

Voices of the Movement

World Christian Fellowship Newsletter



September 2009

**On Growing Up
(and other musings)
page 2**

**Prayer Inspires & Keep Lit the Fire
page 7**

**Introducing the Theme for WCC 2010
NOW: Testify to Nations
Anticipate the King
Invitation to Serve at WCC
page 4**

**WCF Leadership Update
Accountant and Grant Writer Wanted
page 6**

**WCF Prayer Groups
25th Anniversary: Save the Date!
page 5**

**Get Involved:
Seminar Coordinators
Newsletter Team
WCC 25th Anniversary
WCF Donations
Page 8**

West Chester, Pennsylvania

ON GROWING UP (AND OTHER MUSINGS)

by Vince L.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Vince L. was working in the San Francisco Bay Area as an Air Force physician when he attended his first WCC this past February. In the wake of experiencing WCC as a "life-changing" conference, Vince uses a whimsical narrative style to reflect on three weighty life lessons God has been teaching him. This year, Vince is serving on the Planning Committee for the 25th WCC in 2010 and is affectionately becoming known as the workshops "Commissioner."

Remember that summer afternoon when you were a kid and you laid down in your backyard on a sunlit patch of grass, with your red tricycle parked nearby and your hands folded behind your head; and how you looked up at the puffy clouds above and daydreamed about the day when you would finally be able to drive a real car, buy your own favorite cereal, and have all of life's questions all figured out? What a moment that will be: *"I am finally there. I am now a 'grown up'"*.

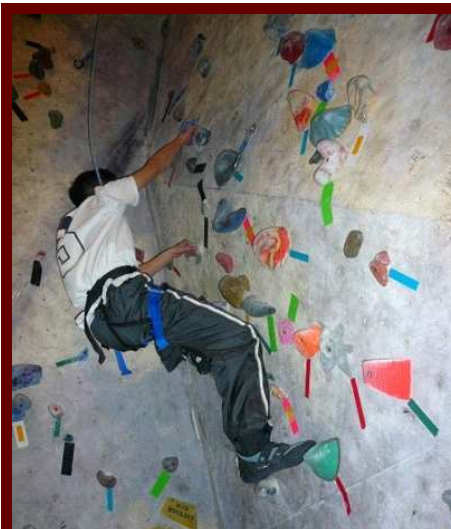
However, as time passes, we discover an unspoken truth hidden from the little ones but known by all adults. There's a message today for that little version of you and me: *It is that we never do stop growing up*. Each day that passes brings us new awareness and understanding of this protean concept called life. Tomorrow brings new blessings, hardships, insecurities, joy, and sadness. Yet as much uncertainty as tomorrow carries, it also provides an opportunity to know God *more directly, intimately, and without fear*.

Climbing Towards Maturity * In my life, God has shown me three themes that have become bedrocks for my life; important "handholds" that I've latched on to as I've been climbing this wall called maturity. The first "handhold" is that Jesus loves me. This might sound ridiculously basic, but pause and ponder: how deeply do you believe this truth? It defies every ounce of our human logic to understand this all-encompassing acceptance because it truly is a supernatural concept to grasp. Every single person yearns for unconditional love, but we get frustrated trying to give it to others and we know better than to expect it from anyone. We can't even give it to ourselves. However, when we catch a faint glimpse of the awesome expanse that is God's unconditional love, then we have an understanding of what grace means.

As a child, Christianity was about Sunday school, not swearing, and "being a good kid". As an adult after college, I questioned the culture that I grew up in. If Christianity was simply ascribing to a cultural standard, then I wanted to let it go. I knew people who were more compassionate, humanitarian, and passionate than the Christians I knew. If I was a Christian, then how could I be so narrow-minded?



WCC 2010 Workshops "Commissioner"



Using handholds and footholds to climb a literal wall

Redemption at the Cross * At the same time, I could not reconcile the ever-present weight of guilt, insecurity, and pride that regularly dogged my Chinese-American conscience. So God drew me to Him. He introduced me to a rare friend, an eccentric fellow who was a theological prodigy with the patience of an elephant. Night after night, I would pick his brain about every question I ever wanted to ask about God but was afraid to say.

