

Dear friends,

Jackie and I want to thank you for remembering us in prayer. (And remind some of you who are "out of sight, out of mind" types that we are still here!) The last few weeks have been a time of reduced ministry schedule which we felt we needed. We finally decided that it was getting a little too quiet — especially on the day when only three telephone calls came in, all wrong numbers. We were almost happy when Sears called to invite us to try their new aluminum siding!

It's not that we aren't busy — I mean, we wouldn't want you to think we're just loafing, would we? In fact, I find it real easy to stay busy...no, I find it an absolute necessity... although it can be a question whether I accomplish much. But the normal assortment of appointments, meetings, etc. has been somewhat lighter. I even found time to do two or three of the hundred or so household maintenance tasks that have been patiently waiting for me.

Jackie gave me a little test from a YWAM publication on how to tell if you are a workaholic. I didn't think I was; in fact, I think I'm lazy. Well, the test said I am a marginally obsessive workaholic. Funny thing, it made me feel better about myself for a while... You remember that incident about Mary and Martha in Luke 10 which I again made famous in our last letter? Secretly, I have always thought Martha was a harder worker than Mary — a better person if you know what I mean. (Even though Jesus doesn't agree with me). Maybe that's why I remember a certain day a few months ago as an enjoyable day. On that particular day I had no time for prayer, but was on the run with various meetings and appointments for eighteen hours — I thought it was great!

The miracle of recent weeks is that I have had a great experience — or at least enjoyable — in extended personal times of prayer for the people and ministries for whom I feel responsible in intercession. In fact, I call it a major breakthrough on a very private level. Try as I might, I have not been able in the past to cover these concerns with adequate prayer on a daily basis. (There are quite a few to cover!) That is, until early one morning in February. Somehow, God stepped into my prayer life.

Since then it has been different. I have been surprised with a sense of "mission accomplished today" in my private prayer life. Frankly, I'm not sure I should tell you about it, lest the morning after this letter goes out I fall back into defeat. (Laugh a little.) You must remember something about me: being called as I am to help people get into prayer, does not mean I have had a

wonderful personal prayer life. Claiming my ground as a prayer warrior has been a nasty battle with the hosts of hell, and requires a vigilant repentance from my ever present selfishness, pride and unbelief. As it turns out, I must also turn from the bad habits of a workaholic. If there is a redeeming side to this tale of personal prayer woe, it is that I can sympathize with every problem anyone has ever told me they faced in trying to pray.

Jackie and I have the awareness of another beginning, the opening of a new chapter. Actually, I think we have a lot of these new beginnings. Maybe it's because so many things I start seem to come to an end. (Laugh a little more.) At any rate, in this ministry we seem to repeatedly be "starting from scratch". So, to put it lightly — without having to admit to you my hours of morbid introspection and self-doubt — I have been asking the Lord, "What now?" And what He is saying is that we are to keep walking the pathway of raising up prayer warriors and keep encouraging young missionaries out at the frontiers.

Locally, I would like to train more people in the three intertwined ministries of prayer: **worship, intercession, and spiritual warfare**. There is a great need for more prayer warriors and more prayer leaders. Also, there is much "unfinished business" in the call to engage in the spiritual battle for our own Twin Cities. Please pray that God would use us locally where we can accomplish the most for His kingdom. We been noting an increased hunger for the power of the Spirit and concern for intercessory prayer in "non-charismatic" churches that only a few years ago seemed asleep. We would love to be of encouragement in some of these places, as well as continue to minister in charismatic circles. Pray for the Lord's open doors for us locally.

Regarding international concerns, please pray that we will be good stewards of the friendships we have among an army of young missionaries who are on the front lines in several nations. I constantly keep in mind that the Lord is determined to get the gospel to all the unreached peoples, and then... "*the end will come*" (Matt. 24:14) It is our determination to serve that plan in God's heart. (Is it in your heart too? ...It ought to be!) God's assignment to Jackie and me is to strengthen the hands of those on the frontlines, and raise up intercessors for them — intercessors just like you!

