



Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

June 27, 2002



Dear friends,

Jackie and I greet you again in the wonderful name of Jesus! We want to thank you for remembering us, and praying for us and the needs of our ministry. Many times we feel like we are "living on the edge". Someone once described the feeling: "...living in a miracle on the edge of disaster." Well, that's not a very good confession of faith. We don't believe we are heading toward disaster. But were it not for God, we certainly would have fallen "over the edge" somewhere!

Thank God for His mercy and grace, for the reality of the life of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit and the rock solid foundation of His Word and His promises!

And where would we be without others to help us and support us? Everything we do depends on the help of others. It's all God's help of course, but it comes through His people like you. If you read our letters and carry us in faith and agreement for God's blessings, we are grateful! If you can do more, that is wonderful! Thanks!

We are enclosing in this letter some excerpts from correspondence, so you can have an idea of the things for which we need prayer, and that need a supernatural release of abundant provision. These are all things happening as a result of prayer, and are within the vision we have seen for the Churches of Praise. Now as things unfold and multiply rapidly, we must try to "catch up" with what God is doing.

For this we need more prayer, wisdom and a multiplication of finances. Please pray for the next two months of July and August, when we will be at home. Though not traveling until September, these are important weeks for the preparation of the coming year of increased mission activity.

Here are three emails from Ukraine sent in the last few days which illustrate what is happening:

From Sasha, prison outreach director...

"God bless you, our dear American brothers and sisters. We want to express our love and respect from all the prison brothers. Thank you all brothers and sisters. I want to tell you what is happening in our ministry now. We are visiting prison #21 for a second year. We have a large church (300+) there. The chief of the prison told me that after we began to visit this prison, people stopped dying there. This is God. Some of the brothers who had different kind of sicknesses, after the anointing with oil were healed. After the water baptism of sixty-five people, we found out that such a large number of people baptized was a first in the history of this prison.

"Most of them are people who are in prison for the fifth or sixth time. Because of their crimes a lot of people suffered before. Now these people are saved and they serve the Lord. Our purpose is to help them stay in the truth even after they are released from prison. One month ago one of the brothers came out of prison, and now he is playing the trumpet in the

worship team at the main church. The church is helping him restore his documents now.

"We are praying now about the work in another prison, where we have a brother who is a good leader of twenty believers. We are preparing the documents which will help us to get inside that prison and develop the church there.

"We are also thinking about another prison, which is for invalids. These are people who are blind, with no hands or legs. Thousands of them died unsaved. We pray that the Lord would give the finances for raising up this new ministry."

"God bless you in everything, from Sasha."

(We are sending \$700 a month for prison #21, money which has saved many lives. This fund needs to be increased for other prisons and replenished to continue at prison #21.)

From Pastor Gregori...

"Pastor Jeff Orluck and his team did a good job! After they left, I had a meeting with the pastors. Volodia reported from his leaders that they were blessed and encouraged by Jeff's team. Linda's son gave money for purchasing a house for the rehab center. We found a house (*old and in poor condition, for rehab men to restore*) and I see the possibility having a new church there in that neighborhood. The house costs only \$400 + \$200 to pay the debts + \$100 to organize the papers.= \$700! Also it is possible to buy a house for a new church in that area for \$1000 + papers. This area is a good place, ten minutes walk to McDonald's. (*...now we ALL know where THAT is!*)

(Pastors Jeff, Earl, Debbie and Linda just returned from Ukraine. They are an example of some of the great friends -- ministers and missionaries -- who are willing to go to Ukraine at their own expense, pour themselves out in ministry, and also bring gifts to help the Ukrainian churches. Pray for a continuing river of ministers like these!)

"Pastor Uri Love found a small house for \$1500, in the center of Krivoy Rog. They have 70 people now, and they probably need one big house or two small ones, but perhaps one small house will be enough for them to start, if it has a yard so they can enlarge it. (*We call him "Uri Love" because he is so loving, and to distinguish him from the many other "Uri's".*)

"It's time to do church planting in Zaporozye (*in eastern Ukraine*). If you agree, we can do the preparation and go there together when you come. We need to go there to talk to the pastors from there, and ask if they will lend us their registration documents in the beginning, so that we can rent a hall. We will need to find an apartment for Roma. He has one child and his wife is pregnant. (*Roma will pastor this new church in Zaporozye. Three years ago, he was a drug addict. He is the son of Clava, one of the long term pastors.*)

"Vova with his Korean wife Luda are moving to Dnipropetrovsk to help Pasha plant a third church. I gave them 530 grivnas (5 gr. = \$1) and they still need 100\$ a month to rent a hall. You and I need to go there and help them open the church.

