

to others we are not that bad. But Jesus is our only standard and compared to him, every one of us will always have something to confess. Because of that, I believe that we are spiritually healthy and sharp when we have a daily, clear awareness of God's conviction in our lives.

To be more practical about it, it is a good thing to regularly ask, "Lord, what is holding me back from being all that you want me to be? What sins stand in the way of my being as clearly led and empowered by the Holy Spirit as Jesus was?" I believe this is a good pathway to continuous spiritual growth and empowerment.

We will not need to publicly confess everything of which the Spirit convicts us. Sometimes our sin is only a private matter. On other occasions, our sin will have affected another person so we will need to make it right with them through confession and prayer together. More often than not, though, my sin will impact the entire community or team I live and work with—especially as a leader. In this instance, public confession is good and promotes spiritual health in the Body of Christ. But it does require some wisdom so that my confession does not condemn or embarrass anyone else.

A man of God from the Middle East once helped me by explaining repentance like this: "There is room for only one person inside me, and Jesus wants to be that person. The way I make room for him is dying to myself every day. The more I die to myself, the more room there is for Jesus. Repentance is one of the chief tools to put myself (my pride and ego) to death, so repentance is a means of making more room for Jesus to live inside me with all of His joy and abundant life. Seen in this light, repentance really is a gift of God's grace, not a chore.

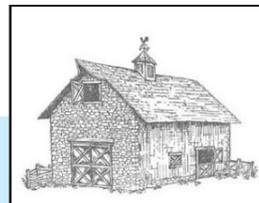
"There is room for only one person inside me, and Jesus wants to be"

God has laid before us this path to restoration—a restoration of his power working in and through us. As we realign with our leaders and with values of YWAM, and as we repent of the things that hold us back, we will live more abundantly and experience a growing anointing.

I was recently talking with a base leader from the southern hemisphere and he said, "We are seeing hundreds of young people coming to Christ in our outreaches. We aren't really doing anything different from what we have always done, but it is just a lot more fruitful than ever before." Hallelujah! That is what I mean by "anointing." When we have it we are who God made us to be! So do press on and pay the price God asks of you!

Yours faithfully,

Lynn Green



Storehouse Fund

For many years we have had a Storehouse Fund that has been used in the event of emergencies. These occasions have arisen many times in recent years and the funds are too low to be of much help. Now, the Global Leadership Team of YWAM and Team 3 (John Dawson, Iain Muir and Lynn Green) want to breathe new life into the Storehouse Funds.

For more information go to: www.ywamict.org/?page_id=24

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international chairman's team

ywamict.org



Restoration, Realignment and Repentance

May

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A friend of mine from the Middle East recently said, "In the 1970s, sometimes we would hear a rumour that a YWAM team was coming to our country and a shiver of excitement would spread through the Christians. More recently, the same news gets almost no response." When I heard that, it was like receiving a deep cut. It really hurt!

I was on some of those teams to the Middle East in the 70s, so I know that we did not feel powerful or wise. We were just young people still struggling to develop into some sort of maturity. Though I was leading a team, I wasn't consistent in my prayer life; I was often a selfish leader and I know that we were making loads of cultural mistakes. Now we are wiser, I have developed the fundamental disciplines of leading a stable Christian life, we understand the keys to crossing cultural divides etc. So, we should make much more of an impact now than then. But all the knowledge we have gained over the years does not begin to compare with the impact of God's anointing on his servants.

Anointing. It is a word we use regularly, but what does it mean? The Bible gives us quite a number of examples of what it means. Undoubtedly the best is when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism and equipped him for his ministry. From then on, the power of God worked through him in full strength. Or, take the example of Saul from 1 Samuel 10 where Samuel anoints him to become king and tells him, "The Spirit of the LORD will come upon you in power... and you will be changed into a different person."

YWAM exists because of that anointing. God put his Holy Spirit on a young couple, Loren and Darlene Cunningham, and they had the ability to impart it to others. So, even though we were inexperienced and relatively untrained, God touched nations through us. And He is still doing that, but that anointing is not as powerful as it could be; not as powerful as He wants it to be.

That brings us to the obvious question: What can we do to increase the anointing on us? That, in turn leads us to the first R...

Please distribute this latest letter from Lynn as widely as possible among your YWAM staff and students - make copies to hand out, or post it where everyone can read it. We would like to make Lynn's teaching letters available to everyone in the mission. Please translate if necessary, and do send a copy of your translation to: ict@oval.com to be posted on our website.

Thank you!

