



Global Leadership Encounter

9 June 2020

Hosted by Nicklord Muriro and Sanel Stoneman
370 participants from 64 nations

Edwin – first speaker

Using the metaphor of Jesus with the 12 disciples who encountered Jesus as they journeyed with Him.

“Mentoring Vision” book written by Dr. ??? mentor of Edwin

No logo, no ego...it's not about us, it's about Jesus.

Creation is more powerful than any darkness of the enemy.

Armando Benner - Cofounder of nations to nations

Greetings from islands

Lord told me: I want you to learn. There is so much to glean from all around the earth. This movement started in Jeffreys bay. Lord told us to gather people from all the nations and bring them together and send them out to the nations.

Joseph Ayaklan

We need to recognize the need for leadership that will lead with humility and vulnerability, the desire to serve and see people set free. Hoping to see a greater revelation on what kind of leadership is required in the years to come. We are learning to pass something on to those we work with. Let us apply the teaching in our own place, but also share what God is doing among us through the rest of the world.

Edwin and Diana

Gratitude towards the Jewish people and what they have given us through their journey, and how they've managed to keep their identity while scattered around the world.

The heart of nations to nations is to see people reclaim their identity and destiny.

Joseph is the one who came up with the YWAM logo, and he will teach us about cross-cultural communication.v

TEACHING NOW:

Leadership and Identity

Again, looking at how the Jewish people kept their identity even while scattered in the diaspora. They could join in with the customs and celebrations of the local people they live with, but they also kept their Jewish traditions, like Friday night shabat.

500 times in the Old Testament, the story of the Exodus has been retold because it's part of their story, what God has done for them.

We as YWAM are a people who God has made covenants with, like the Manila Covenant where God told us to focus on women, youth and minority groups in leadership. We put these covenants in our DTS syllabus, but how many of us have read it and understood the heart of it and why it was given at that time.

The Manilla Covenant is so important to me because I was at a crossroads, I couldn't imagine that brown people could be missionaries and that there could be a place for brown people in YWAM. I felt like there was a glass ceiling for the brown and black people in a white person's world.

Ywamer was sharing his story about being a pacific islander in YWAM and missions, difference in

9th- 25th June 2020



Global Leadership Encounter

Webinar

hot and cold cultures. What he spoke lifted me outside the limitations my own culture, circumstance and politics had placed upon me. I encountered faith and Jesus through that islander, that lifted me beyond my limitations. My heart was never to go to the nations, just to go from my village to the town that was 20 km away. But as I encountered Jesus through people it changed my life.

Imagine if you lost your memory...it would be terrible. We need to understand who we are as a YWAM tribe by hearing the stories. The start of the mission was Loren and Darlene, Caucasian Americans, but it was already in their hearts as God showed the vision of the Waves to Loren (we have 4 legacy words in YWAM, as well as covenants) that YWAM would be all the nations of the world.

Red Sea covenant through Garry Tissingh that we must have a two-eyed vision.

Manila, Red Sea, Jubilee Covenants

End Bible Poverty Now

We are sharing our roots so you understand the context and we give honor and respect to what has gone before us. "Rowing backwards into the future." If you don't understand where you come from, you don't know where you are going.

We honor Loren and Darlene, Tom Hallas, Dean Sherman, Floyd McClung, and many others. It's important for us that YWAM had a Western face, and it was a stage along the unfolding story and history of YWAM. It's the same for Christianity which had a Western face, and before that a Middle Eastern face, but only a stage along the journey.

We must have a beginning. We have an amazing history, and it's important to know that, but there's no end. In the heart of Loren and Darlene with the vision of waves, there were young people from every nation going to every nation.

This whole thing is moving towards the heart of young people from every nation going to every nation. In my own personal journey, I had to deal with the racial hierarchy and stereotypes, but also my disappointment and shame of being an indigenous person at the bottom of the social hierarchy. I rejected who I was and tried to be something I was not.

As we approach leadership, we need to know that leadership is synonymous in becoming who you are. You lead out of who you are. The more you come into wholeness in God as you encounter Jesus, and he heals your heart, and deals with the unforgiveness and hatred towards other races, my anger and resentment, as God detoxifies that, God enables me to lead out of who He made me to be, not out of who I think I need to be. The process of restoration and healing and forgiveness allows me to speak about it with honor to my father and mother and others. Now I am not a victim but someone who can walk in the light as I follow Jesus.

I am still on a journey. I don't pretend that I've overcome all the dysfunction of what I experienced. It does not cancel my story, but it is looking at it from a different perspective. Now I am on a trajectory not of death but of life.

As I follow Jesus, I have found myself. The reason I can speak out of the overflow of who I am is because of what Jesus has done in my life. The more I encounter Him the more I encounter who I am made to be.

