

Voices of the Movement

World Christian Fellowship Newsletter



October 2009

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Rio Pacuare, Costa Rica

A PERSPECTIVE SHIFT ON MISSIONS: *GOD IS ALREADY THERE & WE ARE HIS PARTNERS* by Jean & John H.

Jean and John H. each grew up in Asia and moved to the States separately in their teens and began an intimate walk with God in the midst of culture adjustments and life struggles. After meeting in a college fellowship, God's grace guided them into a relationship five years later and then into marriage three years after that. Now they reside in Southern California and serve in various ministries and outreaches through Newsong Church.

The year of yes ✨ 2009 is a special year — it's the year we ran out of excuses to not go on a short-term mission trip. After hearing countless wonderful stories about mission trips and always feeling too busy, we felt God's gentle nudge to sign up with Newsong's short-term mission program. In February, our first short-term mission trip was set: we were to partner with four other brothers and sisters for two weeks in Costa Rica!

God started working in us immediately after we signed up. First there was a perspective shift. Newsong runs a rigorous 5-month training for short-term missionaries covering personal walks, team dynamics, spiritual warfare, and culture sensitivity. Before attending the training, we thought that a mission trip was about bringing God to the country we would serve in. We realized through the training that *God is already there and has been there long before we were called to go!* Our role is to humbly partner with Him and be sensitive to what He wants us to do. This truth revealed our pride and motivated us to continue to walk closely with Him to experience Him even more.



Short-term missions at Costa Rican orphanage

Costa Rica ✨ The majority of our time in Costa Rica was spent joyfully at an orphanage. We took time in the morning to build a fence, clear weeds on the soccer field, and plant fruit trees. In the afternoon we spent time with the children by worshipping, playing games, and doing crafts. There were about 11 children and the youngest was just three years old. Through a conversation with a local Christian leader we realized that 50 percent of the Costa Rican children grow up without a father. This is largely due to substance abuse and infidelity. Our hearts were broken for the many Costa Ricans who were never affirmed by their father's love. God provided opportunities for us to bond with the children as well as to share about how special they are in the eyes of God. It was truly touching to hear the orphans singing, "Jesus loves me this I know" (in Spanish, of course.) On the last day we affirmed each child by sharing something unique and precious about him or her. We gave each of them a personalized picture frame with a Bible verse that they picked out on the first day of our gathering.

...Continued on page 3



Fence and soccer gifts for orphans

Truth is freedom ✨ We also had an amazing revelation from a workshop titled, "The truth about lies." We were reminded that the enemy often whispers lies to influence our emotions and behaviors, particularly on the mission field. One incident illustrated this well. When we landed in Costa Rica and retrieved our luggage, we found John's suitcase locked by the TSA. The problem was John did not have the key. Since we landed on a weekend, we were told to wait until Monday for a locksmith. During this time we were trying to open the lock ourselves and felt no one else cared about the situation. We quickly realized that the thought was a lie from the enemy. We renounced it and replaced it with God's truth that He and the team cared. We learned to discern where our inner voices were coming from. This laid an important foundation for us to be on the lookout for lies and to stand firm in His truth.



Affirming each child of their uniqueness

"We realized ... that God is already there and has been there long before we were called to go! Our role is to humbly partner with Him and be sensitive to what He wants us to do."

GOD IS ALREADY THERE & WE ARE HIS PARTNERS

Continued from page 2...

Flying in faith ✨ Our team and the host family went zip-lining through a forest canopy in Monteverde the day before we came home. It was incredibly amazing to count blessings while walking and zip-lining through the rainforest and drinking in the beauty of His creation. The longest and the scariest ride was called The Superman. One would do a superman pose with hands extended in front since there is nothing to hold onto. Our backs were, instead, attached securely (or we hoped) with three cables to the long horizontal cable. (The cables are several hundred feet high and thousands of feet long.) We could do nothing but to trust the creator of the zip-line and the strength of the cables. We felt God reminding us that this was like our faith — many times it is not until we let go of our control that He will take us on a ride of our lifetime! And sure enough, we could not stop praising Him as we rode through the valleys and marveled at the different shades of green on the hills!



