

March, 1992

Dear Friends,

Jackie and I greet you once again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ — the Name above all names, the King of kings, and the Lord of all.

Here is some encouragement and wisdom from one of the ancient prophets:

*"Do not be afraid, O Zion;  
Do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
A victorious warrior.  
He will exult over you with joy,  
He will be quiet in His love.  
He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy." (Zephaniah 3:16,17)*

In these days the Church is learning about "spiritual warfare" and "fighting battles", and becoming "warriors". Certainly these terms are important to us in the prayer leadership ministry; and they are probably just as important to you — whether you are a homemaker or a minister.

Equally important are the terms "armor of God" and "divine weapons of warfare". **But have we fully realized that we are to wear the armor that God Himself uses (see Isaiah 59:17), and use the weapons that He Himself uses?** After all, isn't He the warrior who really knows how to fight to win?

Well, then...if He is the victorious warrior (Zeph. 3:17), perhaps we should see how He fights for us! The above verses tell us what **He** does; it becomes an instruction on how **we** should respond in our battles...

1. **He** "exults over you with joy"...Now why don't **you** do just that — "exult over your problems with joy"!
2. **He** remains "quiet in His love"...Now **you** just do the same thing — "remain quiet in His love" in the midst of your battles!
3. **He** "rejoices over you with shouts of joy"...OK...Now **you** "rejoice over your needs with shouts of joy"!!

**Perhaps if we fought like God fights, we would win more often!**

### ***What are we doing right now?***

Jackie is busy finishing her nursing refresher course, steeped in the birthing of new women's ministries in our church, and assisting me.

I have been speaking various places, and preparing for the first Watchmen rally -- which we just had on

March 7, with perhaps one hundred men from six or seven churches. These were mostly men who have committed themselves to the daily Watchmen task of prayer.

I have also been sorting, planning and praying over our present and future commitments, and attending various leadership functions that I had neglected somewhat during our 1991 whirlwind of marriages and mission trips.

### ***A more complete School of Prayer...***

Out of this has come another step for our ministry in the form of a more complete school of prayer. It will take place in three stages, with classes on Monday evenings during the next six months, to be held at Church Upon The Rock. We are inviting people from the Twin City area, and as well as from our home church to participate this school of prayer.

The first part (seven weeks) is called "Foundations for a Life of Prayer", and focuses on the prayer warrior's heart and mind.

The second part, to start June 1, (seven weeks plus some time for outreach in the city) will be "strategy and leadership". This is to be practical training and experience in intercession and spiritual warfare, with a specific intercessory outreach within our own Twin Cities.

The third part of the School of Prayer will start August 3, called "Defending God's Harvest". This part (seven weeks plus a two-three week overseas trip) will have a distinct missionary purpose — the unreached peoples. This third phase, the Lord willing, will culminate in a intercessory team going to Asia with Jackie and me this fall. The exact destinations are yet to be determined.

### ***A release of warriors for the nations...***

The purpose of involving intercessors in missions is to fill the great gap of spiritual support that has been there. I was impacted by the words of a seasoned missionary who said that in previous generations missionaries were told to go to the field, and prayer warriors were told to stay home and pray. This was a major mistake, he said. The intercessors should go ahead of the missionaries to clear the way and tear down strongholds.

We desire to help prayer warriors to face the resistant parts of the world, the unreached areas, and involve them at the front line of God's battle for souls and nations.

Part of the intercessory task of missions can be done "at home", in the secret place. Then it should be continued on the mission field, at the seat of Satan's power, under his nose, on the soil that rightfully belongs to Jesus Christ, but has been held illegally by the powers of darkness — be they Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, animistic or otherwise. There we need to use the spiritual weapons He gives us to push back the demonic powers and make a way for the Lord.

Intercessors need to be in a working relationship with evangelists and missionaries — supporting their efforts, strengthening their hands, and helping them fighting their battles. Actually going to the mission field will help prayer warriors intercede more effectively for the missionaries and their work.

Please pray for the three part School of Prayer. It stretches us, and we do not approach it as "experts", but as fellow-learners with the students. Pray that the students God chooses will respond, and pray that His anointing will come to us for each part of the school. Pray for the summer outreach in the city, and for the forming of the team to go to Asia.

Perhaps you are to join us in going!

### ***Pray for the reluctant writer...***

I am pursuing the writing of the manuscript which covers the first stage of training—the foundations for a life of prayer. I am also revising and enlarging the training manual for the School of Prayer. Pray that I can know the Lord's presence in my computer monitor and in my mind and in my fingers!

Psalms 144:1 says,

*"Blessed be the Lord my rock,  
Who trains my hands for war,  
And my fingers for battle."*

For me, the writing of these manuscripts is war. And their purpose is to prepare God's people for spiritual battle. Pray that these fingers will write a clear call to God's battle, and a clear preparation for His warriors.

### ***As always, our thanks to you...***

\*\*\*Again we want to thank you from the depths of our heart for your prayer support! We can sense when we are lifted up by the Lord's grace as you intercede for us.

\*\*\*And again we want to thank those of you who have helped us financially! We receive each gift as a testimony to God's faithfulness and yours.

Remember to keep yourselves rooted and grounded in His love!

Yours in Christ,

John and Jackie

### **Summary of prayer requests:**

- \*God's choice of students for the School of Prayer I*
- \*God's strategy for summer intercession for the city, and Twin Cities for Jesus outreach July 16-Aug. 1)*
- \*Forming of the Asia intercession team*
- \*God's strategy for the Asia trip:  
Destination, timing, purposes, plans, finances*
- \*Writing projects*

Also:

- \*Our old medical debts*
- \*Our children and spouses:  
Jay and Lana, Jeff and Jermaine, and Jennifer*

And:

- \*Watchmen ministry, to mobilize pastors and men*
- \*Schools of Prayer in the churches*