Through this friendship, God showed me that He is far bigger than a cultural affiliation or moral conviction. Rather, all of history points to a cross on a Jerusalem hill where the redemption of mankind took place. Jesus Christ bought for me freedom from the judgment, oppression, and condemnation of my sin. And what a price He paid.

The second "handhold" is to keep my eyes on Him. My journey with God is not without difficulties, but it's becoming more apparent how it's all part of the process of growing up or becoming mature. Countless times I've disappointed others or myself. Trials and challenges would come and leave me asking, "God, where are You?" He answered with the passage in Matthew 14:22-32. All was well for Peter as he fixed his eyes on Jesus and walked out to meet Him upon the open sea. But when he turns his head away and sees the crashing waves

and tumultuous winds around him, he forgets who is right there before him – the Creator of all things – and begins to sink.

...Continued on page 3

ON GROWING UP (AND OTHER MUSINGS)

Continued from page 2...

He cries out for help and Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught Peter into safety. "You of little faith," Jesus said, "Why did you doubt?"

Through this symbolic narrative, God gave me a testimony of His faithfulness that endures even when I am faithless like Peter. He clasps our hands and enables us to stand through the most turbulent storms of life. This lesson has given me great peace and comfort towards the primary group that I now minister to as a physician – people afflicted with cancer. Few words cause people to face their mortality like the diagnosis of cancer. But for the times that I have been brave enough to offer prayer with them, Jesus meets us at that moment and brings our eyes to look to Him who overcomes even death. He brings peace for even those whose bodies are broken by making their hearts whole through faith in Him.

Thank you, Jesus, for through You we can stand firm even through the most turbulent waves of life. Thank you, Jesus, for clasping our hands and catching us when we have turned our eyes away from You. The waves are our fears. The winds are our failures. But You are so much greater and You help us to overcome. So we look to You.

Knowing God's Heart * I learned the third "handhold" through the ministry of World Christian Conference. It's a natural extension of the first two gripping points because after freely receiving His grace and becoming free to look to Jesus, I began developing an awareness of that which God cherishes – His passion for the whole entire world.

I have become convinced that the awareness of world missions needs to be in the heart of every individual Christian. I didn't always feel this way. International missions seemed to be a special calling for a select few. But God aligned my

heart with His for the world. He reminded me that the church is a global organism and just as individual Christians need to be a part of a local church body to flourish, so our local church has a pivotal role in the health of the global church at large. God's kingdom is established through our intercessory prayers for the unreached people groups as well as the commissioning of our hands and feet to serve beyond our borders.

Therefore, seeking renewal for my heart, for our Church, for His world – I humbly kneel before God and ask Him to align our hearts with His for mankind. Though I continue to struggle with finding my calling in His plan, that is my specific role in the *where* and the *how*, I am excited when I realize that His direction for our lives can change moment by moment. That needn't put me in a constant state of anxiety wondering if I'm in the place where I'm supposed to be, but I am rather assured comfort – as I trust in His sovereign timing for everything and everyone.

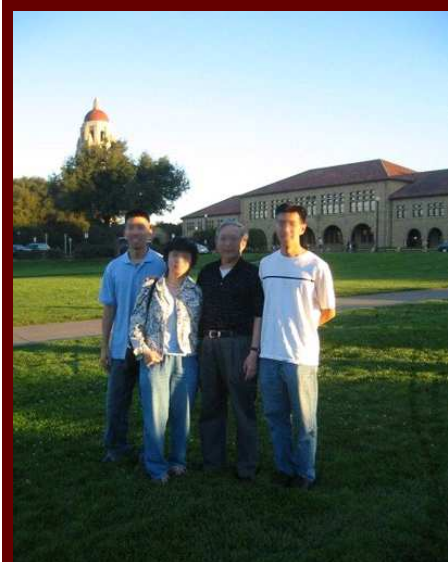
"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." – Proverbs 3:5,6

These three lessons have shaped my life and continue to be everything I hold on to. I am thankful to have learned them.

