



Dear friends,

Greetings in Jesus' Wonderful Name!

Don't you enjoy proclaiming, "*His Name is above all names! His Power above all power!*" Or, "*No other name, but the name of Jesus! No other name but the name of the Lord! No other name but the Name of Jesus...is worthy of glory, and worthy of honor, and worthy of power and all praise!*"

Isn't Jesus the very best thing that's ever happened to you? Doesn't all of life, good or bad, easy or hard, just make Him seem more glorious, more excellent, and more infinitely full of everything awesome and magnificent?

I better move on before I run out of adjectives.

Jackie and I are doing well, though for the moment immersed in house repair projects. With the help of the creative and professional assistance of our good friend Jim Brown, we are replacing bad windows, rotted patio door, and disintegrating siding. We had this house built twenty one years ago, using the least expensive components. The life span of some things has ended. By God's grace and no more back, neck or shoulder strains, we hope to see this project largely overcome before the beginning of our school of prayer at Heart for the Nations Bible School.

a lesson on faith and guidance...from a mistake.

...I didn't go to Sweden.

Only a small amount of funds came in. (Though the four gifts given were significant and given by caring and loving friends). Some would say, "Well, that proves it. You were stopped by lack of money, weren't you?"

I would say, no. Lack of funds did not stop me.

There is a lesson in it, which I want to pass on to you. It is the lesson of Hebrews 11:1 which says "*faith is the substance of things hope for, the evidence of things not seen.*" I have found that, when the substance and evidence of faith is clearly in the heart, that which is hoped for WILL HAPPEN! Nothing stops it.

That kind of faith, that kind of inward "substance and evidence", is sometimes described in this way: "You just know that you know that you know something." Or "You know it with your knower".

In my case, while planning to attend the school prayer in Sweden, I had a problem in my "knower". And I did not pay heed to it until very late.

About a week before I was to leave, I became aware of a lack of "substance and evidence" in my heart about this trip. I should have been aware of it earlier, but as is typical for many Christians, I was too busy doing good and necessary things to wait quietly in God's presence. Instead I was depending on what was in my mind, assuming it was what was in my spirit as well. I had certain thoughts about this trip: "I need to be there." "I need the training for what is coming." "I can take

the time to go, it isn't a long time away." Last month I told you that I almost decided not to go, but decided it was too important for the future. These were good thoughts, but good intentions are not God's voice. True faith is not a matter of thoughts. Faith is a matter of the heart.

Thoughts can sound like the will of God, but they may not be based on a true word from the Lord. They will therefore lack the inward supernatural substance and evidence that indicates God's involvement in the matter. Needs, wants, and rational thinking all may not add up to a "thus says the Lord".

Six days before the departure, some friends laid their hands on my head and prayed for me about Sweden. As they prayed, I became aware that I did not know for sure in my heart that I was going -- I did not have the "substance and evidence of faith".

Some might say, "But of course...you couldn't know for sure that you were going until you had the funds to pay for the trip!" Not so. Being sure about God's will is a matter of the heart, not a matter of the billfold.

We have been told by some people that they could never do what we do -- going on outreaches by faith -- sometimes not receiving necessary funds until the last hour. They think the anxiety level would be too high, not "knowing IF it is going to happen". But that is a misunderstanding. When God is leading, the "knowing it is going to happen" comes before the natural needs are met. You don't "know" it is going to happen when you see needs fulfilled. You know it beforehand.

In the case of our mission outreaches, which we ALWAYS plan BEFORE there is one dollar to meet the need, here is what tends to happen when the Lord is really directing it: As the days or weeks progress, and we get closer to "launch day", the sense of inward peace increases, and the substance and evidence of faith grows. We come to know that we know that we know that God will do it. Never does this knowing come from the financial arena. It comes in the Spirit, from the Lord into our spirit. It isn't in the mind; it is in the heart. Needless to say, we sometimes make mistakes about this, but mistakes don't change the reality of how God works. So, let's learn better.

Here I was then, just a week before I was to leave for Sweden, and I came to know in my MIND that I had a problem. (My SPIRIT knew earlier, but I wasn't listening very well.) The problem wasn't money. There were other times that Jackie and I have still needed most of the money for an outreach only days before departure. The problem wasn't the money. The problem was what was in my spirit -- or rather, what was NOT there. (I had allowed the cares of life to put me on a treadmill of activity and I was not maintaining close contact with the "still small voice" of God inside me.) Surprisingly, even though this good and apparently necessary plan was in place, I found that I could not say from my heart "I

believe I am going to Sweden." I could not say "By God's grace, I will be on that plane." I lacked the substance and evidence of faith. Why? Was I not spiritual enough? No. God simply was not initiating it. I found instead a surprising peace and assurance that I was to stay home. Like so often is the case, the thing I thought I "had" to do -- go to Sweden -- was not God's perfect will. The thing I really DESIRED to do -- stay home -- proved to be God's best for that time.

