sent by my supporters to encourage God's servants in Australia and SE Asia. You made it possible!



I only wish that you could have been there....



From around the Globe

Every week I have the opportunity to receive reports from various leaders in different parts of the globe. This month I thought I'd highlight a couple of those reports. I am always amazed at how GYI leaders are being used by God to make a difference all over the globe. It truly is a privilege to serve them and further His Kingdom!

From a GYI member (Steve Kaptain) in Nepal India:

A great opportunity just opened up for us. We have been invited to do some training and a one day outreach for Nepali speaking people in the northern part of (Siliguri/Darjeeling). Our team has been praying about this for the last several months. We believe it's time to start expanding our work into other parts of Nepal and South Asia. This trip is a trial first step. The seminar is a combination of Sonlife's Strategy and Foundations material for youth ministry. We have adapted the material for the Nepali context and translated the material into the Nepali language. In addition, we have made the material very interactive resulting in a training event that runs more like a retreat rather than a seminar. In this way young Nepali leaders not only learn about youth ministry principles, but they get to experience them in action. Our Nepali staff worker has already traveled down to India to begin preparations. I will be joining him this next Sunday. In one way I am very excited because I get to travel with one of our students. This will provide a great opportunity to get to know him better. However, the downside is that we will be traveling by bus and it will take us about 22 hours to get there. That's 22 hours on a Nepali bus!! That means traveling with chickens, goats, hundreds of people, dealing with dust, and dozens of different kinds of smells. I can hardly wait!

From another GYI member (Mark Tittley) in Africa:



Hey, I am sitting in an Internet Cafe in West Africa in the town of Freetown, Sierra Leone. I had an amazing time in Ghana with Amos (Sonlife Ghana) who is actually doing so much in and around the Sonlife heart of things. He has committed to doing more by way of keeping me informed - we have picked this up with other leaders as well, as they struggle to share about what they are doing in fear of sounding self-promoting!

We are staying for two days at a Christian retreat centre before we take a 10 hour drive to the easterly tip of this country - checking out the various projects.

We will be away for one week - and there is lots of training that I and Eric (missions pastor from Christ Community Church in St. Charles) have been asked to handle along the way - with pastors and with staff. My goal is to use every opportunity to highlight what Jesus did by way of disciple making. We'd appreciate your prayers.



On the Lighter Side

While speaking in Australia, on the last day, I decided to tell a story about my Father-in-law and his experience in Rhodesia over 40 years ago. The story was about a leopard that was killing people, and how God used that situation to bring the truth of the Gospel into people's hearts. However, as I was telling the story, if you understand the accents of Australian people, they heard me say a "wounded leper" not a "wounded leopard". As you read the story below, insert the word "Leper" whenever you see "leopard". You can then understand why everyone was gasping as I told the story (and I couldn't understand why they were so shocked!). The story went like this:

"Being some of the first white people in the Zambezi Valley, Orla and Marguerite Blair (Char's parents), ministered faithfully to the bush people, with very little response. Being full-fledged missionaries, they traveled several thousand miles on a freighter to get to Africa...living in a mud hut and cooking outside in an open fire.

A wounded leopard (leper) began to kill the village people...and several children. Over twenty-four people were killed.

My father-in-law decided to take a young goat...which belonged to Char's brother...tie it up with a stake in the ground...and then climb into the tree and wait for the wounded leopard (leper) to come. On the second evening, he heard the leopard (leper) in the dark...saw it pounce upon the lamb, killing it. Orla shot at the leopard (leper) in the dark...not knowing if he had hit it or not. Early the next morning about a hundred yards away, he found the dead leopard (leper).

Realizing that it was the Thursday before Easter, Orla told how another Lamb had given its life, destroying the deeds of the Leopard (Satan), and removing the fear of death. As a result, the village understood the gospel and many came to Christ. This was the entrance of the gospel into the Zambezi Valley.

I then went on to say that even today, we have the privilege of having the skin of a leopard (leper) hanging in our basement...as a reminder of God's grace."



A young staff member asked her friend, "What type of missionary would shoot a leper?" Some were thinking that maybe this was a new evangelism strategy. Others were just in shock...

After about one minute of gasps...especially when I said that Orla shot the leopard (leper) and we have its skin hanging in our basement....some people began to laugh. A few began to understand that I was talking about a leopard...not a leper.

Bill Hodgson, the leader, finally came up front and translated what I had just said! Needless to say...we all spent the next few minutes laughing:)

I RECEIVED THIS E-MAIL FROM A FRIEND (Read the text and then look at the picture!)

Never ever forget about safety...

Even if you were born to do a job, it doesn't necessarily mean that you're going to automatically do it safely. Remember that no matter how many times you've done a job before, be sure to think the whole thing through before you start.



Prayer requests for this month

This month I have two major training events. Please pray for:

1. **San Jose CA (Nov 13-18)** I will be with over 100 pastors in our three day Advanced training. I will also be speaking in an evening session.
2. **Kuwait, Middle East (Nov 22-Dec 6)** Please pray for safety and clarity in training nationals. I am hoping for the opportunity of going into Baghdad and into Jordon to meet the believers there.



Support for Dann and Char or the ministries of Global Youth Initiative can be sent to: Global Youth Initiative c/o Josiah Venture, P.O. Box 4317, Wheaton Illinois 60189-4317