

First & Foremost

An Update from World Thrust International

Winter 2009

A Changed Heart is the Only Answer by Joy K. Boerop



We marvel at the open doors the Lord gives us. It is not always for preaching or teaching. This was our experience again this past summer. Growing up in China, Joy attended school in Shanghai. In August we were invited to a reunion, which took place in Hamburg, Germany. Former students of all grades and their spouses came from many corners of the world to attend these special days. Most of them have achieved much in life. Among them are doctors, lawyers, professors of renowned universities, extremely successful businessmen, diplomats, a physicist, and even the retired admiral of the Australian navy.

In the past we had been to several reunions. This time, more than ever before, we had wonderful talks with many of the attendees. Is it "the economic crisis" or the present world condition that makes them ponder the meaning of life? Or perhaps as they are getting older do they begin to ask themselves questions they have never bothered to ask before? One of them in particular talked to Bill several times. He was concerned about world conditions, the restlessness of our youth, the strife among the nations, and the plight of so many especially in the third world. Bill could only point this friend to the Lord. A changed heart is the only answer to all these challenges. Our prayer is that many of these friends will remember the talks we had. Oh, that they too might find the Savior!



Well Done My Good and Faithful Servant

Heaven rejoices as another saint is welcomed home. The Rev. Willie Cuke passed away August 22, 2009 at the age of 67.



It is a difficult task to sum up the life of a man who has impacted so many. Willie's vision and passion were to reach the world with the gospel. His commitment to missions is well known. Willie spent over 40 years serving the Lord. He began his ministry working with Operation Mobilization in Northern Italy; then served as Assistant Pastor and Sunday School Superintendent at the Peoples Cathedral. He founded the Abundant Life Assembly Church which is today recognized as one of the leading sending churches in the Caribbean. Willie also launched the School of Global Missions, an annual three-month course to prepare people for the mission field. He served as the Caribbean Area Director of World Thrust International, and as Director of Operation Mobilization Barbados. As you can see, his passion for the Lord is reflected in the actions of his life.

Willie is survived by his wife, Joy, their children and grandchildren.

Please pray with us for Willie's family, friends and co-workers as each move forward with their own individual transition to life on this earth without his physical presence.



WTI is celebrating 25 years of helping the church fulfill the Great Commission. We are planning a celebration in 2010. Watch for more information about this milestone in our ministries history.



Equipping future pastors and church leaders by Bill Boerop, Founder/President

The Lord continues to open doors for WTI to teach at Seminaries and Bible colleges. You may recall that early in 2009 we taught at a seminary in the Philippines. This fall we were invited to teach at the Italian Evangelical Bible Institute in Rome.

What a privilege and awesome responsibility to help formulate a philosophy of ministry before these students enter the ministry. Teaching that the local church should be a sending base for world evangelization is of course a key component. It should become part of every pastor's or church leader's philosophy of ministry. Rejoice with us in the feedback we have received from the students in Rome:

"Thank you again for your seminar. I think it really changed our lives. It communicated to me the importance of world mission being the center of all church activities, as the instrument that God wants to use to declare His Glory. It strengthened me in the importance of having a clear vision and a purpose for the entire church (and for my life)."

"This seminar was extremely important. You have shown us the importance of missions and that EVERYONE has to be involved in some way. Since you left, I have noticed that many students now have the map of the world on their desktop in order to remember to pray for other countries and missions. We now understand what it means in practice to pray for missions, to give and to go."



Giving Isn't As Much About Finances As It Is About Obedience to God's Leading by Lynwood Worley

I was recently reminded of the story in Luke 5. Simon Peter fished all night and did not catch any fish. Then Jesus instructs him "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch". (Luke 5:4 NIV) The key phrase being "for a catch." Peter obeyed and he and his friends not only caught fish, they caught two boatloads of fish! So what does this have to do with development you might ask? It points out what happens when we commit to following the leading of Jesus.

For WTI it shows how God continues to meet our needs even in these times of economic struggle. Let us take this opportunity to thank those of you who have supported the ministry for so long.

If you have never financially supported us, let me challenge you to pray about becoming one of our supporters. Should God prompt you to give (even in these tough times) remember Peter, a professional fisherman who had fished all night to no avail said "But, because you said so, I will let down my nets" (Luke 5:5 NIV).

The Whole Church with the Gospel to the Whole World

In this time of globalization it is easier to understand more than ever before whose responsibility it is to reach the world for Christ. It is not only the task of the church in the West. What an inspiration to see the body of Christ, the church from "anywhere" going "everywhere". So it was fitting and a blessing to have our Africa Area Director, Dr. Nicholas Osameyan minister this fall in Barbados, Jamaica and Atlanta, Ga. Over a 100 pastors in Jamaica were challenged to lead their church to embrace the task of the evangelization of the world.



Bill Boerop with WT Africa Area Director, Dr. Nicholas Osameyan



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World Thrust International is a faith-based ministry relying on the Lord to provide through the faithful financial donations of individuals, churches, businesses and foundations to meet our budget needs. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord may use you and your resources to help increase the outreach of WTI's worldwide ministry.



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