

Christmas Greetings!

From our family, to our friends and family around the world!

Christmas is a time of rejoicing as we celebrate the birth of our King! With all the activity let Jesus be central as you enjoy family and friends. Let it be a time of reflection and thanksgiving as well as looking forward to all that 2010 will bring. A Christmas card we received read:

"JESUS - The Faithful One

The confidence we have, the trust we hold, the hope we carry, rest in His faithfulness. Every promise He has made, He purposes to fulfill. He has the authority to accomplish all He has spoken.

His power is limitless: His character changeless: His love endless!"

Merry Christmas and an exciting New Year!

Love,

Tony & Marilyn



Heart copy

for the cluster of tony & marilyn fitzgerald
newsletter

From My Heart to Yours

DECADES

At the International Coalition of Apostles meeting I attended early this month the power of decades was emphasized and an encouragement brought for us to be expectant for this coming one. At this meeting last year Chuck Pearce brought a prophetic word stating that 2009 would not be a year of great harvest for most of us, especially those in Western culture, but rather one of preparation and Kingdom alignment in preparation for the harvest to come.

The above has been easy for me to embrace as I have seen the decades of my life full of significance. There are many anniversaries, both personal and for COTN, that are realized right at this time as we end this decade. The beginning of each of these decades has ushered in a significant shift that has taken our lives forward. They have usually fallen on the nines or in the season that followed, so as 2009 winds down I have chosen, rather than issuing our usual Heart Copy format, to make this one far more personal and highlight these anniversaries with thanksgiving. I'm enjoying a time of reflection and yet living with great expectation for all that this coming decade holds.

10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 & More!

In September Marilyn and I had the privilege of sharing at a round table for South African COTN leaders in Port Elizabeth. John Scholtz had asked me to reemphasize our history, values and core beliefs among other topics. It was a great time and gave me an opportunity to chronologically look back at our journey. The feedback was very encouraging and I know most of you where not there so thought I should end this decade with a brief summary.

[CONTINUED on pg 2]

Important
Cluster
Dates:

Mar 24-26
USA Leaders
Carthage, MO
cotnma.org

Apr 14 - 16
South Africa
National Conf

Sept 24-25
USA Leaders
cotnma.org

Oct 28-31
Euro Leaders
Conference
Holland

Heart copy

From My Heart to Yours [CONTINUED]

I'll start at the beginning!



60 years ago: (The 50's): Meeting Marilyn

1949 Marilyn was born on November 18 in Grays, Essex, England. It has been great to celebrate her 60th birthday over the last few weeks. We have known one-another for all but 7 of those years as we met when her family immigrated to Tasmania in 1956. God is so good!

50 years ago: (The 60's): Meeting the Lord and my destiny

1959 was the end of my childhood and crossover to teenage years: Teen years often form us and I was no exception. Growing through this season of life in a strong family environment was a great experience. Education, church life, sports, romance, employment, and business all contributed to mold, but it was through being diagnosed with cancer in the latter part of this decade, and the months that followed that my life was arrested for the King and His Kingdom.

“1959 was the end of my childhood and crossover to teenage years”

40 years ago: (The 70's): The decade of preparation

1969 was the year we decided to follow the Lord's leading and launch out into the life we now live. This resulted in us being married on JAN 1, 1970 and a decade of constant change began. We trained for denominational ministry, then went into church leadership, street ministry followed, changed nations to the UK, had 4 years in YWAM leadership, received the vision that became COTN and then planted that seed. It was a decade of success, failure, wounds and healing but one that prepared us for what was to come. It was through all of this we learnt to trust our Heavenly Father and His fatherhood in our lives.



In 2 weeks we will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. I had the joy of marrying my best friend and she still is.

[CONTINUED on pg 3]

From My Heart to Yours

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30 years ago: (The 80's): The decade of birth of a vision

1979 saw the beginning of the first community of believers come together in Crawley, Sussex, UK and the first seed of the vision I had received in 1978 was planted. We saw this seed multiplied into a small number of nations and grew in our understanding of the glorious church built from a foundation of family. God put a spiritual father into our lives and a team grew together that would dream the dream.

20 years ago: (The 90's): The decade of consolidation

1989 at a conference in Bogner Regis, UK, we gathered from the nations and came together under the name of Church of the Nations. This was a difficult decision as we did not want to become a denomination but sensed the word of the Lord to have a name to identify us as a family around the world. This was a decade of clarity in apostolic team leadership as the vision to see the Kingdom grow on earth increased. The decade ended with a conference celebrating 20 years and God speaking prophetically to us that we were to believe for 150 nations.

