

Susan C Cook to Fellowship
July 12 2008

Hello everyone,

What is so amazing is that those of us in the middle of all of this work were perfectly unified. There was a miracle happening with all of us that worked this conference. "The work is important, the self is not" really was natural for us. It was an honor and a pleasure to watch the miraculous unfold. I'm not kidding when I tell you that we know the angels were with us. Miracles just kept unfolding. Problems were easily solved, no one fought and I didn't feel unease with anyone.

I've read several of your e-mails and they are wonderful. I do hope everyone who attended the conference is receiving them. But there are unsung heroes I do not see mentioned so I will mention them below. If I do not mention you it is because you were already praised, it's certainly not my intent to leave you out.

Robert Burns has already been mentioned but what you don't know is the support, huge support, I received from his financial expertise, his bargaining talent, and his HUGE presence :o) when speaking with UCLA staff. There were many things I just didn't think of and Robert was there. Robert, thank you for being there for me.

When I asked Aurora Hill to take the challenge of the Expo, she didn't hesitate. She never complained when the information she needed was not forthcoming from people who had a table. I believe she trusted it would unfold and it did. If you visited the Expo, please take a moment and thank our sister Aurora. She always was instrumental in getting the healing together. Aurora, I thank you for saying yes, for keeping your temper, and for being a beautiful poised woman.

An angel stepped back into our family in the form of Mark Erickson. After years of being away, he called the Fellowship office and asked if he could help us at the conference. Those of you who needed projectors and help with your laptops and/or AV needs, can thank Mark. He did not attend one workshop and was only able to enjoy the last plenary to the fullest. He literally gave all of himself to make certain the presenters needs were taken care of.

I asked Eric Cosh to be our official photographer and Mo Siegle asked him to video testimonies. Many of you were interviewed by Eric. He sent me a small snippet of his work yesterday and it is spectacular. You can also see our photos (I took some!) on www.ic08.org. There are hundreds of photos there. Eric also missed all of the workshops because he was working for us. Eric and I are already planning for IC'11.

Wendy Anderson has been mentioned but not to my satisfaction. She took on a big job and caring for and teaching our children. This is THE most important job at the conference and Wendy, please do it again. Know how much we appreciate you and know how difficult the job is that we ask of you.

Tom Choquette and Fred Harris - I'm madly in love with both of you. We did a recon of Catalina a few months ago with Judy Langston the chef of the island who worked so hard filling everyone with nutritious

and tasty food (A Star!!!), and Laura Hay. Please say prayers for Laura father. We had an adventurous time, we bonded, and we knew the kids were going to have a memorable time on Catalina. Thank you both for loving me back.

Bobbie and Steve Dreier worked with me on contracts, budget, and proof reading. I bothered them so many times and they were always there - so wonderful and loving. I thank you both for your support.

Mae Lee Thompson is now a young woman of her own. I will no longer look at her as just Paula Thompson's daughter. Nope - she is Mae Lee Thompson - Queen of the Bookstore! She's going to be 15 at IC'11 and has agreed to be "co-owner" of that effort. She just didn't want to leave and allowed us to breath. Mae Lee - you are awesome and are so loved.

Michelle Klimesh didn't blink when I asked her to be in charge of registration. But she didn't stop there - she went right into the bookstore for several days and worked along side us. Michelle did a workshop, a dance - the fun stuff - but then dug right back into the trenches and worked. She's a great roommate too with the cutest little snore.

Most of you know that Charles Montgomery took Paula Thompson's dream (literally) and turned it into the IC08 logo. I didn't see him thanked in any of the e-mails so I wanted to make sure that was done. He put up with my many tweaks, "will you make her less glowy, will you take the pearls off, do this, do that" and he NEVER complained!

Saige Waits took an Excel spreadsheet and completely converted it for us into our program booklet and charged us very little. Saige, I thank you for that.

Chris Yandall, my dear wonderful funny Chris, took the leadership of the IC08 website and didn't kill me during the process. I'm certain he made 50 changes, additions, fixes, etc. And he agreed to do IC'11. What a trooper because he knows what he's getting into.

And my new friend Patrick Yesh. He took responsibility for the Art Gallery. It was my dream to have one and he just took it and ran with it. Without him, who knows what it would have looked like. Thank you so much Patrick.

And even though he has been thanked many times, I must thank Phil Taylor again and again. Phil is my hero. He had a very difficult job and he did an awesome job. And he is going to work with me again for IC'11. When asked to chair IC'11 I said on one condition, that Phil do the workshop programming again. He said, "I'm there!"

We were a magical team. I can't explain what happened at that conference. The synergy of the team, the love and patience we have for each other - as well as acceptance was part of it. But we were guided somehow and it really did feel as if the way was paved for us and we simply followed.

The work was hard, the rewards huge. This conferenced changed lives and the team is still high from that fact.

Thank you all for coming and I'll see you in 3 years. A survey is coming your way :o) Susa