



Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

September 4, 2001



Dear friends,

We greet you once again in the glorious and wonderful name of Jesus!

Thanks for your friendship and for standing beside us in faith and prayer. Thanks for taking time to read our letters. We are blessed by the privilege of writing to you! Our summer here in Minnesota passed too quickly. September has arrived too soon, it seems. (We hoped to get more done on the home front than what we did.)

Our office...some progress...

We've been updating our office. Mission travel makes it necessary to have both a mobile office and home base office. Thank God for laptop computers and email! Our computers had become too outdated for what we need. With the help of our friend Tom Davidson we were able to get a new office computer very inexpensively, expand the abilities of my laptop, and get new versions of software. I was able to do a "Powerpoint" photo presentation of the Ukraine work for the first time in our home church, using their digital projector. This was a technological breakthrough for me! I am (slowly) preparing for a web site of devotional, teaching, and mission resources, and which will allow people to see a photo journal of the expanding work in Ukraine.

Our being behind in the writing ministry has delayed the web site somewhat, since it's not really ready to go online until we finish a few more things. You'll notice on the enclosed return form, that our latest book, Sir, We Wish To See Jesus is delayed, but it's coming! That's evidence of our being behind, so please pray that we can catch up. We also need some further help in web site design.

Of course, the enemy of our souls resists all new advances in spreading the gospel, so he probably is adding some resistance. But "greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world." The prayer ministry of friends helps greatly in neutralizing the enemy's spiritual resistance!

Jackie now has her own laptop computer, thanks to our missionary friend Judi Krupa who is now in China. Judi was blessed with a new one and passed her old one to Jackie. Thanks, Judi! Jackie is finally becoming computer literate. She has needed one for at least two reasons. She is an avid Bible student, and would need a large trunk to carry all the Bibles and reference books she likes to use. With Tom Davidson's help her older laptop now has a large hard disk that can hold hundreds of books.

The other reason she had been trusting God for this laptop is her need to carry medical reference books when we travel, since she ends up in situations where people are asking for medical advice. (Jackie is an R.N.) Medical books are as heavy as Bible study books. She loves her new digital Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy, with great colored pictures of ugly skin diseases and things!

Our yard...it will have to wait...

We had hoped to do major relandscaping and replanting of our lawn, gardens and bushes this summer. It hasn't happened. (It has seemed more possible to believe God for missions than for flowers and bushes and retaining walls.) Unfortunately this lack is visible to all who come near our house. We thank the Lord for the blessing from one friend -- who mowed our grass all of May, June and July for us. Other friends blessed us with flowers and plants when we arrived home from Ukraine in June. In the scheme of God's kingdom, grass and gardens seem low on the priority list, but as long as God has us living in an American suburb, we think it honors the Lord for our yard to look nice. The flowers that were given are very beautiful now, and help distract the view from the major work that will have to wait for another season.

Living in His Presence...

We've done some "Living in His Presence" events in area churches this spring and summer. We would like to continue to do these events in churches in between our missionary journeys. We teach how to remain in His presence, demonstrating from the Word and our lives, and also allow the Spirit to minister to people in their needs. Please agree with us in faith for continued open doors of ministry in churches.

Home meetings when we are at home...

We continue to have weekly house meetings in our living room. It is a joy for us to minister to those who come to our home every Sunday evening for worship, prayer and the Word. You are always welcome when we are in the USA!

Keeping in touch with our city...

We try to keep in touch with church leaders in our city, attend meetings of the ministers' association to which we belong, and attend city church events when possible. Several are in September and October, including "Just Give Me Jesus" with Ann Graham Lotz, Pray Minnesota, and an International Healing Conference. We are not ministering at any of these events, but we know that it's important to be part of what God is doing in our city, and to keep receiving -- not only giving to others. We try to maintain fellowship in our home church as well. (We hope you do the same.)

First calling...the secret place...

