

Voices of the Movement

World Christian Fellowship Newsletter



August 2009



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Local architecture of North Africa

BEAUTY FROM ASHES (AND GAINING STRENGTH FROM DISLOCATION)

by Wendy C.

A recent college graduate, Wendy C. attended WCC in 2008 and 2009. This summer, she joined several Northern California WCF prayer meetings and shared about her upcoming launch to North Africa. In this article, Wendy writes about the pain and loneliness of being regularly uprooted and her resulting struggles with depression and bulimia. In wonder and gratefulness, she testifies to God's power to transform her wounded past into passion, resiliency, and empathy for cross-cultural ministry to women and children.



Enjoying a hug



Doing daily chores



Interacting with local families and kids

Heart for the Arab World ◦ God has given me a heart for the unreached peoples, specifically for the Arab world, especially women and children. According to "GodSpace '09", an article in *Mission Maker Magazine* (<http://www.missionmakermagazine.org/>), the least-reached religion is Islam and less than 1% of full-time Christian workers go into the Muslim world. But Jesus said in Matthew 9:37-38, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."

Lessons on competency ◦ In 2007 I went on a short-term trip to North Africa and saw the brokenness of the Muslim people with my own eyes. The night before entering the region a pastor held a workshop on talking to Muslims and leading them from the Qur'an to the Bible. Everyone was asking great questions, but my mind was blank. I feared that I would not remember the techniques and I lost confidence because I felt incompetent. I left the workshop crying and a sister came to encourage me. God led her to read me 2 Corinthians 3:4-6: "Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

I knew that God was speaking to me, telling me that His Spirit is who will be at work, not a technique or anything else. The next day we landed in the target country, and I had my first opportunity to share the gospel with an 11-year old

girl when she asked me about my cross necklace. I was able to connect with her on the subject of loneliness and rejection from my childhood in Australia. I also told her that when I pray, God answers. She was amazed that God cared about her and that He could answer prayers. My teammates prayed for my sharing time and God worked miraculously so that no one else paid attention to my testimony except this girl with whom I was able to speak with in broken French, a definite work of the Holy Spirit.

Plans to return ◦ I am returning to the Arab world because I want to see the Muslim people enter into life-changing relationships with Jesus Christ, and to help them mature into effective servants of God in their communities. This past April, Operation Mobilization accepted me into its Global Action program. This August I will be going to North Africa for two to three years to learn the Arab/Muslim culture and language, engage in friendship evangelism, lead short-term teams, and distribute literature around the country in hopes of sowing seeds in small towns and villages. God gave my teammates and I a vision of "small fires of faith" in North Africa that would spread according to His will.

Using people like me ◦ There is a reason why God is raising up non-Western workers such as me to go into the Muslim world at a time such as this. Asian and Arab cultures are similar in many ways, including living in community and having a respect for elders. They are also both cultures characterized by honor and shame so being Asian has an advantage in understanding the Arab mindset.

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BEAUTY FROM ASHES (AND GAINING STRENGTH FROM DISLOCATION)



Family life on several continents

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In addition to being Asian, I believe that my painful life experiences of dislocation and low self-worth that God allowed me to endure has equipped me to empathize and minister to others in a cross-cultural setting.

Painful dislocation ◦ Originally from Hong Kong, my non-religious family moved to different countries and cities throughout my childhood including Melbourne and Sydney in Australia; Hong Kong; and the San Francisco Bay Area and San Diego. This frequent uprooting was a painful and lonely life. Along the way, I experienced moderate depression and suffered from bulimia, an eating disorder, because I had a very low self-esteem and believed the way to acceptance was to be skinny.

Longing to belong ◦ It was difficult to make friends in Australia because anti-Chinese sentiments remained very strong at the time. In my 10-year old mind, I did not understand that racism was wrong and I internalized the rejection. I thought that it was unfair to be Chinese and felt powerless to change that fact. Since I had no control over it, there was no hope for me. I reasoned that I needed to become someone else in order to succeed, be loved, and accepted. When I finally started to make friends in middle school, my family moved back to Hong Kong, and two years later when I was 14, we moved yet again to the United States. The following years were difficult because I did not fit into any group and felt the trauma of dislocation and rejection all over again. I started binge eating and felt depressed all through high school. I lived in denial by suppressing my Chinese identity.