Coronado, Costa Rica

Life change ✨ This incredible short-term mission experience changed our lives. We realized that we do not need to limit missions to a specific timeframe. It is a lifestyle.

We are more intentional in seeking and working with God just as we did on the field. We strive to step out of our comfort zone to love and care for those who are

unlike us. In addition, we are more aware of the spiritual battle that is taking place and our roles and preparation going into it. We have also cut down on TV and Internet usage at home to make room for relationships (We were without them in Costa Rica and life was fuller!). We give God all the glory and praise for calling us and transforming our lives. We pray also for you readers from Hebrews 12:1 that “since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”



Zip-lining with the team

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

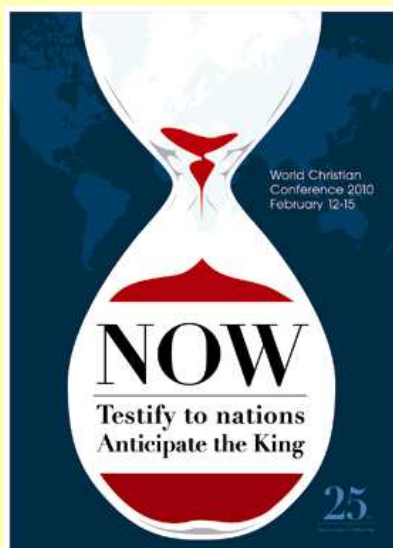
- **South Bay NorCal**

(Mountain View, CA)

Contact: sbay-mtview-prayer@wcfellowship.org

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

WCC 25TH ANNIVERSARY: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



Now accepting world Christian testimony article submissions and congratulatory ads for WCC 25th Anniversary commemorative booklet!

Help us celebrate WCC's 25th Anniversary by testifying to how WCC, WCF prayer groups, or the WCF community at large have impacted your personal world Christian journey by submitting an article for the commemorative 25th Anniversary booklet. You can also purchase a "happy birthday to WCC" or congratulatory advertisement on behalf of an organization, individual, or group of individuals.

Deadline for testimony submissions: Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Deadline to purchase ad space: Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Please contact Viji@wcfellowship.org

Help us identify past WCC conference themes!

Please help us complete the list of WCC themes over the past quarter of a century, and send us your highlight of a life-transforming WCC. Contact estherw@wcfellowship.org

2010: **NOW: Testify to Nations: Anticipate the King**

2009: **Yield: Submission to Harvest**

2008: **Arise, Revive the Nations!**

2007: **Emboldened by His Love, Empowered by His Spirit**

2006: **Free to Follow**

2005: **Gifted for Glory: Now What?**

2004: **No Greater Joy, No Sacrifice Too Great**

2003: **Gripped by God's Grace**

2002: _____ ???

2001: _____ ???

2000: _____ ???

1999: _____ ???

1998: _____ ???

1997: _____ ???

1996: _____ ???

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1989: _____ ???

1988: _____ ???

1987: _____ ???

1986: _____ ???

1985: _____ ???

WORLD CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE 2010

World Christian Conference 2010 • 25th Anniversary

NOW

Testify to the Nations

Anticipate the King

Redwood Christian Park • February 12-15, 2010

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](http://join.through.wcfellowship.org)). Questions may also be directed to WCF at 25thAnniversary@wcfellowship.org.

WCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RETREAT

by Joyce L.



WCC EC retreat at Pismo Beach, CA, September 2009

Common vision ◇ As members of the planning committee (PC), we always look forward to the executive committee (EC) retreat because it's an exciting time to share the vision that God has revealed to our team to more members of His body. Vincent L., workshops director, said of his first EC retreat, "This time signaled a milepost in our WCC planning. It was an uplifting time of seeing all those God brought to the retreat — people who shared the vision of WCC as a vehicle to proclaim Jesus to the nations. Now is our moment; this is our time!"

This year's theme "Testify to Nations: Anticipate the King", came to life during our special time. Within our gathered community of 25 believers, God reminded us to reflect on His faithfulness in our lives and of the testimonies He gave us. We believe that He glorified Himself within His body as we shared of His goodness and His character, painting a fuller picture of God.

