



Volume 38, Issue 1

January 2025

Wandering Woodrings

JANUARY GENETHLIACON

Happy New Year!

I, Jen, have been patiently waiting until January to use genethliacon (jen-eth-lee-uh-con) as our word. It means “birthday poem” and seems appropriate on my birthday month. So here goes....

Roses are Red,
Violets are Blue
I’m feeling older,
how about you?

Well, to be honest, I think a genethliacon is meant to be an epic poem but I currently don’t do epic. Marathon might have been a better word, but that doesn’t start with a J. And Jogging January doesn’t give the right nuance. (and since we don’t jog it might be highly deceptive.)

Our January tradition is to give a sneak peak ahead for the year. So here it goes....

DEBRIEFING

Debriefing continues to be a big part of the upcoming schedule—both online and in person, one-on-one, couples (together) and even groups. We love partnering with and watching God work in the process to bring fresh insights and healing. We invite a different small prayer team to pray for each debrief. If you would like to be on one of these teams, let us know!

We are prayerfully proceeding step by step to organize two family debriefs this summer. Qualified kid’s debriefers are in short supply so we are praying for more, as well as for all the other debriefers and debriefees needed to create these valuable restorative retreats.

COACHING

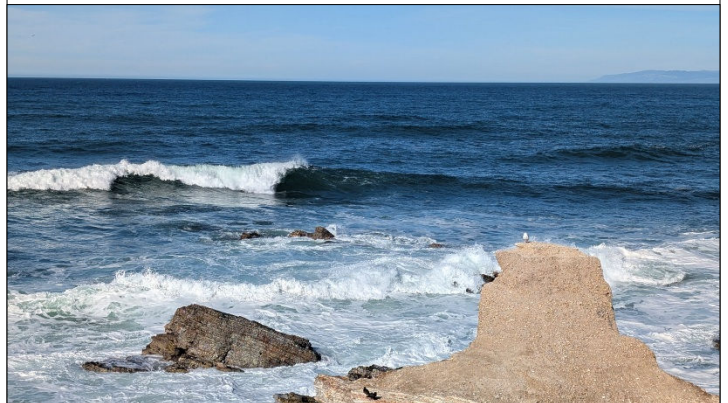
Why coaching? We have found that the skills and mindset are similar to debriefing. But whereas a debrief helps to set the past in perspective so one can keep the gold and jettison the garbage, coaching helps a person to figure out their next goals and make a plan for how to get there. This feels so useful to us as member care (or pastoral care) providers to missionaries.

We are coaching DTS students to build the coaching skills that we learned last summer. YWAM starts with a 5 or 6 month Discipleship Training School, or DTS. Studies have shown that DTS students have better long-term success when they get coaching for about 9 months. We are still meeting with students from the local summer DTS and we start on Friday with new students in the winter DTS.

We also are staffing the next online coaching course that starts this week. Further, we are signing up to be students in a short course that starts February to give us the rest of the classroom hours we need to become accredited through the International Coaching Federation (we also need 100 hours of coaching to apply to be accredited so that won’t be happening right away.)

TRAVEL

Could we even be the Wandering Woodrings without some travel in the mix? Craig is going to a Member Care (MC) conference this coming weekend to network with other people doing MC in the region. And then, next month he departs on a month-long trip to follow-up in person on several workers in other nations. We will likely attend a large YWAM Conference in May and travel in June and July for family debriefing retreats. After that, the path is shrouded in the mists.



WHAT IS YWAM??

Well, this might be a little late after 30 years, and is likely an impossible task, but we would like to start a small series in our monthly missive, to explain Youth with a Mission or YWAM.

