

Dear friends,

After receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit back in 1971, I developed a habit of rising early before going to my work at a technical photo reproduction lab. I would go out behind our mobile home park into a field where there was an abandoned turkey shed. There I learned to abandon myself to the Lord in prayer; and there I learned to hear His voice. In that old turkey shed He called me again into full-time ministry, a call I had abandoned in discouragement after Bible College.

One morning in that field, He gave me a Scripture as a personal word. Revelation 3:8 leaped off the page as it does sometimes when the Spirit is speaking to you through the Bible:

"Behold, I put before you an open door, which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name."

Jackie and I have experienced the fulfillment of that word through twenty years of full-time ministry. These years have been a miracle of God's faithfulness and a mystery of His grace. Over and over, He has given us open doors of service — usually when we did not feel like we had even "a little power"! He has provided when we couldn't see the provision. He has guided us when we couldn't see the way. He has used us in His service when we felt unusable and unable. He keeps the door open for us to move ahead in the next step of the journey. He is a faithful and gracious Savior and Lord!

...a "door in the Lord"

Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 2:12, "a door was opened for me in the Lord." We are now looking at the international "door in the Lord" which He has kept open for us for many years, and through which He has told us to repeatedly GO. We need fresh wisdom to know exactly what the Spirit would have us do, and where He would have us go through this "door in the Lord".

...to southeast Asia

We believe He wants us to take a prayer team to Asia this fall. It seems that we should return to Aceh, in Indonesia, to continue the battle for the Achenese who have never had a church among them. The second destination for the prayer team might be to go as intercessors and Bible couriers into China from Hong Kong. Please pray for those who are considering joining us on this prayer adventure. As I have previously asked, **would you like to come?** Ask the Lord if He would have you go. Don't say, "I couldn't do that!" Remember Philippians 4:13? *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me!"*

...on to India

Then we plan to proceed on to India, as the prayer team returns to the US, for the purpose of ministering at several YWAM bases. India has been in our hearts since the seventies, when we made our first journey there. Since those days, YWAM has taken root, now having bases in Madras, Bangalore, Calcutta, Dehli, Bhopal, Pune, and Hyderabad. There are 250 full-time staff on these seven bases, half of whom are Indian nationals, and the other half from many other nations. They are singles and young married couples, many of whom have babies and toddlers. It is in our hearts to give spiritual support to these young missionary pioneers who are giving their lives to reach the vast unreached populations of India.

For Jackie and I, it looks like repeated trips to India. It also means raising up intercessors to help us help these missionaries. We would like to support these YWAM bases in India through intercessory prayer. Perhaps some of you would become intercessors for YWAM India with us!

...and then to Israel

After India, we plan to go to Israel, for the Intercessors International conference. This Jerusalem conference is a small gathering of

leaders of national intercessory networks like "Intercessors for America". Intercessors for Germany", "Intercessors for Nigeria", etc. — more than forty nations represented. I was privileged to attend it first in Germany in 1990. They meet every two years somewhere in the world for a "summit meeting" of intercession for the nations.

Will you pray that we will be obedient to go through the "doors opened for us in the Lord"? ...that we will know His perfect will in these travels? ...and for the Lord's provision for these journeys? Only God knows where the funds will come from for this travel. We approach each mission trip in prayer, seeking to know His will. We don't look at the bank account to determine His will — there is never money on hand for mission trips. The provision comes after we determine that it is His will for us to go! And it is provided in a different manner every time!

We hope that you understand these plans are still in formation. They may change; but it is important to Jackie and I that you know our intentions, so that you can pray with us for God's perfect will. September is not far away, and decisions must be made soon; furthermore, those who may go with us are now seeking the Lord. And the funds must be released. So this is the time to pray for this fall journey.

The plans of our children are always a concern for us when we travel. As they have become young adults, the concern remains. Will you include them in your prayer for our overseas travel? Pray for Jenni as she seeks the Lord for her plans after her graduation from high school, which is taking place now. Pray for Jeff and Jermaine who working hard to

arrange their employment and finances so that they can both be students at North Central Bible College this fall. Pray for Jay and Lana to know the Lord's will for their lives also.

We usually face an extra financial strain during the summer and are trusting the Lord to be our All-Sufficient One. Will you agree with us for His full provision this summer for our personal needs as well as the greater release needed for ministry and travel expense?

We know that many of you have great burdens and needs. We would like to pray specifically for those needs; would you let us know by writing your prayer request on the enclosed card? We will pray.

*"I love the Lord, because He hears my voice and my supplications.
Because He has inclined His ear to me,
Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live."
Psalms 116:1,2*

Thank you once again for your prayer and care for us.

Yours in Christ,

John and Jackie

Prayer Concerns:

- *Specific guidance for our fall mission trip*
- *Release of those who are to go with us*
- *Release of funds for all who will go*
- *Jenni's fall plans*
- *Jeff and Jermaine's college provision*
- *Jay and Lana, to know His will for them*
- *Our summer financial needs*