

DREAM CHASERS

BECOMING RESILIENT
IN THE FACE OF HARDSHIP

UTA SCHMIDT



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ENDORSEMENTS

Every human being *IS* a story. *Dream Chasers* is an exploration of raw human experience; invitations to look through the eyes of another's story and back at our own. Such self-reflection is essential to transformation and there is no place safer than inside the holy ground of another person's story.

William Paul Young
Author of *The Shack*

Dream Chasers is a beautiful project that gets to the heart of the challenge of the Christian life: navigating through seasons of pain and contradiction by trusting God, who is always good. You can't help but be inspired as you read the stories of trials and victories of some of my personal heroes. I'm sure you will find hope and courage to follow through on your own journey as you pursue your destiny and fulfill your God-given dreams.

Bill Johnson
Bethel Church – Redding, CA
Author of *When Heaven Invades Earth* and *God is Good*

Dream Chasers is an encouraging book with testimonies of several of us, but all of you that are reading this book have a dream, and it started with a dream from the heart of God. As you chase the dream in your life and overcome the challenges and obstacles on your way, you will be fulfilled and you will see God working through you!

Loren Cunningham

Founder of *Youth With A Mission (YWAM)* and author of *Is it really You, God?*

Dream Chasers is a book that encourages the reader to pursue the fullness of his calling and destiny. This is a book about getting up when life knocks you down. It is about taking risks and seeing the glory of God's kingdom come in all its fullness. It is about how love changes everything. It is a book that must be read.

Canon Andrew White

Vicar Emeritus of Baghdad

Author of *Faith Under Fire* and *The Vicar of Baghdad*

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THE X FACTORS THE TEST OF UNRESERVED SURRENDER

You have to decide what your highest priorities are and have the courage to say “no” to other things. And the way you do that is by having a bigger “yes” burning inside. The enemy of the “best” is often the “good.”

Stephen R. Covey

He was slowly pulling up the driveway of Aunt Sandra’s and Uncle George’s grand summerhouse in Lake Placid, New York. The white façade of the mansion reflected on the glassy surface of the water drew him toward the stately home. The weather was gorgeous and a fresh breeze from the lake welcomed him as he stepped out of his non-air

conditioned old Chevy.

He took a deep breath and strolled to the lakeside, taking in the magnificent view of the mountainous landscape in the background and the tranquility of his immediate surroundings. He stretched under the shade of the trees and walked back to the driveway. It was then that he was reminded of how dingy his old Chevy with peeling metallic blue paint looked right next to Aunt Sandra's brand new Cadillac.

He had to admit he had an appreciation for quality *things*. Aunt Sandra and Uncle George moved in a glamorous world that was far removed from his own. It was a good feeling to be here in these surroundings, riding in Aunt Sandra's Cadillac and even driving it occasionally. And all of this could be his. He would just have to say 'yes' to their offer.

"Loren, Darling!" Aunt Sandra kissed him on the cheek, took him by the arm and walked him to the garden. "I'm so glad you could make it and come to see us! There's something your uncle and I are anxious to discuss with you in the morning," Aunt Sandra said. Loren Cunningham knew what it was they wanted to discuss. He was sure it was a job offer – a *very good* job. Later, after dinner, Loren retreated to his room, taking some time alone and processing what was about to happen the next morning and what answer he would have to give.

VISION OF WAVES

That night he was restless, twisting in the silk sheets and peering out at the moonlit sky. He could see the stars from his window. His thoughts went back to the vision he had received during a mission trip to the Bahamas six years earlier. He could still see the picture in his mind's eye: waves flooding the shores of every nation and suddenly turning into young people. They covered the shores of every continent, every country of the globe. He was perplexed at the time, rubbing his eyes and yet still seeing the waves of people. "What is this?" he wondered back then. Was that God speaking to him?

