



Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



March 17, 2000

Dear friends,

With appreciation for the Lord's goodness and with thanksgiving for our friends, we say hello to you once again!

Jackie returned from her European adventure safe and sound. We've decided life together is alot better than life apart!

Jay and Lana have bought a home near Bethel College and moved there with joy, immediately beginning to tear it apart inside for redecorating. They camped out with us for three months with all their things in storage.

Jen and Scott are enjoying married life. Jen will graduate from North Central Univeristy in May with a major in vocal performance. She has her Senior Recital on Thursday evening April 6, when she will sing a repertoire of classicm l pieces in five different languages! She must find her own audience. We've enclosed an invitation. If you are near, it would be great if you could come. It's not nice to perform to an empty auditorium!

Jeff and Jermaine are enjoying their new home in Gold Canyon, AZ and both working full time and both going to school. Jermaine recieves her master's degree in early May. We hope to be in Phoenix for that important event just before our next trip to Ukraine.

Prayer school update:

Thirty people from twelve churches are in our "Christ The Rock" school. We're having a great time in the classroom getting to the root of Jesus Himself. It's about prayer, but it really is about our whole life.

Enclosed is a brochure on the next school. You'll notice that prayer isn't mentioned in it. A little sly on our part, perhaps. The secret is...it's still about prayer. We're calling it "Getting Along With God." We hope it might draw in some who don't see themselves as "prayer people". It's also for "old warriors" who need to get re-rooted in the basics. Our desire is that prayer and intercession not

be seen as a special calling for a select few. Prayer and intercession is the special calling of every Christian! The Jesus who is inside of us is the same one who is in heaven. That heavenly Jesus "lives forever to intercede...". Is He a different Jesus inside of us? I don't think so! The Holy Spirit is also a intercessor. If we are filled with the Spirit, are we not also filled with intercession? (Jesus and the Holy Spirit agree on this!) The inescapable truth is this: every Christian has a prayer life. We just need to yield to His life within us! His life IS prayer life!

Well, before I preach any more to you, we'd like to ask you to pray for us in these classes. We love to teach, but if there is no anointing from God we will accomplish nothing.

Ukraine:

The work in Krivoy Rog is going strong, and many more people are coming to Jesus. Pastor Gregori reports that the sanctuary is full again since January, when it was re-opened to hold 1300, twice the capacity it had when it was finished only two years ago. Later this spring it will hold 1800 when the balcony is finished.

Minister friends continue to go there each month to share the teaching load in the Bible School and preach in the daughter churches. We thank the Lord for the willingness of pastors and missionaries to help with the work of training new leaders. Leadership is the crying need where so many are deciding to follow Jesus. Who will pastor all the new converts?

Ukraine opportunities for giving:

1. *Daily feeding of Bible School students and workers: about \$1000 per month needed.*

80 students, plus teachers, plus homeless people and workers on building construction amounts to 120 or more being fed each day. As you may remember, for some this is the only meal they eat in a day. Many are very, very poor. It costs perhaps \$1000 each

month to feed these people. We have not promised the Ukrainians to provide this, but we know it is a huge need for them, and they have no way to meet the need themselves. Until January, we saw that need met through friends of our ministry each month. Since then, only a small portion of the amount has come in.

2. *Summer children's camps: sponsor at least 300 children at \$20 each, plus craft and recreation supplies.*

Last summer several hundred children were ministered to in six weeks of camps that were run in facilities that none of us probably could have tolerated. No electricity, no running water, no stoves. Cooking was over an open fire. Half of them were unsaved, and almost all received Jesus during the camp! The only craft, teaching and recreation supplies were what some of our friends sent with teams last spring. All that is used up. Everything is needed.

The desire is to rent a better facility where the needs of the children can be adequately met. If each child was sponsored with \$20, they could hold camp in a decent place. This is needed for more than 300 children.

Many types of craft materials are needed. Soccer balls, basket balls, volley balls and nets, jump ropes, velcro balls and mitts, etc. are needed, as well as things for indoor activities such as board games and prizes. Any things donated need to be in new condition and well made, since they get heavy use.

No one except Scarlet Thread Ministries is helping with these needs. Thanks for believing with us that the Lord will provide, and for responding as he leads you.

Indonesia:

As you know, there has been great turmoil in Indonesia in the last year. In the province where our friends work, all the jails have been burned and the justice system is non-functional. Yet the Lord is blessing the work in the middle of many trials. New workers, especially from other parts of the country, are coming to serve the Lord with our friends. The breakdown of society has brought various

opportunities to serve the hurting communities and has made many people more hungry for the Lord.

We plan to go there in July for the purpose of encouraging the workers, giving some pastoral care where needed, and for onsite intercession. Please pray with us for confirmation of these travel plans. Perhaps you could join us. You could help us in prayer while there, and you would find it a true pleasure to be with these valiant servants of God and be among the Chantik people.

And for us...

We still need a miracle a month financially at home. Expected income from our home church and from friends who give regularly adds up to about 60% of our monthly need. A month without unexpected income puts us on the edge, since we don't have a reserve to draw on. Since January we haven't seen these needed miracles. We are really on the edge! We can either panic or trust God. It's better to trust God. Thanks for your help, however the Lord leads you.

Concerning vision for this year, we also need wisdom from the Holy Spirit. "*A man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.*" Please pray with us for our steps to be ordered by the Lord, as we continue in the mix of local and international ministry. While desiring to launch into some new areas internationally and in our own city, we also want to maintain the commitments we have now. Our desire to make our time and energy count for what is best, *continually adjusting our lives to join the Lord where He is at work.* All of which is to say, thanks for praying.

Blessings and more blessings to you...

Jesus took your curse. That means that God's will is to bless you. It's also His will to bless the nations, to bless "all the families of the earth"! That's a great big bunch of blessing yet to come! May God enlarge your heart and ours to receive much more blessing and give much more away! You are blessed to be a blessing!

With love,

John and Jackie