



## Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

October, 1997



Dear friends,

We greet you in Jesus' Wonderful Name! We hope you are believing that you are **blessed**, regardless of what you see.

We'd like you to meditate on a theme which is found through the whole Bible, perhaps the theme that actually weaves the Bible together from beginning to end. Each of us would do well to see this theme in the fabric of our own lives as well. It is called, "The Scarlet Thread", and you'll find it on the adjoining sheet.

*Ukraine outreach, December 5-17*

We are returning to Krivoy Rog for the seventh time to again encourage the thirteen new churches that are there. It has been a privilege and encouragement to minister in Ukraine, and we always come home feeling like we received more than we gave. Many of you have been part of this outreach over the last several years, in your giving. The new church building that will be dedicated while we are there is partially due to some of that giving. Many hundreds of new believers have Bibles thanks to your giving, and now many pastors have beautiful study Bibles as well! Medical assistance has been given to many, and some have shoes and coats because of your giving. We have probably not brought these churches much new revelation from God, but have been able to affirm to them that they are "on the right track". They have pioneered in a nontraditional way, and our task has been to be friends to them who say, "Yes, it is clear that God is leading you, and let us assure you that He is doing this in many other places. Keep on keeping on!"

Nothing is easier in Ukraine these days. A law which would remove the religious liberty for these churches to even exist is on the table of the legislature. Entrenched political and religious powers would rather cut off all their contact with Christians in other countries and shut them down. Please pray about this issue.

We have just learned that it is temporarily impossible for the Krivoy Rog churches to receive the humanitarian aid we have been gathering for the hospitals there, due to political pressure against the church and corruption in local city officials. Will you pray with us that God will make it possible for the people who are in desperate need of these medical supplies to actually get them?

Dr. Bev Ricker and Pastor Jeff Orluck (Jeff still needs further confirmation) will accompany us on this journey. As always, Jackie and I are looking to the Lord for the finances for this travel. Will you agree with us for the funds to come at the right time? Tickets must be paid for soon. Pray also that our visas will be approved.

*Some of our activities...*

Our school of prayer continues on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Jackie has prayer and Bible study with several women's groups each week. I am involved with two or more pastors prayer meetings each week. We also have started an Experiencing God Bible study for married couples, and have eight couples in our home each Sunday night. Other time is involved in serving the prayer movement in our area, working with other leaders to promote a higher level of training in intercession and spiritual warfare in churches and lives of prayer warriors. A plan to develop a prayer center to serve the region will continue. Pray for the Christian owners of a mansion in Minneapolis that is being sought as a location for this prayer center.

We know that we are to continue to invest part of our time in our home church, where the longing for revival is increasing, and where travailing prayer is beginning to take root. Our church has tasted of

God's glorious presence in many ways; it is making us hungrier for Him. The Lord is pressing us into more and more concern for the lost in our community. Pray for Church Upon The Rock to press deeper in this travailing prayer to know God's heart and to follow His leading into the harvest fields near and far.

*A little November travel...*

In mid November, I will attend the sixth consultation on the Chantik people, to be held in Denver. This will be attended by leaders of missions and churches who are targeting the Chantik People, and we have an ongoing responsibility for united intercession for this Muslim people group in Indonesia. Plans for future prayer summit activity will be part of this consultation.

Jackie will attend a Mahesh Chavda healing seminar in Atlanta, with Dr. Bev, while I am in Denver. Please pray for the Lord's protection and provision for these meetings.

*1998 is on the way!*

We are looking toward the new year with the ears and eyes of our heart listening for God's direction. We are considering a new course of teaching in the winter quarter of the School of Prayer, focusing on "The Intercession of Christ". Unless we know how Jesus Himself "stood in the gap" as the High Priest and Chief Intercessor, we will not succeed in our own intercessory prayer. He is the foundation.

We are also praying about starting to do three or four night mini schools of prayer, each school focusing on just one theme; i.e., "The Power of the Blood", "Anchoring in the Word", "Waiting on God", "Drawing from the Well Within", etc. Will you pray that the Lord will confirm for us if it is time for this to unfold? Sometimes we can have God's idea and miss His timing.

We have several parts of the world on our heart, and sense that there is some new ground to claim in international ministry in 1998. Please pray that we will see where the Lord is at work, and adjust our lives to participate with Him in that work.

In addition, I (John) have felt disobedient to the direction of the Spirit to press in to the ministry of writing and publishing. It is on my heart to produce a beginning series of small books or booklets that would each carry a theme important to the prayer life of the believer. I have asked for prayer about this in the past; I still need a breakthrough in this vision.

*A special prayer request...*

My laptop computer was ruined in Indonesia. Can you agree in prayer and faith with us for a Windows compatible laptop computer? It is needed in travel, and in the work of writing. Thanks.

*Thanks again!*

We send a great big thank you to all who pray for us, and those who are able to give financially. Last month we spoke of our personal financial crisis, and we want to report that it is beginning to turn around, and we give the Lord praise for that. We believe He will finish what He has started, and a special thanks to those of you who are praying for this need, and who have been able to support us. You are such a big blessing to us, we can never find words to express it.

*May the blessings of His blood covenant overtake you as you put your roots down in Him -- in His Word, in His cross, in His name, and in His blood!*

With love,

**John and Jackie**

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

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

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