



Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

August, 1997



Dear friends,

There's something highly disorienting about traveling to the other side of the world. 36 hours of transit time from Minneapolis to SE Asia seems tiring and long, but really now... in the last century it would have taken weeks to get there. Crossing twelve time zones in so short a time makes a distant land seem closer than it is... and the head dizzy.

Now we're home. Only two days ago we were dining in an exclusive restaurant in Asia, guests of a super-wealthy Muslim businessman. Through unusual circumstances we found ourselves hosted by this man. We had a private dining room -- just for our team and friends and his family -- and he picked up the tab. What an interesting story behind that experience! ... it's mind boggling.

We left the USA as scheduled on August 6. It was another story of last minute miracles. We weren't sure all of us were going until the morning of our departure, when the needed money came. We had a four hour layover in San Francisco, where Jackie's brother and family whisked our team off to a restaurant with opera singing servers. It was a great time! A thirteen hour flight across the Pacific then brought us to Hong Kong in the early morning, losing a day in the ocean somewhere. Next came a four hour flight to Singapore, where we rushed downtown by taxi to keep awake. It was afternoon, but our body clocks were sure it was the middle of the night! We had "high tea" at MacDonalds. This is an "inside joke": we were actually going to the famous Raffles Hotel to have high tea, where for a few Singapore bucks they serve fancy little cakes and things to the tourist crowd who can't afford to even look at the rooms there. (\$600 and up per night). We were too early, so we had tall paper cups of iced tea on the second floor of MacDonalds, looking across the street to the Raffles Hotel. By early evening we were at our destination near Chantik-land and more than ready for our beds.

By now you probably think this was a high flying vacation! Actually we went to work. Together with our friends from Chantik-land, we were leading the Chantik Prayer Summit.

For your recollection, the Chantik are an unreached Islamic people group of 3.5 million people. Chantik is not the real name of this people, but chosen as the name to use publicly, to protect those who work among them. Such security measures are needed in the Muslim world, and especially so here. The name Chantik means "beautiful people", and they really are that. Though historically fierce and unconquerable, they are surprisingly friendly and open on a personal level. You may remember that we have visited them several times before with prayer teams.

The Prayer Summit was a gathering of intercession teams from various groups and churches who have adopted the Chantik in recent years. Nine prayer teams came from about as many countries for this event. With the fifteen or so foreign

and Asian workers present, our number was about 70 people. It proved to be a unique and wonderful experience for all!

For three days we met together in a city outside the Chantik province (for security reasons). These days were spent worshipping the Lord, preparing the teams for their on-site intercession assignment, and praying over many issues relating to the work among the Chantik. Everything focused on the united cry of our hearts that God would save these people, and that the Chantik church would be born.

Teams were then sent to their appointed cities in the Chantik province, one to each of the district capitals. Each team had six days for their on-site adventure, and each team had two basic assignments. One was strategic intercession. The other assignment was to act as tourists, meeting people and getting involved in the community in whatever way opened up. Since one of the days was the national day of Independence, all were told to join in the festivities. In this way, contact could be made with the people, and we were all trusting the Lord for divine appointments.

It turned out that each team, including ours, had some remarkable contacts with people, learned significant things about the area, and carried out important strategies of prayer.

The teams then came back together for two days before we came home. These were two days full of reporting, thanking the Lord, and praying. Through this process, we not only prayed for the whole region of the Chantik, but had focused prayer for each of the nine districts. Everything focused on the need for strongholds to come down so that the lost can be saved, and the church brought to birth.

We believe it was a most significant two week prayer meeting. I have called it the "hundred thousand dollar prayer meeting", since it cost at least that much to bring these teams from all over the world. The most important results are, of course, yet to come. The teams went home with hearts full of fresh data about the Chantik people, heavier burdens for prayer, and increased faith for their salvation.

Moreover we were all able to meet most of our "special friends" who work in the region. All of them must have legitimate jobs in order to obtain visas to remain in the country, and as a way to be "salt and light" in this strict Muslim culture. The workers all shared their dreams and their needs with us, and we prayed over all of them during the course of the summit. The power of the Spirit was present in a significant way, and many of these workers were unusually touched by the power of the Spirit.

One of the joys of the summit was being together with people from many countries. Translation had to be done for the South Americans and for many of the Asians. Prayer would rise in different languages, and the insights and anointing on intercessors from different countries was very evident. The Chileans, Argentines, and Filipinos gave a special spiritual

"spark" to everything. It was a glorious mix of people who came with unity of heart and purpose, so that the Holy Spirit was free to work among us, with us and through us.

