



Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

January 4, 2002



Dear friends,

We greet you this New year in the wonderful name of Jesus!

Do you know that the mercies of the Lord are new every year, just like His mercies are new every morning? Such a great promise is found in -- would you believe it -- the book of Lamentations, written in a time of great sorrow and loss:

"The unfailing love of the Lord never ends! By His mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day." Lamentations. 3:22 New Living Translation

If His mercies begin fresh each day, they certainly begin fresh each year!

As always, it's a joy to write you, and it's a privilege to have friends who help "pray us through" time after time. That's the greatest treasure anyone can have! We deeply appreciate your support of us and of the ministry to which the Lord has called us. Thanks!

Our new book, Scarlet Thread Scripture...

You will notice on our response card an invitation to receive a free copy of our new book, Scarlet Thread Scripture. This book is mostly just that — Scripture. You'll find the same verses in it which you can find in your own Bible. What makes this book unique is the concise, easily readable, special arrangement of selected chapters and verses. We have used a variety of English translations, all for the purpose of helping you to meditate on the heart of the Word, called the gospel -- the wonderful news of salvation and abundant life in Christ. It's all about Jesus of course, from Genesis to Revelation. It's about what He has done for you through His blood sacrifice. It's the story of redemption, foretold and fulfilled in Christ. It could be called "The Blood Covenant Mini-Bible". These chapters and verses describe the foundation for faith and victory in every area of your life. The other parts of the Bible are just as important, and we're not encouraging you to neglect those other parts, but frankly, the main message concerning Christ needs a strong focus in your hearts and mind. The truth about Jesus is the foundation for everything!

Romans 10:16 says, *"faith comes from listening to this message of good news—the Good News about Christ."* (New Living Translation) This collection of Scripture is for that purpose, to highlight for you the good news about Jesus and the wonderful results of His death and resurrection.

These Scriptures are the working outline for our teaching ministry, the "notes" for most of our messages. We heartily recommend that you get these blood covenant foundations deep inside of you. In the book, we have written an introduction, and included headings and paragraphs that will help you follow the thread -- the scarlet thread -- of your own salvation through the Bible.

We are returning to Ukraine February 1, by God's grace...

Harvest time continues in Ukraine, with many broken people coming to Christ. We are committed to serve that harvest -- to help the Ukrainian "Churches of Praise" become a fountainhead of evangelism and missions to their own nation and beyond.

We are eagerly looking forward to our return to Krivoy Rog. We wish you could all meet these people who have become such good friends. You'd love them just like we do, and they'd love you just like they love us. Sometimes we think our secret motive for missions in Ukraine is to go there and get lots of love. It always amazes us that they think we are blessing them!

As you know, we were there in October, at which time we helped people from Krivoy Rog to open three new churches in northeast Ukraine, right next to the Russian border. (Several hundred miles from Krivoy Rog.) Two of these churches are in Kharkov, a city of 1.5 million with few churches. The third church is in Cupiansk, a city of 50,000 about two hours from Kharkov. Pastors Valodia and Svieta are overseeing these new churches, and are very excited about what God is doing. Though these churches are only weeks old, they are already training six of the people to be pastors of future churches!

By the way, do you remember the bandit (Tolya) who broke into Gregori and Galena's apartment, then got saved and is now a second year Bible College student? He just started a new church in Krivoy Rog. From bandit to pastor in two years!

Preparations are being made to open several other churches in Krivoy Rog this winter. The major issue right now is to find meeting places, so pray for favor with city officials and property owners. Opening churches in other prisons is also being planned.

Our time in Ukraine will be spent teaching in the Bible College, ministering in the churches, meeting with leaders and pastors, and laying plans for a pastors' training conference in April. ...plus doing the unexpected. There are always surprises.

Prayer requests...

We ask you to pray for us as we prepare to go: **1)** for visas to be granted without complications; **2)** for our travel funds -- all are still needed; **3)** for strength and anointing to do the work of ministry while we are there; **4)** for our time before we go... we have more work to get done than seems possible; **5)** for our personal and administrative finances. We need God's miracles every month!

God's goodness is chasing you...

In the New Living Translation, Psalms 23:6 reads, *"Surely Your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life..."* What an encouraging thought — God's love and goodness will chase you as long as you live!

Thank you once again for praying for us and supporting us. May God's blessings rest on your home!

With love,

John and Jackie