But I'm still growing up too.

So the next time a little boy tugs you on the sleeve asking, "Hey, mister, what's it like being a grown-up?"

Go ahead and do him a favor. Let him in on the secret. "I dunno, kid. I guess we'll find out when we get there."



Quality time with his family



Each playing their part in the world



"Therefore, seeking renewal for my heart, for our Church, for His world – I humbly kneel before God and ask Him to align our hearts with His for mankind. Though I continue to struggle with finding my calling in His plan, that is my specific role in the where and the how, I am excited when I realize that His direction for our lives can change moment by moment."

INTRODUCING THE THEME FOR WCC 2010

The WCC Planning Committee has been working diligently on planning the 25th World Christian Conference to be held at Redwood Christian Park in the Santa Cruz mountains in California. Just off the presses, they are ready to announce the conference theme. And in keeping with the theme, one planning committee member per month will be sharing their World Christian journey testimony in *Voices of the Movement* starting with Vince L. this month. Drum roll please...



"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." - (Matthew 24:14)

More than two thousand years ago, Jesus foretold a time when famine, conflict, and oppression will overshadow the world. Amidst the rising turmoil, a light of truth will shine and reach every corner of the earth. And a new kingdom will be established.

Today, natural calamity and political unrest accompany the dizzying pace of globalization and modernization. Blessed by the legacy of our predecessors and the help of unprecedented technological advancements, our generation earnestly seeks to complete the Great Commission.

The World Christian Fellowship was founded upon Christ's call to respond to and share the Gospel with all nations. This February, the annual conference celebrates 25 years of equipping Christians to fulfill our call in God's global plan.

Join us in testifying His message of salvation and preparing this generation for the returning King.

Now is our moment.

This is our time.

INVITATION TO SERVE AT WORLD CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE



WCC 2010 Executive Committee Directors

Join the WCC 2010 Executive Committee

Contact: Shirleen at programs@wcfellowship.org.

The Planning Committee wants to welcome anyone who would like to join in serving for the upcoming conference by joining the Executive Committee, the team that executes the "nuts and bolts" of the actual conference. Come join us either at the Executive Committee Retreat on Sept 18-20, 2009 or anytime after that before the conference "dry run" in late January 2010. Please contact Shirleen at programs@wcfellowship.org.

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

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

NOW

Testify to the Nations

Anticipate the King

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.



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.



WCF LEADERSHIP UPDATE

by Esther W.

WCF volunteer teams ◇ On a clear blue day in San Francisco's sunset district at the end of August, several WCF volunteer servant teams convened together to work on WCF related business and ministry. Even rarer than a fogless day in San Francisco was having the schedules of all the Board of Directors (BD), Executive Directorship Team (EDT), the WCC Planning Committee/Executive Committee Directors (PC/EC Directors), and the WCC 25th Anniversary Team (A-Team) - about 20 busy leaders in all - converge together for such a gathering of unity. Since WCF operates with rotating leadership teams, some leaders had not met each other in person before, so a tremendous benefit of having an in-person meeting like this one was to be able to put a face to a name rather than only knowing co-laborers through e-mails or conference calls. Special thanks goes to Ray J. who generously opened his home again to WCF.

Worship and servanthood ◇ The day began with worship led by PC member Vincent L. followed by a devotional from board member Dick A. Dick reminded the group of the importance of *servant* leadership and pointed to Jesus' teaching in John 20:20-28. As followers of Jesus, WCF leaders were also not to "lord it over" others, but to first be servants. It was a great reminder of the grace-filled and respectful manner that each leader should be conducting WCF business.

The meeting continued with morning updates to the board from the WCC Planning Committee and 25th Anniversary Team regarding their planning progress for the next World Christian Conference to be held over President's Day weekend in February 2010 at Redwood Christian Park in the Santa Cruz mountains. Since WCC 2010 will have an anniversary celebration component, it was critical that the key leaders on the various teams began the process of collaborating together closely. Finally, the Executive Directorship Team, which serves as the interim Executive Director, joined the Board of Directors for their afternoon session while the Planning Committee split off into their own agenda for the weekend.



