

April, 1993

Dear friends,

Springtime reminds me of the Lord -- especially His way of bringing new grace and mercy into our lives. The grass sprouting up, the buds coming out on the trees, and the birds that are back and singing -- they all seem to say to me, "Here's an opportunity to try again! Here's a new beginning for trusting the Lord and doing His will!"

I suspect He gave us the four seasons to help us remember to leave the past, and to receive new direction from His Word and His Spirit. Isaiah 43: 18,19 says:

*"Do not call to mind the former things,
Or ponder the things of the past.
Behold, I will do something new,
Now it will spring forth;
Will you not be aware of it? "*

Why don't you look at your life in a new way during this springtime? Perhaps you need to look at the grass sprouting up and say to yourself, "The mercies of the Lord are brand new! What wonderful thing might He do in my life this year?"

This springtime seems to have brought to Jackie and me a new anticipation for a fresh touch of the Lord on our lives. Hosea 6:3 has been an encouragement to us:

*"So let us know, let us press on to know the Lord.
His going forth is as certain as the dawn;
And He will come to us like the spring rain,
Like the spring rain watering the earth."*

We have felt our own thirst for His presence, and it has become apparent to us that many others also feel very desperate for a fresh anointing from the Lord. This hunger and thirst for God has become the call of our prayer conference, "**Lord, Let It Rain!**" (You should have received a flyer about this) Our hearts are beginning to leap in anticipation of what the Lord longs to do during these meetings!

It seems to us and others who are praying with us that He intends to bring a significant blessing and breakthrough at this gathering. Please **pray** with us for a blessing of revival in the people who come together, and a breakthrough of vision and intercession for God's purpose in the nations. Be so bold as to ask for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on us all. We desperately need it!

We have set aside April 30-May 7 (Friday to Friday) as a week of fasting and prayer for the conference. Will you **pray and fast with us** as the Lord leads you during that week? We welcome any discernment He may give you for this conference as well. Give us a call if He gives you a word or impression that you think may apply to this gathering.

Of course, we hope you can join us -- at North Heights Lutheran Church May 12-15.

Jackie and I will have a change of pace during May, June and July. I have been asked to assist in pastoral ministry at our home church during this time, since Gordy Steck, our senior pastor will be on a sabbatical. Please **pray** that we would be a blessing to Church Upon The Rock during this time.

We are considering hosting "School of the Holy Spirit" this summer, to help people be released from bondages, so that they can serve the Lord with greater freedom and anointing. We are also praying about more international travel later this year, not only for ourselves but also for the possibility of taking a team with us. Please **pray** that we would get the clear mind of the Lord about these two things.

We remain deeply grateful for your prayer support, and for your financial support. May the Lord bless you in your spirit, in your soul, and in your body. He loves you, and so do we!

Yours in Christ,

John and Jackie