The International Chairman's Team



THIS LETTER IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS A PODCAST ON WWW.YWAMICT.ORG

RESTORATION

God is always in the business of restoration. That is one of the core themes in the Old Testament. The Lord had appointed Israel to a very specific anointing for the sake of all the nations. But they strayed from his ways and disobeyed his commandments and, as a result, the anointing waned. But God, in His faithfulness, called them back again and again. Each time they turned back to His ways He restored His anointing to them and they began to fulfill their calling again.

We are also called to the nations and God has a very powerful anointing that He imparts to us when we pursue His calling and obey his commandments to us. Our calling is to disciple the nations (Matt. 28:18-20). We are to engage in evangelism, making disciples, ministering to the poor and needy and bringing the power of the gospel to bear in every sphere of life. The size and the scope of this calling are both impossible, but when God's full anointing is on us, a little effort bears much fruit.

The converse is also true. When the Lord is not working powerfully with us, much effort leads to little fruit and we end up feeling that we are in a great battle just to survive. None of us want to live that way; so what is needed for our restoration?

REALIGNMENT

A few years ago the Lord began to speak to us about realignment. I think I first heard that message from my great friend and fellow-member of Team3, John Dawson. The first part of that call was to realign with our founders, Loren and Dar. God chose them to start this movement and the anointing He has for us still flows down through them. We, like all parts of the global Body of Christ, are knitted together through a network of relationships. We are strong and healthy when the relationships are strong and healthy. We were aware of some strained or broken relationships and God was commanding us to be reconciled to each other.

We are called to brokenness and humility, the way of the cross, and that is the way to restored relationships. Tears, apologies and forgiveness have marked many of our leadership meetings in recent years. I am so happy to say that our unity is stronger than it has been for a long time and continues to get stronger.

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God's presence with us will be increased in direct proportion to our unity. So it is certainly worth humbling ourselves to heal broken or strained relationships. It is usually very hard to reach out to someone you don't get along with. It can seem very risky, but it is a risk that needs to be taken. Prayer and humility will pave the way.

We are being called by the Holy Spirit to realign with one another, especially those whom He has appointed to lead us. But there is another dimension of realignment. God wants us to realign with our YWAM values.

It is important to understand that no person or committee made up the YWAM values. Rather, with a mandate from the global leaders of YWAM, Darlene and a working group consulted widely with the mission, asking, "What have been the

most important 'words from God' in the history of YWAM thus far?" Over the years, that working group has continued even while some members moved on and new ones joined in. So our current set of values represents their best effort to record the Word of the Lord to us. And it is those Words that define who we are called to be.

Many of us can remember when and where God first brought one of those formative words to us. That is how He moulded us to be what He wants us to be. He speaks, we hear and record it, then we obey that Word with the help of His grace and the Word changes us. It moulds us to the identity God has chosen for us.

If we are called to YWAM, we don't have the freedom to reject any of the values. If anyone does reject one or more of those values then they will have a different identity than God has planned for us. For example, some leader or group of leaders might decide that women can't be in leadership in YWAM or that our style of faith and finance will not work for them. If they stick with such a position, then they will develop an identity that does not fit well in YWAM. It might be right for them, but it is not YWAM.

Do you see why it is so important that we should realign with the values and relationships God had ordained for us? When we do, then we move into a place of obedience and renewed anointing. That brings us to:

REPENTANCE

Repentance is a wonderful gift from God. It is the perfect tool for making us more like Jesus.

I am aware that many Christians struggle with the idea that repentance is a good thing. Many years ago, a very gifted young leader whom I worked with reproved me during a prayer meeting. I was asking the Lord to show me if there was any sinful thing in me and he said a Christian shouldn't pray that way. He believed that, once a person prayed a sinner's prayer and asked Jesus to come into his life, then all sin—past, present and future was already forgiven by the blood of Jesus.

That sounded good at first, but I don't think the Bible teaches that. The Apostle John, in the first chapter of his first letter writes that no one can say they are without sin and that "if we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." The Apostle James, toward the end of his letter commands believers to "confess your sins one to another and pray for each other that you may be healed." Repentance should regularly be a part of a believer's life!

In some parts of the world, people think that leaders should never confess sins and failures. They think people follow those who appear to be above all sin or failure. But the scriptures teach that God's grace and power comes to those who humble themselves, and that applies to all. The great King David confessed his sins publicly for every generation to read in Psalm 51 and the Apostle Paul referred to himself as the "chief of sinners."

Sometimes we think we should not have to repent and make public confession because, compared

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