

Is it too late for a Spring Update – Part III? We really got slammed in April and May but it's time to get back in touch with you all. A lot has happened since I last reported on my ministry in December so I'll turn to that now....

Taylor University joined with the Global Mapping Network this last semester – contributing 3 students under Dr Nurkkala's supervision to work with me and Chris Deckert. They jumped on the idea of creating an iPhone application that interfaces with the WorldMap Partners ministry tracking site (see attachment). The idea is to upload your activity details and photos from your iPhone and see them appear instantly on the Partners site or in Google Earth. In just 12 weeks they were able to get a working application together that Chris demonstrated at his presentation to the Tokyo 2010 US Center for World Missions conference. Taylor is off for the summer now but Chris and I are planning to visit Dr. Nurkkala and his students in September to kick off the next phase of development in person. It was very gratifying to see this coming together after much time invested in cultivating this relationship. I was even able to author a letter of congratulation and thanks to Taylor on behalf of Mark Anderson and the Call2All exec team recognizing their new Center for Missions Computing and their service to GMN. I sent the letter to Tom and his Provost inviting them to attend the Dayton Call2All last winter and come up on stage to be honored for their support of GMN and 4K. Tom told me that everyone was jazzed about the letter and his department chair strongly encouraged him to go. Later I was talking with Mark and he suggested bringing the 3 students up on stage as well so I passed that on to Dr. Nurkkala. It was great but in the end the logistics of missing class and meetings proved to be too much and they were not able to come. But my goals of honoring them and strengthening our relationships were accomplished.

At the same time I've been wrapping up a software app for Jill Thornton and the International DTS office that they seem to think will revolutionize their ability to track the thousands of outreach locations YWAMers go to every year. YWAM has not been very good at capturing this kind of information though many bases have tried to use paper forms or online surveys. What Jill and I did was define a database and a very simple user interface for entering outreach information. What really makes this work is a geography tree that organizes all the countries and their 6000 subregions into a cascading list and a database of over 2 million cities including latitude and longitude (see attachment). With this anyone can describe exactly where their outreach is going in a few clicks. Want to plan an outreach to Berry Creek in northern CA? Expand 'The Americas', expand 'United States of America', expand 'California', select the 'Northern California' omega zone. In less than a second a list of 1364 cities is populated. Scroll down until you find 'Berry Creek', select it, the latitude, longitude is reported: North 39.6451637, West 121.4032995. Now this and all your other outreaches can be mapped on Google Earth, shared with people, etc. If you'd rather go somewhere a bit less "reached" you can select 'South & Central Asia', 'Afghanistan' and choose from 33 subregions with over 1000 cities and villages in each of them! Every part of the world has this level of detail. I gave this to Jill last month in time for the International DTS Office meetings in South Africa. Afterwards she Skyped me that "they literally broke into applause and shouting...I've never seen a group so excited". It's nice to have your work appreciated ☺! This tool will be available for download from the 4K Website in the next couple days <http://www.4kworldmap.com/gettools.aspx>. I'm hoping to get new Google Earth touring and photo apps up on our site soon also. We have a new volunteer who will be working with me here and I believe this will greatly accelerate my rollout of tools like this. What is most interesting about all this is that everything I described above was done in my "spare time" because at the beginning of the year my ministry responsibilities took a dramatic turn.

Last fall as I was praying about what God had for me in 2010 I felt impressed that this year was about working much more closely with the Kona IT team. I had worked with them very little over the past three years – I've been busy leveraging Call2All and relationships with universities, businesses and other missions organizations. This insight came just in time because in December Mark Anderson casually suggested while meeting with me and Chong Ho that I move over to Call2All staff and work with IT on Call2All projects because that's kinda what I've been doing anyway. Mark is a huge personality within missions of course and it was important that I be able to speak from a spiritual conviction that I was not to do this – it meant a lot to Chong Ho as well. I thought working with the team would mean working on 4K mapping tools together (as well as other projects) but that's not what happened. Instead I was asked last January to take on project management of a complete revamp of our network infrastructure on the base and replacement of our paid IT staff with volunteers from our team.

Last year Loren formed a new relationship with a major videoconferencing company called IFormata - he introduced me to the father-son team, David and Scott Allen, that founded the company last Fall. They pioneered a technology called "TelePresence" which involves a lot of fancy camera geometry to give the sensation of sharing a conference room with people across the globe. David sold the technology to Polycom in 2007 for \$60 M to seed IFormata which now provides networking and videoconferencing solutions. Recently they won a bid to handle all of AT&T's videoconferencing. You can read about all this on Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telepresence> and <http://www.iformata.com/>. The Allen family committed to help YWAM in a number of huge ways beginning with a new network here in Kona and a videoconferencing center to support, among other things, Global Virtual Studio. You can watch a promo for GVS here (I show up briefly a couple times): http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1204871749&v=app_2392950137#!/video/video.php?v=1349815064494. So my task is to orchestrate a multi-month series of projects to replace our existing network and bring our team up to a technical capacity to maintain it. Everyone on the team is Korean (except me) – I don't mean Korean-American I mean recently arrived from Korea with very rough English skills. My management style depends on lots of communication so this has been a big challenge but we have a lot of love, humility and unity within the team – in fact every miscommunication or tense situation has ended up bringing us closer together. Chong Ho (who is not really part of the team) has been very helpful in sensing problems and pulling us together. Later this year I may transition to helping GVS design a software solution to coordinate their entire film process from pre to post-production.

Well that's a whirlwind tour of the high points. There's been lots of other developments I'll have to save for later - our housing, the North Korea / China trip, Josh's new short film, my teaching math and science in the school here and other IT and 4K stuff... Our major prayer request would be for the trip Hannah and I are taking in August – that we would connect with the right people on the ground, get the needed VISAs and have the finances. Hannah and I will be communicating about that soon.

Blessings to you all,

James & Family