



Unexpected Changes in Direction

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Photo: Himeji Castle, Himeji, Hyogo, Japan

THE SECOND HALF OF OUR LIVES

by Joyce & Wilbur W.

Planning to launch out in 2010, Joyce & Wilbur W. are preparing for the next season in their lives. This couple, with two almost college-aged children, share about how they learned to count the things of the 'American Dream' as loss. In contrast, through a business-as-missions platform, they are bent on pursuing 'His Dream', a life with greater eternal significance.

Way back ✨ If you asked us in the early 1990s whether long-term missions was in our plan, our answer would have been a definite *No*. We were preoccupied with chasing our dreams: dream house, dream career, dream kids, dream ministry, and dream church. Although we were serving actively in church, we stayed within our comfort zone and did not let God stretch us too much.

Although we did live the American Dream, we realized that the satisfaction was temporal. Phil. 3:7 came alive to us one day: *"Whatever was to our profit, have we considered it a loss for the sake of Christ?"* Are we willing to let go of living a comfortable life or bringing up "successful" children in the eyes of the world?

The awakening ✨ After a few years of intense struggles and praying Matthew 6:33, *"But seek first His righteousness and all these things (clothing and food, etc.) will be given to you as well,"* Wilbur yielded to God in his career ladder. He resigned from his managerial post and accepted a lower position at work. God allowed this experience to mold him and this marked the turning point in our pursuit of a life of greater, eternal significance. Joyce was a software engineer for 13 years and decided to be a full-time mom in 1997 prior to Wilbur's job change.

Since the late 1990s, God opened up doors for our family to go on short-term mission (stm) trips in the summer. Our children began their first stm trip when they were ages nine and seven. We have been on seven stm trips inside and outside the United States, traveling to very developed places and less developed locations. We have seen, felt, and tasted what it is like to be a missionary. Nothing we encountered was beyond His resources and His promises. These trips taught us to see the lost souls through the eyes of God and to experience His power which enabled us to do things we never thought we could do.

In addition, the Perspectives class played a major role in our understanding of world missions. Life for us was never the same after Perspectives.

Not location or vocation ✨ During the World Christian Conference in 2005, we felt that God placed the burden in our hearts to commit our lives for long-term missions work, but we had no idea of when or where. We decided to trust that

God would unfold His plans when we surrendered to Him. It was not about location or vocation, but our humble response to His sovereignty.

God graciously held our hands as we went through the intensive agency search process, He connected us with His appointed agency, and then affirmed our calling through the candidacy assessment process. After two vision trips, we have narrowed down our location and anticipate departing for our destination in 2010.

We intend to enter a business-focused missions agency where we will be starting a new business or joining up with an existing business operated by Kingdom-minded professionals. These are legitimate for-profit businesses with an integrated mission strategy for church planting.

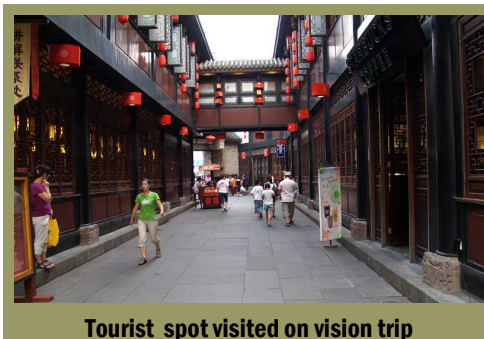
Step by step ✨ Looking back upon our lives, we can see how God has been putting the pieces together along the way. Step by step, God helped us die to

many worldly things to make room for His work: material possessions such as better cars, expensive gadgets, a better house; and even overcommitting ourselves to good causes that might distract us from seeking God's will to pursue Business As Missions.

We are looking forward to investing our second half in the Kingdom business. Our pursuit will be to fulfill His Dream of sharing the Good News with those who have yet to hear it.



Rolling hills in a Asian countryside



Tourist spot visited on vision trip



"Step by step, God helped us die to many worldly things to make room for His work: ... even overcommitting ourselves to good causes that might distract us from seeking God's will to pursue Business As Missions."

PRAYER: THE FUEL OF THE MOVEMENT



Prayer for WCF

World Christian Fellowship aims to activate the unique Asian-American capacity for God's purposes. Sign up to receive regular prayer updates for the World Christian Fellowship via e-mail.

If you are interested please e-mail Julie S. at prayer@wcfellowship.org.

REGIONAL WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUPS

The prayer groups listed below meet monthly. For more information on meeting times and locations, watch for e-mail announcements from the group coordinators. Alternatively, you may e-mail prayer@wcfellowship.org, or visit wcfellowship.org.

•L.A. (Temple City, CA)

•Seattle (Tukwila, WA)

•S.F. Monthly Missions Meeting (MMM) (San Francisco, CA)

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer *is* the greater work.” – Oswald Chambers

TRUE NATIONAL TREASURES: WCF LA PRAYER GROUP UPDATE

by Kevin L.

We are very thankful for the visit of Gary and Mary this month to our LA-area WCF prayer meeting. This husband and wife team gave us a vision for the minority people groups in China as those in great need of the Gospel and provided us with their own living examples of depending on prayers for guidance.

