

Dear friends,

Summer, 1991

Well, the traveller returned! Jackie came back from her trip to Irian Jaya in much better condition than I expected. She was healthy throughout the journey, slept well even on the international flights, and kept up with her nieces and nephew — well, almost!

It was a trip of overwhelming proportions — overwhelming scenery, overwhelming reception by missionaries and nationals, and overwhelming emotions while tracing the footsteps of her father through the Baliem valley. (At times on the same rocks that he walked.)

... the "Baliem"...

For those who did not know, Jackie's parents were pioneer missionaries for many years among the hidden peoples in the interior of Irian Jaya, Indonesia. Hundreds of churches now grace this former "cannibal valley"! She, her brother, two nieces and a nephew, went there for a celebration honoring this entry of the gospel, when her dad, Einar Mickelson led the first team into the interior.

Repeatedly, she met people who knew her dad, and who told stories about him. One was the first Christian in the Baliem, another the first chief to lead his entire people into the gospel. He told about seeing her father when he first came over the mountain ridge from another valley. He and his fellow tribesmen were going to go up the mountain to kill her dad, but they were afraid of the "warriors...big men dressed in white" who they all saw surrounding him! When he came into their village alone, they decided that these white warriors were waiting in the bush to kill them, but they were never able to find them!

Another man she met said he was "the little cross-eyed boy who carried your fathers' camera". He now is president of the national church! The pilot who flew them into the interior said, "My father carried your father's belongings on his back, and now I carry his children and grandchildren on my wings!"

At almost every place Jackie visited, there was a building which her dad had built -- always on a hill with a fantastic view. But the view that Einar loved most was always to look over the next mountain and find another unreached tribe! Jackie met Ed Maxey, who related to her: "When your dad and I came into this valley, he said to me: 'Don't settle here, Ed. Over that mountain range is another people group who do not have the gospel. You have to go there!' Jackie, that 'other people group' is where we have been working for many years!"

The monument honoring the entry of the gospel into the Baliem was dedicated on June 10 and 11, with several thousand people in attendance. It was a two day celebration of pig feasts, preaching, and praise to God.

The monument is a larger than life sculpture of chief Ukumerek, dressed as a warrior on one knee with his hand raised to the sky. In his hand is the Bible, on bird legs! (Didn't God send His word to them from the sky?") Behind him is a large stone mural depicting the arrival of the plane on the Baliem river, with the missionaries in the rubber boat coming to shore. In the center is a scene of a missionary baptizing a believer, and the Holy Spirit as a dove descending. The missionaries' names, including her dad's, are inscribed at the base, and a park has been created to surround the monument.

Jackie's trip home was delayed, due to overbooking by the airline; they might still be there, if the Lord had not intervened! Some of you helped pray through the night of her departure, and we give the Lord glory for getting them seats on the next available plane.

...our children...

Jay and Lana's wedding has taken place. (June 29) Two weeks after the wedding in Wisconsin, we had a "garden reception" for them at our house, and all went well, even the weather -- it was the most beautiful day of the summer! They have taken an apartment just two miles from our house; Lana has a new job at North Central Bible College, and Jay is working at a warehouse full of antique furniture. He has enrolled in a trade school to become a cabinetmaker, with desire to become a designer and builder of fine furniture.

Jeff and Jermaine are about to be married, and believe that the Lord wants them in the heart of the city, and so have rented an apartment near downtown Minneapolis. We are trusting God for continued grace... they say it's easier to be grooms' parents...

Please continue to pray for these new Matthews' families, and also for Jenni who enters her senior year at Coon Rapids Senior High.

...summer prayer outreach...

I've just completed leading a two week Prayer Outreach in the inner cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Each day, we had between 7 and 14 people together from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m., people who had volunteered to be on a prayer team for at least one full day. We were praying in advance of Twin Cities for Jesus, which focused on three locations of the city. It was a real breakthrough for that many people (over 60) to give valuable time to the ministry of prayer. We wept over the condition of the church, prayed for laborers to be released into the harvest, battled against many strongholds, and interceded for the "people groups" of our city, especially the Black, Hispanic, and Hmong Asian populations. We prayed in various homes, visited and interceded for pastors and people of several inner city churches. We were on our faces, on our knees, and on our feet in

prayer. We were in the secret place, up in "high places" and on the streets worshipping God. Time will tell the fruit of this intensive prayer outreach. But I have to say it was a wonderful time with intercessors from all over our area, and a glorious time with the Lord.