People don't get attracted to a vision; they are more attracted to who you are and who Christ is in you and who you have become in Christ.

As I encounter Jesus, I experienced the affirmation and appreciation that Jesus had towards me as Edwin. It's only as followers of Jesus that we experience that this God of Jesus has a deep appreci-

9th- 25th June 2020



Global Leadership Encounter

Webinar

ation and affirmation of who we are within our cultural identity, our national story, and our individual family story. Today we are dealing with nationalism and tribalism, so how do we reconcile Jesus' affirmation when it comes to our cultural/ethnic/national story?

How do we not become tribal and nationalistic? This is the beauty of what Jesus offers us...this amazing privilege that as I say yes in my own language and identity to Jesus, at that point my life becomes part of a bigger story beyond my own ethnic and family story. I am baptized into a bigger family, into kinship, into the family of believers all around the world. My language becomes connected to a bigger story, and that is what John saw in Rev 7:9...all nations worshipping Jesus together. That's why we have roll call of the nations in our celebrations...to honor the nations. It's not just a cute thing we do, it is honoring our stories.

The dominant language of English in most of our YWAM meetings can paralyze some of us who don't have such eloquence or mastery of English. But I know I am not stupid, and that people want my input, but we share our points differently, some of us share stories, others get straight to the point. But the whole thing about the affirmation of God and the appreciation of God for who we are is beautiful, and we need to have revelation of that. Jesus says your cultural language and ethnicity is beautiful. God wants us to lead through our uniqueness...we don't have to become something else because we lose our edge if we do that, if we reject the beauty of God in us.

The thing for me that is amazing is that, even as Jesus affirms and appreciates who he has made us, we also know that within what Jesus does in our identity, there is an inbuilt remedy for tribalism, racism, nationalism and all other forms of cultural exclusion. As we are baptized in Jesus, we realized that the baptismal water becomes stronger than the bonds of our own culture and tribal identities. It lifts us beyond the limitations in our family and culture. It transcends those aspects that are part of my identity. Christianity has that inbuilt remedy against cultural exclusion that infringes on God's capacity to embrace and welcome all people into the family of God.

There's a richness in who God has made you which is part of your edge, and the world has tried to put us together and make mashed potatoes of us so that we try to act and speak like the dominant culture. Nobody wants to be rejected. Don't assimilate, don't try to be someone different.

I'm so grateful for people like Loren and Dar who have gone before us and seen the incredible richness in diversity through who God has made us that will bring explosive growth across the continents through this 'little Tabitha', this little mission that God has birthed. We are a little girl as a mission, but let's not despise that and let's embrace that in our family story as YWAM. We don't need to be so sophisticated like other organizations. We need to embrace who God has made us to be.

Reflect on what Edwin has said.

Ask ourselves: where have I made my uniqueness blunt, or tried to assimilate to the dominant culture and lost my edge?

Where in my leadership have I not made space to the less dominant cultures or other voices to say something different from what I emulate?

This needs prayer and for us to think honestly about these things.

Announcement from Stephanie: a code will be posted on the screen so we can fill in 2 questions
e-mail: GLE@ywammuizenberg.org

Second speaker: Wilson Goeda (kwazulu natal) – leadership and Identity pt 2

Greetings to all. Married with 2 children. Grace (wife) from Namibia, married 27 years.

Will try to build on what Edwin has said and bring it home as we connect from more than 64 different



Global Leadership Encounter

Webinar

countries.

Self-Identification is so important for anyone who aspires to be a leader. Every good leader has to start with the foundation of knowing who you are.

John 8:14 – “These claims are valid even though I make them about myself for I know where I come from and where I am going.”

In YWAM, I have noticed that as we come into the mission, we know where we are coming from, but over time, we forget where we came from. Your destiny is locked into your past, if you don't know where you are coming from it will be difficult to walk into your destiny. When I am myself, God can begin to work through me. If we don't know who we are, we always look for approval and validation from other people in terms of our leadership. It's the biggest threat for every leader if we want to live by the applause and the wonderful words of other people. Of course, from time to time we need to be encouraged, but our approval comes from the God's love and us knowing who we are, and we should never let the enemy take that away from us.

I believe Jesus is saying, Don't depend on other people's opinions to tell you who you are. Know who you are.

Story about being 6 years into the mission, and God spoke about me becoming a leader, and I went to my base leader who was also the national director, and I made an appointment with him, and I shared with him what God spoke and I was so excited, and he looked at me, “You don't have what it takes to be a leader. You have no tools in your toolbox.”

I started to cry and asked him for help. But the guy said the only thing he was good for was to go home.

I walked on the beach and I wept and told God I was packing and leaving the mission. While I was there weeping, Jesus came to me and said, “What you heard today was from a man, but that's not how I see you. If you quit now, you quit your calling.”

