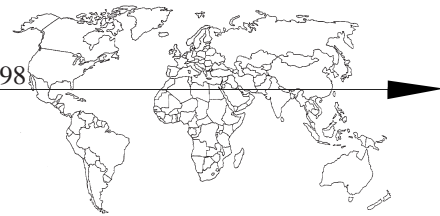




Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

Year's End, 1998



Dear friends,

We are sending this "end of the year" letter with a deep thanks in our hearts to each of you who support us in prayer, and to each of you who have been able to support us financially. We have never grown out of daily dependence on the Lord's provision for us. In fact, we hope to keep growing *into* this dependence more and more.

Jesus said, *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."* John 15:5

There is nothing more important to us in our ministry than bearing fruit for the Lord. Over the years, it has never been a problem for us to "stay busy". ALWAYS there is work to do, and we never seem to catch up. Our greatest concern, however, is not that we get "caught up". It is that we bear fruit for God's kingdom. **This is our most important prayer request for 1999** — *that we will bear fruit for God.*

It is clear from Jesus' words that this will only happen as we "abide in Him". To abide is to "dwell, to live, to make your home, to remain". It speaks of a practical life of trust and obedience, looking to Jesus in every circumstance, listening to Him at every turn, and following Him wherever He goes. Such a life is an unceasing denial of the flesh, and a continuous yielding to the Holy Spirit.

Please pray that we will live this way more and more — until, like a vine and its branches, we are so intertwined with Jesus that we begin to look as if we are really part of Him! We'll pray the same for you!

Our new ministry name...

You probably know by now that our ministry name has been changed to "Scarlet Thread Ministries". The name is taken from the story of Rahab, who protected the spies in the city of Jericho. She was instructed to tie a rope made of scarlet thread in her window. When judgment fell on the city, she and her family and all her stuff were safely protected -- even though her house was built on the wall that was doomed to fall!

Putting that scarlet thread in the window was similar to the instruction given to Israel on Passover night: *"Place some of the blood of the Passover lamb on the doorposts and lintel of your houses...and when I see the blood, I will pass over you."* Jesus is our Passover Lamb. Through our faith in Him, through the application of His name and blood, we can be protected, even in a time of judgment on the land.

The scarlet thread of redemption in Christ is weaved through the whole Bible. It must also be weaved into our minds, our hearts, our homes, our

plans, and our preaching. No, not really "it", but "HE" — Jesus Himself. He is the "fabric of our lives"!

As we have ministered over the years, we have repeatedly found ourselves leading people back to the foundation of their faith. That process has shown us more and more the reality of I Corinthians 3:11: *"For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."* He is our foundation. His person, His anointing, His work of redemption, and all the Word concerning Him: He is the Rock.

Whatever we have done in ministry, wherever we have gone, our main work has been to lay the foundation of Jesus Christ and to teach others to apply His atonement, death, and resurrection in their daily lives. It is what we give to everyone -- be they prayer warriors, missionaries, preachers, parents or students.

Scarlet Thread dreams...

We have many "scarlet thread dreams" for the days ahead. If Jesus tarries in His coming, the next few years will be the greatest opportunity in history for the harvesting of souls for heaven. We want to be among the harvesters -- don't you? Our desire is to see Jesus proclaimed clearly and completely to as many people as possible, and to see as many new converts as possible grow up into Christ.

We desire to multiply our ministry to the nations. We have been praying and dreaming over the whole world. Whenever we look at any one of the continents, we feel that we will have some involvement there. It is as if our mission travels and mission experience have been for learning, preparation for what is to come, and it's bigger than us. Good! **More prayer, please!**

We want to see more prayer missions, more evangelistic missions, more mercy missions, more church planting missions, more missions for discipling of people from many nations into the full redemption of Christ! We want this to happen in our own city and country, as well as to the ends of the earth!

And shall we be foolish enough to want even more?

Consider this...if you're going to dream a dream that rises out of what Jesus has accomplished through His blood, it just HAS to be a Big, Big Dream!

We wonder, how could these things be, Lord? Our years are passing quickly! But then we heard it said, "When you're 'over the hill' you pick up speed!" Furthermore, a prophetic ministry spoke over us last year, saying that everything *would* begin to speed up in our lives! It appears that if even some of our dreams are from God, things are going to happen more quickly!

