

# LEAD ON

INSPIRATION FROM ARROW

June 2006

## A Voice From Home The Words You Long To Hear From Your Father

by Rich Stevenson

*“God is asking me, the unworthy, to forget my unworthiness and that of my brothers, and dare to advance in the love which has redeemed and renewed us all in God’s likeness. And to laugh, after all, at the preposterous ideas of ‘worthiness.’”*

Thomas Merton, *Confessions of a Guilty Bystander*.

One of the hazards in the Christian life is speeding into ministry before we have firmly established our identity. It’s surely the cause of many of the wrecked lives all around us. According to one writer:

*“Ministry without this sense of identity, security and significance that comes from God’s acceptance of us can be very dangerous. History has shown that often people who work hard and climb to the top have deep-seated insecurities. Their sense of inadequacy drove them to compensate for the insecurity by working hard to be successful . . .*

*If we minister without this security in Christ, our insecurity could express itself in various ways. Often such Christian workers look to other people and to the ministry as the primary source of their identity and affirmation . . .*

*Such people need to become children of the King before they become servants of the people.”<sup>1</sup>*

In order to establish the grounded identity of a beloved child of the King, each of us must be willing to be honest about who we really are and what our lives are really like. Most of us have myriad ways of running from transparency. We work hard to keep the outer façade of our Christianity sparkling, because almost everyone else in



Rich Stevenson is a US Class of 1995 Arrow graduate. He is the author of *Secrets of the Spiritual Life—10 Lessons from the One Thing Passages*, published by Baker Books (2003) and *A Voice from Home—The Words You Long to Hear From Your Father*, published by WaterBrook Press, a division of Random House (2005). Stevenson is married to Tania and has four children: Zachary (21), Jacob (19), Jessica (16), and Corrie (11).

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

- June 15, 2006  
Executive Arrow Scholarship Application  
Deadline
- July 10-11, 2006  
Mentoring Training Connection  
Langley, BC
- Summer 2006  
Launch of new Arrow website  
Online at [www.arrowleadership.org](http://www.arrowleadership.org)
- September 29, 2006  
A Day With Arrow with Bobb Biehl  
Langley, BC

<sup>1</sup> Ajith Fernando, *Jesus Driven Ministry* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2002), 57, 58.

*A Voice From Home, Continued on page 2*

# “ Wise Words

**We look for the big things to do - Jesus took a towel and washed the disciples' feet...Our idea for ourselves is the grand moment and the hushed crowd - his is ordinary things when the footlights are switched off.**

*Or Guinness*

# Prayer Needs

- Friends and family of Arrow. Pray that everyone will have a restoring and rejuvenating summer.
- Please pray that as we approach the fiscal year end, we will meet our revenue target for the year. At this time, it is 10% below where we need to be for us to fulfill our current commitments.
- The ministry of Arrow is founded on prayer. We are looking for individuals who are willing to pray faithfully for protection and blessing as we continue to seek His will for this ministry. If you feel called to support Arrow in this way, please respond on the enclosed card.

## A Voice From Home Continued...

the church is doing the same thing. Many of us live a kind of spiritual fairytale. We live in this unreality because we don't want others to see our real selves, and we can't deal with the reality of who we are. We avoid any kind of healthy introspection because we are not sure we could handle seeing our own failure or fear.

I have to tell you, everything within me is in revolt even as I write this! I really like that river in Egypt: "De-Nile." Right now I'd much rather get in my car, go down the mountain to a place called Sweet Treats, and order a chocolate-and-vanilla ice-cream cone with peanut butter, fudge, and marshmallows added! I could sing "The Happy Song" the whole way! It's hard to let the Holy Spirit gently peel back the layers of unreality that hide our real selves.

The reality is that I'm often a mess! Oh, I've grown a lot. My wife encourages me that I'm not the man she married. (Mostly that's a good thing!) But every step forward has come from a willingness to face that I'm not always the guy I present to the world.

Thomas Merton wrote:

*"The whole purpose of spiritual direction is to penetrate beneath the surface of a man's life to get behind the conventional gestures and attitudes which he presents to the world, and to bring out his inner spiritual freedom, his inmost truth, which is what we call the likeness of Christ in his soul."*<sup>1</sup>

Who am I? Am I the guy who led the services on Sunday, invoking the grace of God and leading in Spirit-empowered prayer and ministry? Or am I the guy who lay in bed on Monday and hatched plans of escape and retribution?

You know what? I'm both! I told you I'm a mess. But I'm learning that there are two keys to establishing a solid identity in Christ. The first is that I can't try to hide, or hide from, the real me. Now, not everybody has to know the real me. My life doesn't have to be broadcast on *The Jerry Springer Show*, where God and everybody sees the worst dirty laundry you could imagine. But God and somebody has to see the real me. I have to be honest with my Father in heaven, and I need to be honest with somebody I can trust.

