



Dear friends,

Hello once again!

I am sitting in my office looking out on the two foot deep snow in our back yard, snow untouched by humanity. The cloudless day makes it a very beautiful scene. Only a rabbit trail breaks the surface, used by the he or she living under our neighbor's tool shed. For some reason, the area under our deck is its nightly destination; perhaps it's the only place in this rabbit's winter world where dirt and rocks can be seen and touched.

Years back, I would not have seen untouched snow back there. It would have been crisscrossed with boy and girl trails, and serve as a winter dog outhouse for Kiwi, the edgy English cocker spaniel. But...the boys and girl are grown now, and Kiwi is in heaven -- though I personally don't think he deserves to be there.

Come to think of it, this untouched backyard snowscene looks a little TOO tidy. I know just what it needs. A grandchild. (*Just a little humor, Jay and Jeff...Heh, heh.*)

The last few weeks we have been trying to set in order many things. Thanks to two donors, I have been transforming our "headquarters" from a one laptop computer center to one containing two more computers, a fax machine, a laser printer, and a scanner! Praise the Lord!

It's been a long time since Jackie had time to get into closets and cupboards to reorganize her house. She is into this right now, up to her neck -- and she loves it. If she could put every item in her world into a neat plastic box and label it, I think she would. Thank God that Target store has no man-size plastic boxes!

Oh, no! Jackie just said the store does carry a man-size box! I think I am about to be filed on a shelf somewhere with an appropriate label.

School of Prayer, winter quarter...

Our theme for the quarter is "Entering the Ministry of Intercession". The forty-some students who have carried on from the fall are an unusual grouping of "prayer sensitive" people -- serious in their pursuit of God and quick in their response to praying. It is a great pleasure to teach such people. Easily led into worship, and with deep desire to come close to God, the spirit of prayer comes on them at the slightest stimulation. Twice we have come late to the morning class. We found them praying. Our burden in this class is that we actually ENTER into intercession, not only teach about the process. It has been said that prayer is "better caught than taught".

"Lord, give us a 'Herrnhut' in the Twin Cities..."

In teaching these people from various Twin Cities churches, I have found a renewed vision and hope to see the Twin Cities "house of prayer for all nations" come into being. Will you believe God with us for this to happen? A vision for this was born in our hearts many years ago, yet to be fulfilled.

A house of prayer is not primarily a location or a building with that name or purpose. It is primarily the churches of the city cooperatively carrying out the unceasing task of intercessory prayer -- for the city, the nation, and the world. Though a literal center of prayer is needed for this city-wide ministry, the task of that center is to encourage and assist the churches to become the Lord's house of prayer for all nations.

I have found a great inspiration for the kind of prayer life needed in our city by learning about the spirit of the Moravian movement of the 1700's. The Moravians became the first modern missionary movement to the nations. This movement was born in prayer. Fleeing religious persecution in their homeland, a band of Moravian families were given sanctuary by Count Zinzendorf on his large estate. Though weary and divided among themselves, revival fell on them. Soon they were a united, fervent body of believers, with high expectancy of what God could do through them. A prayer meeting began among them, soon organized into a twenty four hour a day unceasing prayer watch. The name of the place became Herrnhut, literally meaning "Watch of the Lord". This prayer meeting went on for more than one hundred years nonstop, twenty four hours a day! Out of it came a spirit of sacrifice and missions that sent groups of Moravian young people and families to the ends of the earth, with their belongings packed in their coffins as a mark of their commitment. In this spirit, two young men sold themselves as slaves to gain entrance to an island of slaves, so that they might have the privilege of giving them the gospel. As they left the shore of home with their belongings in their coffins, they shouted back to their weeping loved ones the words that became the cry of this Moravian movement: "MAY THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN RECEIVE THE REWARD OF HIS SUFFERINGS!"

It was decades later that the rest of the Church of Jesus Christ began to awaken to the call to the peoples of the world. Many believe that Herrnhut, the one hundred year Watch of the Lord, was the spiritual birthplace of modern missions.

Recently our friend Jim Goll, prophet and intercessor, has taken intercession teams to Herrnhut and prayed for the restoration of the Watch of the Lord in our generation. Mighty rushing winds came over them in the midst of a still day as they travailed for this spirit to be reborn all over the world. In a vision Jim saw a map with 120 cities lit up. He then was shown that these cities would become new locations for the Watch of the Lord -- 120 "Herrnhuts", 120 centers of unceasing intercession, 120 true expressions of the Lord's house of prayer for all nations. Our Twin Cities were seen as one of those locations on the visionary map.

I believe, through this kind of prophetic input and the confirmation of others, that the Lord is more than ready to bring about in the Twin Cities a cooperative, persistent, united, anointed, strategic, and unceasing Watch of the Lord -- a house of prayer for all nations among our 2000 local churches!