Beyond our future days being very busy, however, we think the real solution is this: many of our dreams will happen by *helping others to fulfill their dreams* of proclaiming Christ near and far!

Do you have such an unfulfilled dream? Do you know someone, young or old, that does? Let's help!

We are seeing a little of that happen now, as we send teams each month to Ukraine. This kind of missionary traffic is in our hearts for other nations and places as well! Some has happened in the past. By God's grace, much more will happen in the future. **Please pray** with us that God will use us to help many others become fruitful in ministry and missions!

Pray Minnesota...

We are beginning to see the fulfillment of a vision for cooperative intercessory prayer in our city and state. Back in August of 1987 I (John) was awakened at 2 a.m. in the middle such a vision: I saw (with my spiritual eyes) a full time center of prayer working with churches all over Minnesota. Only now is this becoming possible. In October, 1999, an event will be held called "Pray Minnesota", with representatives invited from every community in the state. A strong team of prayer ministries now exists, called the Minnesota Prayer Coalition. This fellowship of prayer ministries has the capacity to coordinate ongoing prayer on a statewide level. We are watching the vision we have carried in our hearts becoming a reality.

We were never called to do this ourselves, but to partner with all of those whom God is using to bring about this statewide prayer effort. As a member ministry of the Minnesota Prayer Coalition, we will continue to help in any way we can to see the church of Jesus Christ in Minnesota carrying out, in the words of Andrew Murray, *"her highest privilege and greatest responsibility -- intercessory prayer"*. **Please pray** that the church in Minnesota will find her strong prayer voice!

Ukraine...

Outreach to Krivoy Rog Jan. 22 - Feb. 7.

I (John) will go, accompanied by Ken Maxwell, who pastors a church in St. Paul. It appears that Jackie will stay home this time. **Please pray** for our safety, health and strength, and anointing on our ministry in the churches and Bible School. The travel funds are still needed, very soon. Hallelujah!

The new Bible School is going strong. Nearly 30 new home groups have been started there this fall, using Bible School students! Praise the Lord! **Continue to pray** with us for the finances to be provided to run the Bible School and feed the students. (\$1000 per month) God has been providing each month!

YWAM Twin Cities...

In February Jackie and I will teach at the beautiful new YWAM base in Rockford, Minnesota in their first Discipleship Training School. It is great to see a YWAM ministry finally getting started with a focus on the Twin Cities! Rockford is just 40 minutes from downtown Minneapolis. We have known (and prayed for many years) that a YWAM base would start here to mobilize many more people into missions. We rejoice to see it becoming a reality! May God bless David Clark and the team as they begin training a new generation to "Know God and Make Him Known"! (YWAM's motto) **Please pray** for this new ministry.

To Asia in March: the Chantik...

In March, the Lord willing, we will be in Asia with Rob and Ria, our missionary friends who work among the Chantik, four million unreached Muslims. Nearly forty other workers now reside among these people, all looking to Rob and Ria as the senior missionaries. Of course, all of these people must have other purposes for being there (such as teaching, business, etc.) and are not known there as missionaries, due to the strict Islamic environment.

We will go there to give pastoral support to Rob and Ria and the other workers, and seek the Lord with them concerning future projects. You may remember that we coordinated, with Rob and Ria, the Chantik Prayer Summit in August of '97, which drew teams there from about 10 countries. Many wonderful results have come since then, especially the multiplication of workers nearly threefold! Now we are asking, "Lord, is the time near for another prayer summit?" **Please pray.**

Krivoy Rog Bible School graduation, May 1999...

By God's grace we will be back in Ukraine for the first Bible School graduation! Would you like to join us? It will be a celebration, and a launching time for new ministries, church planters, evangelists, etc.!

Our personal need...

Though the Lord knows about our specific financial needs, we do at times also ask you to pray for this, and we know He so often provides through some of you.

This is one of those times. We are in need of a large miracle in our personal financial needs.

He remains Jehovah Jireh! **Thank you for praying with us.** And again, thanks for giving as you are led and enabled by the Lord.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

With love,

John and Jackie

Remember: for tax purposes, write checks to "Scarlet Thread Ministries"

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