

November, 1993

Dear friends,

Hello once again, in Jesus' Wonderful Name! Jackie and I consider it a privilege to be able to send you this letter regularly, to be able to share our hearts, our life, and our prayer needs with you. We hope that our letters are also in some way a blessing to you.

These days I am reviewing the call to mobilize prayer that the Lord put on my heart years ago. This call originally came as an inward conviction through our involvement on the mission field, where we became convinced that intercession was the major key in breaking strongholds among the unreached, and the chief factor in protecting and providing for missionaries. This prayer call was also rooted in me from the Word of God. The words of Jesus still burn in my heart: *"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest that He will send out laborers into His harvest."* And I remember the day when Psalm 2 was opened up to my spirit, and has become a foundation Scripture in our ministry: *"Ask of Me, and I will give the nations as your inheritance, the ends of the earth as your possession..."*

I also recall the day when it dawned on me, while reading the "Lord's prayer", that prayer is not an option for those who call Him Father. It is a necessity, if we want to see His will take place on the earth. He told His disciples to pray in this way: *"Let Your kingdom come! Let Your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven..."*. It became evident to me that God was requiring and inviting us to "pray down" His will! What a mystery! What an awesome privilege! What an inescapable command!

Later I was impacted by the words of Andrew Murray: *"If the church only knew that God rules the world through the prayers of the saints."*

And then I read E.M. Bounds classic, Power Through Prayer. These words struck me with a force from which I have never fully recovered:

*"Where are the apostolic leaders who can put God's people to praying? Let them come to the front and do the work and it will be the greatest work which can be done...We do greatly need somebody who can set the saints to this business of praying. We are not a generation of praying saints. Who will restore this breach? The greatest will be of reformers and apostles, who can set the Church to praying."*

God will call Jackie and me to a variety of tasks and ministries in our lifetime, yet unknown to us. However, this one thing we do know: at the heart of all that we do will be the call to prayer, and the call to lead God's people to prayer. The Lord has shown us that this ministry is really just beginning, even though we've been at it for seven years. In fact, He said to me recently, *"The best is yet to come."*

Many of you know we have a "prayer missionary" project, in which we have recruited about 200 people to pray for YWAM mission bases in Asia. Some of you are helping with this. Recent letters have encouraged us that prayer for these missionaries really does make a differ-

ence. One letter from Bhopal said, *"Thank you very much for interceding for our base. We know it because we've seen major victories in areas we've struggled with in the past."*

Another report said, *"I talked to the leaders at Varanasi, who said miracles are flowing like water in the village where we are working."* Both these locations have much spiritual oppression. They are places where the leaders have been pioneering against great resistance. These testimonies are indications to us that our work of raising up intercession for the mission field is just beginning, and the potential for its fruit is very large.

We have begun a Tuesday evening missionary prayer fellowship at our home (7:30 p.m.) so that we can pray with others about the needs of the mission fields. You are always welcome to join us.

We are in a season of prayer with some others to consider a new ministry — the founding of a Bible School. If we are hearing the Lord correctly, it would begin as a two year full-time college or institute, and eventually have its own campus. There have been indications from the Lord that the time may have come to do this. Please pray for this group as we seek the Lord together. Pray for Jackie and myself, that we would know our part in such a venture — a great adventure, really. A full-time training school has been on our hearts for a long time. However, we need to know that it is really God's will, if we are to move ahead with such a significant commitment.

We are considering a journey to Asia during the winter to minister to some of the mission bases for which we have been praying. This trip could include Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, or Nepal. We are not yet sure about such a trip, and would like you to pray for the wisdom of the Lord. We have committed ourselves to go to India later in the year (July) to teach in a new School of Intercession. We would probably visit several of the YWAM bases in India at that time.

We want to ask for special prayer for our personal finances. Enclosed is a card you can pray over concerning this matter of our support. Would you ask the Lord, in agreement with us, to provide at least 10 new financial supporters? (...whether or not He leads you to be one of them.) Just lay your hand on the card and pray. Then throw it away, unless you are to be one of them -- in which case keep the card as a reminder. Don't send the card to us however; the commitment is between you and the Lord.

Thank you for your prayers; to us your prayers are life, protection, provision, and inspiration. And to you who have given financially, thank you.

May you know the presence and peace of the Lord in the days ahead. The Lord bless you and keep you.

Yours in Christ,

John and Jackie