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Merton, *Spiritual Direction and Meditation* (Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 1960), 16.

The second key is knowing this: Whether I'm standing in obedience on the platform and ministering in spiritual power or lying in my bed in disobedience, sulking in self-pity, God's heart for me will not change. He still calls me His beloved son. He accepts that right now both spiritual power and self-pity are inside me. I'm learning to accept that this is the way I am, right now.

Living in this kind of reality is the only firm place to stand in ministering to others. When we invest the effort to get at the inmost truth in our souls, we have the capacity to offer others a Christlikeness that is engaging.

This excerpt comes from Rich Stevenson's book *"A Voice from Home—The Words You Long to Hear from Your Father"* published by WaterBrook Press. Copyright © 2005 by Richard M.



Stevenson. A US Class of 1995 Arrow grad, Stevenson is the director of *The Expansion Network*, whose purpose is for the partnering for the spontaneous expansion of the church. [www.expansionnetwork.com](http://www.expansionnetwork.com)

# Life-long Ripples

by Paul Sailhamer

History doesn't recall the name of the Scottish stone mason who caused a significant ripple in the 19th century student revival in Europe. This faithful mentor made time for a young seaman who had returned home after tasting the life that was so familiar to his successful father, a British Admiral.

Although successful himself at sea, under the influence of his mentor the young leader made a dramatic turn to Jesus. He expressed his faith in these bold words of testimony: "Christianity is everything or it is nothing." From that point on, young Robert Haldane focused his education and inherited wealth on biblical evangelism and a life of ministry.

His passion for Christ found many outlets, including the city of Geneva, Switzerland, the fountain head of the theology that had rocked his own land of Scotland. However, in the century past, Geneva had lost her fervor for Christ. That's where Haldane headed in 1815.

One day in a city park near the University of Geneva, which had once been a training center for young, passionate ministers, Haldane became acquainted with a group of theology students who were preparing for ministry but had no understanding of the Gospel or the life of faith. Under Haldane's leadership they

began to study the book of Romans together. That was the beginning of a strong new current in Christian student ministries that would ripple throughout the continent and beyond the seas to new fields of ministry opening up in other lands like India and Africa.

Robert Haldane's preparation to lead the young men in the study of Romans eventually became his own published commentary on the epistle to the Romans. The book is still in print and of value today, having influenced generations of young Christian leaders around the world.

Included in the original group of Genevan students were such young leaders as Merle d'Aubigne, the author of the influential *History of the Reformation in the Sixteenth Century* and a leader in the education of other young Christian ministers; Frederic Monod, who became the founder of the Free Churches of France; and Louis Gaussen, author of "Theopneustia," an important work on the inspiration of the Bible.

When the nameless stone mason in Edinburgh carved out time for young Robert Haldane he could not have imagined how his work would be duplicated in countless lives around the globe. That's how the ripple... ripples.

## Spiritual Disciplines

by Arrow

Mary Lance Sisk invests in leaders because they are the future of the nation. She wants to see them grow in Jesus Christ and does this by teaching them the classical disciplines of the faith, which are:

*How to practice the discipline of solitude—being alone with God*

*How to practice the discipline of silence—listening to God*

*How to practice the discipline of unceasing prayer—communion with God*

*How to practice the discipline of fasting—discipline of feasting on God.*

By teaching those whom God places in her path, she has mentored future leaders on a one-on-one basis for numerous years. Since her conversion, the spiritual disciplines have always been close to her heart. It was soon after her conversion experience that the Lord took her on a five year journey of being alone with God.

Her association with Arrow began due to her involvement with *Leighton Ford Ministries*. Because of her heart for prayer, she was asked to head up the prayer movement for Leighton Ford, called *The Numbers 11:14 Group*. This became the prayer force—the seeds that began Arrow.

Mary Lance Sisk teaches a module on *Prayer for the Arrow Leadership Program* and is a long-time friend of the ministry.



## Creatively Accessible

Arrow leaders around the world

This is the last of our three-part series on Arrow leaders called to unconventional areas of ministry. For security reasons, their names and locations cannot be disclosed.

Over the past decade, Brother Philip, a current Arrow leader, has ministered in a creative-access nation. He and his family have lived in this nation for many years as foreigners to the land. For years, it has been his burden to minister there. Many dangers are present as organized religion, not sanctioned by the government, is frowned upon.

Brother Philip is involved in teaching at one of the leadership training schools for leaders of the house churches (these are the ones that do not want to be registered with the government). They meet for two weeks four times a year in undisclosed locations. Arrow has sparked him to begin dreaming of ways

to mentor the leaders and to have close, intimate relationships with them.

