

January, 1995

Dear friends,

Jackie and I are doing well, excited about the fresh moving of the Spirit in many places, and aware of our own increasing desperation and hunger for more of God. Ministering to saints and leaders near and far means we need more of the Holy Spirit. At the mailing of this letter we are on the way to Toronto (with our home church pastor Gordy and his wife Jana) to get in on what is being called the "Toronto Blessing". This outpouring of the Holy Spirit has been going on in a Vineyard church there since one year ago. Three nights of meetings turned into one year of daily gatherings, bringing deliverance, healing, and refreshing to many - accompanied by manifestations of falling under the power, weeping, laughter, etc. - similar to the early days of the Great Awakening that swept the USA two hundred years ago. Testimonies abound of lives dramatically changed for God's glory. Since last January, nearly 100,000 people and 10,000 pastors from 25 nations have been drawn to this place for a fresh anointing of the Spirit.

Toronto isn't the only place this is happening. Lakeland Florida, is having similar ongoing visitations; churches in other cities are experiencing it; and we are hearing reports of it happening in South America and Europe. We received a report of such outpouring from our missionary friends in Nepal when they watched a video teaching from such meetings! And a report just came to us from northwest India: "Hindus are being hit by the Holy Spirit, released of demons and getting God's laughter; then giving their lives to Jesus Christ!"

A trickle of it has even reached the Twin Cities in recent months...

Knowing our call to bless leaders, missionaries and young churches, and our burden to stand in the gap for the unreached, we know that we need a greater overflow of the Spirit in our lives for the sake of others. Toronto, here we come....

And then? Hopefully India, with possible trips to Ukraine, Indonesia, and France. Please pray that we have the mind of the Spirit.

Following the Spirit, we are discovering, is like John 3:8, where Jesus said, "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." This reality makes us keep listening for the "fresh sound of the wind".

We hope you will have a new touch from God in your life also. You may, like us, at times feel like you are living in a desert. You need to know that a fresh wind of God is blowing, and rain is coming! It is as Elisha saw when he prayed, after three and one half years of drought — there was a cloud the size of a man's hand in the sky. When it appeared, he sent a message to Ahab, "You better get your chariot ready — the rain is coming!!"

The present outpouring is like that cloud appearing after a long drought, and I think we all better "get our chariots ready". Jackie and I are committed to follow the Lamb where ever He goes, and we hope you will do the same. Get to where the Holy Spirit is imparting fresh oil; let Him anoint you, and then do what Jesus tells you to do.

We know that God wants us to continue encouraging the church in Minnesota, and He wants us to go to the nations. We give great thanks to each of you who pray for us and who are able to give to our financial support. We are not salaried, and continue to daily depend on the Lord and on your response to the Spirit. Our financial needs are increasing as we reach out more, but we believe God's provision will also increase. Your involvement in our ministry is a treasure to us. Your prayer is our lifeline, and we receive each gift, small or large, as a stewardship from Him.

May your fellowship with Jesus greatly increase in the days ahead. May you be filled afresh with the Spirit, and may you respond with all your heart to God's call on your life. We will continue to trust God on your behalf, and expect Him to surprise you with more His abundant grace!

Yours in Christ,

John and Jackie