

The Miracle of the 5000

September 12th - I had completely given up on trying to make the biography of Henri Nouwen. Though I had a guarantee of a modest License Fee of \$35,000 I was still, after all my efforts, unable to raise the remaining \$145,000. I drew up my list of Windborne Projects in Development and Production and deliberately chose to leave **A Wounded Healer: The Biography of Henri Nouwen** off the list. Sadly, I concluded it was impossible to raise the funds.

September 13th - The very next day I received in the mail a note from a friend who is a missionary in Afghanistan. She wrote, "Here is a cheque towards the Henri Nouwen project – a seed for finances. I look at it as an investment in your life, work and unique ministry." She included this one verse of scripture: "*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*" 2 Cor. 9:8. I was stunned by the "investment". We are not a ministry so we have never received spontaneous gifts or "investments" ... especially unsolicited ones.

September 18th - The card arrived on Wednesday. By Monday I thought I must do my part. Just six weeks before I had met with my Broadcaster begging them to increase my broadcast license to at least \$50,000. This was essential in order to trigger the Canadian Television Funds 15% top up license. They had turned me down flat. I decided to knock on this door again. The head of business affairs took my call at Vision TV and promised she would try to find me the \$50,000 as a Broadcast License. That evening I received a call from a lawyer friend who I had done some work with six months earlier. I had told him about my slate of projects and was surprised that despite his Dutch background he had never heard of Henri Nouwen. I sent him over a book as a gift. Monday night at 5:30 pm, while parking my car, I received a call from Conrad. He said, "I have waited 2½ months to call and tell you my news. I wanted to be sure it was real. You know that book you gave me – it's changed my life. I have read it four times and I am a different person." What a deep encouragement. Conrad said he would love to help me find the funds but he had no free time to put towards the project until October 3rd. Unfortunately, October 3rd was the exact date of our funding application. In order to apply all funds had to be secured.

September 19th - Neither my missionary or lawyer friend knew how appropriate their timing was. Laurent Nouwen, Henri's brother, was in town from Holland. We had scheduled to meet for lunch the very next day. I was to update him on the project. Laurent felt the timeliness of all these events. God had definitely reached into my "garbage bin" and retrieved the project that is on His heart. Laurent and I also discussed the direction and scope of the project and agreed that a new name would suit the documentary. **The Road to Daybreak – The Journey of Henri Nouwen**. He promised to get back to me with an idea of how the Nouwen Foundation might help. Eventually, they generously offered me an interest free loan of 25,000 Guilders (\$14,700 Canadian) with repayment terms that are most generous – allowing us to pay back \$5,000 in video tapes of the final program.

September 25th - Next the Henri Nouwen Literary Centre agreed to purchase the non-broadcast video distribution costs of the video for \$30,000. This License was eventually topped up by a generous donation from the only private donor I approached. They prayed and asked God for direction and added \$3,000 to the Nouwen Literary Centre License Fee. I approached this couple just because I knew they too had told me how clearly Nouwen's work had inspired them. By Friday, the good news was in. Vision TV agreed to give me a License of \$50,000 with the potential Tax Credits and the CTF top up License I was now just \$27,000 shy of my goal and one week to go before the CTF application deadline.

...2

October 3rd - With literally minutes to spare Conrad came to the rescue guaranteeing a loan of the remaining \$27,000. He said that personally he could give \$5,000 but he would trust he could find the rest. The CTF allowed us a grace period that any additional letters could be added to our file before October 11th.

October 6th - Friday, October 6th I received confirmation of another \$20,000 coming to the project \$10,000 as a loan and \$10,000 as an interest free loan – the capitol to be reinvested in a second project when Henri is completed. Today, I am \$2,000 short though I know I can cover this in tax credits. Conrad has said he would be able to cover it as well.

November 2nd - We received the good news that our application for Top Up Funding from the Canadian Cable Fund's License Fee Program was approved.

The "*investment*" of \$5,000 multiplied to \$145,000. This is a miracle that has deeply encouraged all of us at Windborne.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to a project that I believe is on God's heart.

The journey continues.....