We will always be disappointed by man, so we need to get our validation from God.

Six months later I was the first black African to be part of the NLT in South Africa.

Identity in leadership is so important. We see that Jesus knew who he was, where he came from and where he was going, and that helped him to lead with confidence.

The question we need to ask: Are you confident? Do you believe that you've got what it takes?

This week we will be learning from Jesus and what he says about himself:

John 8:12 – Jesus says with confidence, “I am the light of the world.” That is someone who knows who he is and what he is bringing.

John 6:35 – “I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never get hungry, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” That is confidence because Jesus knew who he was.

John 15:1 – “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.”

Challenge: Who are you???

I was in Zambia the other day and there was a poster about me that said “Bishop Wilson will come and speak now.” I remember when the conference started they introduced me as “Bishop Wilson” but God spoke to me and said, “You know you're not a Bishop.” So I introduced myself as just “Wilson” and they felt offended because I dropped the title that didn't even belong to me.

Are you confusing the office you carry with who you really are? Who will you be if the office is taken away from you?

In 2009 I became the first black National Director of YWAM, and I felt God was telling me it was time to step down. I only served 1 term. I had the privilege of teaching in all the YWAM bases in South Africa, and in one of the bases, someone came up to me to ask how to introduce me now that I wasn't the national director any more. I told him to introduce me as “Wilson with one wife, a good African.”



Global Leadership Encounter

Webinar

We have to be careful not to build our identity in what we do, in the office we serve...we become so possessive of our titles, and it is so dangerous.

Story of speaking in Worcester base a few years ago – leader got sick and handed over the speaker schedule to someone else who confused my teaching week with another speaker and I got “tackled” by another guy who didn’t know who I was or why I was there. When they introduced me as the national director and speaker of the week, then I discovered it was the DTS leader who had tackled me and now he couldn’t look me in the eyes. When we talked, the guy started crying and felt terrible. But we as leaders need to treat everyone the same no matter their titles, and we need to expect to be treated like anyone else, not special because of our titles.

If we remove your titles as base director, who will you be? If we remove the office of worship leader, who will you be? Who will you be if we remove your titles? If we remove the title of school leader, who will you be?

It is so important for the foundation of our leadership that we know who we are.

I was the first black base leader just after Nelson Mandela was released. We had just come back from a retreat and we were all excited and planning for the next 5 years, and my wife and I had decided that we would ask for leave as soon as we came back from the retreat. So we went to Jeffrey’s bay for a vacation ready to relax. Then the Holy Spirit said, “I want you to fast,” I said ‘I rebuke you in Jesus’ name.’ So I told my wife what Holy Spirit said about fasting for 3 days. She said, “It’s right as long as you unpack and make the fire and prepare the meat for us.”

God said, “You’re enjoying base leadership so much that you have missed what I called you to do. I want you to go back and resign and step down.”

“But where am I going?”

“You first resign, then I will show you where you are going.”

We felt that was the Word of the Lord, so when we went back we shared with the other leaders and staff, lots of tears and questions, “Where are you going?” but we didn’t know.

It was April and we thought I would step down at the end of the year. Kobus came and we processed, and they decided if we were leaving, we might as well leave now. Within a week we had nothing, we didn’t know where to go, we were crying, we didn’t know where to go.

God told us to contact Loren and Darlene, who invited us to work with them in Switzerland. As we arrived there, my wife signed up for the School of Worship which was to start in 2 weeks. I thought she would do the school with our son who was 1 year old, but Grace asked me to look after the son for the next 5 months. I began to rebuke the devil and we had this big argument.

I didn’t want to look after our son because I used to teach twice a year in Switzerland...everybody knew me as the speaker, now I had to do the woman’s job and people would look at me differently. Eventually I said, “Yes, I will look after the boy.” During the first week there were a lot of tears between me and my son.

God told me I was crying because I was thinking what people will say when they see me looking after the children. I had put my identity so much in teaching and what I was doing so I couldn’t stand being seen as the caretaker.

God said he wanted to teach me through my son to become a son again to Him.

God is asking us as leaders to come back and be sons and daughters again. Sometimes we wrap ourselves up in our work, and we lose our identity, and we can only impart to other people what God has made us to be.

It was one of the best times in my life just spending time with my son.

Sometimes in the Body of Christ there is a misconception that even if I don’t know who I am, I can



Global Leadership Encounter

Webinar

just become a leader, and when the anointing comes over me, everything will be fine. I just need the anointing of God on my life. The anointing will cover everything.

The anointing of God is not a magic pill. It doesn't enable me with what I don't have. It's so important that you know that the anointing of God comes upon you in what you have in your hand, and who you are.

Remember the story of feeding the five thousand? Jesus told the disciples, give what you have and he blessed what they had and it multiplied.

