



Dear friends,

Greetings in Jesus' Wonderful Name! We hope you are doing well, and experiencing the peace of God which passes all understanding! (I don't mean lutefisk — that's the "piece of cod" that passes all understanding.) For Jackie and I, the peace of God is our inner lifeline right now as the Lord once again is launching us to the other side of the world — this time into ice and snow. But, hey, we're Minnesotans, built for cold, right?

**To Russia with love... November 28 - December 16**

By God's grace, the two of us will leave for Russia just twelve days from now — Tuesday, November 28.

*"OK Lord, here we go again, stepping out on your grace and trusting that this still small voice saying "Go" is really You. You have given us peace to go, an inward peace that passes our understanding. We don't understand how you will make it happen this time, but we trust You to do it!"*

...So, you know we really need prayer! We've got our travel funds in our hearts, but the travel agent wants to hold a lot of it in his hands, ya' know what I mean?

**Here is our itinerary:**

**Tuesday, November 28:**

9:20 p.m.: Leave Mpls. on Northwest # 8056(8.5 hrs)

**Wednesday, November 29:**

12:15 p.m. Arrive in Amsterdam  
3:35 p.m. Leave Amsterdam on KLM #289 (3.5 hrs)  
8:55 p.m. Arrive in Moscow. The clock time there is 10 hrs. ahead of Minnesota time.

Steve Reuter will meet us. Steve is head of Project: WORLD, a mission to the Former Soviet Union. He oversees the churches to whom we minister in Krivoy Rog, Ukraine. It is also under his leadership that our daughter Jennifer is stationed in Perm. After a brief meeting with him, we will leave Moscow.

**Thursday, November 30:**

After 15-20 hours on an eastbound train, we will arrive in Ishevsk. Clock time there and in Perm is 11 hrs ahead of Minnesota. Jennifer will travel from Perm to Ishevsk at the same time, and be with us until we head home.

**Friday, December 1 through Friday, December 8:**

Staying in Ishevsk, we will teach in a new Bible School and minister in five small new churches. We asked Steve to send us to places others don't go, to people in need of encouragement and ministry. These five churches have each been started within the past year, and the Bible School has just begun. With many new believers, they have a great need of good foundations in the Word of God.

In addition to teaching the Word, we will no doubt spend much time ministering to individuals — praying for healing,

family needs, deliverance, etc. More than likely we will also have the privilege of leading unsaved people to salvation, since it is common for this to happen even in normal church meetings!

**Saturday, December 9:**

The three of us will go by train to Perm.

**Sunday, December 10 through Wednesday, December 13:**

New Testament Church in Perm, 1000 miles east of Moscow, near the Ural mountains. Perm is a city of 1.5 million, with many prisons and orphanages.

This is the church where Jen is working. It is four years old, and has about one thousand members. They are constantly evangelizing, and are planning to start twenty new churches in the next year. The pastor of this church, Edvard, is a missionary from Krivoy Rog, Ukraine, trained by our friend, pastor Gregori. It is interesting to note that many of the pastors of new churches in Russia come from Ukraine. Ukraine, former "breadbasket of Russia", is starting to send out "bread from heaven"!

**Thursday, December 14:**

Good-bye to Jen, and then Jackie and I travel by train to Moscow, again seeing Steve Reuter.

**Friday, December 15:**

3:10 p.m. Leave Moscow on KLM #288  
4:55 p.m. Arrive in Amsterdam, stay overnight.

**Saturday, December 16:**

3:10 p.m. Leave Amsterdam on Northwest #8055  
5:05 p.m. Arrive home in Minneapolis.