Great news at last ◦ At the age of 18, desperate for hope, I was more than ready to entrust my life to Jesus when a Campus Crusade representative finally told me the great news of the Gospel on my first day of college in San Diego. It

seemed to be God's timing because the rest of my family amazingly also came to receive Jesus Christ that same year of 2002 in Hong Kong and San Francisco. I was so touched to find out that there was someone who loved me just as I was and who also died for me. I did not even believe my parents or anyone on Earth would love me that much.

Convicted that I was a sinner and that Jesus would give me a new life if I believed in His death and resurrection, I needed this Jesus to save me. After I accepted Christ, He started revealing His love for me, and I found hope and purpose in Him. He healed me completely from my depression and bulimia. He showed me I didn't have to be Caucasian, slim, intelligent, funny, and beautiful to be loved by Him. He made no mistakes when He created me. My identity was not about being Chinese, from Hong Kong and Australia, or as an accountant. I was His beloved daughter. My home is heaven. My family is my family in Christ.

Turning weakness into strength ◦ Ironically, because of my numerous forced dislocations in my upbringing, I grew increasingly accustomed to adapting to new cultures and languages. Thus, God has equipped me – and even made me – to be able to better take part in cross-cultural ministry. I have always been a nomad, not fitting into any one culture or place. After I became a Christian, I understood that heaven is my true home and that I can build my spiritual family anywhere. This is the good news I want to share with others who have no home or have experienced the agony of “uprooted-ness”. In addition, my experience of depression and bulimia has given me many opportunities to speak to other young women and girls about issues of self-image and worth. I am able to deeply empathize with their struggles and share how God loves them and has made them worthy of His love through the blood of Jesus.



2007 short-term team to North Africa

“I was so touched to find out that there was someone who loved me just as I was and who also died for me. I did not even believe my parents or anyone on Earth would love me that much.”

PRAYER: THE FUEL OF THE MOVEMENT

REGIONAL WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUPS

The prayer groups listed below meet monthly. For more information e-mail prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **Seattle (Tukwila, WA)**

Contact: Seattle-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **L.A. (Temple City, CA)**

Contact: LA-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **Mid-peninsula NorCal (San Mateo, CA)**

Contact: midpeninsula-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **S.F. Monthly Missions Meeting
(San Francisco, CA)**

Contact: SF-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **East/South Bay NorCal (Fremont, CA)**

Contact: SouthBay-prayer@wcfellowship.org

- **South Bay NorCal**

(Mountain View, CA)

Contact: sbay-mtview-prayer@wcfellowship.org

“God will always reveal His will to one who is willing to ask” – Hilys Jasper

ATTENTION WCF/WCC ALUMNI – SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date! ▲ Were you part of World Christian Fellowship’s prayer legacy that began over 30 years ago? Have you attended one or more of the past 24 annual World Christian Conferences? World Christian Fellowship is getting ready to celebrate its 25th anniversary! For almost a quarter of a century, WCC has been a grassroots gathering where Asian Americans grapple and struggle with what God is doing in the world and how they can join him!

World Christian Conference 2010 25th Anniversary Redwood Christian Park • February 12-15, 2010

Spread the word! ▲ If you know alumni who are living overseas, pass along this information to them. More announcements will be made through the WCF newsletter subscription list (to subscribe, send an email to wcf-newsletter-join@wcfellowship.org), the WCF Yahoo!Group, or website (join through wcfellowship.org). Questions may also be directed to WCF at 25thAnniversary@wcfellowship.org.



WCC PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Shirleen H.

