

HEART

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NEWSLETTER

for the cluster of tony & marilyn fitzgerald

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R E F L E C T I O N S O N T U R N I N G *SIXTY*

I have so much to be thankful for and it has been a joy to have seen almost all of you over the last few weeks and to have had an opportunity to share with you from my heart. At our recent Cluster times I've shared with you a little about lessons learned in turning 60 and said I would put it in writing in the next Heart Copy, so here it is.

As most of you know, I have crossed a major threshold having been born on Jan 13, 1947. I had been looking forward to turning 60 and wasn't sure why, except that I sensed it would be significant and a time of settling some issues in my heart.

Over my adult life the most significant times I have experienced with the Lord have been either on or close to my birthday. I guess it has become a time when I expect a birthday gift from my heavenly Dad.

Marilyn and I decided to return to my homeland of Australia at the end of 2006 for a vacation, a short period of sabbatical, and to spend some time with Marilyn's family. Quite miraculously, we were able to rent a house next door to the family for exactly the weeks we needed it. This was an opportunity that I realized would most likely not be repeated. During this time we enjoyed celebrating Marilyn's Dad's 90th birthday and their 66th wedding anniversary.

Although this time included visiting our COTN Churches, plants, and ministering with other contacts, I decided to turn 60 quietly in reflection and doing some of the things I enjoyed in my younger years before leaving Australia 32 years ago. Well, my heavenly father was faithful with my present, although this time it was over a few weeks, not just on my birthday, and actually culminated on the day of a surprise birthday party that Marilyn and my daughters had planned for me on my return to the USA.

Let me explain.



CHURCH OF THE NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL



Four years ago, Peter Lyne, a friend in New Zealand, turned 60 and at that time sent out some thoughts regarding this event. Before leaving for our time in Australia I felt prompted to find that writing and take it with me. In the busyness prior to our departure, I didn't, and on my birthday, as I was praying and reflecting it came back to my mind. I sensed God was giving me clear priorities for this next stage of my life. I couldn't remember the content but knew it was significant. On the day of my party back in the US I found the paper, and received from it the completion and the confirmation of what I had been hearing from the Lord.

In these writings Peter quotes from a book of Dr. F W Boreham. He was the last student to be appointed by the great C.H. Spurgeon to his college in London. During years of ministry in New Zealand, Tasmania and mainland Australia, Dr. Boreham became one of the most prolific writers, preachers and celebrated journalists through the first half of the last century. In this book he quotes Dr. Chalmers, who said,

"God intended the seventy years of man's allotted span to be divided into seven separate decades, as the week is divided into seven days. The seventh decade, he maintained is designed to be a Sabbatic one."

Having listed a vast array of influential people who never made it to sixty, Dr. Boreham highlights the qualities that should be embraced by those who have been privileged to attain this glorious age.

"A man of sixty has entered into the Autumn of Life. Of all the seasons, autumn is the most idyllic. Autumn means golden harvest fields and the gathering of luscious fruit. The year comes to it's own in the autumn. Similarly, a man of sixty is, in much respect, at his very best. A softening of life's asperities (i.e. to yearn for something), a mellowing of life's more turbulent passions, a quickness to see the best in others, may be expected to mark his intellectual development.

"Life has taken shape and is unlikely to be greatly modified either for weal or for woe. Instead of feeling resentful of the aspirations and audacities of younger men and women, he views their activities with lively interest and genial admiration. Instead of deriding and belittling their efforts, he rather cheers them on and even offers them a hand. He likes to get them to his fireside; gives them the rich autumnal fruitage of his own experience, and tries to make the struggle a little easier for them than it has been for him"





A few years ago an apostolic friend prophesied to me the following;

"You think you are a father but you are no longer. From this time I am releasing you as a Grandfather to father Fathers"

or words to that affect. I knew instantly what that meant. There was a shift for me where my future would be spent in fathering mature sons already enjoying their own families. To that which they represented I would simply be a grandfather role. The above quotes by Chalmers and Boreham seals that positioning in my heart and prioritizes my tomorrows.