He had concluded that the vision was real, but now, at Aunt Sandra's house, he found himself struggling again. "Was that really you, Lord?" he asked once more. He needed to know for sure he would not be not throwing away a lifetime opportunity to take over a multimillion-dollar business based on a vain imagination or ludicrous vision he had conjured up himself.

But the vision didn't let him go. He still felt the burning desire that it had given him: to see young people released into missions, into making a difference in people's lives and into bringing the good news to the poor. This went completely against what he'd been taught growing up in a traditional church system: that people could only be released into mission work after years of theological training. The vision gave Loren an assurance that the potential and passion within young people could be released in a mighty way if only they

were given the opportunity to step out and show the love of God to different people groups and nations.

This vision of waves covering every continent and every nation had taken hold of him - and on this night, he knew he had to take hold of it in the same way. Deep inside he knew this was his life's calling, his mission, his destiny: releasing young people all over the world to bring the good news to the entire world. But how would he tell Aunt Sandra and Uncle George?

A decision to follow the call of God had once before created a rift in his family, causing Aunt Sandra to turn away from Christianity. This made it all the more difficult for Loren to tell her about his call to the mission field, even though the trouble had occurred many years before Loren was born.

Loren's grandfather had owned a successful laundry business in the early 1900s when he received his "call" to preach. He immediately sold the business and followed his call, preaching part-time and working part-time to support his wife and their five children - among them Aunt Sandra and Loren's dad, Tom. Then, during the smallpox epidemic of 1916, tragedy struck. Several members of the family came down with the disease, but all recovered save one: the children's mother. Loren's grandfather was left to raise five young children - three girls and two boys. For the children, the trauma from their mother's death was already great, but the tragedy went to a new level for them when their father

announced that he had heard a call from God to be a full-time traveling preacher.

In order to follow his call right away, he decided, rather than take five children with him on the road, to separate them and place each one in the home of a different friend, who took them in for the chores they could do. Today, we see the cruelty of this decision, but to him it seemed like a good solution, partly because back then it was believed that children were well taken-care-of if they had a roof overhead and three meals a day. In reality, the children felt isolated and abandoned.

The Cunningham children dealt with their father's decision and the negative impact it had on their childhood very differently. Loren's dad Tom ended up following in his father's footsteps and becoming a preacher himself, but some of the other children had a much harder time. In fact, Sandra and one other sister responded by rejecting Christianity altogether.

Looking back on the story recounted by his family, Loren Cunningham believes that his grandfather made a serious mistake in his interpretation of God's calling. "Hearing God is not at all difficult," Loren writes in his book *Is That Really You, God?* "But we can hear His voice once and still miss His best if we don't keep on listening. After the *what* of guidance come the *when* and *how*."²⁸ He believes his granddad had heard the *what*, but failed to seek further guidance and wisdom about the *when* and the *how*. Had he sought God for

wisdom on the manner and timing of the calling, Loren believes that much of the resulting pain for his children might have been prevented.

Unfortunately, Sandra and her sister blamed their difficult childhood on their father's call itself, so they wanted nothing to do with religion. But they still loved their siblings. So later, when they had become successful in business, they offered to pay for their younger brother Tom to pursue a college degree in engineering. They were appalled when he said he wanted to study to become a preacher. The sisters viewed a religious career as an excuse to live off the charity of others. They delivered an ultimatum: if Tom chose the same path as their father had, they would have nothing more to do with him. And that is exactly what happened.

Many years passed. Tom's son Loren was born and grew up not knowing his Aunt Sandra at all. He prayed for many years for family reconciliation. Then, when he was twenty, a mission trip to the Caribbean took him through New York, where Aunt Sandra lived. He contacted her to ask if they could meet, and she agreed to do so. Then, when they met, she took an immediate liking to him. They agreed to keep in touch. To Loren, it felt like she wanted their connection as a way to make up for the lost years with her brother, Tom.

On this night, lying in bed in the guestroom in Aunt Sandra's house, Loren felt the weight of conversation that would come the next morning. He knew his aunt intended to make him a great offer – similar to the one she had made

to his dad. He also knew, based on his clear vision, that he would have to decline just as his father had, and tell her he was called to be a missionary. Would this again cause a tear in the family? These thoughts weighed heavily on him.