Introducing the Planning Committee ◇ God has really blessed us with a wonderful 8-member Planning Committee (PC) for the upcoming World Christian Conference in February 2010, the 25th Anniversary. From Northern California, Joyce L. is joining us for a 3rd year and is the co-conference director. Wilson C. is the other co-conference director and vision sharing director. Lisa Y. is the platform director. Steve L. has helped out in the productions department in previous years and is this year's director for that department. Vincent L. gets to be in contact with all the wonderful potential workshop speakers as the workshop director. From Southern California, Josie L. will be continuing her second year as the design and media director. Liz L., who will be taking a short-term trip to India this summer, is the director of the features department. As for me, Shirleen H., I am extremely excited about chairing this team of awesome brothers- and sisters-in-Christ and mobilizing people to intercede for the conference as the programs director.

Serving together with prayer and community ◇ The experience of serving in this community has been awesome! In addition to praying for each other on the phone and through emails, the Planning Committee members support one another on our short-term mission trips. Personally, when I went to India with Rēp from this summer, I felt really loved



PC chairperson on short-term trip in India

and supported by the WCF community and especially the Planning Committee. So far, the PC has met for two retreats in Southern California during which we shared our testimonies, bonded, prayed, worshipped, and brainstormed the theme and workshops for WCC 2010. During those retreats, we were also able to visit and share about WCC at Evergreen Baptist Church of San Gabriel Valley and Community Christian Alliance Church.



INVITATION TO JOIN THE WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Executive Committee Retreat 2008

WCC 2010 Executive Committee Retreat
Pismo Beach, CA • Sept 18-20, 2009
 Contact: Shirleen at programs@team.wcfellowship.org.

The Planning Committee wants to welcome anyone who would like to join us in serving in various aspects of the upcoming conference by joining the Executive Committee, the team that executes the “nuts and bolts” of the actual conference. Come join us at the Executive Committee Retreat on Sept 18-20, 2009.

It is planned as a time for you to find out more about WCC/WCF and the specific opportunities and positions you can help out in before or during the conference. While learning more about what God has envisioned and planned for WCC 2010, you will also be able to enjoy Pismo Beach and fellowship with other mission-minded people. If you are interested to join us or know more, please contact Shirleen at programs@team.wcfellowship.org.

THE PROBLEM OF PAIN

by Lorri T.

Although God gave Lorri T. a missionary heart, circumstances precluded her from going abroad physically. Thus, Lorri began to ask the Lord to open up a local missions opportunity and has been serving as a prayer volunteer at a free health clinic in San Jose for the past five years. Lorri describes the combination of offering the gospel to people along with tangible health care as being powerful and effective. Lorri has also participated with WCC for many years, serving at times on the Executive Committee. In this article, Lorri reflects on how the common human experience of pain drives many to seek and find God.



SVCHA medical team on a special evening

Medical care and prayers offered at clinic ▲ There is something mysterious about pain in the eyes of a child of God. At Silicon Valley Christian Health Alliance in San Jose (www.svcha.org) physical pain brings people to see the doctors while emotional pain and spiritual emptiness brings them to visit us, the prayer volunteers at the clinic. Along with free medical care, patients are offered prayer as part of their healing. As a prayer volunteer at the clinic on Saturdays, just thinking about the overwhelming needs of patients can intimidate me. However, the thought of God's activities in His broken people transforms my fear into confidence. He works through the brokenness of the prayer volunteers and what He has already accomplished to claim His promises on behalf of those who cannot or do not know how to pray for themselves.

Megaphone of pain ▲ As C.S. Lewis wrote in *The Problem of Pain*, "God uses pain like a megaphone to speak to us." The Bible addresses many issues of pain as a need that drives people to God. And our needs are opportunities for God's lesson for obedience.

In the book of 2 Kings Chapter 5, the Bible depicts Naaman, a highly respected commander of the king of Aram through whom the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier but he had leprosy. He later learned of Elisha the prophet who could cure his disease. Elisha sent Naaman a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." God designed this lesson of obedience to bring Naaman's healing. However, Naaman was initially upset with this instruction and refused to follow. He expected the

great prophet to come out and perform a miracle. Only later did Naaman's servants persuade him with these words: "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" The result was complete restoration!

