

January, 1992

Dear friends,

Entering 1992...it sounds so late, so near the end of the century. Is it near the end of this age? In my childhood, an evangelist said Jesus would come in 1968! Another said the tribulation would begin in 1981! And I read the book called "1984" when I was young, which predicted a terrible culture under the hand of "Big Brother" watching everyone!

1992... It is the 500th anniversary of Columbus discovering America! (It is also the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.)

1992...It is a five year memorial to God's goodness for Jackie...five years since a cancer diagnosis. After ten surgeries (one for the cancer, eight for reconstruction, and one for a unrelated hysterectomy) it is good to be in health. Five years without cancer is good medical news, but even more a memorial to the faithfulness of God, for He has also delivered us from fear of cancer, fear of death, fear of sickness, and fear of bankruptcy! And He has given us a deeper trust in Himself!

1992 ...It is also the "year of jubilee" for me. I will be 50 this summer! ("Born on the fourth of July.....ta da!")

Jackie and I hope you had a good end to 1991 and the beginning of the New Year. If not, take time to forgive your relatives for their failures, lay down your unmet expectations with a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and receive God's forgiveness for your sin. You need to look ahead in 1992 with a heart bathed in the blood of Jesus and eyes expecting the mercy and grace of your heavenly Father.

As the trouble increases in the world around us, I remember Psalms 27:13,14:

*"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*

*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;*

*Yes, wait for the Lord."*

Do you believe that you will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living? (That means here on earth, not only when you get to heaven!) If you are facing a trial or a mountain, remember that He is good. Remember that you will see His goodness in the days ahead.

Now about that verse that says, "Be strong..." In the face of our weakness, and God knowing that we are weak, how can he tell us to be strong? Isn't it a reminder of God's strength that is available at all times to us? But we must be willing to accept it, and face life squarely rather than hiding in self pity or unbelief. "Let your heart

*take courage...*: There it is again. God will give us the courage, but we must be willing to take it, right in the middle of our fear. After all, it takes fear to be courageous! Courage is not fearlessness. Courage is facing fear and walking through it with God's help.

Remember the key to finding that strength and courage. It is: "Wait for the Lord; ...Yes, wait for the Lord." The call to sit at His feet, and listen for His voice is upon the whole church in these days; I hope you are finding a way to press into that secret place with your Father. For it is from there that we find a life of courage. From a hidden life of clinging to God comes forth a life of strength and hope marching into a troubled world. When we have "lost touch" with the Lord and with His peace, it is time to **stop everything** — until we have regained our communion with Him.

I have had the privilege of teaching several schools of prayer in recent days. In Cambridge it was a one day school; in Baudette a two day school, morning through evening; and in Albert Lea a four day school. Jackie and I ministered together in the Albert Lea school. In each case the ministry was a pleasure, because the people who came were hungry for God. In addition to the "Foundations for a Life of Prayer", I also taught subjects like, "Why Pray?", "Why Christians don't Pray", "Principles of Teamwork in Prayer", and "Battling for Your City Through Prayer".

I am now facing a great challenge, for which I would like you to **pray**. That is, to rewrite the outlines and manual I have been using for teaching on prayer as a complete book or series of books for publication. There is simply too much that the Lord has given me than can be said in a school of prayer. A book will allow a person to read and learn beyond the time restraints of my teaching in a school of prayer.

Having never written a book before, I am not sure that I can accomplish it, but I will do my best, with the Lord's help, to do that very thing. I have written short articles and more than one teaching manual, but a book...? I find that I face a great lack of courage and discipline in doing this. And the normal course of life and ministry has made it very difficult to write in the past. **Will you cover us in intercession for this book project?** Also I need the advice of experienced writers and publishers to finish this, so pray that I might find the Lord's counsel when it is needed. It seems that the Lord is giving me the next few months to do the first draft of this project. **Please pray** for Jackie and I as I begin writing, though feeling weak in myself. Writing projects frequently bring unique forms of spiritual warfare.

It is in our hearts to keep teaching schools of prayer in the churches. Please **pray** that the Lord will open the door to a wide variety of churches, both near and far away. We believe that is what He wants to do.

The Watchmen, the prayer organization for pastors and men, is still in seed form, being piloted in a few churches. Please **pray** for the wind of prayer to move among men.

Jackie is taking a refresher course for registered nurses, mostly home study with some clinical experience. Her goal is to keep up to date with her license, and to pursue studies relating to third world nursing. The Lord hasn't led her to work in nursing at this time, but to be available for our ministry together, and to minister in our home church. **Pray** for God's wisdom for her.

Continue to **pray** for our international ministry. We have decided not to go to Israel at this time. Instead, the Lord willing, we will attend an Intercessors International week of prayer for the nations, to be held in Jerusalem in November. No other mission trips are scheduled; we will wait on God until He shows us where and when.

**We again want to thank each of you who pray for us.** Your intercession on our behalf keeps us going and keeps the powers of darkness restrained.

**We also thank those of you who have helped us financially,** some very regularly, and some with special gifts. Every gift, regardless of size, is received by us as a memorial and a miracle of God's grace and your love.

**And here Jackie shares:**

"Praise the Lord! He provided the means to repair our main car, which needed an engine overhaul! He answered also the prayers of some of you who prayed specifically for John as we went for a week to Albert Lea. He was very fatigued since the Asia trip and had no time to recuperate through December. Then he became ill with a chest cold. But the Lord healed him on the way, and he was able to minister with power, and the people received it with eagerness. It was a powerful week.

"This week John is beginning to get some of the needed quietness and rest, to "Be still and know that the Lord is God." **Your prayers made a big difference.**

"John and I are believing that 1992 will be the year to close the books on my three year physical "desert experience", and on the rest of my medical bills from 1989 that remain. Will you join us in faith and **prayer** that this debt will be wiped out in 1992? We are declaring once and for all to the devil that we are not going under what he tried to do to us!! "Through our God we shall do valiantly! It is He that shall tread down our enemy!"

*"The Lord will give strength to His people;  
The Lord will bless His people with peace." Psalms 29:11*

Yours in Christ,

**John and Jackie**

**Prayer Concerns:**

- \* John's writing of the book(s) on God's call to prayer.
- \* The Watchman ministry, that pastors and men will respond to the call to prayer in the churches.
- \* The elimination of 1989 medical bills.
- \* God's doors for schools of prayer in the churches.
- \* Jackie's nursing studies, her involvement with John in ministry and her encouragement of women in our home church.
- \* For our daily and monthly material needs.
- \* For our children, Jenni in her senior year; Jay and Lana; and Jeff and Jermaine.
- \* For the Lord to reveal our next phase of international ministry.