At the end of the evangelistic outreach, many comments came from those who were ministering on the streets -- comments that clearly confirmed the effectiveness of the prayer outreach. An inner city pastor and said, "I've ministered on the streets of north Minneapolis for six years. Never have people been so open and receptive." A seasoned street evangelist said, "I've never had as much peace and liberty in an outreach as in this one." Others noted, "people actually came up to us asking for tracts!" Another reported, "we were sharing freely at a house with people coming in and out, even laying hands in prayer on a man who was recently shot. It turned out to be a "crack house", normally a place of hostility, (where cocaine was sold and used heavily)!

Another said, "the presence of the Lord was so strong, and everyone recieved us so warmly! No one hassled us!" At Mt. Airy, the Hmong refugee community, many dozens of people recieved Christ, both young and old. It was reported that those who spoke experienced a clear anointing of the Lord, and the people recieved the gospel with eagerness!

On the last night, someone on the street came up to a team member and hugged him, saying, "We're so glad you came out here...thanks!" This was a breakthrough indeed, in the middle of an inner city "stronghold"!

It is clear that God heard and the enemy was bound! And it is clear through this experience that we have only begun to see what God can do through the united and persistent prayer of the saints!

...new horizons...

Please pray that we will know clearly from the Lord on the next steps of our cooperative prayer effort. The Lord made us aware of certain spiritual strongholds in the Twin Cities during the prayer outreach, which need further research and further understanding from Him.

Pray also for the birthing of a new vision for prayer in the local churches, which I have been carrying in my heart for some time. I sense that the Lord wants the formation of a MENS' prayer organization that would have "chapters" in the local church, and function regionally as "watchmen on the wall", a spiritual guard for our families, churches and cities.

Pray specifically for my communication with area pastors, which will be my first priority for the next few

weeks. I need to share my heart with them, and receive their input and counsel as we launch the prayer watch into the next phases of ministry.

...Indonesia and India...

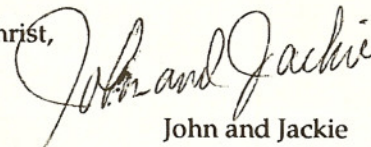
Pray for our plans for travel to Indonesia and India in late October and November. By God's grace, we will first have a prayer outreach in northern Sumatra among an unreached people where our missionary friends are working. It is a Muslim stronghold; in fact this people group were the propagators of Islam throughout Southeast Asia. No believers or churches exist in this people group of three million. Jackie and I will travel there with Gordy Steck, our home church pastor, and a few others. We will then go with pastor Gordy to northern India, where we will be ministering to pastors and churches. The Lord has made it clear that we, and our home church, are to have an ongoing responsibility in India; we see this next trip there as strategic in clarifying that involvement.

We want to thank all of you once again who stand with us as a family in prayer and giving. Your support is indeed a "lifeline" for us as we continue to pursue the ministry God has set before us.

A word of explanation: we have been staff of Youth With A Mission until this spring, when it was clear that we had to step back from that. The Minnesota Prayer Watch, plus international ministry, is all we can now handle. We are still friends of YWAM; our involvement in the nations has several links to YWAM. We are trusting that the Lord will raise up others to advance the ministry of YWAM in our area; we would be right beside them to encourage and support such a ministry. Will you pray with us for that to take place?

May God grant you an increasing peace in the midst of an increasingly troubled world!

Yours in Christ,



John and Jackie

Points for prayer:

- *wisdom for fffurther cooperative intercession on behalf of the Twin Cities.*
- *the birthing of a men's prayer organization for local churches.*
- *my communication with pastors*
- *newly married sons: Jay and Lana; Jeff and Jermaine.*
- *Jenni in her senior year of high school.*
- *finances, including a significant medical debt left from Jackie's surgeries.*
- *mission trip Oct/Nov to Indonesia and India.*
- *others to take up the vision for YWAM Minnesota*