

Voices of the Movement

World Christian Fellowship Newsletter



June 2009

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PRAYER AND ACTION ESTABLISH FAITH-BASED CLINIC

by Andrew H.

To commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Silicon Valley Christian Health Alliance (SVCHA), co-founder Andrew H. marvels at how God orchestrated the establishment and growth of a medical and dental clinic that reaches out to the underserved homeless population in the San Jose, California area.



SVCHA co-founders (center) and dental staff

Wondering ↓ Five years ago in 2004, I was finishing my residency training in internal medicine and was wondering what God had in store for me. I believed that He had led me to the San Jose area, but was unsure how I would serve Him as I prepared to enter independent medical practice. I had attended WCC in 2002 and knew that God could use me in one of various capacities—whether a supporter, tentmaker, or career missionary—but did not know which role He intended for me.

As I was wondering, God led me to one of my residency colleagues, Cheryl T., who shared with me and others of her desire to start a faith-based clinic in San Jose. It seemed a daunting task. How would a group of resident physicians start, staff, and fund a huge undertaking like a clinic?

Beginning with prayer ↑ We got a group together and began to pray, and as we prayed, God began to work. We found some unused clinic space at a homeless shelter operated by CityTeam Ministries in San Jose. One of Cheryl's friends, a lawyer, donated his time to incorporate us as a non-profit organization. We worked out an agreement with a local secular health organization to allow us to use their medications and malpractice insurance. Friends helped us create presentations for local churches to spread the word and encourage them to support us financially. We also learned the

nuts and bolts of setting up and operating a clinic through a national organization that we had joined, the Christian Community Health Fellowship (CCHF). Rewarding our faith and obedience, God helped us open Silicon Valley Christian Health Alliance (SVCHA) in June 2004 to see homeless men and women once a month.

More blessings ↓ Even after we began seeing patients, God has continued to bring us unexpected blessings. A dentist, Allen V., heard of our clinic and the unused dental equipment on site. God touched his heart, and he decided to work with us. Through his efforts we began our dental clinic a year later. Because access to dental services among the poor and homeless is unfortunately far less than for medical services, the dental clinic has expanded more quickly than the medical side and now runs twice a month. We are eventually hoping to open the dental clinic on a weekly basis. Through my day job at Kaiser Permanente, individuals heard of the dental clinic, and now a substantial portion of its support comes from a Kaiser grant.

I used to wonder how great causes or organizations started. Now, five years after SVCHA's founding and amidst its ongoing operation, I see how God uses faithful prayer, continued abiding, and courageous obedience to mold our passions into His purposes.



Prayer commissioning of new clinic in 2004

"I used to wonder how great causes or organizations started. Now, since five years of SVCHA's founding and its ongoing operation, I see how God uses faithful prayer, continued abiding, and courageous obedience to mold our passions into His purposes."

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)

sbay-mtview-prayer@wcfellowship.org

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

FREMONT/SOUTH BAY PRAYER UPDATE

by Esther W.

Hosting privileges. Since last October, my husband and I have had the honor of hosting one of the WCF prayer groups in our home in Fremont. God miraculously brought along Cynthia C. at just the right time and together we formed a facilitator/host team. This arrangement works out great because we divide up the responsibilities of the meeting every month. Although my husband and I always have good intentions to make global prayer a priority in our lives, hosting the prayer group keeps us accountable so that we actually do it!

Windows into the world. Our meetings have usually had 10-15 participants each month. Some have become regulars while others are new drop-ins. It's been such a blessing to have guest speakers each month from the WCF community who share about what God is doing in the world and in their lives. It's also an honor to be able to pray for them and for different countries and people groups in the world. This year, we have or will be focusing and praying for the global persecuted church, modern-day slavery, Indonesia, India, Cambodia, Thailand, Middle East, North Africa, and East Asia to name a few.

Debriefing time. One of my favorite parts of the meeting is when we have a short debriefing time at the end. This is an opportunity for anyone at the meeting to share their thoughts about how they were impacted by the sharing and prayer that evening. Sharing responses helps the participants connect and give encouragement to one another as we all try to move along in our respective World Christian journeys.



Participants at the May meeting

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear WCF community,

Please note that the original photo used in the “Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery” article used in the 2009 May issue of *Voices of the Movement* was not meant in any way to imply that a short-term missionary was exploiting the children shown in the photo. The intention was rather to express the general vulnerability of children. To avoid further confusion, the original photo has been replaced in a revised version of the May issue that is posted at wcfellowship.org.

Voices of the Movement is committed to the highest standards of integrity and professionalism because we are not only a publication, but we represent the ministry and community of the World Christian Fellowship.