It was awesome to have many new EC members catch the vision for WCF and serve in the different departments for WCC. Liz L., features director, reflected, "I was blessed and encouraged to see God unite us from different locations and walks of life in heart and purpose to work towards this conference. I was also blessed with fellowship as I got a little glimpse into my co-laborers' lives."

Retreat does the body good ◇ The weekend enabled believers to connect with others who are running the race, sharing our faith to build each other up. As conference directors, God really put on our hearts the many details and logistics yet to be completed. His goal for this retreat was our rest in Him and strengthening of the Body of Christ. He assured us that He truly takes joy and pleasure in us whether we are planning logistics or enjoying each other's company.

"We had lots of fun sharing our quirks, enjoying the beach, playing volleyball, worshipping by the campfire, and eating delicious food. The most memorable part was when we brought out our laptops by the campfire to find the lyrics and chords for newer worship songs online. Technology and nature, how ironic!" said Shirleen H., programs director. I had the pleasure of walking down the beach with a sister who blessed me with sharing her testimony and what God was doing her life. Lisa Y. commented, "Experiencing the love of the WCC community, who celebrated my birthday via birthday cake and song, was a tremendous surprise and blessing!" Within a short 48 hours, God united us with a purpose bigger than the conference in making His name known.

The body needs more members ◇ God answered our prayers for calling servants to join us. We are still continuing to pray that God would add to our team other brothers and sisters who are excited about God equipping and preparing Asian-American Christians to testify to the nations. At the retreat, we saw how the different giftings that God deposited in each of us came together to fill different roles.

However, some jobs still remain open. Specifically, we are seeking a computer programmer to help with the database; people who are willing to share about the conference at various churches, a person to head up facilities during the conference, intercessors to pray for the conference, and a coordinator to help arrange transportation. Would you prayerfully consider whether God would have you join us in service this year?

Please contact Joyce at conference@wcfellowship.org



GRANT WRITER AND ACCOUNTANT BOTH WANTED



Present and past WCF Treasurer

Vision and purposes ▲ World Christian Fellowship (WCF) is committed to fiduciary standards that are above reproach and continuously strive to develop and improve the organization's financial and financial resource systems.

Accountant and grant writer: help wanted ▲ If God has gifted you with experience and talent in the area of accounting/finance or in research/grant writing AND you believe in the vision of WCF of mobilizing more Asian-American Christians for God's global purposes, please consider serving in one of these two areas of need. If you are interested in serving as an accountant or grant writer for WCF, please contact info@wcfellowship.org.



A LOST SHEEP RETURNS & FINDS TRUE PURPOSE

by Steve L.

Born in Oakland and raised in San Francisco, Steve L. is the older of two sons raised by immigrant parents. After attending his first WCC in 2005, he has served on the WCC Executive Committee (EC) for multiple years. This year, as a WCC Planning Committee (PC) member and EC production director, Steve shares his personal world Christian journey in this article that echoes the conference theme of testifying to the nations. Steve is currently working as a computer programmer in the healthcare industry.



Hangin' out with kids at orphanage/autism center during East Asia STM 2006

Wayward Sheep ¶ Even though I was led to Christ at the age of nine, I could not comprehend or accept God's grace because I viewed Him as an impersonal, vengeful, powerful being living a million miles away. I tried to find meaning and purpose to my life through partying, video games, sports, materialism, volunteer service – just about everything but God. I was a Christian only in name, and became trapped in a vicious lie: I believed that a sinner like me had no place in God's kingdom and so I drifted further away from Him.

Despite my stubborn faithlessness, our Abba Father is faithful, loving, and merciful. God went after the lost sheep that I was. While growing up in an immigrant dysfunctional family in San Francisco, I struggled with depression, anger, pride, and identity issues. At one point in 1992 I came close to committing suicide until God placed two high school friends back in my life. They kept me from falling through the cracks with their love and friendship and their refusal to give up on me.