I waited out the week to see what would happen -- remaining willing to go or stay --but really....I "knew" in my spirit what would happen. I would stay home. This knowledge did not come from money or lack of it. It came from my heart in communion (tardy at that) with God's Spirit. In spite of what I thought was needed, God wanted me home. Had I listened more carefully, I would have known it earlier.

It turned out I did not really have time to go, and it became evident later that it was very essential for me to be home during that particular week. Only God knew it. If I had listened VERY CLOSELY to the Father in the stillness of my heart, I would have not made this error in guidance. If I had spent some time in quietness with Him, I would have become aware of His desire for me to stay home. Thankfully it was easily corrected with a fax to Sweden, and a plane ticket that could be cancelled without penalty. Thankfully it was not a ministry outreach -- in which case we would have had to break commitments to people or churches. The school in Sweden ended up overflowing with students, and my absence was in no way a problem to them.

We like to learn from such experiences, so that we can follow the Lord more closely. We hope you are learning to follow Him closely as well. We hope you will learn to identify His still small voice, His inward Word which brings supernatural faith -- the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

a brief update...

* We are gearing up for the school of prayer, which you should know about by now, and if you live in our region you should have received a brochure and letter. We hope some of you can come. If not, perhaps you can pass on the word to someone else, and pray for us in this adventure. We are looking forward to it.

You are also invited to the Prayer Conference September 15-22 at Church of the Resurrection which will launch the fall activities of Heart for the Nations. It will be a great beginning for the school of prayer!

**I (John) want to invest much of this school year in developing teaching tools -- mostly literature -- for future ministry. This literature is not only to use here at home, but to translate into other languages and make available in the nations where we are sent. Please pray that I will be able to "protect" enough time and energy for this work, and not get pulled away from it by less important but more urgent activities.

more prayer for coming outreaches...

Please continue to pray for guidance for our international outreach during the next 12 months. We do want indeed to be on track with His still small voice, not lagging behind or jumping ahead of Him.

- Ukraine in November. Do you want to join us and help new churches get established? The dates will be approximately Nov. 7-21, and the cost about \$1200 per person. We need to firm up these plans during September.

- Denver, December 6-10. Chantik Prayer Summit I. Come with us, prepare for Indonesia in '97!

- Asia, early March. We are presently torn between several options -- too many places to go in two to three week time frame. Not much information, but...want an Asian adventure with Jesus and us?

- June, '97 outreach. We don't have an idea yet of what this might be. Please pray.

- Chantik Prayer Summit II in Indonesia August 11-22, 1997. People from several nations are expecting to be there. We are expecting a major breakthrough to come to these people! You are invited to be part of an intercession team, especially if you have been there before, OR if you attend the upcoming school of prayer. If you are thinking about it, pray about accompanying us to Denver for the first Chantik Prayer Summit December 7-10.

Call us if you would like to talk about being involved in any of these plans.

a thank you...

In August, our personal budget took a jump, as we are paying off medical bills, etc. Sending off the tithe of what we needed, rather than what had come in, we decided once again to trust God. The following day we received a large gift from one of you that changed a difficult August into a breakthrough! How can we say thanks to those of you who keep praying for us? How can we say thanks to you who are able and led to support us financially? We know you give as to the Lord, and from Him comes your blessing and reward. But please know also that you have invested in our lives, and we want our lives and ministry to be a fitting tribute to your prayer and giving. Thank you.

May the Lord give you increase in spirit, in mind, and in every way. May your home be blessed, your work be blessed, and your ministry be blessed. He has blessed you through Jesus Christ, and we simply add our amen.

With love,

John & Jackie
John and Jackie

Remember: for tax purposes, write checks to Prayer International, with note attached "for the Matthews"

63 105th Lane N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55448 USA Tel: 612-755-6612 Fax: 612-786-0092

* if you missed the info on School of Prayer: wed's 7pm on Mon 10am-noon!
\$60 per 10 week quarter. starts with the Prayer Conference Register at 566-7411!
fall/winter/spring 3 quarters.