It is my desire in this decade to father the fathers/sons that have been given to me and to see them released into their greatest fruitfulness. I desire that from the things I have seen and partaken of, I would inspire you to go further than I have gone and play your part in hastening the return of the KING.

It is great to be 60 and still excited about the future. What a privilege to be involved in this advancing Kingdom. A quote was passed on to me spoken by a young girl that was selected to be one of the students in Oprah Winfrey's school in South Africa.

"The future looks so bright my eyes are hurting"

I trust this is your testimony as well, as you continue to live His dreams for you.

Tony

"...a man of sixty is, in much respect, at his very best."



GIVING INTO THE CLUSTER FUND

We thank you for your continual giving into the Cluster Fund and wanted to send a reminder of the way that currently takes place. All giving is sent to the following Cluster accounts:

USA
To the Mid-Atlantic Resource Center at, 12532 Eagle Ridge Rd Richmond, VA 23233

UK
To Mike Davies in Okehampton (contact Mike for details)

South Africa
to Andrew Brough (contact Andrew for details)

CrossWave
sub-Cluster to Craig Kirkby as per arrangement

OTHERS
As per individual arrangements made.



TONY AND MARILYN'S PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS

Just a Reminder regarding our mailing address. Please send any mail to our P.O. Box as it takes some time for mail sent to our home address to be forwarded to the box. The address is:

P.O. Box 2174, Glen Allen, VA 23058, USA

HEART
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CHURCH OF THE NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL

NORTH AMERICAN

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

DISCIPLINING
NATIONS



VIRGINIA 1607 - 2007

[CELEBRATING 400 YEARS >10 GENERATIONS]

[FIVE TO SEVEN OCTOBER TWO THOUSAND AND SEVEN]

VENUE &
ACCOMODATION: Richmond Marriott West, 4240 Dominion Boulevard
Glen Allen, VA 2360, USA

REGISTRATION: Conference details and registration at
www.cotnma.org/2007conference.aspx
email: 2007conf@cotnma.org
+1 [804] 360 8093

COST: N America & Europe: \$59/person, \$99/couple, \$15/student
All other: \$20/person, \$35/couple, \$5/student

SPEAKERS: COTN Apostolic Steering Team and more!
special guest, Dennis Peacocke from
Strategic Christian Services



[*Richmond Virginia*]



TONY & MARILYN'S SCHEDULE

USA

- June 1 – 2 Ft Lauderdale Florida Dave Cape's Cluster meeting
- June 15 – 17 Carthage, Missouri Bykota
- June 24 Richmond, Virginia Combined COTN churches

AUSTRALIA

- June 26 – July 10
- June 29 & 30 Launceston, Tasmania Statewide Men's Conference
- July 1 Launceston, Tasmania Local churches
- July 2 Melbourne, Victoria COTN Melbourne
- July 4 & 5 Brisbane, Queensland COTN Mt. Cotton
- July 7 & 8 Melbourne, Victoria COTN Australian leaders gathering
- July 9 Melbourne, Victoria COTN Melbourne

USA

- July 15 Richmond, Virginia COTN Celebration
- July 20-22 Harrisonburg, Virginia Hispanic Church conference
- August 3-6 Syracuse, New York COTN, Light of the World

UK

- Aug 8-10 Okehampton, UK COTN inspiration
- Aug 12-14 Aberdeen, Scotland COTN Destiny House

USA

- August 31-September 3 Dallas, Texas House 2 House National Conference

SOUTH AFRICA

- September 19 – October 1
- Sept. 21 & 22 Johannesburg Cluster conference
- Sept. 23 a.m. Johannesburg New Creation
- Sept. 23 p.m. Muldersdrift Community Ministries
- Sept. 24 -26 Port Elizabeth Wild Card
- Sept. 27-30 Bloomfontein SpringTide: Crosswave sub Cluster Conf.

USA

- Oct. 5 -7 Richmond, Virginia COTN North American Leaders Conf.
- Oct. 9 Richmond, Virginia COTN Cluster Leaders
- Oct. 10 & 11 Virginia COTN Council