Hearing the Shepherd's voice ¶ In 2002, a childhood friend and his wife introduced me to their church. I remember feeling shocked my first Sunday there as I listened to a sermon that directly addressed my most private and heartfelt struggles. Week after week, I looked forward to each Sunday sermon as I felt that God was talking directly to me and revealing His love. After a few months, I finally decided that I had to meet and thank the pastor for delivering these amazing messages. That man, Wayne, eventually became

my mentor. Through him God began the healing and life-transforming process I needed. He helped me grow in my identity in Christ through using the Bible and praying with me to address deep hurts as well as distorted views of God and myself.

One night in 2004, a sister in the young adult fellowship shared about her summer short-term trip. I remember feeling saddened by her sadness as she tearfully shared her brokenness for the spiritual darkness and the lost people she encountered, but did not understand the depth of her brokenness. After all, only super Christians go on missions, right? I didn't even consider myself worthy to be called a Christian! Yet, God would not let me forget that sister's sharing so I prayed and asked Him to help me relate and understand her brokenness. The Lord soon answered that prayer during a family trip to East Asia later that year.

Feeling the Father's heart ¶ From the moment I stepped off the plane in Thailand, I felt burdened by a heavy weight of oppression; as I traveled around that country, I became heartbroken by the constant sight of prostitution, poverty, and idol shrines. Like I had done previously, these people were desperately trying to find hope and fulfillment in things other than God. God convicted me again that only He can satisfy our needs and give us true hope! As I continued visiting other parts of that region, this conviction of needing to share the hope and salvation of Christ intensified. I wanted the light of the Lord to shine through the darkness!

... Continued on page 7



East Asia STM 2005

"After all, only super Christians go on missions, right? I didn't even consider myself worthy to be called a Christian! Yet, God would not let me forget that sister's sharing so I prayed and asked Him to help me relate and understand her brokenness."

A LOST SHEEP RETURNS & FINDS TRUE PURPOSE

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After returning from that trip, I went to my first WCC in 2005 where God taught me so much about His amazing, unconditional love through the plenary speakers Jimmy Seibert and John Lo! The Lord blessed me with many powerful, life-changing encounters and lessons as I began to understand how God was the perfect Father I had sought my entire life and how "faith is spelled R-I-S-K." This assuring knowledge of being God's son enabled me to step out of my comfort zone and trust in Him for my first short-term missions trip that summer to teach English in a restricted area of East Asia. He continued to stretch and grow me through many awesome experiences during that trip.

God taught me to celebrate the diversity of gifts and personalities within the Body of Christ. I got paired with a teaching partner and teammate who was my complete opposite in personality and style. This led to many conflicts, but after we confessed and prayed with each other, our classroom became what seemed to be the most popular one as we learned to feed off each other to work naturally within our giftings.

Sharing God's love ¶ After years of striving to serve others out of a humanistic love, I came to see *how much more God loved these precious students* that He blessed me with. Although God allowed me to share with and lead one student to Christ, I realized that there was nothing I could have done out of my own strength and efforts. I learned to let go and trust in the Lord's providence and timing — that if I truly loved these students as He commands me to, then the best thing I could do is to intercede on their behalf to know Him!

The Lord continued using different people and experiences to break me down in order to begin teaching me more about Himself — an all-powerful, relational God who loved me more intimately than I could ever understand, and sent His only son — in very nature God — to become flesh and humble Himself even to death upon a cross for my sake!



Attending first WCC in 2005



A literal bridge to restricted access country

The older I get, the more I realize how little I know! All I know (or so I think) is that I desire to know and worship Him more, and to serve as His hands and feet! Despite my impatient desire to go overseas and help with the urgent need in East Asia, the Lord has made it clear that He still has unfinished business for, and with, me here. In addition to serving with my local church, I currently have the privilege of serving as a BridgeAsia volunteer with OMF. This role allows me to raise awareness for an Asian geopolitical group under dictatorship rule that God has placed in my heart.

After years of trying to control and plan out my entire life, I slowly continue learning how to let go and let God be the lord of my life — to lean not on my own understanding, but to trust and obey in faith. My desire is to know Him more, and for others to know this God who loves them so much more than they can imagine!



*"Surrounded by your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for you Jesus,
Or in awe of you be still?
Will I stand in your presence,
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing Hallelujah;
Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine..."*

—Lyrics from song,
"I Can Only Imagine",
by MercyMe

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 multiple 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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