



Dear Friends,

Greetings once again from the exotic, hot and humid island of Java, Indonesia!

We have been tucked away in a Catholic retreat center a few blocks from downtown Lawang. One main street runs through the town — actually a regional highway with high speed traffic. Since there are no stoplights, our lives must be put in God's hands just to cross the street. (We have to do that to get ice cream...so it's worth it.) Trucks, buses, vans, sports cars, and motorcycles careen by us on a desperate race to somewhere, barely missing us and the horse drawn carts that plod along like they are from a different century!

The LTS course is not a relaxing experience....

We have been challenged mentally, spiritually, and physically (intestinal ailments knock at our door almost every day) in this Leadership Training School. Most people in this school have been missionaries for some time, no strangers to challenges, victories and defeats. Most, we think, arrived as we did...wanting to be more effective in ministry and reap a greater harvest.

For this reason, perhaps, the instructors have not been easy on the students. There is a godly determination on their part to press us into clearer focus and greater accountability for the dreams in our hearts. It makes us pray more, think hard, and communicate clearly. The instruction requires each of us to face questions like, "What is your goal? What do you want to see accomplished? What are your objectives? How will you know you have reached them? What are the alternative ways of accomplishing those objectives? What are the risks? Who will be responsible for each step? What resources do you need? What will you do if something goes wrong? What preventative action will you take to avoid the problem? What contingent action will you take if it does happen? What is the budget for this....?" And so on, until our brains are drained....

There have also been teachings that have caused us to examine the motives of our heart, topics on principles of discipleship, and other things too numerous to mention here. One assignment is harder than anyone thought: to develop a set of at least twenty personal values, each described in a well thought out paragraph, with four or five Scriptures to back up each value. Book reports, planning projects, tests, and Bible memorization fill in the gaps.

Some lessons are classic, such as Loren Cunningham's teaching on pioneering new ministries, or "How to create with God".

He said we must

1. Think God's Thoughts.
2. Pray God's Prayers.
3. Feel God's Feelings.
4. Speak God's Word.
5. Do God's Work.

There it is! Go out and do it!

OOPS, wait a minute....you might be "jumping to action", in the words of Jim Stier, new president of YWAM worldwide and leader of the school. That, we have learned, is the classic error of poor decision making. Perhaps you had better take some time to get your goals even more clear from God and spend some time with your fellow workers to get those objectives written down. Which ones are required objectives, and which ones are desired? Now start planning well enough so that you don't leap to a foolish response when you have a problem, but are instead able to take clear action because you anticipated beforehand what might happen! Good discipline for leaders anywhere!

A repeated message through all the instruction is that planning is of little value unless ultimately our goals focus on people accepting Jesus and their lives being changed — not merely project or event planning.

Outside of classes and study, we have had great times with some old friends and many new ones. Rob and Ria have helped us alot, and being with them has been a pleasure. As pastoral leaders we have a little flock of ten who have become very close to us. In fact, these new friendships made it very difficult to accept the next step in our Asian adventure...

The Lord says to us "Your time is finished here" ...

About ten days ago, we began hearing the Lord's still small voice — like the clear but gentle word last January: "Go to the LTS." In January we left in a whirlwind it seemed, only days after He spoke to us! Now, His quiet voice — the whisper that has taken us around the world and has brought us home safely many times — that voice has been saying "It's time to go home — when your visas expire".

So, instead of going to Singapore on a "visa run" with all the other foreigners, we have plane reservations to leave Indonesia on Good Friday, April 5, the day before our visas expire. We will arrive in Los Angeles the same day, and after staying in L.A. for two or three days to visit Jackie's mother, we will arrive home in the Twin Cities — about April 10.

"Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession."

Since we will miss the last three weeks of lectures, we are requesting that all the class notes will be sent to us. We are grateful for the challenging yet practical teaching we have received. Beyond the formal teaching, the cross cultural experience in this school has taught us at least as much as we have received in the content of the classes themselves. Observing leaders and teachers dealing with great language and cultural barriers has provided invaluable lessons! The work of planning for the future which we have begun during the school will continue long after we get home. We'll write more about that later.

From this side of the world, we see we can't live without YOU!!

Thank you for continuing to pray for us, and thank you for supporting us financially. Some expenses for this trip must yet be paid when we get home. Please pray for the release of those funds.

You continue to be our Lifeline, and we highly value your friendship! Thanks for helping us to pursue the plan and purpose of God. We are convinced that were it not for you, we could never have had so many adventures with God over the years!

Without you, we would never have had the joy of seeing the power of God fall on tired missionaries in the Himalayan mountains. Without you we would not have experienced the exhilaration of watching so many come to Christ in Ukraine and Russia. Without you we would not have participated in God's breakthrough to the unreached Muslim Acehnese in Sumatra. (...which, by the way, has become one of our planning projects while here!) Without you, we would not have had the privilege of carrying a secret treasure of Bibles across China. Thanks to you and the Lord Himself, we have wonderful world wide memories of the goodness and faithfulness

of God! The joy of it all is yours too, and may the Lord reward you for your faithful partnership with us!

Furthermore, without you we would not have the continuing honor of seeking God again for His next step and following His gentle nudge to the next adventure! We hope that we can give something back into your lives...and to others.

What we believe is that the Lord has been taking us through many experiences so that we can encourage, teach, and lead others into their own adventures with God. Whether young or old, male or female, God has a wonderful plan for anyone who is available to Him — including you! Whether you are in the "over the hill gang" like us or belong to the younger generations, God has something new and challenging in mind! Our desire is to launch many into adventures with God. We want to help others participate in the great joy that comes when the lost are reached, the broken hearted are healed, and the captives are set free!!!

May the grace of the Lord Jesus continue to fill your life!!

With love,

John and Jackie

p.s. We have heard that the church in Krivoy Rog, Ukraine, must pay a fee of \$1000 (US dollars) in order to occupy the new church building that many of you have helped finance. They are literally building this church with their own hands, and this fee is virtually impossible for them to pay. Would you pray with us about this? If the Lord leads you to help with this cost, please write the check to Church Upon The Rock, with note attached "for Krivoy Rog church building fee".