



Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



May 29, 2000
...in Ukraine

Dear friends,

Jackie and I greet you from Krivoy Rog in the Wonderful Name of Jesus! Yes, we are here, thanks to the Lord and to thirty-three families and individuals who gave so that we could go! (And others who prayed!!!)

It was amazing how the Lord supplied in the few days before we left, some of it in the last hours. Thank you for praying, and to those of you who gave financially, may the Lord bless you back many times over!

SOME TESTIMONY FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT...

As most of you know, we are always trusting the Lord for our personal needs as well as for mission outreaches. In other words, a normal month for us requires unexpected provision, and a normal week brings adventures in trusting God that are like treasures to us as we watch the Lord supply. Gifts large and small are received with equal appreciation. Sometimes the smallest, we know, are very important because they are given with much love and prayer. And we always need big ones too! We also know some of you pray for us but are unable to give, and for us that is a blessing!

We often face a crisis in our personal finances at the same time that we are scheduled for missionary travel. Perhaps it is a kind of spiritual warfare. This was one of those times. We needed a personal financial release as big as the one needed for travel to Ukraine. Three weeks before departure date, we decided to 'sow the seed for a miracle' by giving what would be the tithe of the entire amount needed for the trip and for our personal expenses that had to be paid before we left. It took all we had in the bank to sow this seed. We have learned that when the Holy Spirit leads, we must tithe according to our need....as a seed! Just before we left for the airport I realized that the entire amount had come in, from thirty-three families and individuals.

Here is one story in this adventure: It was morning, just two days until we were to leave. Much money had come in already, but we needed more. One of our prayer partners came to our door with a gift of fifteen dollars. We knew this was a very large gift for her. She sends us a small amount faithfully each month — a little for us, and some for the Bible School here in Ukraine. When her gift arrives each month, it is as significant to us as other much larger amounts, because her faith and love and prayer are attached to it! That morning, with her check for fifteen dollars, she left a note: 'May the Lord multiply this one hundred times!' I realized that this was what had to happen in the next twenty four hours!

That same morning, I was sitting at my desk asking God what to do next. The phone rang. An acquaintance who gets our

prayer letter said the Lord spoke to her that very morning to bring a check to us for one thousand dollars. Hallelujah! A few hours passed. The phone rang again. A friend said she would be bringing five hundred dollars. Did you do the arithmetic? The fifteen dollar gift had indeed multiplied one hundred times in a day!

DEPARTURE...

Once we got to the airport in Minneapolis, we had some trouble. There were bad storms in Chicago where we were to fly first in order to get our international flight to Amsterdam. In fact, there were storms throughout the eastern USA, and flights all over were being cancelled. It became impossible to fly until the next day. Thankfully we were scheduled for a day in Amsterdam, so Jackie and I were still able to get to Krivoy Rog on time, but Judy and Marcia were delayed for a day in Amsterdam due to the fact they were flying into Ukraine on a different airline, and the storms caused misconnections. (Long story.) But we all finally arrived safely, and jumped right into a busy schedule of teaching and ministry.

WE ARE JOYFULLY BUSY!

In addition to mornings and afternoons in the Bible School, we have been in church gatherings and we ministered in a three day youth conference at the mother church. We have prayed with more than one hundred people to be saved, and with many to be filled with the Spirit. Hundreds have been prayed with for healing and restoration in their families. As usual, many come asking for prayer for drug addicted and alcoholic family members, some of whom are in prison.

We have heard many testimonies of people being healed of serious sicknesses and many other answers to prayer. (not just our prayers. The prayers of the churches here.) It is evident that God's great harvest in this part of the world is continuing strong and it is a privilege to serve such a great harvest.

BLESSINGS FOR THE CHURCH HERE...

Last Friday two significant blessings came to the church here. A shipment of 40,000 books and mini-books from Kenneth Copeland Ministries arrived. They have an office and publishing house in western Ukraine. There are twenty different titles by Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland and Gloria Copeland. These were given by Copeland Ministries without charge. This is a great blessing to these churches where there are so many new believers who need good foundations.

