

Dear friends,

We have experienced several nations since we last wrote from Indonesia. I am starting this letter while flying from Israel to Amsterdam, where we connect with a flight to Detroit... finally to be on American soil again after circling the globe.

Since our time in Sumatra, we have been in **India** and then on to **Israel** by way of Amsterdam...Oh, that was after Jackie shared breakfast with an orangutan at the Singapore zoo...well, let's see...back to India:

While in India we videotaped meetings with seventeen different YWAM base leaders from all over India, Nepal and Bangladesh. As we heard the testimonies of these young pioneers, we were greatly encouraged, perhaps even in awe at times. In all of these leaders we saw a settled abandonment to the Lord — a yielding of their lives for the Lord's sake and the gospel, and a willingness to persevere against great odds. The videotapes will be for the use of those who are willing to be "Prayer Missionaries"; that is, those of you who will adopt one of these mission bases for prayer.

It is interesting to note that Youth With A Mission is moving against the tide of history in India, where foreign missionaries have mostly gone home. YWAM India has more than 150 foreign workers from many nations — and more are coming. There are also 150 national workers, and YWAM's vision is to raise up many hundreds of new Indian missionaries. Some non-Indian workers have been there for several years on a series of 6 month visas. This means they must leave India every six months and re-enter the country, an inconvenient and expensive task. But the Lord gives grace...and actually the Indian government is presently more favorable to foreigners being in the country for missionary purposes, for which we can thank the Lord!

India as a nation has yet to see a spiritual awakening; but the Lord is preparing a new generation of laborers for the reaping of a very large harvest. We want to see an army of prayer warriors raised up to join hands with this new generation of gospel workers in India. 110 of you have indicated to us that you will pray for India. Our goal is several hundred prayer missionaries for India, plus Nepal and Bangladesh. Will you join this "Missionary Prayer Band"?

If you have not yet indicated your willingness to be a prayer missionary for India, Nepal, or Bangladesh, please return the enclosed card. You can adopt more than one location, but do not ask for that unless you have a clear leading from the Lord. As we receive communication from your assigned area, we will send it to you, so

that you can pray quickly and effectively. Please pray with us that the Lord will provide the people to help us in this task.

From India we proceeded to Israel, by way of Amsterdam. Our plane landed in Tel Aviv at 2 a.m., and we arrived at the "Holyland West" hotel in Jerusalem about 4 a.m. By 9 a.m., we were in the morning meeting of the intercessors conference. Jackie and I both were sure the room was rocking and spinning, but no one else seemed to notice! By the next day we had recuperated, and the ground under us felt more solid and still.

The first message we heard was a strong confirmation for Jackie and me. In our schools of prayer, we have had a major emphasis on the call to sit at Jesus' feet, and worship Him like Mary did when she poured the perfume on His head. It was significant to us that the Intercessors International conference began with this same theme. With all the world's crises, it became clear to the leaders that loving the Lord Himself was the highest priority for us in the conference. Because of more extended time spent "at Jesus feet", not every issue was prayed through as completely as the leaders had anticipated. But it seemed that the Lord had His way with us.

The conference was intense, even though we had extended times of worship. The first "round" of intercession was prayer for the USA, right before election day. It was sobering, as we sensed dark days ahead for the USA, a nation that has turned away from the Lord. The Scripture that came for the USA and the western nations was Habbukuk 3:2: "*Lord, I have heard the report about Thee and I fear. O Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years. In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.*"

We were aware as we prayed, that a major revival is possible in the USA if **the church would fervently repent and pray**; but the prayer leaders viewed the Clinton election as a "watershed" event — an evidence of the national moral decline.

After an extended time of prayer for Israel and the nations of Africa, we heard reports from prayer leaders of other nations and we received written reports of at least 25 nations. Some reports were very encouraging, such as the widespread prayer movement and revival taking place in the Philippines. Other reports are very sobering, such as the report of thousands of Christians slaughtered by Muslims in northern Nigeria during the last two years. Hopefully we will find a way to make some of that information available at a later date.

