



Spader's Prayer Letter – February 2005

Martin Luther says of prayer (quoted in *Devotional Classics*) “No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience.”

It is our desire as a family to have a team of ministry partners who will pray regularly for our family and the ministry of GYI. We know that without the prayer support of people, little of eternal value can be achieved. Carl Wilson, in his book *With Christ in the School of Disciple Making* says, “If we do everything right in terms of disciple making, yet fail to pray, nothing significant will happen.” As Martin Luther wrote, we have learned the truth of this statement by experience.

Each month, I hope to send an update in the priority areas of the ministry of Global Youth Initiative. The leadership team of GYI has established seven priority areas for my role as President...and that is how I'd like to report each month. These areas are included below:

GLOBAL YOUTH INITIATIVE . . .

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

DEFINING VISION AND STRATEGY

At our last GYI forum in Orlando, the leadership team of GYI, laid out our initial plan for meeting over the next six years. Each year we will have a Summit and then every third year we will gather together in a larger Forum. The summit will consist of all the GYI members, about 40 of us, and then the Forum will involve inviting a larger group of guests, such as mission executives, denominational executives, and professors...to expose them to GYI. The proposed schedule is as follows:

- 2005-Summit in Costa Rica
- 2006-Summit in Australia
- 2007-Forum in North America
- 2008-Summit in Eastern Europe
- 2009-Summit in Asia

While much needs to be done in the area of vision and strategy, it was good to lay out our plan for the next few years for our meetings. At this leadership team meeting we also reworked the above mission statement and began to redo the core values. These will be developed more in the near future.

IDENTIFYING LEADERSHIP

Over this first month of working at GYI full time, I have had the opportunity to be in correspondence with 10 young leaders exploring opportunities overseas. Mitch expressed interest in Japan and Korea, after he finishes his doctorate work in America. Chad is passionate about creating a movement of multiplication in Cuba and has already made three trips there and is working with some indigenous leaders and determining God's next steps. Requests for help came from Mexico, Switzerland, Myanmar, India, Nigeria, and Trinidad. In many cases we were able to help or point these requests to some GYI leaders globally.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom for which requests to invest time in directly
- God to raise up several young leaders who will respond to the needs of the harvest field

COACHING LEADERS

I especially enjoyed the opportunity to spend some time with a number of leaders who were in the Chicago area. Individuals such as Dave from Estonia, Vladek from the Czech Republic, Kevin who was headed to Russia, and Chad and Mitch whom I mentioned above.

Please pray for:

- Chad as he seeks to develop his strategy for Cuba
- Mitch as he seeks the Lord will in returning to his home country of Korea
- Chris Folmsbee as he leads Sonlife North America and discerns God's will for next steps

TRAINING IN CHRIST'S STRATEGY

Over this last couple of months I have had the privilege to speak to the staff of Josiah Venture at their yearly Bible conference in the Czech Republic. It was great to see how God is working in the countries of Eastern Europe and to hear stories of the Spirit of God moving in Josiah Venture. God truly is doing a great work through their ministry.

I also had the privilege of conducting training events in Tucson, Arizona and Midland, Texas. Last year at this time I did a training tour across Canada, so I have learned my lesson, and have chosen to go south in January☺. Both of these ministries have asked me to return and work with their staff in additional ways, as they seek to develop a movement of multiplying disciples in their region.

Please pray for:

- Our Disciple Making Conference in Singapore Feb. 21-28. A team of our leaders will also be going into Thailand to conduct our strategy seminar there for the first time.
- Our GYI summit gathering in Costa Rica on April 12-20. I will officially take the role as President/Chairman of GYI at that gathering.

REPRESENTING GYI

Most of my efforts this last month have been focused on meeting with people and sharing the vision of GYI and my new role. I have had the privilege of meeting with 27 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 24.2% of that goal. PTL.

Please pray for:

- The remaining 76% 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

From my perspective, God did a great miracle this last month. I received an e-mail from our Sonlife Africa director, requesting prayer for his trips into Uganda and Kenya this next year. After spending some time in prayer, I remembered that one of our youth trainers had mentioned that they were taking a team to Kenya to work with a church there. After making the connection between the large church in America, and our Sonlife Africa leader, they were able to coordinate schedules and work together on the project. It created a win...win...win situation. The church in America was excited to have a staff person on the ground in Africa, someone who understood the African culture. Mark, our African leader, was excited to be working with a large team coming from America...a church that has since pledged to support him in an ongoing way. The church in Kenya was encouraged by the ongoing help and excited to work with Africans committed to values of disciple making. This was a Holy Spirit orchestrated connection, the type of partnership I am trusting God to put together around the globe.

Please pray for:

- Our African leader, Mark Tittley, as he provides ongoing training.
- Wisdom of how to develop a training program with Christianity Today. We are in discussion with them on how to develop some online training that could be used globally.

FAMILY PRIORITIES

God has greatly blessed me with a wonderful wife and three beautiful girls. As someone once told me, I definitely married above myself☺. Char keeps busy with her women's bible study on Wednesdays, and her part time working at Delnor hospital. Julie loves her job at Christ Community as youth ministry assistant. Jamie is in her third year at ISU in elementary education, and Christy is enjoying being a freshman at Batavia High School. All of our girls love the Lord and are walking with Him, for which we are so grateful.

Please pray for:

- Char, as she seeks to lead her women's study
- Julie, that God would use her in discipling some young girls
- Jamie, that she would finish well this year at ISU
- Christy, that God would use her to reach her unchurched friends at school

MAJOR GOALS FOR NEXT MONTH

1. Work on the fresh statement of our mission, vision, and values and develop a brochure design for GYI.
2. Continue to share with another 30 people the vision of GYI and trust the Lord for the needed ministry partners.
3. Begin research on a 15-20 page paper to present at the GYI summit in Costa Rica on the role of suffering in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
4. Develop a prototype of a new logo, web site, and design for GYI—to present at the Summit.

SCHEDULE

1-5	Work on meeting with potential ministry partners	Chicago, IL
6-8	Trip to Minneapolis to meet with ministry leaders	Minneapolis, MN
9-10	Mission, Vision, Values work	
11	Josiah Venture Board meeting	Wheaton, IL
14-16	Local meetings and coaching	
17-18	Web site and logo work	
21-25	GYI Preparation	
26	Urban Pastors Conference	Dolton, IL
28	Training in Texas	Midland, TX