It became more and more clear that the Lord had called us together for a divine breakthrough in this people group, and to establish a larger and stronger prayer shield for the work to increase among the Chantik. Perhaps two dozen or more workers from different nations are now in the process of preparing to come and live among this people. Most of them will arrive in the coming year. This in itself is an answer to prayer. Seven years ago our friends were the only ones there, hidden in the shelter of the Almighty. Now a greater covering of prayer is needed.

We believe the Lord is about to pour out His Spirit and reap a harvest of souls among the Chantik. It is a privilege to be part of history in the making -- watching God bring these beautiful people to himself.

Thank you for praying for us during this outreach, and please keep praying for the salvation of the 3.5 million Chantik. And to those of you who gave financially for the outreach, thank you for your partnership with us. You will share in the joy when one day we all will see Chantik believers gathered at the throne of God, with *"every tribe, tongue, people and nation"*!

A report from Ukraine...

Remember, we wrote last month that friends of ours from New Zealand were going to Krivoy Rog to hold a conference on family, while we went to Asia? Here is their report:

"Dear John and Jackie: Praise the Lord!" for these past two weeks !!! We arrived back in Germany last night tired but so thankful to the Lord for the privilege of being able to share the Lord with such precious people in Krivoy Rog.

"Thank you for being obedient to the Lord in asking us to go. It was a life changing experience and Lord willing we would love to go back next year. As we leave this morning for the States I will only be very brief. They (the church) send their love and look forward to seeing you for the opening of their church (building) at the end of the year.

"We saw salvation, healing and restoration - so much more than we could have asked - we need time to process our time and all the things He did. Pastor Gregory and Galena send their love. They are God's gift of grace and anointing to the people. The church building is looking fantastic; they desperately need good tradesman (builders) to help in the finishing work. Have you any such people that you can call to go and help for a month or two?

"The last night was a night we will never forget; just seeing the people respond to the message and seeing them as families coming forward to be a family for Jesus and then as families taking communion was awesome. We switched the lights off with all the candles they had lighted and the projector showing the song "Shine Jesus shine fill this land with the Father's glory" - the packed building sang their hearts out. God is good. Excellent translators and we had a very precious time with them. Love, Albert and Jeanette"

Thanks, Albert and Jeanette, that you could go in our place, and be such a blessing to our friends in Ukraine!

A reminder about Humanitarian aid for Krivoy Rog....

We are collecting medical supplies to help the desperately needy hospitals in Krivoy Rog. Would you remember to ask medical clinics, hospitals, supply companies, etc. to help in this humanitarian project? Please pray that many among us will have divine appointments, in order to see a large quantity of supplies made available. Financial aid is also needed for this. This aid is used by the believers in Krivoy Rog as an evangelism tool to open doors for the gospel in their city.

The next School of Prayer begins September 23...

Please pray that the Lord will send all the people who need to be in this school, and that He will give us "fresh manna" -- living, anointed teaching -- for the students. Pray that, most of all, His Presence will be strong among us, and that we will follow the leading of His Spirit in the school.

Please pray for our priorities...

We continue to need the Lord's wisdom in the use of our time and energy. In addition to our ongoing work with Prayer International, there are several things that are like fresh fire in our hearts, for which we need fresh guidance. Would you pray that we would be able to see what God wants us to do in these areas?

*Seeing lost souls saved in our neighborhood and city.

*Serving what God is doing in our home church. We have a beginning touch of revival there, praise the Lord!

*Helping young believers be grounded in God's Word.

*Encouraging and mentoring those who are called to full time ministry and missions.

Please pray for our children and their spouses...

Jay and Lana, Jeff and Jermaine, and Jen. It's great to be friends with our children, and our daughters in law. We are proud of all of them, and carry them closer in our hearts than anything else except the Lord. Thanks for praying God's blessings over them, as you pray for us.

We thank you and bless you in Jesus' Wonderful Name!

We remain indebted to each of you who pray for us and give to the support of our ministry. Twenty- six years of full time ministry has left us desperately dependent on the Lord and His people. And we're glad about it! As long as He enables us, we will continue to serve Him and to pursue that to which He has called us. You are a big part of His enabling grace in our lives. The shield of the Lord through the prayer of our friends is a great gift and an absolute necessity for us. The financial support that comes from those of you who are able and led to give to us is received gratefully as from the Lord. Thank you for your help.

May the grace and mercy of God overflow in your life. May His Presence become stronger and more compelling, pulling you closer to Himself until all that matters to you is pleasing Him, loving Him, and serving Him. Since you are in Christ, and under His blood...you are blessed!

With love,

John and Jackie