If you serve with insecurity and don't know who you are, you will lead through insecurity, not anointing. Remember what God said to Moses? "What is in your hand?" Is there something in your hand today as a leader that God is saying, "Man, you've got to work on this area." Like Edwin said, it's not the vision that draws people, it's who you are.

Maybe there's some areas in your life that doesn't attract and keep people when they come. People see others leaving and think they can't handle it, but maybe there are areas in you that need to be worked on.

If you struggle with a low self-identity, it's not just bad for you but for all the other people under you. So what is in your hand as a leader?

If you are not living a life pleasing to God, you can pray for all the anointing you want, but it will not change your life. What will change it is when you work on the areas in your life that need improvement. We attract people to who we are like who we are.

I remember a base with a base leader who was a little bit insecure, and the base always remained small because insecurity breeds insecurity.

Question: What is it that we portray?

Matt 14:16-18 "Bring what you have."

Bring to the cross what you have, and acknowledge what you don't have. Come to God and say, "I need this, but I have this. Work in me, Lord."

While I was looking after my son in Switzerland, God spoke to me because he wanted my attention and to get my security not in what I was doing. God told me to go and read the story of Joseph. I read the story of Joseph being sold away and eventually becoming the bread winner. God said, "You will be the next national director of YWAM."

I was like, 'what?!' I wrote it down in my journal. Then my wife came to me and said God gave her the same scripture about Joseph.

After Switzerland we came back for the LTS in South Africa, and for 2 years I knew God spoke to me about being the next National director. I went with Peter and Edwin to Jeffrey's bay, and they asked me to become the base leader in Jeffrey's Bay, and I said, 'No.' So Edwin became the base leader there, but I never told them the full story that I said 'no' to base leader because God told me to become the national director.

Three years after God spoke to me, the current acting directors Kobus and Rika, phoned me and said they wanted to speak to me. They told me that God had told them about 2 years ago that I should be the next national leader, and they felt the time had come to ask him.

When the time came I found myself hiding in the mountains of Worcester, I wanted to run away.

"God asked me, "What are you doing, Wilson?" I said, "God, I'm the first black person to take over the leadership and I don't know if I'm the right person."



Global Leadership Encounter

Webinar

God said, “The process of affirmation which is going to happen in front of people is the outwork expression of your walk over the years with me inwardly. I have brought you to this place so you will lead as yourself, not as a Westerner or someone else.”

Leadership is a gift...it doesn't mean you are better than other people. There are people better than you with degrees and abilities. God put you there because of who you are. “I have called you for such a time like this because of who you are.”

One of the challenges for us is to surround ourselves with the strongest people, not just those we think we are better than. I was able to lead because I knew who I was in the Lord. That is the question God is asking us this morning: Who are you? Can you say like Jesus, ‘I know where I am coming from’?

Sometimes the pressure to become someone other than who you are is so great, but if you are not who you are, God cannot use and work through you. When you are yourself, God begins to use your life and draw people to you through who you are.

We should not look for the approval of other people; we should look for the approval of God, and allow Him to whisper to us deep in our spirit.

Be sensitive to God and his timing for leadership opportunities.

In the world we need leaders of humility. When God gives his approval and anoints you, it is inward and it will at the right time come outward.

David ran from Saul, but it was while he was running that he already carried the approval of God on his life, but he was just waiting for the right time for the inward approval of God to be expressed outwardly.

1 Sam 21:10 – timing of leadership is everything.

Thank you so much.

Nick – Wilson's stories are challenging but they also give us hope, thank you so much for being an example and an inspiring person in our mission.

Summary: Edwin challenged us that we all have a unique story, so we don't need to run away from it or disregard it. Life is lived forward, but it is understood backward. We cannot throw away our stories. We want to hear from each other in this GLE, to learn from each other as we journey together. We are going to put you into breakout rooms to discuss these questions:

1. What are some of those things that God wants you to remember about your story?
2. How have you seen insecurity manifest itself in your leadership?

Last message from Jack Oppen who serves in Kona and the world standing for those with physical disabilities –

This message drew me back to what is the most basic thing in all of our lives? We can be CEOs, apostles, fathers, mothers, but what happens when tragedy strikes our lives, when we lose our titles, or children? It brings us back to sonship...we enter and exit the world as a son and a daughter.

What Edwin and Wilson were teaching brought tears over and over again. More than 1 billion people in the world have physical disabilities. They are a tribe, and their language is suffering. Most of them have never heard a full presentation of the gospel, especially in shame/honor cultures where they are hidden away.

As Jesus calls us to be vulnerable to him, he calls us to be vulnerable in the face of injustice.

God is calling us to that vulnerability but we can't stand in those storms without our identity in him.

If you want to be in contact with Jack, send a message through the GLE email address and they will network you with him.