



I am happy to report that I am hearing God more clearly than I've heard for many years and our various leadership gatherings are increasingly dependent upon listening to God together and taking seriously each person's understanding of what God is saying.

I am convinced that throughout YWAM we need to return to this cornerstone of God's ways. Jesus said "My sheep hear my voice and they follow me".

So to sum up, I believe we will see more protection and authority in the battle to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. As we have prayed and continue to increase our prayer cover, we will become more effective and less vulnerable. But there will still be suffering and there will still be martyrs in the course of preaching the gospel. However, as we return to our deep commitment to listen and obey, we can share in the comfort of which the Apostle Peter wrote to the early Church in the midst of its suffering, "Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right". 1 Peter 4:19 (NASB)

In His Peace,

C. Lynn Green,
International Chairman.

storehouse fund

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 Team3 (John Dawson, Iain Muir and Lynn Green) want to breathe new life into the Storehouse funds.

For more information go to www.ywamict.org
Feedback welcome: ict@oval.com



Leadership Letter to YWAM—May 2007

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On May 3rd, our recent global day of prayer, I had to get a visa from the Consulate for India in London. I was so sorry to miss prayer with our community at Highfield Oval, but found a quiet garden along the bank of the River Thames in central London.

As I walked and prayed, I thought about those YWAMers who have died over the years and the fact that more will lay down their lives in days to come. I also began to grapple with thoughts that are hard to put into words, but I suspect others have similar thoughts. *How should we view suffering and death in YWAM? Is there a basis for thinking this is the price we pay for taking the gospel to the nations? Are those who have died martyrs for the gospel? Or are some of them just tragic accidents?*

Many of our deaths have been due to traffic accidents and others have been from the most common fatal illnesses. As I walked and prayed in the garden, I came upon a memorial to William Tyndale and this is what it says:

WILLIAM TYNDALE

FIRST TRANSLATOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT INTO ENGLISH FROM THE GREEK. BORN A.D. 1484, DIED A MARTYR AT VILVORDE IN BELGIUM A.D. 1536.

"THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH" – "THE ENTRANCE OF THY WORDS GIVETH LIGHT." PSALM CXIX 105,130

"AND THIS IS THE REWARD THAT GOD HATH GIVEN TO US, ETERNAL LIFE." I JOHN V 11.



Please distribute this latest letter from Lynn as widely as possible among your YWAM staff and students. 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 at www.ywamict.org

THE LAST WORDS OF WILLIAM TYNDALE WERE,
“LORD OPEN THE KING OF ENGLAND’S EYES.”
WITHIN A YEAR AFTERWARDS A BIBLE WAS
PLACED IN EVERY PARISH CHURCH BY THE KING’S
COMMAND.

Tyndale is reconised as one of the great martyrs in Christian history, but I wondered if his contemporaries thought that way? How did his family feel? The idea of having the scriptures available in the common language was scandalous at that time and heavily opposed by the clergy throughout Europe. In 1536 he was convicted of heresy, strangled and his body burned.

With 500 years of hindsight, we have no doubt that he was a martyr. But what about the so-called accident or the fatal illness contracted on the mission field? After grappling with this in prayer and thought, I am convinced that all whose lives come to a premature end while they are in the course of obeying Jesus as missionaries can be considered to have given their lives for the sake of the gospel.

As YWAM leaders we need to dig into this question still further. What do we think about those who might have taken unnecessary risks? For example, the person who ventures into the surf knowing they can’t swim very well, or the one who takes a mode of transportation that is known to be extremely dangerous, or the one who is habitually a dangerous driver. When a YWA-Mer or any Christian worker loses their life under that sort of circumstance it is particularly difficult. We have a responsibility to do all we can to protect our workers from unnecessary risk and yet it is so easy to become fearful and over-controlling in our efforts to protect our staff and especially our students.

Many years ago, I was in Cyprus when I received a phone call saying that a newly married Swedish couple who were students on our DTS had been kidnapped in Dagestan. When I heard that news I was both fearful and angry. To me, it was indefensible that any YWAM leader would allow DTS students to go on outreach in a country about which it was said, “the largest single source of foreign currency is ransoms from kidnappings”. When I phoned leaders who were nearer the situation I began to learn a remarkable story about a young couple who had been interceding for Dagestan for many years, and whose parents and home church had sent them to the DTS with the expectation that they would go to Dagestan. The couple were convinced that whatever happened to them in that country, they had gone there in direct obedience to God. As it turned out they spent several months in captivity, but were remarkably strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit and had a powerful testimony to tell. What I felt was an unacceptable risk was actually detailed obedience to God’s leading.

That story illustrates the only solution to our dilemma. We must be obedient servants. As we go to the whole world to preach the gospel there will be more illness and more lives will be laid down. We are praying for more protective cover from heaven and we are not encouraging anyone to take risks just for the sake of adventure. But we will not shrink back from the challenging parts of the world. Those who are walking in obedience and lay down their lives are following in the steps of the generations of martyrs.

As we consider this subject it provokes us not only to pray for more protective cover from heaven, but also that we might become more sensitive to God’s voice. One of YWAM’s cornerstone teachings is that God speaks and His people hear His voice. It was no accident that the Lord led Loren to write the first YWAM book on that subject, “Is that really you, God?” Sometimes, though, we get so focused on strategies, travel advice from various embassies and foreign offices, the cost of tickets and other practical issues that we squeeze out God’s voice and replace it with our own thinking. God has deeply convicted me of that over the past couple of years and I am on a journey to increase my sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It has been like retracing my first couple of years with YWAM except that I am having to do it at a deeper level with more repentance and brokenness. I realize that I have let my experience and wisdom replace God’s voice in far too many of my decisions. Of course, it is obvious that no matter how much I learn or how much I study the word of God and understand His ways I will never have a fraction of God’s insight and knowledge. So it always makes sense to listen to Him and “lean not to my own understanding”.

I was much more determined to hear from God when I was just starting in service overseas because I constantly felt out of my depth, had no experience and often no one else to turn to for counsel, but with experienced wise counselors and an increasing knowledge of God’s word I became more self-reliant. Now I have to repent of that pride very regularly and break old habits that are deeply entrenched.

There is another reason why I have strayed away from the simple path of hearing and obeying. All of us know that the word of the Lord is not nearly as clear to us as it seems to be to some of the Biblical characters, who recorded extensive dialogue with God. It is easy to make mistakes about what God is saying and that forces us to walk in deep humility. Of course, our pride doesn’t like that, so soon we stop asking God and begin to believe that He does not speak as clearly as He used to speak to His people. Or perhaps we think for some reason that He doesn’t speak clearly to me. I used to have all kinds of reasons why I thought God did not speak as clearly to me as He does to some people. In the end I see all those as comprising a system of unbelief, so I have found myself repenting almost daily of unbelief as well as pride