

Youth With A Mission began passing through a period of realignment in both its relationships and its structure beginning in 2002. We were strongly reminded by the Lord that we are to be interdependent in our relationships and in our approach to ministry. The 50 Days of Prayer emerged out of this time, and we began to regain lost ground. We witnessed the development of Team 3, which presented a biblical model of interdependent leadership between the President, Chairman and Director. We began to regain our strength, in keeping with Dr. Atef's word to YWAM that much like Samson, our hair had been cut and we had lost our power over a period of years.

YWAM's Team3Plus came to the 2007 Global Leadership Team meetings in Jeju, South Korea with a sense that YWAM was on the brink of something profound and extraordinary. During the course of the week, Loren, John and Lynn reminded the group of a series of prophetic words coming from independent sources that confirm a conviction that YWAM is entering a time of unprecedented growth. One was the word from our intercessors in Tacoma, Washington (USA) that the Lord wanted to release 200,000 workers to us; another was a letter from an American pastor that talked about a 500 per cent increase; and a third was the exhortation of Lou Engle and Mike Bickle to John Dawson and Mark Anderson that we should prepare to accept many young people from The Call ministry that just gathered 80,000 in a stadium to pray (John wrote about this in a recent letter to the mission). Another astounding development is the call2all movement, in which Mark Anderson has been asked to lead the plan to see one billion people come to Christ over the next 15 to 20 years with 20 million or more new churches planted. This huge initiative already encompasses more than 200 denominations and organizations and is the result of the faith and prayers of the late Dr. Bill Bright and is chaired by John Maxwell.

Tom Bloomer's Word--- Crossing the Jordan

Early in the week, University of the Nations Provost Tom Bloomer shared that he received a word from the Lord one year ago that YWAM had "crossed the Jordan" and was preparing to enter into its inheritance. This word was related to a word he had shared at the HUI in 2000, in which he felt strongly that the Lord said that we were not ready to "go across". Part of the HUI word was that God had many more projects to share with us, but that we were not ready due to disunity and not really wanting to hear about His plans. During that time of being out of alignment, his feeling was, "We lost ten years."

But when Bloomer heard in recent months about the promises for release of workers, and about the emerging call2all strategy of YWAM banding with 200 groups and denominations which would provide the means of taking the gospel to reach as many as one billion people with the Good News, he realized why the Lord had not let him share the word about being across the Jordan a year ago.

"That's what the Lord was waiting to show us," he said. "He was waiting until we were ready to receive His plans. And after He saw that we were ready, He released this word: 'YWAM, you're across!'"

Spiritual Circumcision

But there are conditions for this awesome release. Bloomer compared YWAM to the Israelites once they had crossed the Jordan in Joshua 5. Although victories awaited them, they needed further preparation even after crossing the Jordan. “That’s where we are at right now,” he said. “We have crossed the Jordan, we have responded to God, but we need a new level of His work in us, in order to be able to go on to victories.” Bloomer said that we need to be circumcised of unbelief, cynicism, resistance to leaders, hardness of heart toward followers and co-workers, and temptations to reject the word of the Lord, that is, resisting vision or the prophetic word of the Lord.

Tom also quoted a word from Joshua 3 that Shirley Brownhill had underlined in May in Kona: “You have not passed this way before.” This word resonated with all, and summed up the feeling that we are in a new place in our history.

Kevin Sutter’s Word--- The Tide Has Turned

Just two days later, GLT member Kevin Sutter shared an impression he received from the Lord while walking a beach in July 2007. Sutter was looking at the ocean at low tide when the Lord said ‘Notice how I control the tide’ and reminded Sutter of the constant ebb and flow under His direction. Sutter pulled out his local tide chart which read “low tide 2:13 p.m.” He looked at his watch, which read exactly 2:13 p.m. The Lord then spoke to Sutter: “Now you know that the tide has just turned. I am bringing in the water, the tide is rising. My goodness and love will be seen by many.” Sutter had the strong impression that this turning tide represents an unprecedented number of young missionaries that will choose YWAM as their means to get to the nations. A wonderful confirmation that we are in a brand-new season!

Brian Brennt’s Word--- YWAM is a favored son of the Lord

Brian Brennt pastors New Song City Central Church in Tacoma, Washington. He has spoken and ministered prophetically at many YWAM centers throughout the world. In seeking the Lord, Brennt was especially impressed by God’s special love for YWAM. God has “preserved our voice” for a coming global move, Brennt said, equating this favored status with God’s gift of a mass wave of youth entering YWAM in the next few years. He emphasized that God’s intention is to call young people into purpose, vision and international ministry, and that YWAM has a prescribed role in this. He was one of the people to whom the Lord spoke that He wanted to give us 200,000 new workers. Before leaving Tacoma, Brian received a word for us about Gilgal, the place of Israel’s circumcision in Joshua 5. He had no idea that the Lord had spoken the same word to us already, until he arrived in Jeju!

Brennt warned that having crossed the Jordan, YWAM can still disqualify itself due to inaction or unbelief. He said that we needed to be circumcised; Brennt said that those who are called to speak about God’s unfolding plans will speak clearly and with a “restored voice,” and that many voices will say the same thing as confirmation. God

speaks vision, then He gives the plan. We have now received the vision and the plan is soon to follow. “Don’t be discouraged with the speed in which God is moving,” he said.

Forms of attack against YWAM

Brennt said that the enemy is employing four assignments against YWAM workers in general to keep them from fulfilling their roles: sickness, depression and dread of the future, fear and failure. He said that distrust and insubordination must be left behind and that transparency and interdependence must replace them. Specifically, the enemy is targeting the prophetic voices that speak about what is holding YWAM back. The enemy is trying to shut down those who walk in spiritual sensitivity within YWAM.

Brennt said that God has outlasted our stubbornness, referring to the spiritual circumcision necessary to move forward with the plans of God.

One final word from Brian Brennt concerned eight things God wants to restore to YWAM:

- 1) Systematic reproduction- YWAM workers always discipling those around them.
- 2) “Do first, then teach” – visions can’t just be declared, they must be modeled.
- 3) Youth must be targeted at all times—all visions must somehow align to them.
- 4) Everyone in YWAM participates in missions work and ministry.
- 5) Openness and transparency modeled as a lifestyle.
- 6) An environment of faith, blessing, celebration and encouragement.
- 7) YWAMers recognize when they’ve completed a vision and move on to a new assignment.
- 8) Staying *current* with what the Holy Spirit is saying to do locally and internationally, and aligning with those things at every level.

Youth will be drawn to YWAM if these eight things are restored.

Alleluia! May the Lord give us grace to hear what He is saying, to meet His conditions, and to receive and steward all that He has for us.