



## Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

August 7, 2002



Dear friends,

We greet you once again in the name of Jesus! We write to you with appreciation for your prayer and for your support, and for taking time to read our letters! Most of you have been a blessing to us for many years!

This particular letter is a couple of weeks overdue, because of decisions hanging in the balance for us, making it difficult to know what to say.

We learned that missionaries usually have the hardest time writing prayer letters during the time that they need prayer most of all. For us, this is especially true this summer. Recently life has felt like we are wading through "molasses in January". This is usually a sign of spiritual resistance. Such resistance fades away in the presence of believing prayer...so we need you!

*You are invited to an evening of prayer for us and for you...*

We decided that it is time to invite friends of this ministry – at least the ones who live near us – to come together for an evening of prayer on behalf of us and the vision of Scarlet Thread Ministries. We decided that in addition, we would like to pray over and bless our friends...you are among those friends!

*Will you join us? The date we have set is Monday evening, August 26, at 7:00 p.m., at Triumphant Faith Christian Center in Ham Lake (pastored by our friends Roger and Judy Sutch.) See map attached to RSVP card.*

*Would you set aside the evening of August 26 and pray for us wherever you are, if you are unable to join us?*

It will be an evening of worship, updates, some Word, and prayer for fresh anointing on us, and then prayer for a fresh anointing on YOU as well!

***We need your spiritual help at this time...***

A few nights ago we had a meeting with a circle of pastors and ministers who have worked with us in Ukraine, and who have been good friends over the years. (Several of them will be with us on Aug. 26) We needed their prayer. One of the pastors had a vision that described how we have felt for quite some time.

She saw a pregnant woman in labor, with her child in position and about to be born. The head was too large and was "crowning", but something was hindering the birth. Like the travail of this woman, she felt impressed it was the state of our ministry.

This is true. It has seemed to us that we have for too long been coming to the starting gate of a new phase of growth, but we can't seem to quite get there. For a long time it has felt as if something was "just around the corner" or "just about to break loose". Not that we haven't been busy, or that the Lord hasn't been moving. He has, and we have been blessed. But there is something inside of us that says there is much more to come.

We feel like this spiritual baby needs to get born! We feel like we've been pregnant too long - uncomfortable in our spirits for too long. Will you lend us a spiritual hand?

Get that baby out! Sometimes doctors or midwives have to use alternative methods to get a baby born, if the baby is too big, the mother too tired, the labor too long, or other complications. We need help to get rid of the resistance, and see the baby delivered.

Will you come and help us with your presence, your faith, and your prayer? In return, we'd like to pray for an increase of His presence in your life as well.

***New wisdom needed...***

All that is taking place with the Churches of Praise in Ukraine and beyond only make us feel more this way. We need a breakthrough to just catch up with what is now happening! A new level of function and ministry at the home base is needed for us to

continue to be a supportive ministry to a wider and wider circle of ministers and churches. It is now spilling into other nations. It looks like there will be at least 50 Churches of Praise by November. Perhaps fifteen new church plants are either in process or about to begin – half of them in Ukraine, three in Kyrgystan, two in Uzbekistan, one in Kazakhstan, another in Armenia, and even preparation to go into China. We have prayed for mission outreach from the Churches of Praise into other nations, and now we see it beginning.

This puts increased pressure on Jackie and me, for others look to us for leadership counsel, and for partnership in everything new. It requires a new level of wisdom and increased financial help, though at the moment we believe that it's the wisdom we need first.

We are asking ourselves: "OK, if we had a million dollars, how would we help?" We and the ones who work with us need increased wisdom to know the best way to help the Churches of Praise. The goal is to see self-supporting and self-

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A Prayer meeting  
for  
John and Jackie  
and Scarlet Thread Ministries  
...and receive a fresh anointing for  
yourself also!  
Monday, August 26  
7 p.m.  
Triumphant Faith  
Christian Center  
13850 Lincoln St. NE  
Ham Lake, MN  
(see RSVP card)**

sustaining churches and mission outreaches that can continue to multiply and stay on the move, with or without help from the West. This means that HOW we help is as important as the help itself. The wrong kind of help can produce dependent and anemic churches.