THE SPLENDID OFFER

Loren hardly slept a wink. Finally, after a night of tossing and turning in the darkened room, he looked at his watch. Nine o'clock. Right way, he rang for the butler, who appeared moments later bearing a breakfast tray loaded with all his favorites: ripe melon, waffles, eggs, bacon and a tall glass of fresh-squeezed orange juice. Loren did his best to enjoy his meal, then halfheartedly dressed and walked downstairs to find his aunt waiting for him on the terrace.

“Loren! Good morning, dear! How did you sleep?”

“Fine,” he said, glancing away.

“Come, take a seat,” Aunt Sandra said. “Loren, we’re so glad you were able to come. We’ve been anxious to ask if you would consider coming to work with Uncle George...”

Here it was. The question he knew he had to answer, the moment he had come to fear. He really cared for his aunt, and he understood all too well the generosity of her and his uncle’s invitation. What they were offering was a chance to become part of their multimillion-dollar family business – like a son, an heir. Loren took a deep breath.

“It isn’t that I don’t marvel at what you’ve offered me,

Aunt Sandra,” he said.

“But you’re saying no – is that it?” she could guess.

Quickly, he tried to describe how he had heard a call to preach when he was thirteen, and then, in his twenties, God spoke to him – this time by showing him the vision of waves of young people taking the good news to every continent of the world. The words felt awkward coming out of his mouth. As he writes in his book *Is It Really You, God?* “Somehow though, as I heard my voice telling her about my vision, it sounded presumptuous.”²⁹

GOOD IS THE ENEMY OF BEST

His aunt tried to argue that he could do ministry within the United States – that there were plenty of people right here who needed help. Looking at her face, Loren saw the worry and concern, and a knife twisted inside him. He hated letting her down, but he knew he had to put this test behind him. He cleared his throat and found his voice. “I can’t, Aunt Sandra. I just cannot accept your offer. It’s to the whole world that God has called me, and I have to obey.”

As they talked, it was clear that she didn’t really understand – but Loren was relieved that she ultimately respected his decision. This time, a calling would not lead to a family rift. Aunt Sandra told him that she would do her best to explain his decision to Uncle George. At that point, the only thing he could do was bid her farewell. So he said goodbye,

turned, and walked through the big double doors and down the wide marble stairs and away from an amazing offer. This test was over.

As Loren drove away, he determined to stay close to Aunt Sandra and her family, and at the same time stay true to his calling. Now, as he drove over the bridge toward the airport, he wondered about the waves and his next steps. He had six volunteers to help with his vision – hardly waves. But now that he had passed this test, surely great doors would open and God would reward his obedience – right?

Not quite. Instead, this would only be the first in a series of tests of surrender to the call that he would have to pass. In the following months, he continued to give feet to the vision. Together with his wife Darlene and the few volunteers, he organized the first project for their fledgling organization: Youth With A Mission (YWAM). Finally, they boarded a plane with 100 young people to travel to the Bahamas, Caribbean, and South America to preach the gospel.

It was during this trip that his vision began to take more shape. The young people did a great job in sharing the Gospel. But when a terrible hurricane hit the islands and destroyed the homes of thousands of people, it became clear to Loren that bringing the Gospel was more than just preaching words. He recognized that the love of God needed to be demonstrated and made known to the people in meaningful ways. Love looks like something – and the love of God needed to be made real in the direst of circumstances. Loren

found himself wondering, “Wouldn’t it be great if we had a ship with medical equipment and provisions to dock on every island, to help rebuild houses, provide food and medical care, and meet the people where they felt the greatest needs?” He continued pondering this thought.