Will you pray with us for this divine release of the house of prayer among us? Pray also for such a thing to happen where you are!

An administrative assistant for Prayer International!

For some time we have needed another person to help us administratively -- maintaining financial records, handling mailings, help with outreach coordination, etc. We have found just the person. She happens to be living in our house -- our daughter, Jen! Though she is only able to work as part time staff, it is sufficient for now. Her experience and office skills match our needs very well, and of course, she has a missionary heart!

She needs to receive income for this, equivalent to a secular part time job; so, we are believing the Lord to bring in financial support for her. Will you agree with us in faith and prayer for this need? (about \$500 per month during the school term, at least double that in the summer.) Perhaps you would like to give to her ministry as administrative assistant for Prayer International. You may indicate this on the enclosed card.

Team to Krivoy Rog, Ukraine, leaving March 13...

Plans are in place for us to return to Ukraine for the first pastors' conference to be held there. It will draw pastors from the twenty churches that have been started there in the last two years, plus pastors of young churches from other parts of Ukraine. Perhaps one hundred will be there, by God's grace.

We are a team of six: Jackie and myself; Pastor Jeff and Cheryl Orluck from Northwest Christian Fellowship; Dr. Bev Ricker, and hopefully her daughter Natalie -- who speaks Russian. We are all believing God for our travel expenses to come in, so please pray for us and the team.

Beyond our travel needs, we are wanting to bring offerings for the churches in Krivoy Rog, for three purposes:

1. Funds to help pastors who attend the conference, most of whom have hardly enough to live on. \$50 will cover the travel and food expense for a pastor coming to the conference.

2. Bibles for believers. The supply there is gone. We helped baptize 70 new believers in November. Every couple of months a similar number are baptized. There were no New Testaments available for them, much less Bibles. This need is increasing, with the harvest of souls continuing. The present need among the Krivoy Rog churches and the other churches who will be represented at the conference may be several thousand Bibles. We can get them supplied from Moscow for less than \$2 each.

3. Antibiotics and pain relievers for the hospital we visited in November, which is, in the words of its head nurse, "a hospital without food or medicine". Indeed this is true. Dr. Bev has a source for basic medicines at a greatly reduced rate. We can get a large amount of medicine into a suitcase!

If you desire to help with any of these need, please respond with the enclosed card.

Looking ahead...

On return from Ukraine, we will conduct the third quarter of the School of Prayer, with the theme "Becoming Prayer Leaders". Pray that the Lord will use us this quarter to help release and encourage new leaders of prayer groups and prayer ministries, as well as strengthen those who are already leaders in prayer. There is a great need for prayer leaders -- those who can get others praying! *Would you join us, if you live near?*

In June we are hoping to see a team go to far eastern Russia, to the sea port city of Vladivostock. (Look on a map north of Japan!) In that city, Tanya and Sergei are pastoring a young church among university students. Tanya was Jen's first language tutor during her time in Perm, Russia last year. She became a close friend and Jen participated in their wedding. Now they are seven or eight time zones away from their home in Perm, leading this young ministry. Jen and I would lead this team and hope to have musicians and singers with us. We want to assist in evangelism while there and desire encourage this young couple and their church. *Do you want to go?*

August will find us in Indonesia among the Chantik people, leading the Chantik Prayer Summit. By God's grace more than twelve prayer teams from almost as many nations will gather to intercede for a divine breakthrough among this Muslim people of nearly four million -- a people without the gospel or even one church in their culture.

September may find Jackie in northeast Siberia! She has been invited to go as a nurse to assist Dr. Bev Ricker in running a pediatric clinic for a month in an unreached and needy city. Flying to Anchorage, Alaska, they would travel by bush plane across the Bering Straits to their appointed destination. This outreach is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse.

A Hearty Thanks...

Jackie and I thank you again for your concern and your prayer, and want to assure you again that you are a Lifeline for us, and a spiritual shield. We know it is God Himself that is the substance of that covering and shield, with the help of his angelic host. It is the prayers of the saints, however, that release and maintain the position of that covering. Thank you for your part in it.

To those who are able to support us financially, let us once again say with what honor and wonder we receive the support of the saints. Some very large sacrificial gifts have helped to carry us since returning from Ukraine. When any size gift comes, it is received with equal thanksgiving, and is seen as equally important to us and the Lord. To live and minister by the care of God and His people is a great privilege. It is not easy; we never seem to have extra to lay aside, and must look ahead with our eyes fastened to the face of God, expecting His faithfulness. ... And He is faithful. We thank you for your faithfulness also.

May the Lord's Presence be known in your days and your nights. May that Presence be your guide and your help at all times. May you live in that Presence more and more, staying and abiding in Jesus!

With Love,

John and Jackie

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

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