



Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

February 16, 2000



Dear friends,

We greet you again in the name of Jesus! The Lord is wonderful, isn't He?

A great adventure for Jackie...

This time I (John) am at home writing this letter, and Jackie has left for Europe! An unexpected blessing came for her to be able to accompany her friend Dr. Bev, and also another friend of Bev's, on a trip to Holland, Finland and Lithuania. Not a ministry trip, but an adventure in culture and music! (Bev paid for most of Jackie's expenses! Thanks, Bev!) So, the three of them are up to their ears in museums, operas and ballets! Jackie will be back home on March 4. I know it will be a great time for Jackie. Keep her in prayer. (me and the cats, too.) Though it's not a mission trip, prayer is still important!

So, I have the privilege of time to catch up with myself in study, prayer, ministry and a some house maintenance. Right now I'm preparing for the School of Prayer starting next week, Tuesday Feb. 22. (Jackie will miss the first two weeks.)

With Jesus in the school of prayer...

The past years of encouraging prayer warriors has shown us the deep need to be rooted and grounded in Christ Himself – in everything — and certainly in prayer. We've seen too much human effort in prayer. Prayer may be work, but it is His work. It is the prayer life of Christ in us – empowered by the Spirit. We find it peculiar that even the best of prayer leaders and the best of books on prayer frequently assume the foundation of life in Christ but don't actually lay that foundation. It would be great if all believers were really rooted in Christ, His person, His redemption, and His present ministry of intercession. But such may not be the case.

I sometimes wonder if the gospel of Jesus Christ is actually preached in many pulpits. When life gets tough, too many of us have trouble finding the Rock to stand on. It should not be so. It is why believers need to be well grounded in the "scarlet thread" of the Bible, the great story of our redemption in Christ, the grand and glorious theme that goes from Genesis to Revelation. The name and blood of Jesus need to be more than familiar concepts. They must be more real to us than anything else that exists!

The foundation for faith and prayer is in our hidden life WITH Christ, and IN Christ. It is being rooted in Him, and He rooted in us. That's what makes the difference. God never intended for us to try to produce anything of ourselves – including prayer. We don't have a prayer life of our own. We have nothing apart from Him. To abide in Him, and He in us...is everything. It is the prayer life of Christ Himself inside of us. Are we not "in Christ" and "Christ in us"?

All that He accomplished in His sacrifice has now moved on into His heavenly life, where He lives "forever to make intercession". The life of Christ IS prayer life. It takes up all His time in heaven, and it is His life inside of us. It is His constant and permanent ministry. To know Him is to be a praying Christian. Everything else comes from that prayer fountain.

The result of such Christ-life is to be able to put into practice what Jesus taught on prayer. It is the kind of prayer life Jesus lived Himself and taught so simply. We need to be with Christ in His school of prayer. No greater promises exist than the ones that Jesus declared about prayer. "Ask and you shall receive..." "Ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you..." "Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full..." No clearer lessons are there than Christ's lessons on prayer. And no more

important activity could there be than prayer for the Body of Christ. How could there be if Jesus Himself, the Head of the Body, is "living forever to make intercession"?

His intercession is not only in heaven, for Christ is within us. His prayer life flows through us by the Holy Spirit and back to the Father. This prayer life is the life of the New Covenant. It is the life "hidden with Christ in God". If the Church were involved as she ought to be with Christ in His intercession, the world would certainly be a better place! There would be more miracles, and more of "His will being done on earth as it is in heaven"!

Two things are needed for a good foundation in prayer:

- 1) ...to know by revelation the "finished" work of Christ in His great redemption.
- 2) ...to participate in His "unfinished" work -- His unceasing intercessory life, empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is Christ's intercession, as mediator of the New Covenant, that brings down into human experience the heavenly benefits and victories won by His redemption.

The world has yet to see the Church standing fully in her appointed place of prayer, being the body of the One who always lives to make intercession. When we "grow up into the Head" (Ephesians 4) will we not be with Him in the place of prayer – where He is?

Please pray for this school of prayer...

Would you pray for us as we attempt to teach this prayer life to others? We again feel like beginners ourselves in prayer. It is with a fresh sense of personal need and a deep longing to be closer to Jesus, that we once again begin a school of prayer. Thanks for standing with us.

It seems more true to us than ever before: there is no foundation but Christ. If the Lord can help some people through this school to find a firmer foundation on "Christ the Solid Rock", it will be a fruitful. If we all become more abandoned to the prayer life of Christ and the Holy Spirit within us, it will be time well spent. Only God can accomplish this, so thanks for praying for us and for those who come.

Thank you for praying and supporting us...

As always, we experience the blessing of your prayer support and are deeply appreciative for such love. As always, we depend on the Lord and His friends for our financial supply. Every month still takes a miracle! Thank you for responding as the Lord leads you.

It is significant to us that God blessed Jackie with this European cultural adventure at a time when we are actually in a personal deficit! It is a sign of blessings to come, we believe. Often He gives special blessings right at a time of great need to show us His love! Perhaps you have experienced this as well. We are believing for the Lord to supply everything, and thank you for agreeing with us in faith and prayer. And we trust Him to bless you in every way!

We are praying for your secret life with God...

May the Lord bless your hidden life. May your time alone be a life with God. May your desire for God increase and keep drawing you away to Him. May His presence be your greatest joy and your deepest source of relaxation and enjoyment. May you find your highest pleasure in being with Him. May your personal fulfillment come in seeing His Will be done, and His Kingdom come!

With love,

John and Jackie

"Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession." Ps. 2:8

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