PAINFUL SEPARATION

News about the great success of the young people’s outreach in the Bahamas and Caribbean Islands travelled fast and preceded Loren’s meeting with his superior where he was employed as a pastor. Before the meeting, Loren anticipated a great collaboration, where he would be released to follow his vision. His dream was actually working! And he was excited that YWAM had opened the doors for all denominations, but he still wanted to stay within the framework of his church organization. As he traveled to the denominational headquarters, he looked forward to the meeting.

But Loren was mistaken. In the meeting, his superior told him right away that he would have to limit his future missions teams to no more than ten young people if he wanted to continue to operate within the framework of the denomination. Plus, Loren’s idea of making this an *interdenominational* youth outreach organization was not an option at all. His supervisor went on to assure him that he could continue to receive a fine salary and take small teams of young people here and there to other continents – but Loren knew that

this was a mere trickle compared to the vision of waves God had shown him.

“My heart dropped to my knees as the very gracious offer came out – it sounded so reasonable, so secure. Only it was far from what I believed God had told me to do...”³⁰ Loren writes in his book. If he declined the offer, he would lose his salary and, even worse, his position as an ordained minister. To be “let go” from his organization as a pastor would affect his reputation and result in all kinds of speculation as to the reason for the separation.

God, is this really You? Loren asked once again. He immediately felt a strong sense of God’s peace and assurance that it was indeed His leading. Loren knew then what to do. He had to follow his heart and accept the consequences. He explained his position, and, as he expected, the head of the ministerial organization was unwilling to compromise on his position. After some discussion, they agreed that it would be best to separate amicably.

Walking away, Loren felt quite shaken and confused about what had just happened. This was a major contradiction to the outcome he had expected, making it a deep loss that pierced his heart. As he was still figuring out what to do from this point, he was unaware that he was already moving toward the next challenge, which would turn out to be the most difficult experience in his life.

Loren went back to the motel room where they were staying and broke the news to his wife, Darlene. They packed

their belongings and headed home to California in their Volkswagen van.

LOSING EVERYTHING

They made the long trip, driving day and night. As they drove overnight through the Arizona desert, at around six a.m. Loren turned the wheel over to Darlene. He crawled into the back and climbed into a sleeping bag, where he closed his eyes, still pondering everything that had happened. First, he had given up his chance at a bright financial future in the family business. Now he had laid down the prospect of a successful career in the church. In following God's call to pioneer an international mission, he felt that he had given up everything. There was nothing left to give up. Now it was just him and Darlene.

Suddenly he was startled from his sleep, to find himself being thrown around violently inside the van. With a sickening crunch of metal and glass, the vehicle was rolling – from its side to its top, to its other side, over and over down the highway. His head and body slammed against the inside walls. The van rolled over three times, and everything went black. Seconds later, Loren regained consciousness and found himself lying on the roadside, with clouds of dust just settling around him.

He sat up in a daze. Nothing looked familiar. He was surrounded by Arizona desert, without a living soul in sight.

Something warm and wet began running down his head. He reached up to wipe it away, and his fingers came down covered with blood. His head ached, and he couldn't make sense of anything. Scattered around him was everything they owned: suitcases broken open with shirts, underwear, and socks strewn around on the dirt.

He tried to remember what had happened - the difficult meeting, driving through the night, changing places with Darlene. Suddenly he froze. Where was Darlene? His eyes frantically searched the wreckage – finally he saw her, lying face down under a heavy suitcase, a few yards away. He struggled to his knees and crawled to her. Lifting the suitcase, he saw a large gash on the back of her head. Turning her over, he discovered that she was not breathing. Her eyes were wide open, but not seeing. Cold. Fixed. A shiver went through his whole body. Tears ran down his cheeks as he rocked her bloody head in his lap and tried to comprehend what just happened. She was gone!³¹

TOTAL SURRENDER

When Loren and I sat down for the interview, he recounted the experience. “These were the longest and darkest moments of my life,” he recalled. “I felt totally alone, totally helpless – there was nothing I could do except hold her. I was crying and felt so hopeless – as never before and never since. It was truly the bleakest moment of my life, thinking I had lost what

was dearest to my heart – Darlene.”