These minority people groups are treasures to God in heaven. They are the gold and the rubies in heaven that we will experience when one day people from all tribes and nations come together to praise Him. Yet, **most of** these people groups have few if any Christians living among them and little if any evangelization.

The task of planting churches among these groups will be difficult, but NOT impossible. It will require the sacrifice of efforts, time and money, and even lives from Christians. When these minority people groups eventually encounter a Christian witness, they will probably ponder questions that include: “Why do we need to be saved when we have our own ways of worship from our parents and ancestors? Why do we need to believe what the Westerners say or follow the western [Jesus] way?”

These questions exemplify the natural barriers to receiving the gospel message. They underscore the importance for world Christians to partner with God in prayer to overcome these hindrances.

Gary and Mary exhorted us with Hudson Taylor's words that if we agree to the truth that these people need the Gospel, then we must “solemnly examine [ourselves] in the sight of God to see whether [we] are doing [our] utmost to make Him known to them.”

We prayed for the needs of the people groups and the practical needs associated with Gary and Mary's outreach. Paul Hattaway's book *Operation China: Introducing All the People of China* is also a good resource for digging further.

Invitation to pray

- *that Christians will see the minority people groups as gems and treasures in the sight of God*
- *that the minority people groups will have the Bible in their own written languages or in audio form*
- *that national Christians in China will be involved*
- *that the minority peoples living in poverty receive greatly needed social services from the Chinese government*
- *that the current generation of the minority peoples be open to the Gospel presentation in their own language or in Chinese*

LEADERSHIP UPDATES



Board of Directors and Executive Directorship Team

WCF Board of Directors

WCF's Board of Directors and Executive Directorship Team convened in Moraga, California this past August for their annual face-to-face meeting. Praise God that WCF's leadership had a chance to do team-building, discuss the direction of the movement, and move forward on the business side of our non-profit organization.

WCC Executive Committee Retreat

The WCC Executive Committee (EC) recently gathered in September for their annual kick-off retreat in Central California, and it was amazing! It was two days and two nights of pure fellowship and worship with 24 passionate Christians from across California seeking to glorify God through serving with the World Christian Conference.

"[We] were sharing on the way down about what made the retreat so good this year. I would have to say the people. I was pretty surprised by the group we had. I felt a strong sense of unity – I could sense that in our worship and prayers. The retreat felt like a bunch of old friends just getting together for a weekend." - John C.

It's not too late! If you are interested in joining the EC and serving at WCC 2009, please contact Vince C. at conference@wcfellowship.org.

WCF FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS



NEW! 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.

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.

FROM JAPAN TO AMERICA AND BEYOND

By Yoko S.

Originally from Japan, Yoko S. reflects on her World Christian journey that brought her to the United States to both receive personal healing and to serve addicted populations. God continues to open international opportunities for her to teach other Christian workers about addiction counseling.

This year marks the 12th anniversary of my coming to the United States as a *missionary from Japan*; no, it's not a typo but God did bring me to America from a country where less than 1% of the population knows Christ as their personal savior. When I look back upon my life, it amazes me how God has put my various life events together so that I would come to know Him and serve Him in a way I never imagined. As God has said, "My thoughts are higher than your thoughts."

In Japan ► I grew up in a typical alcoholic/codependent dysfunctional family in Japan. With a drinking father, controlling mother, absent parents, ongoing small arguments and isolation – addiction affected and scarred my life tremendously. Although at a young age I learned how to hide my feelings and perform according to other people's expectations, I was a very sad person inside. I was depressed, lonely, angry, and full of resentments toward my parents and life itself.

I accepted Christ more than twenty years ago through an outreach of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) when a team of missionaries came to my hometown in Japan to present the Gospel. Growing up as a Buddhist, it was hard for me to understand God's unconditional love at first, yet it was harder when my parents disowned me due to my new belief.

God's calling for me ► God led me to join YWAM three years later, and it was during my outreach to Mexico that God called me to be a counselor and a bridge. At first, I did not like this calling at all. I resisted and

even tried to pretend that I didn't hear, but of course God won and finally I was willing to pursue His direction. It was then that my long journey of healing began.



Hanging out with Japanese "sisters"

I came to California in 1996 to attend a college course for addiction counselors. Later, I passed the tests and became a CADC II (Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor II), certified by CAADAC (California Association for Alcoholism & Drug Addiction Counselors). I did my internship at an addiction treatment center where they believe in working on 12 Steps as a path to recovery.

This is where God dealt with me on a deeper level and healed me from my past issues so that I could now testify that I genuinely love my parents. I believe that God healed me and is continuing to restore my life so that I can serve – with empathy – those who are also suffering with addictions, living in despair, hopelessness, depression, and misery. As anyone can imagine, this can be very stressful, hard work but I believe this is the ministry God has called me to in this season of my life.



YWAM addiction ministry leaders

Future service ► This winter, God has opened up additional opportunities for me to travel to Korea, India, and Japan to do workshops and seminars with a team of Christian addiction specialists. I am excited and looking forward to serving

the people in these countries in whatever way God chooses for me.



"When I look back upon my life, it amazes me how God has put my various life events together so that I would come to know Him and serve Him in a way I never imagined I would."