

GLOBAL YOUTH INITIATIVE ... MARCH PRAYER LETTER 2005 - FROM THE SPADERS

Do you ever wish you could see clearly into the future?

In a strange sort of way, God recently allowed me to do just that! It was not a vision or a dream...but it was equally as powerful. It was an incredible moment for me!

Let me introduce you to Charlie. I first met Charlie almost 30 years ago. As a sophomore in high school, he came to Christ after an outreach event, when another teenager had a chance to share Christ with him.

Charlie was a typical teenager...full of energy and youthfulness. He was known for his great sense of humor and his constant joking around. Not too serious about life, Charlie would often stay late after the youth meetings, and find ways to have fun with his friends.

During his junior year in high school, Charlie became a part of the ministry team. It was always a challenge to get him serious long enough to focus on the needs of others. But he brought a lot of passion and youthful energy...so we tolerated his fun-loving antics.

After high school I completely lost touch with Charlie. Occasionally I heard reports about his attending college, getting married, or working on his doctorate. But over the 30 years, I had no real contact...until this last week.

Charlie called me and asked if we could have breakfast together. He was home on furlough and wanted to "catch up".

As I walked into the restaurant, I hardly recognized him! He was no longer a wiry young teenager. Thirty years had changed him (even though I've never changed in that period of time).

Charlie had finished his Masters degree and his Ph.D. in linguistic studies. Charlie was now involved in teaching the English language throughout China. Based in Beijing, he now oversees some 250 workers sharing the Good News through language training.

For over two hours, Charlie shared with me about the incredible movement of God in the church of China. He told me firsthand stories of persecuted Chinese church leaders, whom I had only read about. He spoke of the Chinese church that has grown from a few thousand to now over 70 million, and their vision to send 100,000 missionaries "back to Jerusalem". (for details go to www.backtojerusalem.com). We spoke of God's grace and goodness in each of our lives.

I sat there with tears in my eyes as I saw before me a "trophy of God's grace". Young Charlie.... was now a seasoned Christian leader and a mature man of God.

Before we even prayed for our breakfast, he told me that he wanted to thank me for my investment in his life. "I never told you then, but I want to tell you now. It was the seeds that you sowed in my life 30 years ago, that have played a major part in setting the direction of my life! Thank you for your investment."

In that moment I clearly saw the future.

I saw what thirty years from now could look like!

Each year, by God's grace, GYI leaders conduct training around the globe for young leaders like Charlie. Each year, camps are conducted and bible studies held. Each year, God reaches down and out of the "harvest field" experience He calls these young leaders to be a part of the "harvest force". Their passion becomes the advancing of God's Kingdom. Their lives are forever changed!



(Charlie and Joy with their five children)

I clearly saw the future that morning...and my heart was greatly encouraged. **Seeds that we are sowing today in young lives will soon be the Charlie's of the future.** If the Lord tarries, thirty years from now, many of these young people will be leaders around the world. They will be missionaries, pastors, Godly businessmen, and political leaders. They will be passionate about God's agenda. They will make us proud.

I saw again the strategic nature of reaching that next generation of young people. I told God right then and there...that I would not become weary in well doing. I wanted to sow as many seeds as possible. I wanted to see God raise up hundreds of Charlie's over the next few years. The future begins now.

Your investment in GYI is helping us do just that. (Already this prayer letter is too long...or I would tell you about my time this last month with Randy... who is leading a leadership training organization in Canada which is impacting hundreds of young leaders. I'd could also tell you about Viktor, or Mark, or David.... a young man who is leading a church that has grown to over 5000. These are young leaders you have helped me spend time with this last month because of your prayers and support.)

Together we are investing in that next great generation. I ask you right now to take some time and sow seeds into that next generation.

Please pray for the following:

1. This month is being set aside for an extended time of prayer and fasting. Just as Jesus spent the first 40 days in the wilderness prior to the launch of his ministry...I am asking the Lord to help me set the right course and hear clearly from Him on His future agenda for GYI. **I'd ask that you pray that I hear clearly what vision, priorities, and goals the Lord would have us focus on.**
2. I am researching and writing a paper on the role of suffering in the creation of movements of multiplication. It will also be a study on the life of Christ and the suffering He experienced on the three year journey to the cross. This paper will be presented at our GYI meetings next month. **Please pray for clarity of thought, research, and writing.**
3. We are encouraged that we have received commitments for 46% of our needed yearly support plus a significant one time gift to help with start up costs. **Rejoice with us and ask the Lord to provide the remainder.**

Thanks for being a ministry partner in GYI!

Dann and Char Spader

P.S. Because of the sensitive nature of Charlie's work, we ask that this prayer letter not be posted in any way for others to see. Charlie has allowed me to share his story with you, but the nature of his work in China is best kept as personal. Thank you for understanding.