

Dear friends,

Jackie and I want to thank each of you who stood with us in prayer during our trip to Asia. Having taken a few days to recover from jet lag and the sudden culture change from humid India -- to a Minnesota Thanksgiving snow storm-- its time to write to you again.

...in Indonesia...

Our time with missionary friends in Indonesia was excellent, and a learning experience for us. Living with them for two weeks allowed us to get the feel of their life style in the middle of a Muslim culture. And it gave us enough time to fulfill the task of intercession that the Lord had send us there to accomplish.

Our team of seven, normally began the day with a time of worship and waiting on the Lord. Each day it became clear what we were to do, with the help of the Holy Spirit and our missionary friends. The Lord progressively showed us the stronghold of death and the fear of death which was in the land. Through several confirmations, this became one of the chief focuses of our ministry of spiritual warfare. We carried out certain "prophetic actions" on behalf of this land, claiming it and its people for the Lord, and at the end of our time there we declared a new spiritual name for the land --Zion-- in place of its historical identity as the "front porch of Mecca" and "bedrock of Islam" in southeast Asia.

The name of the place and name of our missionaries needs to be kept out of print from now on, lest their "cover" be taken away. Since it is a place ruled by Islamic law, Christian missionaries are looked on as illegal and impermissible. But God's grace is with them, and they have much favor with the people.

...a change at Singapore...

Jackie and I had intended to take three days for a personal "getaway" betweenour time in Indonesia and India; but it didn't seem appropriate to do so, and we felt we needed all the time to fulfill our purpose of intercession in Indonesia. When we arrived back in Singapore, before going on to India, it became clear to our hearts that Jackie should go home. It was just a gentle nudge from the Lord, for the sake of our daughter, though nothing was wrong at home.

At the time, in Singapore, it didn't look possible because our tickets were shown to be unchangeable. (We didn't know that.) The Singapore Airline ticket agent refused to allow Jackie to return home, stating that she would have to buy a new ticket to do so! (This was impossible for us to do!)

After we prayed, we felt we were to go to another Singapore agent and try again. She also said the ticket was unchangeable; but in the same sentence said she would change it! And so Jackie returned home; and I went to India for the remaining two weeks. When I came home, we both knew that this had been right.

...in India...

I taught the School of Prayer, titled "Foundations for a Life of Prayer" three times in India. The first week it was to students and staff of a Dicipleship Training School -- "DTS" -- of Youth With A Mission in Madras. These students were from all over India, plus several other nations. The second week was another "DTS", this time in Hyderabad -- again with staff and students from many parts of India and several other nations. In both schools, many recieved the Baptism in the Holy Spirit -- two thirds of the DTS class in Hyderabad, who all spoke in tongues for the first time.

I also ministered daily to the staff on the subject of "How God Prepares Leaders". In addition to teaching several hours a day, there were many counseling sessions with students and staff, and several other meetings.

I taught the School of Prayer for the third time on the last weekend to a group of pastors and leaders from the Hyderabad area, 40 or 50 in number. This was a two day seminar arranged by YWAM and the city pastors fellowship. This was the first time I had taught the School of Prayer to pastors; these were from many denominations, charismatic and non- charismatic. It was a privilege and joy to minister to them, and they recieved my ministry with eagerness.

I brought just enough copies of the manual which accompanies the School of Prayer for the DTS students. YWAM had more printed for the staff and for the pastors seminar while I was there. Everyone treated the manuals as if they were made of gold. Christian literature is hard to find in India, especially Bible teaching material.

I also spoke in two churches at the end of my time there; and then I was ready to come home. I was weary, but remained healthy and in the joy of the Lord. It was two weeks of pouring out the word of God to people who were hungry and thirsty for God.

It took me thirty six hours travel time from India back to Minneapolis -- living Monday night twice in crossing the international dateline, going from Madras to Singapore to Tokyo to Los Angeles to Houston and then home.

...a request for help...

YWAM India would like Jackie and I to be "pastors" to the 250 YWAM staff who are spread over nine mission bases in the nation. All are young missionaries in their twenties and thirties, half are from India, the others from many other nations. They minister there at great sacrifice, and sometimes under severe pressures. Many are young families with infants and toddlers. Would you pray that we would know how to respond to such a request? They would like us to be there several months each year, and rotate among the mision bases, though this seems impossible at this time of our lives.

We do have one other idea for helping to fill this

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need. This idea is to hold an annual family camp in India for the missionaries; we would bring a full ministry team to build up each family and minister to both children and adults. The YWAM leaders are already looking for a place to hold such a "missionary refreshment camp". It may also be made available to YWAM staff from other countries such as Nepal, Pakistan, etc. Please pray with us for the birthing of this camp for missionaries.

...Looking ahead...

And what else lies ahead for us in the next few weeks?

*I will be in **Cambridge, MN** in a few days. to help a group launch a prayer effort for their community.

* I'll speak at **Elk River, MN** to encourage a group of Spirit-filled Catholics.

*Later in the month I'll be ministering at a combined church gathering in **Baudette**, on the northern border of our state. This will be a prayer emphasis, and a launching of the Watchmen ministry among their men.

*The following week, in January, I'll be holding a School of Prayer on the southern border of the state, in **Albert Lea**, and helping leaders to launch a prayer effort in that region. These churches are also interested in starting the Watchmen men's prayer ministry.

*Immediately following, there is an international intercessors gathering in **Jerusalem** to which I have been invited, led by Sjell Sjoberg, Steve Lightle and others from many nations who are gathering for a week to pray for the world. Will you pray with us for the Lord's confirmation about attending this intercessor's meeting?

*In between other engagements, I hope to spend considerable time in a **fresh waiting on the Lord** during the next few weeks. It seems a new direction is coming for the new year, and I want to know God's best. The overall direction for us continues to be serving the prayer movement in Minnesota, and being available to go to the nations.

All our other plans for international travel are open before the Lord; there are not yet any committed trips on the calendar for next year; we will take that one step at a time. **Please pray for His perfect will in our going to the nations.**

*It does seem that the time is near for me to spend more time ministering in local churches, and hopefully that will include considerable ministry in churches around the state, outside of the Twin Cities. (The Lord has given me a burden for these outlying cities, but it must happen only in God's time.)

*There are **some writing projects** before me; for these I need extra grace, for it does not come easy to write, and requires some extended periods of time to accomplish the task.

...As you pray for our needs...

***Old medical bills** still hang over our head. God must have a solution for that.

***Our main vehicle stopped** running while we were in Asia; it needs a complete engine overhaul. Thank you, Jesus!

*We must trust God for a miracle in our finances every month! Will you pray with us for this month's miracles to happen?

...And for you...

Again, many thanks for your friendship, your prayer, and for those of you who have helped us financially. Because of you and the grace of God, we are "pressing on to the mark for the prize of the upward call of God"! We hope you are doing the same; for that we are trusting the Lord on your behalf.

We hope that the Christmas holidays will be good ones for you; for us it will be the first year of gathering three Matthews' families instead of one! (Since the marriages of our sons!)

As the new year approaches, remember, the mercies of the Lord are also new. As the daily news continues to demonstrate the instability of the world, remember: Jesus is our Rock. Let the foundations of your soul sink deep into Him, and do not look at your life through the eyes of anxiety or doubt.

We have learned that God is...

...too gracious to be doubted,

...too faithful to be questioned, and

...too compassionate for us to keep worrying.

"Casting all your anxiety upon Him, for He cares for you."

I Peter 5:7

Yours in Christ,

John and Jackie