The primary thing, of highest priority, is to invest considerable time with God. Much of this, for me, is done in and around the city during the early hours of the day. I focus on everything from casting all care on the Lord and worshipping Him, to the city itself -- the government, the church, the schools, the business, and the lost. *We are all called to bless the city we live in, and pray for it.*

We have a family missionary heritage to preserve...

We have a unique project for which we need some help: we have in several large boxes a lifetime of the personal records of a pioneer missionary – Jackie's dad, Einar Mickelson. Forty years of daily diaries, correspondence, and other records. Few people, and few missionaries, have ever recorded their lives in so much detail.

Einar and Alice spent their lives in Borneo, Irian Jaya and the Philippines, working among unreached peoples in remote places. They had to be separated even from their children for the majority of those years, due to primitive conditions and war. Thousands of people will be in heaven because of their service and sacrifice (and the sacrifice of their children who grew up mostly without their missionary parents). Einar has been with the Lord for over thirty years. Alice is near ninety, living in a senior facility in Los Angeles. They were old generation pioneers who gave their lives to "reach the lost at any cost". These records of missionary adventure are a treasure and an education to anyone caring about reaching the unreached.

We want to transfer these records into the computer by scanning and typing. Eventually we hope it to become a Mickelson mission memorial web site -- a resource for their descendants and for future generations of missionaries. (till Jesus comes.) Would anyone like to volunteer for a bit of this task? Scanning pages into the computer requires no previous experience. Beyond that, simple data entry is needed. "Many hands make light work.". It would be a voluntary labor of love at this point.

Our ongoing need for you...

We continue to depend on friends who will lift up a shield of faith and prayer around us and our ministry. Like Aaron and Hur held up the arms of Moses during battle, we need others to support us. When Moses' arms grew weary and he let them down, Israel experienced defeat. When He held them up, Israel prevailed. We sometimes get tired like Moses. Will you speak our names to the Lord, pray as the Holy Spirit leads you, proclaim His good Word over us?

It is important to make proclamations of the truth and His blessing while praying, in addition to making requests to the Lord. The proclamation of the Word is the best way to do spiritual warfare. Jesus dealt with Satan by proclaiming the written Word. Proclaiming His Word puts into motion the very thing that His Word declares.

We invite you to proclaim the following Scriptures over your family and ours:

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us...that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come..."

Gal. 3:13,14

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty"

Ps. 91:1

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

Is. 40:31

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper..."

Is. 54:17

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father, in My name, He may give to you."

John 15:16

"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and increase your harvest of righteousness; we will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through you is producing thanksgiving to God."

2 Cor. 9:10,11

About our personal needs...

Most of you know that we are unsalaried, and that our financial support comes through our friends and through friends of our ministry. Our prayer letters go to about three hundred and thirty addresses. These are friends and family, and those who have met us somewhere along the way and expressed a desire to get our letters. Our home church (Church Upon The Rock) has supported us faithfully as missionaries for fifteen years. Three other churches support us regularly in smaller amounts, and that is a great blessing. Some of our friends also support us regularly. Whether small or large, we receive these gifts with great appreciation and thanksgiving to God. Beyond the somewhat expected income (though we have never asked for commitments from anyone) there is a large gap every month in what is needed for our personal support and office expenses. Of course, mission outreach expenses are beyond that. So, we thank the Lord for unexpected gifts!

We have felt that it is our part to keep communicating with you, and to ask for prayer. It is also our part to trust God and obey what He tells us to do. We believe that God will lay it on the hearts of people to give, and trust Him to enable them to do it.. Our eyes are on Him. He is faithful. We trust Him to bless you and meet your needs, and hope that you will trust Him in the same way for us.

Thank you for however the Lord leads you to help. May you experience His blessing and His presence as you serve Him with all your heart!

With love,

John and Jackie

p.s. see the enclosed letter regarding Ukraine, and our planned return trip there in October.