

Dear friends,

Greetings in Jesus wonderful name! Jackie and I hope you are experiencing the presence and fellowship of the Holy Spirit in your daily lives. You may, like us, be too easily removed from the sense of His presence, especially when conflict or trials come that seem greater than the grace and faith in our hearts. It is then we realize that we will never outgrow the "basics" -- the necessary responses to life when things go wrong. Here are three Scriptures that are "basic" to us:

One: *"Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."* Ps. 46:10
When daily struggles come, our vision for reaching nations can become very dim. We have to learn again and again to "Be still" -- the Hebrew word there means to "Go limp, let go, abandon, and relax" -- in the arms of a wonderful Heavenly Dad. On some days, it seems to me, God will just have to take care of the world Himself - about all we can do is stop worrying, do the little things at hand to do, and trust Him one moment at a time to carry us along in His love...until He chooses to use us again in His great plans.

Two: *"O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; nor do I involve myself in great matters. Surely I have composed and quieted my soul like a weaned child rests against its mother; my soul is like a weaned child within me."* Ps. 131:1,2
We have found that God doesn't use us because we can figure out great things, and solve great problems. Even problems at home can seem impossible to solve, without even considering the world's problems. How is it that He solves great mysteries and moves huge mountains, when all we can do is to stop worrying about it, humble our minds, and just snuggle up in the lap of Daddy God and let Him do what He wants to do?

Three: *"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* Every other day, it seems, we have to relearn His way to respond to life as it really is, as it gets "dished out" to us: "Thank you Lord for my life just the way it is. Thank you for everyone that has come into my life -- just as they are; thank you for everything that has happened to me -- not because you caused it all...the bad stuff, I mean...but because you said to give thanks in and for all things, and because you said you can make something good out of anything!!! It seems easier to write this to you than to live it...But it is much easier to live this way than it is to not!!

..our "pastoring outreach"

Our three month stint as interim pastor for our home church has come to a close. It convinced me again that pastoring can be bad for one's health and happiness, unless one clings to God with both arms! I think I'll pray for pastor Gordy more fervently than ever!

Gordy came back from his sabbatical with revival in his heart -- praise God -- though he said it has been the most difficult time of his life. It has been a difficult season for the church as well, though I believe an important time, and a great opportunity for the Lord to work deeply in all hearts. Much of our energy was spent dealing with tension in the congregation, but we saw significant breakthroughs, and of course the Lord has been faithful through it all. Jackie and I are somewhat emotionally and spiritually drained, not just from this pastoring time, but from a year and one half of constant "pressing through" on many fronts. Will you pray for the Lord to renew us and refresh us? ...Thanks!

...School of the Spirit

Our friends Roger and Judy Sutch, along with us, have been leading a School of the Spirit with more than 200 people registered from 30 churches. We are experiencing the Lord's presence during this school, and we are grateful for the anointed ministry that Roger and Judy bring to the school. This school is on nine Friday evenings, closing with a weekend of "revival" meetings September 18 and 19 which are open to anyone to attend. Pray with us that many will be healed and set free through Jesus' glorious name at these meetings.

...to the Ukraine

Our outreach plans for church planting in the former Soviet Union are moving forward. We expect to have seven church planting teams (about 25 people) leave Minneapolis on October 4, and join other teams from the USA in Moscow. After several days of consultation, we will disperse to various cities for evangelism and church planting rallies. Our church has been assigned to the southern Ukrainian city of Krivoy Rog. Please pray for this city -- that many people would come to the Lord, and that a solid church will be established.

The Church Upon The Rock team consists of Jackie and me, and two others -- Ed Sorteberg and Brian Rupe. Pray for our team -- for safety, wisdom, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the task. As always, we are trusting the Lord for our travel funds to come in. 60% has already come. The remainder is needed September 15. **GOD IS FAITHFUL!**

Prayer warriors are needed to cover this outreach. Would you be one?....Just note that on the enclosed card, and put it in the mail. We will then send you the itinerary so you can pray specifically.

...what about Asia, Lord?

We are waiting for the perfect timing of the Lord to return to Asia, perhaps between November and February. Please pray that we would have the Lord's wisdom. Our hearts are drawn to various ministries throughout India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Malaysia. We are also considering returning to Indonesia.

...Jenni leaves for college

Our daughter, Jenni will move to the campus of Bethany College of Missions on August 31. (Our last child to leave home!) The following is a note from her:

"A little over a year ago as a recent high school graduate, I was praying about what the Lord would have me do. As it got closer to September, when most schools would begin, I was looking towards taking a discipleship training school, which was only a six month course. As time passed it became clearer to me that was not what the Lord had for me. It was then that my parents told me about Bethany College of Missions. After I obtained the information, I quickly read through it, and considered enrolling right away. I soon realized that I was in not ready to make a four year commitment, however, so I found a job and continued to ask the Lord about what He wanted me to do. A few months later I knew that Bethany was where the Lord wanted me to go; I am moving to the campus on August 31.

Bethany is a four year college that provides training for people who plan to go into full time missions. It will give me the foundation of the Bible I need when I go out as a full time missionary, a calling I have known since I was very young. The Lord has laid the countries in Eastern Europe on my heart.

Bethany is unique in that it not only gives a Biblical foundation, but also practical training for living as a missionary. In addition to a full load of classes, all students work (not for pay) 20 hours a week on campus during the school year, and full time there through the summer. This keeps the tuition very low. Many work in the publishing house which financially supports the college and many missionaries. In my third year of school I will be sent out on a nine month internship where I will learn firsthand what it is like to be a missionary.

There are several areas where I could use your prayer support as I move into this new chapter of my life:

1) Pray that I would build a stronger and deeper relationship with the Lord than I have ever known.

2) Pray that the Lord will help me to do my best in my schoolwork and not wear out physically or spiritually.

3) Pray that I would learn to trust the Lord for all my financial needs more than I ever have in the past. (A paying job is not feasible because of a tightly packed school schedule)

I appreciate all the prayers that have been lifted up on my behalf over the years."

God bless,

Jenni

This is a big step for Jenni, but the Lord has been preparing her for a long time. We believe she is stepping into a great adventure, and we know she has set her heart to follow the Lord wherever He leads her.

...again, thanks!

Your care for us as a family is deeply appreciated. We continue to realize that your prayer for us is like putting "fuel in our engine" (Lately we feel "out of gas"), and like building a wall of protection around us (I think we need a "higher wall"!).

To those of you who have given financially, thanks! Your gifts put food on our table, keep the roof over our head, and enable us to fulfill the call of God on our lives! May the Lord bless you in return according to Luke 6:38!

Remember to keep your eyes and your mind stayed on Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

John and Jackie

"Pray for the the peace of Jerusalem"

Ps. 122:6