— Esther W., editor-in-chief

ASKING HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE AND MISSIONS by Mike T.

What happens when catching God's passion for the nations impacts your marriage...negatively? In this article, Mike T. takes an honest and hard look at the vision of missions for his own marriage. Preparing to launch out overseas later this year, Mike reflects upon how God surgically re-centered his priorities in order to enable him and his wife to walk hand-in-hand once again.



Nomadic herds near eastern part of the Tibetan Plateau

Marital struggles over missions † In a couple of months my wife and I are moving overseas long term. The journey to finally get here has been filled with struggles and difficulties. Two years into our marriage, we took the Perspectives class and right away we both felt God calling us to reach the unreached people groups in some capacity. However, my wife felt that God was calling her to be a sender – to pray, to mobilize, to encourage others; while I felt called to be a goer – to move and live among an unreached people group. And there ensued many years of conflict between us.

In fact, some of the deepest valleys of our marriage have been directly related to this seemingly irreconcilable difference. In time, my desire to go on the mission field began to take a place in my heart that only rightfully belonged to God. I still remember at one point, my wife said to me in desperation, “It feels as if our entire marriage of almost 10 years has been all about missions!” That’s when I realized that something was desperately wrong! Our marriage shouldn’t be *all* about missions. If anything, our marriage should be all about *Jesus*; about growing deeper with Christ and more in love with Him.

God's conviction † God began to ask me a series of questions. *Have I primarily been pointing my family toward Jesus or towards missions involvement?* I was horrified when God opened my eyes to the subtle signs of bitterness I was be-

ginning to develop towards my wife. It became clear that if there is something I want so badly that it causes me to resent my wife because I perceive her as a barrier to obtaining it, then that “something” has become an idol in my heart. This idol of “missions” had come to define who I was. I was building my sense of identity on “missions” and not on God.

So God began to do the crucial work of re-centering my sense of identity *on Him alone*. *I am first and foremost a child of God. My identity is in Christ*. I am “seated with Him in the heavenly realms” (Eph. 2:6). My “life is now hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3). I am “in Christ” (2 Cor. 5:17). This is who I truly am! And who I *am* is far more important than what I *do*. God is far more interested in the kind of person that I’m becoming than the kind of ministry work that I’m involved in. My *conditions* may change (i.e. where I live, what I do, and what circumstances surround my life), but my *position* is constant (i.e. who I am in Christ, His work on the cross on my behalf, and my citizenship in heaven). Former OMF missionary R. Arthur Mathew writes: “Even though our feet are walking about here on earth, positionally our life is hid with Christ in God. So we (live)...not from the perspective of our circumstances here on earth, but from our position above in Christ.” What magnificent truth that I’ve only begun to experience as reality in my life!

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Tibetan mother and son

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ATTENTION WCF/WCC ALUMNI – SAVE THE DATE!



Fellow travelers on the World Christian journey

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 grass-roots 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.

ASKING HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE AND MISSIONS

Continued from page 4...

God's Refinement † It has not been a painless process. It has been a pruning and refining process. Elisabeth Elliot once said: "Sometimes we want to run, but God makes us walk. Sometimes we want to walk, but God makes us sit down. All because He wants to do something in our life that we're not interested in." And that is exactly what God did in my life. He made me sit down, got my eyes off of the mission field, peeled away what I was building my identity on, and re-established His rightful place in my heart.

And that was when the priorities in my life fell back into place. The first and primary call that God has given me is to love my wife as Christ loves the church. *Am I becoming a more sacrificial husband? Am I growing in patience and selflessness? Have I been demonstrating unconditional love to my wife? Have I created a safe and secure environment for her in our marriage? Am I more Christ-like towards her now than I was 10 years ago when we got married?*

It has taken some time for God to bring me and our marriage to a healthier place: A place of freedom; a place of centering our lives on nothing but Him alone. And only now, are we ready to move, hand-in-hand and side-by-side, to the mission field.



Monks studying at monastery near eastern Tibetan Plateau

Whenever I'm given the opportunity to talk about missions now, I no longer see the goal as just getting more people to go overseas. I see the goal as getting the right kind of people to go. The right kind of people are those whose lives and identities are centered on God alone, and nothing else. They are those who live a life of true freedom in Christ, being compelled, not by human expectations or desires, but by the love of Christ. †

"It has taken some time for God to bring me and our marriage to a healthier place: A place of freedom; a place of centering our lives on nothing but Him alone. And only now, are we ready to move, hand-in-hand and side-by-side, to the mission field."

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 beginning to make 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.