**Will you pray for us?**

1. **Health and strength for a rigorous journey and schedule of ministry.**  
*(Sometimes we feel like wimps, but the Lord gives new strength to those who wait on Him!)*
2. **Approval of our visas.**  
*(Jesus said He is the One who holds the keys, who opens doors and no man can close them.)*
3. **The finances for the trip.**  
*(As of this letter, almost all of it is still needed... Jehovah Jireh, our Provider!)*
4. **Anointing of the Spirit, clear heads and clear words for the ministry, and blessed interpreters.**  
*(If God doesn't show up, it will be a embarrassment!)*
5. **Safety in travel, and good connections.**  
*(We'd like to not lose our luggage either!)*
6. **Our personal finances.**  
*(A breakthrough is needed right now.)*

(over)

*Why do we go, and what can we do?*

The following is an excerpt from a letter we recently got from Steve Reuter in Moscow:

*"Be in prayer about our next step, that of entering the thousands of villages to establish churches .*

*I was in a village not too long ago. All I met on the street were drunk. Children were hungry because their parents were too intoxicated to take care of them. Some had been sent to the hospital because all they could find to eat was pig food. The men drink because they have no hope, nothing to look forward to, no job, no way of bettering themselves.*

*We entered that village unannounced, and thirty were born again. The process of breaking the chains which bind people so, has been begun in that village. A seed has been planted in their midst. "*

Such need and opportunity, coupled with the Spirit's urge, drives us to help in this great harvest, and to help others get involved. We feel as if we can do so little, but God can multiply a little thing, can't he — just like the boy's five loaves and two fish? Though we are only two middle agers of mediocre strength, we want to do something. We probably will never be the long term evangelists or pastors to any of these cities or villages, but we can at least join hands in faith and love with a few of the young evangelists, pastors and new churches. We can help encourage and strengthen them in the Lord. And perhaps we can be a challenge to others (like you?) to give, to pray, and to go -- and help send young people who can go farther and longer than us who have the graying heads.

Our daughter Jen, age 21, is giving the strength of her youth to serving Jesus in this land. Will you pray with us that many will catch the vision to give their strength for the sake of Jesus and the gospel? Why should our young people lower themselves to be kings or presidents when they can be missionaries?

But wait a minute...Caleb was eighty when he asked for a mountain full of giants! God is using everybody at any age for all kinds of holy adventures! So let's work together to make our years count for Jesus, be they many or few. Let's keep

Ps. a third time: as this letter is mailed I am flying to Denver to join our missionary friends, Rob & Dia, for a yearly strategy meeting concerning the Muslim people among whom they work (where we have taken several prayer teams) in Indonesia. Please pray for this two-day gathering of leaders (several dozen) from the churches and mission agencies who have adopted this unreached people. All look to Rob & Dia for leadership, since they are the senior missionaries, the first ever to reside among this Muslim people. Pray for unity, wisdom, faith, love, discernment.

*John*

praying to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest. Let's be among those laborers, and let's help other laborers in their task. The truth is that the years may be few for all of us. Time is short, and the coming of the Lord is near. His coming waits only for the gospel to be preached to all nations — and then the end will come. We want to be found participating in that great commission...don't you?

Thanks for helping to send us — this time into Russia, a field "white unto harvest". I would like to take the promise of Matthew 4:16 and claim it for Ishevsk, Perm, and the thousands of despairing Russian villages such as in Steve's report:

*"The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."*

*"Make it so, Lord, and use even us."*

Thank you for being our friends and trusting the Lord with us for His will to be done. Thank you for praying and supporting us in His work. You are a blessing, and through Jesus you are blessed!

With Love,

*John and Jackie*

p.s. we are considering outreach to India late January/February, and a team to Ukraine early April. Please pray for confirmation of the Lord's will. ...Want to go?

p.s. again: Slowly but surely donations have been coming in to fill the shipping container of humanitarian aid for Krivoy Rog, Ukraine. We anticipate, with God's help and more giving in the next month to be ready to ship the container after Christmas. Thanks to many who have been giving, and to those helping to organize the goods. Consider an early Christmas gift to the poor of Ukraine: canned tomatoes and instant bouillon -- they eat soup every day--, canned meat, rice, flour, dry milk, baby formula, vitamins, and various medical supplies -- crutches, wheelchairs, braces, elastic bandages, gauze, bandages....look for businesses who could contribute... plus financial donations to buy food in bulk. Praise the Lord!