WCF leadership group photo



Board member's devotional

A privilege to serve ◇ The main sentiment felt throughout the gathering time was a tremendous sense of joy and gratitude that God would allow each servant leader to contribute to his Kingdom through their service to WCF. Furthermore, many felt that it was a privilege and blessing to be able to serve with others who share a like-mind and heart to see more Asian-American Christians mobilized for God's global purposes. Finally, in amazement the teams gave God praise for shepherding the World Christian movement and allowing WCF to play a part for the past 30-plus years as a prayer and mobilizing movement.



PRAYER INSPIRES AND KEEPS LIT THE FIRE

by Lillian L.

School teacher and *Voices of the Movement* copy editor Lillian L. reflects on how attending WCF prayer meetings fans the missionary flame in her heart. She relishes praying and fellowshiping with many faithful others in different phases of their World Christian journey.



Praying together

Contagious prayer ✧ The spiritual discipline of prayer is not only powerful but also very inspiring. After attending the WCF Fremont prayer group meetings in July and August, I walked away with a greater sense of unity with other World Christians as well as a renewed sense of motivation to pray for the World Christian Movement. After a year absence due to graduate school, I realized how much I missed and needed these gatherings.

Different journeys ✧ What stood out in my mind from both evenings was “rubbing shoulders” with fellow followers of Christ on the World Christian journey – all in real color. Married persons with children, couples, singles, older, and younger – we all came to learn more about God’s work in the nations and to encourage each other through prayer.

During the August meeting, I was impressed to see that several of the speaker’s fellow alumni from separate trips came to co-testify about their mission work. She recently returned from a trip to Southeast Asia, yet each shared passionately about advising business owners on operating their companies upon biblical principles rather than cultural norms such as corruption or exploitation. Not surprisingly, the service caused each of the goers to evaluate their own careers and lives back in America asking themselves, “What am I doing with my job? My life? How can I repurpose my life (upon biblical principles)?”

At the July meeting, the speaker was a single lady who was leaving in a few weeks for ministry in the Arab/Muslim world of North Africa. Setting out sooner still was a young man headed for the Middle East to work in academia. Plus, I also met a husband and wife team who is raising support for their family and four children to relocate to Asia for cross-cultural work. Their excitement for overseas, cross-cultural work was contagious and I was inspired to hear how God formed their hearts, transformed their minds, and conformed their wills for His Kingdom work. And God does all this with each of their personalities, skills, and talents in mind!

Voices rise ✧ A regular part of these meetings is a “concert of prayer” in which we pray simultaneously in small groups and then later as a large group for our speaker’s mission work. For our sister heading to North Africa, I was humbled to hear of others interceding for her devotional times with Jesus, to persevere through trials such as loneliness, and to claim the victory over the Enemy in Christ’s name. One phrase still resonates in my mind: “May she grow roots in Living Water (Jesus).” It was crystal clear that our prayers for our missionary would strengthen her in the spiritual realm as she entered a part of the 10/40 window.

Fervent prayer rose up at the August meeting for the Kingdom work done in the overseas businesses as I heard intercessors ask God “to give the owners wisdom and courage to ‘do the right thing’” and not perpetuate societal evils such as corruption, deceit, greed. Words of blessing and conviction were also uttered for nations that are largely influenced by Islam.

Indeed, members of the Body came together in these moments, on these nights, and the Body was whole with members ministering to one another.

A wife and husband remarked at the July event that “we are in the presence of a great cloud of witnesses as we are praying our fellow sojourners forward until all nations hear.” After these evenings, I was moved by the Holy Spirit to pray more faithfully for my missionary friends in far and near places.



“Prayer needs no passport, visa, or work permit. There is no such thing as a ‘closed country’ as far as prayer is concerned. . . Much of the history of mission could be written in terms of God moving in response to persistent prayer.”

– Stephen Gaukroger

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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