Hopelessness and despair settled in as he looked around at the wreckage. It seemed to symbolize his life. All was gone. “In that situation, God spoke to me,” Loren described. “That was the only way I could make it through. There was not a living soul around me for miles, but I clearly heard a voice speaking my name. I looked around and I knew that it must be God. I had never heard his voice audibly – but this time it was so loud and clear,” Loren remembered. “He called my name and said, ‘Loren, do you still want to serve me?’ I wondered why he had to ask me that question, but I replied, ‘God, I don’t have anything left.’ When I answered Him that He could have my life, He said, ‘Pray for Darlene.’ Up till then it hadn’t even occurred to me to pray for her, because I thought she was dead. In that moment hopelessness turned to hope, and then hope turned to faith, because faith cometh by hearing – and hearing by the Word of God. So I followed what the Lord had said. I prayed as intensely and loud as I could, and as I prayed, Darlene’s eyes shut and she began to breathe,” Loren recounts.

What he didn’t know was that at exactly that time, 11:20 a.m., God had told twelve ladies in a prayer meeting in Los Angeles to pray for Darlene and him, and they did. In San Francisco, another woman had also responded to the Lord’s voice and was praying for them. “I don’t know if there were others, but this was an amazing miracle for me that allowed me to get through this horrific experience. My back was hurt

and I had all other kinds of injuries – but when I heard God’s voice I knew the Lord’s presence, and that was the most important thing to me.” Loren shares.

Just a short time after Darlene began breathing, other things began to happen. A passing driver went for help, and half an hour later they were in the ambulance on their way to the hospital. It took several days before Darlene was released from the hospital, but Loren left the same day – shoeless and walking stiffly in bloodstained clothes. His shoes and other possessions were still waiting beside the wrecked van.

“What was burned into my heart that day was a lesson on the power that God can release when we lay down our rights,” he explained. “Until that moment, I thought I’d lost everything. I never realized that nothing in this life actually belongs to me. I would speak of *my* car, *my* wife, *my* ministry. After the accident, I realized for the first time how easily I could lose it all in seconds.”

Loren described his realization to me, “Everything we have is just given to us for a time to use for God’s glory. These new thoughts started me on a quest through Scripture to learn what God had to say on the important subject.”

THE X FACTORS

“Out of this experience the Lord showed me that relinquishing rights is actually the key to the rewards, where God releases blessing and brings forth new ministries,” Loren said.

“With every ministry birthed, you always go through ‘the cross’ – through a process where unclean motives, attitudes and actions die,” Loren continued to explain. “For each ministry that was birthed somebody had to pay a price for them to start, whether it’s reaching out to homeless or gangs or teenagers, or whether it’s our mercy ships taking doctors and medical teams into areas that are unreachable by plane.”

Loren believes that every great vision must go through specific stages in order to have a lasting impact and collaborate with God’s great calling. He calls those stages The Five Xs. The first X stands for excitement over the vision. The gospel of Luke illustrates this in the story in chapter 5, where Jesus called his first disciples, Peter, James and John. Jesus borrowed Peter’s boat to preach to the crowd from the shore. Then Jesus turned to Peter and told him to take the boat out on the sea and cast his net again. They had caught nothing all night, but Peter followed Jesus’ instructions and went out again with John. And this time they caught multitudes of fish. “The disciples were amazed and excited about this miracle, but even greater excitement came when Jesus expands their vision and tells them, ‘You will be fishers of men,’” Loren explained. This went far beyond of what they could imagine for their lives. “In other words, Jesus told them that there would be a great release of people who would come to know Christ.” On hearing that initial vision, there was great excitement among the disciples, and they left everything and followed him. Loren explains that with every great vision, the

first stage is excitement.