Getting a fresh perspective on the world through such a conference is not entirely comfortable. All in all, it made me remember the words of Jesus: *"Work for the night is coming; night comes when no man can work."* It may not always be that Americans will have the freedom to move about the world. We may not continue to have economic prosperity as a nation. It is the impression of respected leaders that the USA no longer has the protective covering of God that it once had. Traumatic changes in Western life style are coming unless repentance springs up in the hearts of people. Even with repentance, *it is my evaluation that major upheaval is close at hand for our nation, and increasing pressure on the church of Jesus Christ.* This He will use for good, to purify a people unto Himself, to prepare the Bride for the Bridegroom.

We stayed in Israel for three days beyond the intercessors conference. During this time, the "Jerusalem House of Prayer for all Nations" was our home, and we participated in the intercession that goes on there continuously. This House of Prayer is located right on the Mount of Olives, where Jesus ascended into heaven, and where He will plant His feet when He returns to the earth. On the roof of the House of Prayer is painted a message that can only be seen from the air: "WELCOME BACK MESSIAH TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES!" It made me long in a fresh way for Jesus' return! From the house we looked a few hundred yards to the city of Bethany, where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived. It may have been right at the location of the House of Prayer that Jesus mounted the donkey to ride into Jerusalem!

During the daytime hours, we went with seven new friends — prayer leaders from Zimbabwe, Singapore, India and Sri Lanka — to see various Bible locations. On a tour of old Jerusalem, we walked to the "wailing wall" and saw the spiritually offensive Muslim "Dome of the Rock" built over the old temple site. We visited the garden tomb where Jesus' body likely was laid, and the probable location of the garden of Gethsemane. We travelled to other places outside Jerusalem such as the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan river, Nazareth, Cana, Jericho, and Dead Sea. Upon leaving Engedi on the Dead Sea, our bus met a roadblock set up by the Israeli military. (Terrorists had come across the Dead Sea in a rubber boat and the military wouldn't let traffic proceed until they were found.) Two hours later, the traffic was permitted to pass through, and we learned later that two of the terrorists had been captured.

While visiting the Sea of Galilee, and the ruins of Bethsaida (yet to be excavated), we noticed helicopters patrolling the Golan Heights to the north; and we saw military equipment heading in that direction. We found out later that 40 rockets had just been fired into northern Israel from Lebanon, and that the Israeli army was preparing to enter Lebanon to retaliate.

It was common to see the military with weapons where ever we went in Israel. . (Soldiers must always carry their weapon even when off duty.) Our experiences made us realize the tension under which the people constantly live. One evening at our hotel, three Jewish children (ages 3-6) ran out a door to the hotel patio, where Jackie happened to be sitting with her tiny automatic camera in her hands. The children looked at her with a terrified expression, and one asked, "What is in your hand?" They obviously thought it was a weapon. It made Jackie realize how close even the small children must live to the expectation of danger or terror.

It is clear that the world as a whole is not really a very safe place. Throughout our journey, however, we were aware that we were travelling under the guidance of the Lord, and had no need to fear. Do you remember where the safest place on earth is? **THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE WORLD IS IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL.** We travelled secure in the will of God.

We want to again thank you for remembering us in prayer; we were aware of your intercession and the Lord's presence bearing us up and making a way before us throughout the journey. More than once we asked the Lord to prompt His intercessors to pray when we were in "sticky" situations, like the sometimes tedious process of going through immigration and customs.

We also thank each of you who have given financially to the support of our family and ministry. We consider each gift, regardless of size, to be a testimony of God's faithfulness and a demonstration of your love.

It is our expectation that the Lord will bless you and keep you, and that His face will shine on you. It is our hope that you let the peace of Christ rule in your heart, and that you remain thankful to Him for all things, and in all things...for He is good, and His mercy endures forever!

Yours in Christ,

John and Jackie

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."
Psalms 122:6