



Dear friends,

Greetings in the Wonderful Name of Jesus! Jackie and I consider it a privilege to be able to write to you, and to count you as our prayer supporters. It is always amazing to us that people actually pray for us, which we know when we see some of you and you tell us that you do! And every financial gift is also an amazing blessing to us, large or small! Thanks!

### Return to India cancelled...

We have had a change in plans regarding going back to India this month — we are not going. It was not an easy decision for us. It has been rare for us to back away from a commitment to minister, but as August progressed we felt more and more ill at ease about going at this time. We called our friends, Greg and Debbie Wiley in Madras, who are leading the School of Intercession in which we were to teach, and asked them to pray for us. A few days later they called us after praying, and felt that the Lord instructed them to release us from the commitment. We decided to take this as a release from the Lord. They assured us they could adjust plans in our absence, and it turned out that a prayer team will be going to Varanasi without us, so that made us feel a little better about not going.

Helping launch Jennifer to Russia was quite an experience for us, and in hindsight would have been much more difficult if we had been preparing to go to India at the same time. We are happy that she is pursuing God's will for her life, but it was not easy to let her go. Please keep her in your prayer.

The "Time of Refreshing" school of prayer went as scheduled, with 77 people attending. We printed some extra copies of our book "Basic Training for Prayer Warriors". If you would like to purchase one, send \$10.00 and we will mail you a copy. It has 12 chapters, 175 pages, and at the heart of it is a study on seven pillars for a life of prayer — the basic foundations which we have taught over the years in various schools of prayer. This is the fifth edition of this book, more complete and with a catalog of prayer resources.

### The "abiding place"...

What the Holy Spirit seemed to anoint during the "Time of Refreshing" was not what we had planned. Each night as we opened our mouths there seemed to be an inescapable topic on our lips — we tried to teach other things, but our words kept going back to this: "**How to claim your ground in Christ, and stay in the abiding place of God's love**". We repeatedly emphasized the covenant of the blood and name of Jesus, and the power of the Word of God in our mouths and hearts to push back the pressures of our mind or the devil that rob us of peace and joy. It was a topic important to everyone, we think. It is found in Psalms 91 as "*dwelling in the secret place*", or in John 15 as Jesus' words "*Abide in Me*".

How are you doing in this? Where are you dwelling? Have you learned that there is an abiding place in the Lord, a secret place, a place of refuge that is yours in Christ? It is possible for you to live in that place, just like Jesus said — **abide** in Him. It seems that life would pull us out of that place, and we can too easily live in reaction to what is going on around us — "abiding" in fear, resentment, confusion, depression — or just following the rat race of our high pressured western culture. But the Lord is a refuge, a shield, a shelter in the time of storm. It is He who said "*in Me you have peace*". There is, as the old hymn says, "a place of quiet rest near to the heart of God". It is a life lived in the awareness of God's constant and abiding love, His unending grace, His mercy which is new every morning. It is a realization of the continuity of His unmerited favor based on the shed blood of Christ on our behalf, and the confidence that comes with the overriding reality of that blood sacrifice. In Hebrews, it is spoken of as living at the "*throne of grace*", and "*drawing near*" to God Himself with confidence that Jesus has made the way for us. This abiding place is a gift of God's love to you. Receive it!

Sometimes it is a fight, or a wrestling match to stay in our abiding place. The verse in Ephesians 6 concerning our wrestling with powers of darkness refers to a Greek wrestling match. A circle was drawn on the ground, and the opponents were in the circle. The object of the wrestling match was to get your opponent out of the circle. And so it seems that our spiritual opponent, the enemy of our soul, does his best to get us out of the circle of the love of God.

Here then is the fight of faith which we are called to fight. The reality of God's covenant love for us, through the blood of Christ, is found in Romans 8:38,39: "*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor heights, nor depths nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God.*" The reality is that Satan has no right to get us "out of the circle of God's love". But he does try to deceive us, to convince us through circumstances, thoughts and emotions that we are separated from God's love.

How then do we fight this fight? How do we wrestle and stand our ground in the circle of the love of God? How do we stay in our "abiding place"? More than anything else, Jackie and I have found over the years that the staying power is in the Word of God...the covenant Word, which is the **written guarantee** of God's unchangeable love for us. Speaking the word, shouting it, singing it, meditating on it, praying it, believing it and obeying it...most of all, receiving it! It may sound oversimplified, but this is the only way to stay in the abiding place of God's love.... Well, there's a lot more to say about this, but this letter will get even longer than long!

