



Dear friends,

"...and I being **in the way**, the Lord led me..." Gen. 24:27

Abraham had sent his servant Eliezer to find a bride for his son Isaac. Not until Rebekah offered to water Eliezer's ten camels did Eliezer know that she was the one for Isaac, and that his journey was successful. He glorified God for His guidance. But Eliezer had to prepare to go, he had to go, and he had to be in the process of going, in order to get God's complete guidance. The Lord led him *as he went*.

This reminds me of Isaiah 30:21:

"And your ears will hear a word behind you, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right or to the left." It is as though we must be moving -- in the process of going -- if we are to get clear guidance. His voice comes while we are "in the way" of carrying out His known will.

In 1941, Jackie's missionary father was on a ship returning to Borneo. Due to World War II, he had left behind in the USA his wife, sons and baby daughter Jacqueline for four years of missionary service without them. As he approached Borneo the Holy Spirit said to him, "Go to New Guinea instead." It was not easy to change plans, but like Eliezer, while he was "in the way" the Lord led him, and a huge harvest of souls soon began.

One month ago, as we were returning from Russia, the Lord said to us, "keep yourselves **in the way** of going to the nations." We knew this meant lay plans to keep moving. We knew it meant, without special new guidance, that we were to be stewards of the relationships we already had in various countries. So, we purposed to be in India for most of February, and back to Ukraine by early spring.

As we moved ahead with these plans, the Holy Spirit intervened with new specific guidance. First, communication came from Ukraine indicating spring was not the best time for us to come. Then we got a surprise from the Holy Spirit. Only days ago, He directed us to join our missionary friends Rob and Ria Gmyrek in attending a leadership training school in Indonesia.

## **We will be in Asia for 3 1/2 months! (by God's grace.)**

### **1. January 24, we leave home, and go to India for 9 days.**

As previously planned, we will be in Madras, at the YWAM India National Staff Conference, where 500 YWAM missionaries will be gathered from all over India. We will lead daily marriage workshops and be available for personal ministry.

### **2. February 6, we leave India and go to Indonesia.**

Instead of going to north India with our friends Bill and Cheryl Barr (who have released and blessed us in this change of plans), we will proceed to Indonesia, *where we will stay for three months!!* We're going to school.

For several years we have considered attending YWAM's specialized leadership school called International Leadership Training School. (LTS) The school is run and taught by the senior leaders of YWAM to train those who lead and pioneer in missions. Even seasoned missionary leaders take time to go to this school. It has been impossible for us to go...until now. We fly from India to Surabaya, on the island of Java, and then go by taxi to the town of Lawang where the LTS will be held.

*There are two reasons why we are going to this school: one, because the Spirit says go; and two, to maximize our effectiveness in missionary leadership -- we want our latter years to be more fruitful than the former ones.*

This LTS is being led by Jim Stier, the new international president of YWAM, who was leader of YWAM Brazil for more than twenty years. Teachers will include Loren Cunningham, the founder of YWAM; Leland Paris, director of YWAM North and South America; Roger McNight, international YWAM Prayer coordinator; and other senior mission leaders. The school will be geared to missionary leadership in the non-western world -- which is where the Lord sends us, and where most of the unreached people in the world live.

There will be numbers of people attending the school whom we know, and it will be a cross-cultural privilege to be in a student body where white skin is a minority group!

Throughout the three months, each student will work on a major project of mission vision, goals and strategy -- to be completed in written form and ready for action. This means we will be involved in a process of seeking God, research, and planning under the teaching and personal mentoring of excellent missionary leaders.

## **Will you pray for us?**

**1. Financial provision.** As of this letter, all of our provision is still needed. Plane tickets, tuition for the LTS, and other travel funds are needed before we board the plane on January 24, 13 days from the mailing of this letter. God is faithful, and in our hearts we hear a familiar, still small voice: "Go, and I will meet every need." Please pray also for our provision to continue through our time in Asia. We will have ongoing needs at home and in Asia throughout our time away.