Pray for us that the Father will accomplish His highest purpose in our lives. The will of God is not found in doing everything that we *could* do; it is in doing *what He would have us do*.

(over)

### *A summer adventure...first, to China...*

Plans are in motion for a summer outreach to Asia. The Lord willing, we will leave mid July, leading an intercession team into China and Indonesia. We have been waiting for an opportunity to return to China for ten years. We want to intercede for China while serving the Chinese church in a practical way. So, we plan to be "donkeys for Jesus", carrying Bibles and literature into China!

Many of you know that the Church in China is growing rapidly, yet suffering continuing persecution. Most believers, and sometimes whole churches, lack the precious possession of a Bible. Though a few Bibles are printed in the country, purchasing them may mean exposure to persecution and arrest. One Bible carried in discreetly will help hundreds of believers! By the way, it is not against Chinese law to do this; if found by customs officials, the Bibles are confiscated-- but given back on exit from the country. We count it an honor to be of service to the Chinese Church, and hope that our experience will help us and others to have God's love for China.

### *Then...a return to Aceh...*

After Hong Kong and China, we are planning to go to Sumatra, Indonesia for a time of intercession and spiritual warfare among the Acehnese people. This would be our third intercessory outreach into Aceh. The Lord has blessed our missionary friends there in many ways, and given them favor in the Muslim community. Much has happened in the four years that they have been there (the first missionaries -- clandestine of course--to ever reside among these people). But the stronghold of Islam there has not yet given way to the birth of an Acehnese church.

Though we and others pray daily for them, we have learned that going there to intercede and carry out spiritual warfare has brought clear answers to prayer that would not have happened had we had not gone there. And so...we think it is time to put our feet on that land once again, in the powerful name of Jesus!

There are three young adults who are planning to go with us, students at Bethany College of Missions. (One is our daughter Jenni.) *The Lord may want others to join us. Perhaps you are to be part of this team. Please call us if you want to consider the possibility of joining us. The trip is scheduled for July 18-August 11.*

As always, plans for outreach come before the financial provision is seen. It is as unknown as ever to us where the resources will come from for this journey, but we believe the Lord wants us to go. Will you agree with us in prayer and faith for the needs of this outreach? (A down payment of \$400 per person on air tickets is due in two weeks. Jehovah Jireh!)

### *And beyond the summer...*

Jackie, who is a registered nurse, has an opportunity to return to China for an outreach in September with the Christian Medical Association. (She would need to pay her own way.) They are invited by the Chinese government in Szechwan province, and will perform surgery in local hospitals and do medicine and dentistry in villages each day. For Jackie, this is very close to her heart. We'll share more on this later, but please pray for the Lord's wisdom about this.

Life on Wings Training Institute will begin September 19, a three month full-time school. I will teach "Basic Training for Prayer Warriors", as part of a staff of six couples. I'll send you a brochure later.

Next winter we hope to spend up to three months ministering at various mission bases in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, the places that many of you have adopted in prayer.

### *We thank you, and we need you!!*

A hearty thanks for praying and caring about us. And to those who have given financially, may the Lord bless you greatly. As always, our monthly financial needs are far beyond our regular support, and we have a deficit recently; so we do ask you to continue to pray and believe with us for the Lord to supply our personal needs. May His grace abound in your life!

Yours in Christ,

*John and Jackie*

*Prayer requests:*

- \*For open doors locally to train more prayer warriors.*
- \*For the Lord's provision for our intercessory outreach to China and Indonesia.*
- \*Jackie's possible medical outreach to China.*
- \*Opening of Life on Wings Training Institute.*
- \*For extended time of ministry in India, etc. next winter.*
- \*For our monthly personal support.*

*"Pray for the the peace of Jerusalem"*

Ps. 122:6