***Our home base ministry has to catch up with the missionary expansion...***

For years we have prayed and waited for the Ukrainians to catch the missionary spirit. They have had it inside of them for a long time, but since a team of us laid hands on Gregori and Galena and all the leaders this spring, this missionary spirit is suddenly moving fast.

We publicly recognized the apostolic anointing on them, and prayed for more of it to be released. It has! Big time!

Now we who are helping them have to “catch up” with a fresh wave of church planting — to know how to stand beside and support what is quickly happening in various cities and countries.

And there is another kind of baby in our womb as well. We know that part of our energy needs to be used here in the USA, to keep following our first call — helping to increase the prayer life of the Church. This often is a hidden ministry, not with the kind of reports we bring home from Ukraine, but nevertheless a ministry of great importance to us and to the Lord. So, something inside of us is ready for an increase of ministry in the USA. This seems as important to us as the multiplication of churches in Ukraine and nations East. These two sides to our ministry need to grow hand in hand. The missionary side right now has stretched out farther than the USA side. Many more helping hands on this side of the world are needed to be able to strengthen the many new hands being put to work on the other side of the world.

***Adding staff...***

This has all come to the point where Jackie and I need staff to help us carry the increasing load of work. Recently our daughter Jen and her husband Scott told us they believed that the Lord has called them to work with us. In addition to assisting us in all ways that they can, they have a call of God on them to be full-time in missions, especially in youth evangelism and discipleship, and mobilizing youth teams into missions. This is also in our hearts, to invest in the next generation.

Jen and Scott have additional giftings needed in our Scarlet Thread office and ministry. Many projects are sitting waiting in our hearts. They will be able to help us get these projects moving, as well as develop the vision for youth.

The plan is that Jen will leave her job at Wells Fargo Bank on September 5, at which time they will go with us to Ukraine, by God's grace and miracles. Jen will then begin work as the third staff person of Scarlet Thread (Jackie and I being the other two), at least part time. She needs an income. Jen has helped us in a voluntary way at various times, and knowing us so well, we're honored that she and Scott want to work with us even more! We are believing God with them that financial support for Jen's ministry will come. Scott is also ready to leave his job and join us when the Lord says it's time.

***Will you join us on August 26?***

We need an increase of prayer for wisdom, and for breakthrough in several areas.

**WILL YOU COME AND HELP US BREAK THROUGH? WILL YOU COME TO AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND IMPARTATION FRESH FROM HIS PRESENCE – FOR US AND FOR YOURSELF?**

Thanks. It's Monday, August 26, 7 p.m. at Triumphant Faith Christian Center, 13850 Lincoln St, Ham Lake.

Will you send in the RSVP card enclosed with this letter (even if you can't make it, even if you live far away), so we can make plans and so we can know you are interested. Tear off the little map and keep it for directions if you need it. Call us if you have questions. 763-755-6612

What's true for us may also be a need in your life. That is,

you may feel the same need as we do for breakthrough in your life and service for God. So, after you pray for us and for the outreaches of this ministry on August 26, we want to pray over you, that the things God has laid up in your heart will come to birth, and that any hindrances to the fulfillment of the call of God on your life would be pushed aside by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

***Again, thanks!***

Thanks for being our friend. Thanks for praying for us. To those of you able to give financially, thanks also. Our needs are more, and the numbers of supporters are less right now. But God is faithful, and it is to Him that we look to supply all the needs. It is He that gives the increase.

May His blessing abound in your life, in your home, and in your work. May you prosper in spirit and soul and body as you believe and obey His unchangeable Word and keep being filled with the living water of His Spirit.

God is good...and the best is yet to come.

With love,

***John and Jackie***

**Our next mission trip  
to Ukraine:  
leaving September 6**

*...have a women's conference for all the churches,  
open the new Bible College year with teaching,  
lead a pastors' seminar, do a men's conference,  
help open several new churches, with possible  
travel to Kyrgystan...*

**The team:**

*John and Jackie, Jen and Scott, and Steve and  
Marilyn Hill from Holland.*

**What do we need?**

*...everything!*

**What has God promised?**

*...all needs supplied, according to His riches in  
glory, more than enough!*

**Thanks for praying and agreeing with  
us for every need to be met!**

*Remember: for tax purposes, write checks to "Scarlet Thread Ministries"*

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