**2. Visas for India and Indonesia.** Pray for speed and favor with the government officials.

**3. Strength and health for spirit, soul, and body.** Being gone for over three months sounds like a very long time to us. We need extra grace.

**4. Anointing of the Spirit** -- to minister in the staff conference in Madras; to be students for three months and absorb all that God has to give; to return to Minnesota full of God and ready to do His will.

### **5. For our children while we are away.**

Jeff and Jermaine in Thief River Falls; Jennifer in Russia; and Jay and Lana, caring for our house while we are gone.

(over)

Two overriding visions or burdens are in our hearts as we go to the Leadership Training school. These will likely become our mission projects for the three months, unless the Holy Spirit redirects us. They are as follows:

### **1. Vision for ministry in the Twin Cities:**

For nine years we have been involved in prayer mobilization and intercession in our city. Out of that experience has come the realization that the major obstacle to victory over enemy strongholds in the city is not Satan himself, nor the sin of the unbelievers. As a cartoon character named Pogo once said, "We have met the enemy, and he is us!" We, the Church, hold the keys to God's kingdom coming in our city. Church leaders, unfortunately, withhold the use of these keys through religious pride, unending controversy, mistrust and passivity. If repentance and **reconciliation** were to take place among leaders now divided by race, denomination, and self-centeredness, these same leaders would then be ready to face the strongholds of the city. Such a humbled and united leadership could lead the Church into effective **intercession** for the city, and it would then be a short trip to victory over the powers of darkness that seem to control the spiritual atmosphere of the Twin Cities.

We are carrying this burden of **reconciliation and intercession in our city** to the LTS. Please **pray** for us as we earnestly seek His heart and will for our future involvement in the Twin Cities.

John Dawson's book, *Healing our Nations Wounds*, speaks to this concern.

### **2. Vision for ministry in the nations**

We have been privileged to go to the nations repeatedly, ministering in various ways -- thanks to you who help send us, and to God who gives the grace!. Sometimes others have come with us, and sometimes we have gone as a team of two. Through it all, we have a growing desire to see others released into missions, and are seeking God about our future part in **training and sending** the next generation of missionaries. It is in our hearts to "mentor" those who are called and seriously committed to the work of missions.

We are carrying this burden of **mentoring new missionaries** to the LTS. Please **pray** for us as we press into the Lord concerning future strategy for going to the nations, and for training others to go.

A book that speaks to this is called *Mentoring for Mission*, by Gunter Krallmann.

At the conclusion of the LTS, we will attend a national YWAM staff conference for Indonesia, also to be held in Lawang.

**On May 6, we will leave Indonesia and arrive back home the next day, by God's grace.**

We look forward to returning to live and minister in our home town, and to continue reaching out to the nations. Intercession and missions remain at the core of our hearts. Training, leading, and sending others who have the same heart -- that is our vision for the days ahead.

*"Help us Lord to fulfill the purpose for which You have placed us on the earth. 'We must work the works of Him who sent (us) as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work..' Give us the ability to help others fulfill their divine purpose and complete the work You have sent them to do."*

*A special thanks to those of you who have given financially. Each gift is to us a testimony of the Lord's faithfulness. It never ceases to amaze us what God can do, and we are always awed by the love and concern many of you have shown to us and our ministry.*

*Another special thanks for your prayer. It is still our lifeline. When someone tells us that they pray for us, we are humbled by such concern, and it spurs us to press on to serve the Lord with all our hearts. You are fellow workers with us indeed, and we are grateful to you and the Lord.*

*May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord watch over you and your family. May you know the comfort of the Holy Spirit and the graciousness of the Father. May you be hidden in Christ, and may you trust and obey Him with all your heart.*

Yours in Christ,

**John and Jackie**

*p.s. Look for a separate letter coming to you from us about our involvement in Ukraine. It is a report on the projects some of you have helped with, and what must happen next.*