"Natasha (*pastor at Krasnaya Balka*), opened another church in the village of Nadayvoda, which means "Give no water", and they have 20 people now. The head of the village offered the club for meetings free of charge. Hallelujah! Natasha is planning to open one more church in Iskrovka village. There is only an Orthodox church there and it has a big influence on the chairman of the village. When the Pentecostals wanted to do evangelism there, the chairman sent them to ask permission from the Orthodox priest. He said "no". But we will try to open the church there. Natasha's assistant with his wife are having a regular meeting there. It would be good to help Natasha with some finances for transportation. I'd also like to buy sound equipment for Natasha so that she can do the evangelism.

"God is doing miracles in our churches. One sister had a tumor on her back big as a fist and prayed and it is gone. An eighteen year old young man was totally healed of a bad hernia. He was unable to work or do physical activity because of this. The doctor who diagnosed this had scheduled a surgery for him, and his mother brought him for prayer. Just before they took him into surgery, she asked them to examine him once more, since they had prayer and believed he was healed. It was totally gone and surgery was cancelled!

"The churches from Kharkov and Dnipropetrovsk are going to have a summer children's camp together. Pastor Vasili is having his own children's camp too. And of course, the rest of our churches are having children's camps together. The money which was given for the camps, (*note: thanks to Jeff Orluck's team*) we are using for all the camps. It was expensive for people to pay for their children to go to camp, so we made the price less. Pastors are really thankful for this care.

"Volodia wants to plant another church in Kharkov (*near the NE Ukrainian border with Russia.*) They are asking for help with renting the hall. You and I should go there too and do the opening of the church there.

"I also want you to go with me into Kyrgyzstan and maybe Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. And I want to go in Afganistan and China. For me this is not a problem with visas, but I don't know what you need to get visas to these countries.

"With love, from Gregori"

From Uri in Kyrgyzstan...

(*We wrote about Uri and Olga last month, who are now in Kyrgyzstan as missionaries from the Churches of Praise.*)

"This is Uri, Olga, and Nastia writing to you, John and Jackie, from Kyrgyzstan. We appreciate the money for the prison ministry; Olga is so happy that we will get this money for the prisons. We will pray for the businessman who is helping us in this. We are praying for you that God will provide you with the money so you can come to Kyrgyzstan.

"We have some people who want to work with us, and we want to open some churches in Osh (*SE Kyrgyzstan*), Andijon

and Tashkent (*Uzbekistan*), and Almaty (*Kazakhstan*).

"I have a friend, the director of a Bible College here (Light of Asia), who is asking if you can come and teach in the college about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Ministry gifts. Also we will organize a conference for Bishkek (*capital of Kyrgyzstan*) pastors and churches. We love you very much, bless you and pray about you.

"Your brother and sister in Christ, Uri and Olga"

So.....we need prayer, we need help, we need God!

There are several other churches in the process of being started, in addition to what is in these emails. If you have followed our letters, you know that there are also other ongoing ministries -- multiplied Alpha courses to reach new believers, many forms of evangelistic activity, reaching out to the homeless, the poor, the hungry and the sick, etc., etc.

A new year of Bible College will begin this fall, with students who are on the front lines of most all of the out-reaches and church planting activities. Gregori and I have talked about the possibility that students from some of these new nations will eventually be in the college, to learn and to teach others about their culture, and go back with teams to their countries.

This all is to illustrate that it is a time for multiplication, stretching the faith of the Ukrainians and stretching our faith as well. Will you stretch your faith with us?

This letter goes to about three hundred addresses of friends who have met us over the years. That is just about *everyone* who directly knows what we are doing. We believe that the Lord wants to broaden the base of support, somehow getting the vision of all this into more ears and more eyes and more hearts. Thanks for praying with us for this.

A visit to our family...

Thanks to frequent flyer miles, we were able to take a quickly put together a trip to California and Arizona to visit our son Jeff and Jermaine, and see Jermaine run in the San Diego marathon. (She finished all 26.2 miles!) We also visited Jackie's family, her sister, her two brothers, her nieces and nephews and hugged their babies! It was a quick but enjoyable ten days!

Work for the night is coming...

These are the days to "*follow the Lamb wherever He goes*", not days to shrink back. No one knows how many days are left for any of us. Live each day to the fullest for Jesus. While you have breath, breathe for Jesus. While you can walk, walk for Jesus. While you can work, work for Jesus. While you can still love and reach out to others, do it... Jesus said, "*I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.*" John 9:4

Thanks!

Again, thank you for continuing to be our friends and being friends of this ministry. We do carry you in our hearts and pray for you. May the blessing of the Lord abound in your life, in your family, in your work, and in your service for Him.

With love,

John and Jackie