

February, 1993

Dear Friends,

Greetings from beautiful New Zealand! Jackie and I are writing this letter while sitting in the front room of our seaside "batch" at YWAM Family Ministries. We are on Great Barrier Island off the coast from Auckland. Our front step is about 30 feet from the water! Several yachts rest at anchor in the bay, having brought visitors to shop in the little store of this YWAM base - - the best store on the island! Last night we called home; our children had no pity on us when we told them it was a little chilly and damp here.

It has been two years since we were here. Many students that we once taught have gone into full time ministry. Some have gone back to their home cities, and some are now on staff with Family Ministries here. Others are serving the Lord in other nations. For example, one couple is now pastoring in Fiji, and another family is launching a new work in East Germany.

We are ministering to 11 families, teaching foundations for a life of prayer, and ministering to the needs of their hearts as the Holy Spirit leads. Several are from New Zealand; two from Great Britain, two from the USA, and one from Malaysia. Next week we will minister in a Crossroads Discipleship Training School near Matamata. You can find Matamata on a good map of New Zealand in the middle of the north island. (New Zealand consists of two major islands - - north and south.)

Again we have seen the Lord faithfully provide for our travel, through some of our friends. We did have to adjust our plans however. Jackie was going to leave a week before me to see her mom in L.A., but this did not happen. When the time for her departure arrived, there was still not one dollar for her plane fare to L.A. or New Zealand! So ... we prayed again. Now what, Lord? Did we miss it? We then realized Jackie had not yet recovered from an intestinal flare-up, and that it was better for her to wait and go with me. Evidently the Lord knew she needed a few more days of rest. We then came to a new agreement of faith that it still was the Lord's plan for us to go to New Zealand as a team, even though we had not yet received her fare. (YWAM New Zealand had provided my fare.) Two hours later, 1/3 of the money arrived. Three days later, another third came. One day before departure, the rest of it was there. Thank you, Father, You are faithful! Thanks also to the four families and the one church who gave what we needed!

We had a stop over in L.A. for two days, and Jackie did get to see her mom and her sister. I also had an all day meeting in L.A. with four YWAM leaders at their request. All of us flew in from other places for this special meeting. Two of them are leading teachers on intercession and spiritual warfare within YWAM. The five of us spent all day sharing and praying about the need to mobilize more prayer within YWAM, and the need of building a "prayer shield" for YWAM workers and bases. These leaders asked me to take

the assignment of putting on paper the concept of this "prayer shield". The idea is to strengthen the links between YWAM and intercessors from other parts of the body of Christ. Since we are already doing this — that is, raising a prayer shield of intercessors for the YWAM bases in India, Nepal and Bangladesh — it seems right for us to help YWAM International in this area of need.

Will you pray for us as we seek the Lord's wisdom in defining the process for increasing the prayer shield for YWAM missionaries? This assignment will help us to make our current "prayer missionary" project practical for the YWAM bases in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. The purpose of this prayer shield is to be worldwide, however. The "L.A. committee" intends it to be a tool in the hands of all YWAM staff and base leaders. It needs to be a catalyst that will stimulate every YWAM worker to be a prayer mobilizer, and every YWAM mission base a center for prayer mobilization. The result should be every worker and every mission base shielded by an army of intercessors.

Please continue to pray for our prayer conference that we intend to host this spring in the Twin Cities, with a focus on the India subcontinent. We have not yet finalized the date, the place and the speakers; but we hope to do this by early March. Pray that God's heart and God's wisdom will have first place in this conference.

Our children are doing well. Jay has new employment in a furniture studio, rebuilding and refinishing, and is enjoying it. Lana is still working on the staff of North Central Bible College. Jeff and Jermaine are both students there, plus working to "make ends meet"; it stretches them, and pushes them to be overcomers in many ways! Jenni is still working at Northwestern Book Store, and has asked for prayer for another job with more hours. She plans to attend Bethany College of Missions in the fall.

We again ask for ongoing prayer for our personal finances. It is not only when we go on mission outreaches that we need miracles. Every month we need a financial release far above the support that some give to us regularly. We have learned to trust the Lord to put it on the hearts of people to give; but we also have come to know that your intercessory prayer for our financial need is essential for this to happen.

We are deeply grateful to those of you who give so that we can carry on in the Father's business. We are deeply grateful for your work of intercession; you are our "prayer shield".

In closing, remember to keep looking DOWN.....
.....you are seated with Jesus in heavenly places!

Yours in Christ,

John and Jackie