The second X refers to the experimental phase. This is illustrated in Luke 10. Jesus sent out 70 of his disciples with instructions to cure the sick, cast out demons, and preach the good news of the Kingdom in his name. He told them that he was sending them out like lambs in the midst of wolves, and gave them a specific set of instructions for this outreach. “They came back rejoicing and said, ‘Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!’” The 70 disciples experienced the reality of Jesus’ power working through them as they stepped out; thus, their faith experiment succeeded.

“But the experimental phase is followed by an exam, the third X,” Loren pointed out. “The exam phase has all to do with exposing the motives of the disciples’ hearts.” This is demonstrated in John 6:28, where some of Jesus’ followers asked him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” This time, instead of giving them a formula, Jesus replied, “This is the work of God that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

In the passage, Jesus continued to explain that they must “eat of his flesh and drink of his blood.” In other words, he told them to depend on Him, to partake of his nature and to take in his life. The key to accessing the Kingdom of God is relationship, not formula, and many disciples could not understand this mystery. Instead, they kept asking Jesus to perform a sign so that they would believe. And when Jesus did not give them what they wanted many were offended.

At that point many turned away and followed him no longer. They wanted a method, not the mystery of the cross. They wanted power, not dependency on Christ. “The cross of Christ examines our deepest motives,” Loren pinpointed in our conversation. “Our heart is purged and purified, and we go through things we don’t want to go through. The cross is not something that you ‘gladly bear,’ even though an old hymn puts it that way. But we go through the experience of the cross to let our selfish ways die, because we know we will come out purified on the other side.”

The same can be seen in the example of Peter. “When Peter was faced with the reality of the cross, he denied Jesus. But His heart was purged through this experience,” Loren continued. At this point, Peter moved into the executive stage – the fourth X. “After Peter repented and was restored, he had the authority to stand before multitudes and declare Jesus as Lord,” Loren described. The Peter who had denied Jesus was not the same Peter who stood before the multitudes on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. On that day, when the crowd accused the disciples of being drunk, he stood up and preached Jesus without fear of man. He had undergone a powerful transformation process that had purged him of his insecurities and self-reliance. Now he could move into the fullness of God’s calling on his life.

The last X, according to Loren, is exponential growth. It is illustrated in the same account about the day of Pentecost. After Peter preached with passion before the crowd, 3,000

believers were added to their number.

Loren affirmed that he sees people and ministries moving through these five phases all the time. “When people begin to be more spiritually entrepreneurial, they create new ministries with God. But they all go through these stages before they experience exponential growth.”

Loren has definitely walked through this process himself in pioneering and leading Youth With A Mission. Having gone through the first four stages, the ministry is experiencing exponential growth to this day. Since 1960, YWAM has grown rapidly, and with the participation of over five million short-term volunteers and 20,000 long-term staff. YWAM now operates in over 1,100 locations in 191 countries in the world, and sends five ships with medical teams and provisions into the poorest and farthest nations that are not reachable by plane.

In 1977 Loren founded a training center in Kona, Hawaii, which has developed into the University of the Nations (U of N), a modular University operating in 142 countries. It offers courses in medical care, media, arts and entertainment, economics, cross-cultural missions, and of course Biblical studies. “We train people to bring transformation. To us missions is a lot broader than a person wearing a pith-helmet under a shade tree talking to a non-white. Missions for us is knowing God and making him known in every sphere of society – and that’s what we are training for.” Loren says.

KNOWING GOD

Loren has seen his vision come true. Young people are becoming leaders and transforming society. And this is the result of one man's obedience to God's voice – his dedication to the vision, to the call and destiny on his life. It has had a ripple effect, launching thousands into their own destiny and changing millions of lives. As the great evangelist D.L. Moody once said, "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man that is totally surrendered to him." We can see a glimpse of that in Loren Cunningham and the story of *Youth With A Mission*.

Despite the ministry's exponential growth, Loren Cunningham continues to operate in the background. Even though he has talked to highest government officials and world leaders, and is friends with kings and queens, he has not allowed his face to be the symbol of YWAM. "It's not about my face – I want young people to be released and take the leadership," Loren explains. "And that is what our heart is: we want to see people released to fulfill the great commission instead of controlling them." What he says is true.

