



Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

October 11, 2001



Dear friends,

Tomorrow, Friday the 12th, we leave for Ukraine. It seemed good to send this letter to give thanks to the Lord and to you and ask for some extra prayer as we go!

Through the sacrificial giving of several people (one who gave a large gift anonymously) we are able to go. (The majority of it arriving in the last three days.) With some gifts designated for travel, others for our personal support, we were able to set everything in order. Thank you Lord! And thank you who have given! We are still looking for funds for feeding the Bible School this month and for the church pharmacy. Gifts mailed as usual can catch up with us, since funds can be transferred electronically to the church in Ukraine.

We praise the Lord that money has been given for the opening of two new churches in Kharkov, Ukraine, including the purchase of two sound systems, keyboards, and four months salary for the church planting pastors and their families who have moved there from Krivoy Rog (several hundred kilometers away). A third family is soon to join them, to open a third church. More dollars are needed to support these and other church planters, especially during the first year of life in their new churches. We also give the Lord thanks that feeding of prisoners can continue for several months from the generous donations of our friends. We are trusting that gifts will also keep coming for this need.

We greatly look forward to being with the churches, the Bible School and the pastors. Over the years we have left part of our heart in Ukraine, so that even though this is a missionary journey, in some ways it feels like going home. (In spite of the fact that we still have not learned much of the language!)

Forty five new full time students are in the first year of the Bible College. Thirty more are in the second and third year classes. (Plus many more in the evening classes.) Every Friday afternoon the whole student body goes out together on the streets for evangelism -- praising the Lord, praying up a storm, and sharing the gospel to all who will listen. We will teach the firm foundation of Jesus Christ to the new students -- the blood covenant, who they are in Christ, their authority as believers, and how to live a life of faith, hope and love. (and whatever else the Holy Spirit brings at the time.) We will also spend as much time with the older students as we can. That will fill our week days.

The evenings and weekends will be filled with being in as many of the twenty seven churches as possible, and will include going to Kharkov for the opening of two churches. If possible, I will also visit one of the two new prison churches, where many salvations are taking place in the midst of hunger and hopelessness. In addition, we will have a conference with all the pastors, to encourage, teach and pray for them. (and we know they will encourage us as well!)

Travel itinerary:

Friday, Oct. 12: Leave Minneapolis at 3 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 13: Arrive in Kiev at 3 p.m. (That is 7 a.m. Mpls time) It is an eight hour flight to Amsterdam with four hours stopover there, then three hour flight to Kiev, then one or two hours getting through customs, then a six hour van ride to Krivoy Rog. *With prayer, passing through customs and immigration goes smoothly!*

We will take the same route home:

Tues., Oct. 30, leave Kiev at 3 p.m., with a forced overnight in Amsterdam due to airline scheduling.

Wed., Oct. 31: we arrive home at 1 p.m. by the wonderful grace of God.

It is with confidence in God's goodness and faithfulness that we leave. In the midst of what the enemies of God are doing in the world, God remains trustworthy! His Word remains unchangeable! Jesus remains the triumphant Lord! The Holy Spirit remains the Wonderful Comforter! The blood and name of Jesus remain supremely powerful! These things will never change. In fact, in the midst of increasing darkness, the greatest revival and harvest in history has begun!

Areas for prayer:

1. Fresh anointing on our spirits, our minds, our words and our hands as we minister in Ukraine.

2. Health and strength for our bodies, not only during our journey, but when we arrive home.

3. Safety in travel, remembering that the safest place to be is in His will. Jesus is our air and water filter, the Holy Spirit helps us fly to safety, and we are held securely in the arms of the Father.

4. Blessing and protection on our family and yours.

You are in a blood covenant with the Father through Jesus Christ. This means that:

1) All you have belongs to Him -- all your assets AND all your liabilities.

2) All He has is yours -- all His assets and...He has no liabilities! 1 Cor. 3:21-23

5. For many people to be saved in Ukraine through current evangelism and in the opening of the new churches.

6. For wisdom on how to have Bible college in the prisons.

7. For the wisdom of God as we return home -- looking ahead into the new year, that we will be obedient to His voice.

As always, we remain deeply grateful for your friendship, prayer and support. We give praise to the Lord "from whom all blessings flow", and we are grateful that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

With love,

John and Jackie