

Lifeline

a letter from John and Jackie Matthews
"Midwest Prayer Mobilizers" 63 105th Lane. N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Dear Friend in Christ,

Hello!...in the wonderful name of Jesus!

Since you have touched our lives, we want to update you on our ministry, and give you an opportunity to become partners with us. The Lord has called Jackie and I to serve the prayer movement in the Twin Cities and Midwestern USA on a full-time basis.

For the past four months, it has been a unique and great opportunity for us to coordinate the prayer efforts of the "Arming for Action" world missions conference. This conference, sponsored by a cross-section of charismatic leaders in the Twin Cities, drew several thousand people together for the purpose of the Great Commission.

Delegates from more than one hundred Twin Cities churches participated with us in three months of intercession for our cities, the nation, and the world. Prayer teams from nearly sixty of these churches covered the entire city limits of Minneapolis and St. Paul during a "prayer walk" on September 12, each team numbering between six and thirty people. Two teams met at each starting point. After prayers of agreement, each team moved out in opposite directions, confessing the sins of our cities, asking God for repentance and revival, binding the evil principalities and powers, and proclaiming the Lordship of Christ and the word of God over the cities. At the end of the walk, (one hour long), each team met another team coming from the opposite direction, ending with agreement and praise to the Lord. A seventy mile circle of intercession, through the cooperation of all these churches, surrounded the Twin Cities that morning!

Bringing you up to date

About two years ago, the Lord called us out from pastoring at Church Upon The Rock in Moundsvew, MN, having been there nearly fourteen years. We took a "sabbatical" for some months to seek the Lord, spending most of that time in a discipleship school in Youth With A Mission. During that time the Lord dealt with our hearts, increased our world vision, and called us back to Minnesota to serve the body of Christ for the cause of world missions. Since that time I have served as midwest coordinator for AIMS, the Association of International Mission Services. AIMS is a world missions networking ministry, helping local churches and mission agencies to work together to spread the gospel to the unreached peoples of the world.

During this time, the Lord laid a primary burden in my heart to help mobilize people into prayer -- prayer for revival in our nation, and prayer for the world. I saw that not only missionaries are needed to reach the unreached, but a host of prayer warriors are needed to intercede and tear down the spiritual strongholds over the nations. God's army -- evangelists and missionaries -- need God's "air force" -- the intercessors!

What we're doing

In addition to having served the Arming for Action committee, I am on two other steering committees with major tasks of prayer mobilization. One is the "Concert of Prayer", which drew 5,000 people together on September 18 at the Minneapolis auditorium to pray for revival and world evangelization. A vision for the next Concert of Prayer in the fall of 1988 is now rising -- the Met Center? the Metrodome?

I am also serving the "Washington for Jesus" committee as state prayer coordinator. This event will draw, the Lord willing, more than one million Christians to prayer at the nation's capital next April 29. Under this banner we hope to mobilize Minnesota churches into persistent and continuing prayer for our own country.

Three other prayer projects are before us now. One is monthly, city-wide intercession to begin on October 19 at Central Lutheran. We are trusting the Lord for many praying people from the churches to join together at these regular intercessory "rallying points". The second is the "Unreached Peoples Prayer Project." In my hands is a very special and new document, fresh out of the computers of mission researchers. It is a listing of 480 unreached people groups, part of the 17,000 in the world yet to have a viable church among them. These 480 have been put forward by mission researchers as a challenge to the charismatic, word, and young pentecostal churches of our nation -- a missionary challenge for our generation! These 480 groups, without a viable church among them, have a combined population of over 800 million souls! As a beginning, we are enlisting 480 people in the Twin Cities who will each take one of these unreached people groups as a personal prayer project for the next year, speaking their name to the Lord daily for a year.

The third project is gearing up for a major three day conference next spring on "Intercession for the Nations." Joy Dawson, Dick Eastman, and David Bryant, international leaders in prayer, are committed to come. (Please pray for the date.) This event will draw intercessors from throughout the Midwest (if we do our job right!) This will be a "working" conference -- concerted prayer, with teaching.

Who is with us

We are privileged to be friends with many wonderful church leaders in our area; we are being encouraged by pastors who know us well; we look to them for counsel, and consider ourselves accountable to them (and the Lord) in this ministry. God is putting together a team of advisors from various churches, with whom we can share and confirm the direction of the ministry.

Our family

Jackie and I are in the twenty-fourth year of a happy marriage. Our three children are progressing on their own paths: Jay, age 21, is in his fourth year with the Army at Ft. Bragg, NC; Jeff, age 15, is a sophomore at Faithbrook Academy; Jennifer, age 13, is in the eighth grade at Northside Christian School. Though I am no longer pastor at Church Upon The Rock, we are members and family there.

Our needs

We are unsalaried in this faith ministry. Some churches and individuals have been graciously helping us, for whom we are grateful to the Lord. We have large, immediate financial needs, and also need many regular supporters. In addition to household and ministry expenses, Jackie has large medical expenses without insurance coverage. In all these things, God is proving Himself faithful, and we are looking ahead to His next miracles!

We trust that the Lord will lead you to become partners with us in this prayer mobilization. Jackie says, "Many hands make light work!" Certainly this is true in our support. Will you be one of the many hands needed to birth this ministry? You may use the enclosed response form and envelope; presently, tax-deductible gifts should be made out to "Church Upon The Rock".

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

Interceding for the Nations,

John and Jackie
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