Our organization we serve under was started around 1960, by the late Loren Cunningham, YWAM is and always has been an organization founded on spiritual vision. Loren, in his mid-20s, had a mental picture of waves crashing on the shores of the nations. The waves turned to young people. At that early 60’s critical juncture in time, the youth of the world were about to experience many major upheavals: the massive societal shift of youth culture, computers and media, ends of colonialism and inexpensive international travel. The counter culture movement and the Jesus People movement were soon to happen. Baby boomers were starting to come of age, and they wanted to make a difference. Loren’s vision was to start a movement of Christian youth going out to the nations, crashing on the shores of the world. Youth With A Mission was born, and now literally millions have gone through YWAM programs, both short-term and long-term (like us) doing works of mercy, sharing the good news, and training the young, and not so young to follow Jesus. The shores have not always been smooth sand, but many times rough rocky shores like above. Whether hard shores or soft, in every nation of the planet, many millions of people have been touched by YWAMmers young and old to experience God’s messages of love.

Grace till next month-

Jen and Craig



The angel said, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." And suddenly ...a multitude of the heavenly host [was] praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

A most important Birth Day Epic or genethliacon Luke 2:10-14

Photo: The star-like flower of the oriental snake bean. It reminds me of the Christmas Star. (Alas, we never got a single snake bean last summer despite lots of flowers)

JANUARY Prayer n Praise: Thank you for praising and praying with us for:

- 16 - the Asia-focused coaching course that starts today (but mostly non-Asians signed up).
- 17- Craig to have many productive networking opportunities as he goes to a Member Care gathering in Portland today/tomorrow. Jen as she signs up DTS students for coaching today.
- 18 - ongoing comfort for Craig's family as they mourn the loss of his oldest sister (and ditto for anyone else you know who is bereaved).
- 19 - We are thankful for the life of Craig's sister Mary and the honoring memorial we were able to attend on January 4th. Thanks for your prayers for us and the family as we grieve this loss.**
- 20 - wisdom and humility for our national and state leaders. They are so needed.
- 21 - doing the background work we need to as we staff the coaching course.
- 22 - connecting well with the new DTS students who we are just starting to coach.
- 23 - God to bring together the family debrief retreat(s) this summer. Especially for enough kid's debriefers.
- 24 - encouragement for Josh and Levi in their next steps.
- 25 - the right legal board for Hebron Oaks.
- 26 - praise God that Jen is figuring out things that help her hip, (if I will just be diligent to do them).**
- 27 - following up with our the summer batch of DTS coachees.
- 28 - Happy Birthday to Jen, 64 years young today. 39 for the 25th time!
- 29 - enough debriefers for adults AND kids this summer.
- 30 - Good promotional materials on the Family Debrief Retreats to be developed and to make it to the eyes of the people who need to see them whether via Facebook, friends, or mailings.
- 31 - us to make healthy choices; the health challenges (one friend calls them health opportunities) are real.

FEB 1 - standing strong in the battle that can be life in ministry.

- 2 - thankful for God's provision to go to the funeral...at the last minute we had to fly from Sacramento instead of Fresno due to a delayed plane. It felt miraculous to know in time to do so!**
- 3 - families who need a family debrief to become aware of our promotional materials and over come any hurdles to signing up. Please pray for materials to effectively reach those who need debriefing.
- 4 - growing in coaching skill so that others may grow and thrive in their callings.
- 5 - juggling what we are doing and allowing some things (not all were mentioned) to be pruned as needed.
- 6 - walking in the Peace and Joy of Jesus so that we help others to know He can be their peace and joy too.
- 7 - us to be a blessing to our new neighbors who arrive soon. We met them and prayers were answered!!
- 8 - the Spring Walk to Emmaus retreats coming in March. Craig is yet again serving on one of them.
- 9 - praise Craig's big trip starting to come together despite several hurdles to leap.**
- 10 - Debriefing book discussion group to have value for all the participants.
- 11 - the level 2 coaching class that starts today. We are students.
- 12 - Craig leaves on a global nomad pastoral trip starting today. First stop: The Philippines.
- 13 - wisdom on whether to lead a home group for our church at the next start date.
- 14 - Craig to figure out low-carb eating for his blood sugar as he traverses multiple rice bowl nations.
- 15 - Craig as he arrives in his first location today (14th for us—he lost a day over the dateline). JETLAG!

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