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### **What's coming for us...?**

The Holy Spirit says to us...."Keep on keeping on..." " It may not seem like much of a word, but it is a fresh knowledge that we are basically on track with the Lord, though we feel inadequate and wish we had accomplished more. We believe that He wants us to continue leadership in prayer and missions -- encouraging and training others, and going ourselves when and where He leads.

### **Aid for Ukraine...**

Some of that ministry to the nations is happening here at home right now—and you can help if you want to! We are in the process of gathering humanitarian aid for Ukraine. The cost of shipping a large container ( the size of a small living room) has been provided (more than \$8000)! We just need to fill it up! We are at the 25% point, meaning there is a lot more needed. Want to help? Canned meat and vegetables and staples such as rice, flour and sugar, are needed in abundance. We also want to include vitamins and certain basic medical supplies. We can use cash to purchase these things. Almost \$2000 has been given so far! Please pray for divine appointments with people, churches, and businesses for the release of this aid for Ukraine. Wouldn't it be a blessing if many of us can work together in the days ahead to help the poor of the world? Many other ministries have done much over the years, and we feel we are very tardy in starting to help the suffering peoples in the world. Pray with us that this first seed of one shipping container will leave the USA within six weeks!

### **Again..."Wait on the Lord".**

On the fourth night of our Time of Refreshing, about midway through the teaching, the Holy Spirit seemed to say to me, "Stop talking and pray!" It was impossible to teach one more sentence. I was soon in prayer, and invited others to do the same. Quietness descended, and a great stillness. After 45 minutes on my face, I got up and noticed that most people had gone home. I suppose they saw no purpose in remaining in total silence. But the presence of the Lord was strong on me, and the word He gave to me was simple but deep..."Wait". I still feel that Presence and hear that one word when I retreat into my own "abiding place".

That seems to be the Lord's word to us right now..."wait". We need fresh marching orders. There are several things on our hearts, yet we want to be quite sure that He is guiding us. We see several possible outreaches ahead in the next 8 or 9 months — Russia, Asia, Ukraine, maybe even touching Africa... All is before the Lord and we ask that you will pray with us that we will know the mind of the Lord clearly. I am especially concerned about this after cancelling a commitment in India.

Concern for intercessors, missionaries, and the "fields white unto harvest", remain at the center of our hearts. Once again we are asking the Lord "What is it that you really want us to do? How shall we focus our time and energy?" We have been aware of the passing of years, and the shortness of life in recent months. Our prayer for you is that your life would count for Jesus in the best way possible. Would you pray for us that the same would be true? I remember the words with which I closed our last prayer letter:

*"Only one life, twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."*

I would prefer it to say "*Only what's done WITH Christ ...will last*". We are not wanting to work FOR Him, but WITH Him. For, as Jesus said, "*Apart from Me you can do nothing*".

### **We remain grateful for you...**

Thank you for praying for us, and thank you for believing with us for the Lord to meet our personal needs. A special thanks again to those of you who have supported us financially. Many extra gifts came early in the summer, making it possible for us to travel to India and Ukraine. We do have some expenses yet to be paid from that outreach, however. This has never happened to us before -- to have unpaid expenses remaining from a mission trip; we believe this is futher reason for needing to know more clearly what the Lord is saying to us.

Since coming home in July, extra giving to our support (which we always need) has been much less. Those who gave to our support in August must know how grateful we were for the timeliness of each gift -- at times literally providing our next meal!

What we know from the Spirit is to "Keep on keeping on". Please pray with us for the release of God's wisdom and His provision. We believe that "Where God guides, He provides". Sometimes there are hindrances, and sometimes there are frustrations. Above all, God is faithful, trustworthy, and gracious. It is with Him that we rest our lives and our concerns. And He has connected us to His wonderful people, and so we are grateful to be able to share our heart and concerns with you. Thanks for being a friend.

May you find your own resting place in God. May you go deeper in His love and may you more constantly find your refuge in Him. May His faithfulness become the overriding testimony of your life, and may His grace and love be in your speech, your actions, and your plans. He is good.

Yours in Christ,

*John and Jackie*