Restoration ▲ True healing comes from repentance. It simply is a sincere admission that whatever we're depending on for life will let us down. We shift our attention away from digging our own resources to vulnerably trusting God. That shift is the recognition to change. God's purpose in our lives is restoration. It starts with our salvation as we are reconciled with God. Then it progresses to reconciliation with others, forgiveness of ourselves and others who have wronged us. This restoration process permeates throughout our physical and emotional being, from the day of salvation until we see Him face to face.

The act of obedience is not without the promised reward. After all, His name is the Redeemer. As Tim Keller has written in *The Reason for God*, "The Biblical view of things is resurrection — not a future that is just a consolation for the life we never had, but a restoration of the life you always wanted. This means that every horrible thing that ever happened will not be undone and repaired, but will in some way make the eternal glory and joy even greater." Restoration is His part. Our part is simple obedience — to trust and obey Him.

Desire for God ▲ I see many SVCHA patients struggle with having true inner peace. The elemental peace that we experience as children of God is often missing. Biblical "shalom" (Isaiah 53:5) encompasses healing. The desired circumstance may or may not change. However, the patients' pain connects them with the volunteers. That pain also links them with God. Pain reminds us of His good promises to restore us. "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18)."

Yes, loss can diminish us. Yet, somehow, when we place our spiritual and emotional pain into His hands, we are made more whole by it. In our pain lies the potential desire to know God more intimately.



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SEMINAR COORDINATORS

Vision and purposes ■ The purposes of the World Christian Fellowship (WCF) include equipping, activating, networking, and partnering with individual Asian-American World Christians and those who identify closely with the Asian-American worldview, and their churches. To this aim, WCF hopes to host more regional one-day seminars with relevant workshop content throughout the year, not just at the annual World Christian Conference (WCC).

Seminar coordinators wanted ■ WCF is looking for regional seminar coordinators in both Northern and Southern California. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve God through the WCF movement and have gifts and talents in the areas of event planning, marketing, and networking please contact us at info@wcfellowship.org.



WCC 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Vision and purposes ▲ World Christian Fellowship (WCF) is making plans to celebrate World Christian Conference's (WCC) 25th anniversary during the *February 2010 WCC*. During that WCC and throughout the following year, WCF would like to celebrate the past 25 years by thanking God for what He has already done through the WCF movement; reconnecting with past WCF alumni; recasting WCF's vision; and looking forward towards the future in anticipation of what God might continue to do through the WCF movement.

Celebration preparations: help wanted ▲ If you are interested in contributing to the anniversary celebration, please contact WCF at 25thAnniversary@wcfellowship.org. We are especially looking for people who can and are willing to reach out to previous WCF alumni and be project coordinators/implementers.



VOICES OF THE MOVEMENT

Vision and purposes ✨ The monthly WCF Newsletter serves a few purposes. The first is to function as a regular official communication vehicle from the World Christian Fellowship (WCF) to the WCF community at large. The second purpose is to capture the voices of World Christian journeys and articles that describe how God is realigning hearts and lives for His global purposes, and then sharing these with the WCF community for encouragement and inspiration. Finally, the WCF newsletter serves to archive the history of what God is doing through the WCF movement in order to inform future generations of Asian Americans who are interested in continuing the spiritual legacy of WCF.

Joining the team, contributions wanted ✨ If you are interested in contributing a testimony or article, or want to help serve on the WCF Newsletter Team, please contact us at newsletter@wcfellowship.org. We have needs for a graphic layout person, editors, and both regular and one-time contributors.



DONATIONS



Donations ► If you would like to make a charitable contribution, please send checks payable to *World Christian Fellowship* and mail to P.O. Box 256, Mountain View, CA, 94042-0256. Make sure you include a valid address so that we can send you a tax-deductible receipt.

Amazon.com affiliate link ► If you already do some of your shopping at **Amazon.com**, you can help WCF receive a small percentage back by **clicking through our affiliate link** at wcfellowship.org/contact.html and making a purchase during the same session.



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