

March 16, 1986

Dear loved ones,

Hello once again from the middle of the Pacific Ocean! Since we will be leaving here in two weeks, we wanted to write to you one more time.

Many of you may be assuming, from our last letter, that we are heading for Asia for two months, since we told you that we were "leaning" in that direction. However, we now know clearly that the Lord has directed us to return to Minnesota instead.

Some of you also may have assumed that since we came to a discipleship training school here, we must be planning to join the staff of Youth With A Mission. This is not true (though we are open to such an idea, and we can't say how the Lord may lead in the distant future). We believe that the Lord is directing us back to Minnesota, partly to be with our church for some time, and to seek His direction for outreach ministry which He has laid on our hearts.

It would be premature to try to explain these things in this letter. But we can say that we are carrying a burden for the restoring of families; this will find us involved in Minneapolis and the Midwest, and also extend us as far as Asia. In the days ahead we will let you know more about this. We also can say that our love and support for the vision and the people in YWAM has deepened, and hope to support this world-wide ministry in whatever way the Lord desires.

Our purpose for being here has been like a "sabbatical" -- to renew us in mind and spirit, and give a fresh perspective and direction in the expanding vision which was already on our hearts. I believe that this has happened. However, the lifestyle here has been exhausting, especially for Jackie, and for us all.

Since our last letter, we have experienced more excellent ministry from teachers such as Loren and Darlene Cunningham, founders of YWAM, and Dr. Bruce Thompson, Dean of

the College of Counseling and Health Care. We have seen the Lord do some deep healing in many of our classmates who have been severely hurt in past relationships. The upcoming two weeks will be times of more inner healing. Our class is like the body of Christ as a whole -- full of hurts and wounds that need healing and deliverance.

Towards the start of this school, the Lord spoke to me out of I Peter 5:10, which says,

"And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you."

I believe that this word has at least partially been fulfilled in me while here at PACU; the ministry has opened up opportunities for the Lord Himself to get at some things in my heart. This has caused some temporary "suffering", but the result has been a confirming and strengthening in that which He had already been doing in my life up to this time. Out of our time here has come a sense of peace and clarity that gives us courage to go on in the call of God on our lives. (Thank you all for your support of us!!) We go home with a readiness to launch into new areas -- things that the Lord has laid up in our hearts for years. I know, of course, this will only unfold through waiting on Him and moving in obedience one step at a time. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness!

I hope that the Lord can use us in a greater way to encourage some of you to "launch out into the deep, and let the shoreline go..."

Since we will soon see most of you in person, we will share much more then. In fact, we may be home by the time you get this letter! (March 31) The Lord bless you all!

With love in Christ,

John and Jackie,
Jeff and Jennifer