

Thanks

Notes for a Speech at a Farewell Event at World Vision International, Monrovia, CA, USA. October 2000.

- World Vision. So many opportunities to be shaped and to shape things. I want to mention a few names.
- Harold Henderson. Employed me. Mentored me. Believed in me.
- David Longe. Inspired me. Provoked me. Taught me. Stretched me. Believed in me.
- Colleagues in Australia 1976-81. Excitement. Felt revolutionary. The biggest Christian communications opportunity in the country. *Making World Vision a household name*. Audacity to turn the 40 Hour Famine into a national event. The idea came from Canada, the possibility of making it a national event from New Zealand. In a few short years we shifted World Vision into a professional business-like organization the likes of which Australia had never before seen. Today, copying World Vision is the common place strategy to success Down Under.
- Colleagues and associates in Hong Kong and Singapore from 1982-85. This was our first attempt at living outside our own culture and it was truly revolutionary. For me and Judy, and for our two kids, Jamie and Melanie (Richie hadn't been commissioned then). Although the official line was that we were starting up fundraising and marketing in Asia, the truth was that Asia was teaching me much more than I was teaching it. Judy and I enjoyed being on our own, separated from the common supports of family and friends, our relationship as husband and wife deepened, strengthened. And new friends we made in Hong Kong have stayed with us for life. Among the World Vision people, I want to give thanks for Thomas Wong. He was remarkably patient with this young, non-Asian, know-it-all from Down Under. And I

was just smart enough to realize that everything he told me was worth hearing.

- Stan Mooneyham. Inspired me. Showed genuine interest in me. I travelled with him to China on his last official World Vision journey. He wrote then in the flyleaf of my Bible that I had “an unlimited future.” He believed in me, and made me see for the first time that this is one of the most empowering things a leader can do. Of the great leaders, people say, “He believed in me.” “She...
- Hal Barber. Disciplined me. Was not like me. At all. Taught me two great things (among many others). One, good leaders build diverse teams. Two, good leaders set people free to do the things they do best. Even where I was gifted differently to him, Hal could appreciate that and he still believed in me.
 - One story. Trouble in Camelot. I wrote a 5 page analysis of everything that was wrong with the “core” and my recommendations for fixing it. I was 35 years of age and in my second management position and not then with the benefit of a postgraduate degree in management. This was before email. In fact, before fax. The only forms of instant communications were the telephone which was frightfully expensive, and those clattery old telexes. So, a 5 page memo got sent by courier and I waited a week for Hal’s response. Hal’s response was as eloquent as it was brief. On a single sheet of memo paper, Hal had his secretary type the following: Dear Philip, Do you have enough to do over there? Signed Hal.
- Colleagues in Australia again. What a fabulous time. I came back to Australia in the middle of that whole Live Aid world. A new launching pad for taking World Vision to another level of market penetration. Dave Toycen was our Communications Director, and he had a young, thoughtful protégé named John Rose. Both of them taught me many new things in areas I thought I already knew something about. We had a chairman, Geoff Fletcher who could make puns even faster than I. Fortunately, by the time I became CEO David

Jenkin had become board chair. Otherwise board meetings might have degenerated into pun ping pong. David and I connected easily and productively at the visionary level. I will always remember our café meetings at Melbourne Central. It gave me an appreciation of the café culture that has stood me in good stead in Europe. World Vision Australia moved office locations so smoothly that it seemed easy. We started something new every month. And then every week. I learned a lot from our interactions with the board, first under Geoff, then under David and then under Peter. Every experience has been helpful in this last assignment as I have been more involved in developing effective governance practice. I owe a big thank you in those Aussie years to my own executive team. I had learned from Hal to build a diverse team, and I paid the price in having to develop the skill of herding cats. It has been a special thrill for me to have two members of that team, John and Boyne, with me as peers in this last assignment. And a third one, Ian Curtis, as a colleague as national director in Azerbaijan.

- That leads me to say thanks for my most recent peer group, the President's Team. I am sure that whatever lies ahead of me in business I shall never again have the privilege to be part of such a wonderful and interesting group. Talent running over. Experience and knowledge beyond belief. And friendship. Perhaps the nicest thing we can say is that we are all friends. I like being with them. I shall always consider them friends.
- Dean. Inspired me. Led me. Dean said back in March that he and I were completely opposite in management style. And it's true. But maybe because of that, it has been easy for me to learn from him. He is strong where I am weak. And I'm getting smart enough to appreciate that. My favourite picture of Dean is as a cowboy. If you happen to head off in the wrong direction, you hear the horse's hooves pounding up behind you and there is the crack of a whip, and a this guy straight out of Marlboro Country rides up alongside you and firmly shoulders you back onto the path. Thank you, Dean,

for the marvellous opportunity of the past four years. Judy and Richard and I have richly enjoyed it, learned mightily from it. I am certain God has equipped me for something special through this experience. Thank you, in particular, for believing in me.

- Thank you all.