Despite the persecution and the need of secrecy, Christianity has been growing tremendously. The Holy Spirit has been evident over the past half century. Although Brother Philip's family is not free to do evangelism, "a highlight for our family is that because of our presence, we've had influence on the local pastors through leadership training helping them see beyond what they can naturally envision and enlarging their vision [beyond this nation] to become cross-cultural ministers as well." They have gained access to a method of impacting hundreds—leadership training.

## Why Developing Leaders is a Priority

Whether you are in business, pastoral ministry or in a not-for-profit Christian ministry—developing leaders is critical. David Berke from the Center for Creative Leadership notes, “Increasingly, managers and executives need to be hands-on in strengthening organizational talent and filling the leadership pipeline.”

I am excited about the 23 churches and ministries represented by the dynamic leaders in our newest class of the Arrow Leadership Program. They are devoting time, resources and prayers to the task of developing their leaders. This is noteworthy because so many do not! Instead I hear of complaints and frustrations with current leadership while the ministries and organizations do nothing about it.

Well, here are six reasons why an investment in your key leaders is critical for ministry enhancement:

1. Developing leaders helps to get the job done. A recent survey of board members of Arrow alumni noted that 100% find that their leader exemplifies significantly enhanced leadership since completing Arrow. They are now bringing focus to the ministry, delegating more, developing others and casting vision that is building the ministry.

2. It builds the capacity of the ministry. Investing in your current leaders is one of the most productive means of enhancing the work of the Kingdom. It allows you to not only keep up but also to adapt to the rapid changes we are experiencing.

3. Investing in leader development minimizes the negative impact caused by the loss of key employees by providing a stream of ready replacements.

4. Investing in the development of a leader builds people skills. At Arrow we find that assisting proven leaders in understanding and developing their interpersonal and relationship skills allows them to overcome conflict, build up others and overcome insecurity to become more successful leaders.

5. Leaders need to keep current. Your ministry staff needs to be able to learn and adapt to change. By enhancing skills in the area of clarifying needs, expectations and goals for your ministry team, you immediately gain insight into your ministries development opportunities and challenges. You also gain knowledge about the skills and competencies needed for future growth.

6. Organizations and boards that invest in their key leaders also demonstrate their own ability to lead. Your reputation as an effective ministry can only be enhanced when you are seen as someone who invests in developing others. This is an attractive feature often asked about when leaders are looking for their next place of service.



Nothing pleases us more at Arrow than seeing the ministry of the Lord flourish in local settings through the deep investment in leaders like those leading your church or ministry. We are now selecting the next classes of proven leaders for the Arrow Leadership Program and Executive Arrow Program. Should your pastor, associate or executive be one of them? Let me know by visiting our website or emailing me directly at [carsonp@arrowleadership.org](mailto:carsonp@arrowleadership.org).

*Carson*

Dr. Carson Pue, President

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## A Day With Arrow

Announcing—2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Executive Leadership Seminar featuring Bobb Beihl, Arrow Trainer and President of Masterplanning Group.

Friday September 29, 2006  
8:30 am – 4:00 pm  
Fraser Presentation Theatre  
Langley Township Hall  
20338 65 Ave Langley, BC

Tickets: \$100 each  
Now Available  
Order online, or through Jane at [janeo@arrowleadership.org](mailto:janeo@arrowleadership.org)  
1.877.262.7769 ext 212

## Arrow Alumni Take First and Second Place

Jamie MacIntosh, (Executive Arrow Class of '06) the Executive Director of International Justice Mission of Canada, was the number one finalist for the RL Petersen Award for Non-Profit Innovation. He was recognized for his innovative and creative spirit of compassion by establishing an Operational Field Presence in Bolivia to protect street children and victims of abuse.

Prairie Bible Institute (PBI) received an honourable mention and Dr. Jon Ohlauer, (Executive Arrow Class of '06) President of PBI accepted the award on behalf of the college. He was commended for his foresight in transitioning an 80-year-old institution to meet today's marketplace realities.

The RL Petersen Award for Non-Profit Innovation is awarded annually to a Canadian charity that displays qualities of creativity, leadership, strategic thought, risk, relevancy and realistic goals.

## Coming and Going

Congratulations to Ben Auger, Program Intern, as he and fiancée Jennifer Plant tied the knot on May 20th. In mid-June, he will be leaving Arrow and together they will teach English in Korea. Also, we welcome Angie Froese, Administrative Assistant, and Corey Julihn, Communications Coordinator, to the Arrow family! We already know that they will be a tremendous blessing in the office!