The other blessing was from the city officials. They have

decided to donate a property to the church which is pastored by Gregori's wife Galena. It is a school building with perhaps thirty classrooms on three or more acres of wooded ground. Unoccupied for ten years, it needs major work but is a real miracle to the church! Few churches in Ukraine have their own buildings. This property, with major remodeling, can house a large church plus be a training center. Praise the Lord! Please pray with us that God will release the finances and workers for them to be able to occupy this property before winter arrives.

PLANTING NEW CHURCHES...

The vision for planting new churches is now on the 'front burner' in our discussions and prayer with pastor Gregori. The vision is to plant at least seven new churches this year. Two of them are now in the process of starting.

In addition to planting new churches in this city of Krivoy Rog, a city of one million people, we are now looking at starting a new 'mother' church in Dnepropetrovsk, a city with two million people - a three hour drive from here. Two million people and only a handful of existing churches. (The Twin Cities has 2000 churches among two million people!) Please pray with us as we help them identify the church planters among them, and as we help them plan for this expansion.

The best way to evangelize the lost is to plant new churches. It is not enough to lead them to the Lord. They need a spiritual family. Pray for courage and anointing among the Bible school students to launch out as church planters, as well as for some of the more seasoned leaders and pastors who will turn over their present posts to others and lead new churches.

MISSIONARY TRAFFIC...

By the time we return here in October, teams from Belgium, England, Germany, and the USA will have come. It is a joy to see the body of Christ work together to serve this Ukrainian harvest. The secret is that everyone who comes here receives so much life here that they want to come back and they tell others about it, and then they want to come. So it is a light and joyous duty for us to help direct this missionary traffic.

MORE FREEDOM FOR MISSIONS HERE?

We and the Ukrainians are lifting our eyes to see harvest fields not only in other needy cities of Ukraine but farther east into central Asia. It is our conviction that God will use the Ukrainian church to spiritually feed many nations in the years ahead. God is keeping freedom here, and there are surprising signs that the freedom may increase!

Decades old checkpoints between regions in the country have just been removed. Until now you had to stop at these regional borders in the country and show documents and have your vehicles searched, etc. This has been abandoned. There are even rumors that the complicated way for us foreigners to

get visas will be simplified, at least for Americans and those from other western nations coming into Ukraine. We may be able to arrive in Ukraine without visas and just get them at the airport like we can in other western European nations. This law is waiting for president Kuchma to sign. This would be a miracle! Such possible freedom is God's louder call to Westerners to help these 'on fire' Ukrainians reach their own nation and help them get ready for greatly increased world wide missions.

Please pray that this rumored increased liberty in Ukraine will be put into law, and that we in the West will do all we can to use such freedom to serve the Lord's harvest in this nation.

HOW CAN WE SAY THANKS?

How can Jackie and I ever say thank you enough for praying for us and supporting us in the ministry God has given to us? Thanks is not enough, and we know that you are supporting us in prayer and giving as unto the Lord. He is the great reward for us all!

HEARING GOD'S HEART FOR THE FUTURE...

We anticipate being in the Twin Cities for a large part of the summer, exploring the harvest fields there and letting the Holy Spirit prepare us for what may be new doors of ministry ahead. Apart from serving this Ukrainian harvest, we have very limited understanding of what these new doors may be. We will keep you informed of what comes clear for us as the summer progresses.

By God's grace we hope to put Indonesia, Malaysia, Ukraine, and Argentina into one big travel itinerary from mid September to mid November. It is possible for you to join us for a two week piece of that journey. Contact us if the Lord is leading you to accompany us.

WE ARE ALL BLESSED TO BLESS THE WORLD...

God blesses His people so that they can bless the nations. 'The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us; God blesses us that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.' Psalms 67:5,6

With love,

JOHN AND JACKIE

p.s. from Jackie: 'As I was editing this letter in pastor Gregori's office/room, we were interrupted constantly by people coming in wanting prayer or with other needs. Such is the time spent at this church teeming with life, people coming and going all the time. Construction workers, homeless, people coming to get saved, musicians practicing, floors being mopped, toilets being cleaned, booklets being prepared for evangelism, etc.' It's a busy place!