

April, 1992

Dear friends,

Greetings in Jesus' Wonderful Name!

Springtime seems to encourage new beginnings. When the snow disappears, the rains come, and new green shoots appear, spring seems to say, "try again." Of course, in our yard, the rubbish of last year — millions of dead leaves — had to be cleared away to give the new grass a chance to live! (An Asia trip and an October blizzard had left them there.)

Isn't the grace of God like that? "The mercies of the Lord are new every morning". The Father keeps giving us a fresh start in life. He even helps clear away our "rubbish" from the past by forgiving us for our failures, and encouraging us for the days ahead. I hope you will clear away the "rubbish" of your seasons past. Thank Him for what has gone on before — even if it was difficult — and accept His springtime mercy for the days ahead. As it has been said, "The future is as bright as the promises of God"!

The Spirit falls at Lake of the Woods...

Jackie had a great experience recently as the guest speaker at a women's retreat in Baudette, MN. The women of Living Waters church met at a resort on Lake of the Woods, and had invited women from several other churches as well. (Eighty women were in attendance.)

Almost every woman from the host church was at this retreat, and the hunger for God and enthusiasm for His word was amazing. They had provided the honeymoon suite for Jackie (and Ruth Oberg who accompanied her). The men of the church fasted and prayed for this event, and provided flowers for the ladies.

Many of the women were young Christians, and for them this retreat was a milestone, for they had been at this resort for drinking parties in times past. The anointing of the Lord was strong on Jackie's ministry, and many lives were touched; some received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

A dramatic interlude...

Jackie and I were asked to participate in an Easter musical drama of Christ's death and resurrection in our home church. I was and actor and narrator, Jackie a costume designer. It proved to be a major commitment for several weeks. For me, it was a new experience — memorizing lines, acting, and even singing a solo at the climax. I have to say it was very difficult for me; being in a spotlight to say and look just so, timing lines to musical cues...etc. But I found God's grace to be there.

Jackie was at her sewing machine for many, many hours. She loved it! And she liked having to pay attention to the details of the appearance of the actors and their costumes. It was a unique joy for us to have time to work with many of our home church people, since much of our involvement is outside our own church. About thirty people were saved through the performances of this drama, for which we are thanking the Lord!

The School of Prayer...

We are now leading a School of Prayer, which is meeting weekly on Monday evenings for three hours a night. We have about one hundred people registered from more than twenty churches, some non-denominational, and others from various denominations. The training manual is used as homework for them; they study the subject before we teach on it the next week. This way, we hope the truth and work of the Spirit will go deeper into their hearts. My homework is rewriting and expanding this training manual, working two weeks ahead of the students! With the rewriting of the teaching manual, the School of Prayer takes about two thirds of my time, and will continue that way into the summer. So, it is a very intensive experience for me, and I feel as though I am digging deeper and longer into these foundations for prayer than I expected.

Please **pray** for continued grace for this project, and that the people in the school will be changed by the Lord.

(over)

Part II...

The second part of the School of Prayer begins in June, focusing on intercessory prayer and spiritual warfare— working in teams, getting God's strategy, and carrying it out — for the vision of evangelism in the city. We are working with Twin Cities for Jesus outreach, to take place among several neighborhoods of our inner city during July. A new invitation will go out this week for people to join this second School of Prayer. Will you **pray** that people's hearts will be drawn to this, that we would be able to lead them in a practical training, and that they will get an ongoing vision for battling for souls?

Part III...

Pray also for the outreach of the third school of Prayer, to begin in August, focusing on interceding for nations and unreached people groups. We are communicating with a ministry based in Asia, with whom we hope to work for this prayer outreach. The trip, at the conclusion of the third School of Prayer, will be about three weeks — leaving the latter part of September, the Lord willing.

Pray that God would give us divine destinations, divine relationships, and divine instructions for this outreach. **Pray** that He will give us His choice for team members, and that His provision will come for the journey. (Would you like to join us?)

The Adult Kids...

Jenni graduates from Coon Rapids Senior High in a few weeks. She is planning to work for a while before proceeding with further education — her heart is in music and in missions.

Jeff is hoping to attend North Central Bible College this fall, where *Jermaine* is already a student. Will you **pray** for their financial provision for this schooling?

Jay is enjoying working in carpentry and remodeling, and loves to build things from wood. *Lana* is working at North Central Bible College.

We are enjoying our larger family very much.

A special request...

I am learning to live in what I teach — staying in fellowship with the Lord, and staying in the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit through the ups and downs of daily life. It seems there comes repeated pressure from the enemy against my personal prayer life; at times it seems so difficult. Please **pray** that I will learn to live more completely in the life that the Lord has called me to teach to other believers.

A hearty thank you...

Jackie and I once again thank each of you who **pray** for us. We cannot overemphasize the value we place on your prayers, be they extensive, or just as you read the prayer letter. Do not underestimate your own **prayer**!

And thanks to each of you who help us financially. You are God's channel of life for our material needs. We still must expect a financial miracle every month. May the Lord bless you abundantly!

And may His peace continue to be with you and your family.

Yours in Christ,

John and Jackie.

Pray for:

- *John's writing*
- *Students in School of Prayer*
- *Summer prayer outreach in our city*
- *Fall Prayer outreach to Asia*
- *Finances for Jeff and Jermaine for college*
- *John's prayer life*
- *Monthly financial miracles!*
- *Retirement of remaining medical debt in 1992*