10 years ago: (The 00's): The decade of expansion

1999 the apostolic leadership met in London and decided that COTN would embrace the Hebrew model of structure; family, clan, tribe & nation. As the Clusters were empowered there was much expansion into the nations of the world. We received clarity on the way the international leadership was to function and the current Apostolic Council was put in place. The end of this decade sees us one third of our goal achieved, just over 50 nations.

00 years ago: Now the beginning of the next decade

2009 the Apostolic Council met in October and looked at the way forward. It was recognized that we have become a family of apostolic clusters reaching the nations and while keeping our international family heart the vision would continue to multiply through apostolic cluster life. The emphasis as we move into this new decade would be to even in greater measure understand the Kingdom of Heaven as it is established on earth and to be fully able to reason church life from the Kingdom not the reverse.

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Heart copy

From My Heart to Yours

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I have felt growing clarity for my own life in this new decade and look forward to be able to share more about this when we meet for cluster times in the early part of 2010.

We live in a time where the influences of the world and Christendom have shifted to the East. It is an age where there are more non white Christians than white; where wisdom true and false is coming from the East; the environment (earth) is groaning; the economy is shaking; the kingdoms of this world are faltering and the spirit of Anti-Christ is radically manifesting through agendas opposing the King and His Kingdom.

This new decade will present us with challenges we have not yet faced but the God of our yesterdays will be our God of today and tomorrow and manifest His power in the nations.

We thank you for all your commitment and diligence over the years and we are grateful for the journey we have had together, however long or short and look forward to that which is to come.

Tony



UPDATE ON DON COLEMAN

This morning, Thursday, I was visiting with Don at the hospital when his doctors called on him.

They were able to talk freely to me as Don informed them I was his "FATHER". He had his last dialysis a couple of days ago and was due to have another one today. This turned out not to be necessary and when he asked when he would have it, the doctor replied, "probably not again in your life". Great news! His lungs and kidneys are now functioning well and he is eating a normal diet. They plan to move him to the rehabilitation section of the hospital today or tomorrow so he can start physiotherapy. They will assess him there and work towards releasing him as soon as possible. We do not know how long it will take but the doctor said possibly as early as 5 days, maybe a couple of weeks. "Maybe home for Christmas"

We rejoice in all of the Lord's goodness and healing presence during the past 5 weeks. Thank you for your prayer support and standing in faith for Don, Florence and family. Please continue to pray for his full restoration and strength and the complete healing of the wound in his foot.

STONY & MARILYN'S Schedule

The first third of this New Year will be spent in the USA, Australia and South Africa. A schedule update will be sent monthly.

USA

JAN 1- 23

JAN	9 – 11	Winchester VA	Celebration Meetings
	15 – 17	Richmond VA	Financial Seminar

AUSTRALIA

JAN 24 - MAR 17

FEB	13	Adelaide SA	Simple Church/Kingdom Seminars
	17 – 21	Perth WA	Kingdom Conference
	23 – 24	Kalgoorlie WA	Simple Church/Kingdom Training
	26 – 28	Launceston TAS	Cluster leaders

USA

MAR 18 - APR 4

MAR	25 – 28	Carthage, MO	USA Cluster Conference
APR	3 – 4	Richmond, VA	Kingdom Seminar Easter (proposed)

SOUTH AFRICA

APR 5 - 23

APR	9 – 12	Johannesburg	New Creation/Muldersdrift & Cluster
	14 – 16	Durban	South Africa Leaders Conf.
	17 – 18	Kloof	Celebration Meetings
	19 – 22	Durban	Apostolic Council

Heart copy

TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE



The soccer world cup is coming to South Africa for the first time in 2010.

This is an opportunity for us as the people of South Africa to host visitors and ensure that this is an experience that they will remember always. Community Ministries, part of Church of the Nations would like to take this vision one step further. We would like to offer our help as a community to any visitors who would like to stay in the west of Gauteng (Johannesburg) during their stay. We are sourcing reasonably priced accommodation within the homes of our members to those that may want this kind of option. We also serve and have within our community many social projects. Should you wish to serve for a few hours/days while you are here, using the skills and gifts that God has blessed you with we will help make this happen.

This project is being managed by Lynda Smith from our community. Should you be keen to hear more please be in contact with her to ask any questions about the accommodation or possible projects where you can volunteer. Her email address is lgsmith@mweb.co.za



One of the highlights of the European Conference this year was the official welcome into the COTN family of Cross Rhythms founded by Chris Cole. The leaders were already aligned with us but this deeper act of alignment has set C R into a safe house.

Myself, and some other members of the Apostolic Council, have been very involved with CR over a number of years and we fully endorse and embrace their vision and heart to see the youth of the world reached for the Kingdom of Heaven. We encourage you to go onto their web site, www.crossrhythms.co.uk

Attached is a letter from Jon Bellamy, the leader of C R explaining how we can stand with them and for those who sense the leading of the Lord to partner with them financially. Please read this attachment.