Loren's remarkable humility about himself can be traced back to his initial testing in the desert, where he held his seemingly-lifeless wife in his arms and relinquished his rights to God. God has released abundant blessings on his life, but those blessings, according to Loren, are not the point. Instead, his focus is on his deep friendship with God and the knowledge of his nearness. That is his place of rest, joy, and

abundance – not the circumstances in his life.

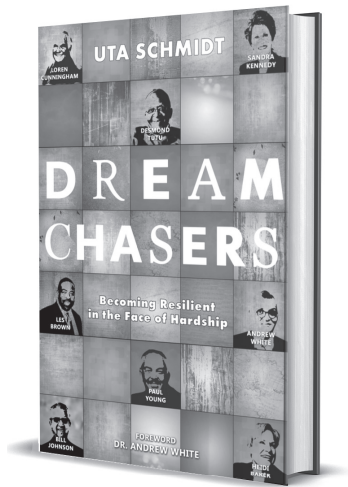
“Since that time of intense testing, nothing is more important to me than the nearness of God. It is so important because God is the God of all comfort and he wants to give us comfort in those times when we are overwhelmed and facing difficult circumstances,” Loren explains. “You learn more about Him in suffering with Him than you do in the good times! In the horrific circumstance when I picked up my wife for dead in the desert, I experienced the nearness of the Lord – the valley where it seemed most hopeless and I felt most lonely. After that experience, I felt an overwhelming sense of his nearness, which has never left me, and I have learned to rest in it,” Loren concludes.

Even though he still faces many challenges and stresses today, Loren has learned to keep himself in check and in faith, resting in God’s provision. “Hebrews talks about the rest of faith. I am living a life of faith, because faith cometh by hearing. I listen daily to the Lord and practice his presence. I’ve heard what I am to do, and I expect God to show up. To me this is the key: to hear and obey. It’s simple, and we should not make it complicated.”

Loren Cunningham is the only person on earth who has literally preached the gospel to *every nation on earth*. Yet even now, at 82 years of age, he is far from ready to retire and sit back! Loren has heard the call of God to reach out to the 1,776 Bible-less languages that still exist worldwide and end their “Bible Poverty” (the lack of a Bible in their language).

To do this, his mission is to deliver the New Testament in an oral recording in each of those languages by 2020. A full 426 of these languages can be found in the Pacific island region, with 321 of those in the remote islands surrounding Indonesia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. This region is where YWAM is currently putting its emphasis.

Humanly speaking, this task seems impossible, but with God all things are possible.³² And when you hear God speak, you can trust that will make a way, and that his commission is always a *Mission Possible*.



DREAM CHASERS

BECOMING RESILIENT
IN THE FACE OF HARDSHIP

UTA SCHMIDT

Have you ever known the pain and disappointment of a shattered dream, a hope deferred, a vision put on hold? Maybe you started out with a dream in your heart, but it got buried beneath the rubble of life's challenges. Perhaps life took some unexpected turns and threw you off course. Know this: you are not alone.

Dream Chasers follows the lives of nine ordinary people who overcame great hardship in pursuing their God-given dreams. In doing so, they became resilient heroes of faith. As you read their stories you will be inspired and find new strength to overcome the difficulties you are facing in your own journey of following the dreams God has placed in your heart.

Endorsements:

Dream Chasers is an exploration of raw human experience, an invitation to look through the eyes of another's story and back at our own.

William Paul Young, author of *The Shack*

You can't help but be inspired as you read the stories of the trials and victories of some of my personal heroes

Bill Johnson, author and pastor of Bethel Church

If you have a dream inside of you and want to know how to make your dream a reality, you must read this book.

Les Brown, author of *Live Your Dreams*

This is a book about getting up when life knocks you down. It is a book that must be read.

Canon Andrew White, Vicar Emeritus of Baghdad

