



*Celebrating 40 years married!*

## *Lifeline*

*...a prayer letter from John and Jackie*

August 27, 2003



Dear friends,

Hello again in the wonderful name of Jesus! May your family be blessed, your work blessed, your health blessed, your finances blessed, and may you be blessed in every other way. That is the will of God for His children.

***“How lovely are Your dwelling places,  
O Lord of Hosts!”*** Psalms 84:1

Our lives are forever changed for the better when we discover that the Lord has provided a dwelling place for us, a home, a place of refuge and security and comfort. We don't have to wait to get to heaven to live there!

A similar thought is in Psalms 91, *“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the almighty.”* I have longed for and looked for that secret place in God.

As I read Psalms 84 one morning, I noticed that it referred to dwelling places, in the plural, rather than just one dwelling place. As I meditated on the possible meaning of these dwelling places, I thought of our natural homes, the houses we live in. The thought came to me that every house has an address. The thought came to me, “Where are these dwelling places? Do they have addresses?” I realized that the addresses could be the “addresses” of God's promises in the Word — His declarations of our identity and security in Christ. These promises are our spiritual home (or homes), our places of refuge and comfort. I then thought, “Wow, I'm a rich man! I have many homes!”

So, I will tell you the address of one of my “dwelling places”. The address is Romans 5:1: *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”* When I am worried or weary or troubled, I go to that address and walk in. It is one of my “lovely dwelling places” in Christ. There I find refuge in the reality that I have peace with God, not because of my own efforts but because of my faith in Jesus. I stay at that lovely dwelling place quite often. It was the first one I discovered as a young man, the first one I claimed as my own.

I actually have many “lovely dwelling places”. Do you?

I can go to many addresses, walk in and feel at home – no matter where I am in the world, no matter what is going on around me, no matter what may trouble me. Frequently I walk in to Galatians 2:20. Often I dwell in Psalms 103. I love staying in Romans 8:31-39. And there are many others.

The Lord's dwelling places are lovely. Do you live in any of them?

***Jackie's Mom, Alice Mickelson, went to heaven August 6...***

Alice was 93 years old when she passed into the presence of the Lord in Santa Ana, California. She and her husband Einar who went to heaven ahead of her many years ago, left a

wonderful heritage as pioneer missionaries in Indonesia and the Philippines. (Alice's memorial is on the back page)

We and all our family were able to travel to Los Angeles for the funeral, and spend some days with Jackie's family. It proved to be an uplifting celebration of Alice's life, and the days together provided a deepening of relationships, especially between our children and the other cousins, who mostly live in California. It had been many years since they were all together.

Tomorrow we will drive to Michigan, where Alice's remains are being laid to rest near her childhood home. We will also have the privilege of spending a few days there with Jackie's "other family", the Vischer's, with whom she lived from age 12 and up, while her parents served as pioneer missionaries in the interior jungles and mountains of Irian Jaya.

***September 22: Back to Ukraine...***

Autumn travel to Ukraine has become a regular schedule for us, but *it is never a routine event*. Always we must trust the Lord to provide for us to get there, and as always we need friends like you to pray for us, and be part of the supernatural provision of the Lord.

We will be accompanied by two pastors from our "Twin Cities" area -- Bob Pullar from Living Waters Church in Elk River, and Louis Valliancourt from Church of Acts in St. Paul. It is a privilege for us to have these two excellent ministers go with us for the first time, and we know they will be a great blessing to the Churches of Praise.

Our time in Krivoy Rog will, as usual, be full and busy. Mornings in the Bible College, afternoons and evenings in village area conferences, a pastor's conference at the main church, plus ministry in daughter churches, in the TB hospital, and in the Shining Glory rehab center.

Evangelism and church planting fire continues among the Churches of Praise. Many new churches have opened up this summer in new regions of Ukraine, some of which are quite a distance away from the main church. We will minister in as many new areas as we can during the time we have.

*As of the time of sending this letter, we still need all the travel funds, so we appreciate your prayer and agreement that God will direct and enable people to help us get there!* We have never financed any of our ministry ourselves. All we ever know to do is to follow the guidance of the Lord, trust Him to provide -- ask our prayer partners to believe with us for all that is needed. Frequently the provision comes from some who receive our letter. Other times it happens in a different way. We have no idea how God will do it this time.

Thanks for your friendship and your believing prayer.

With love,

***John and Jackie***



### Alice Florence Mickelson

(February 14, 1910 to August 6, 2003)

Alice Florence Mickelson died August 6, 2003 in Santa Ana, California at the age of 93. Alice and Einar Mickelson were Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA) missionaries for over 38 years in Borneo and New Guinea of the Dutch East Indies, and in the Philippine Islands.

She was born Alice Florence Patterson on February 14, 1910 in Seattle, Washington to Florence Abrams Patterson, a Free Methodist evangelist, who died at her birth. Her father, Robert Edward Patterson, was a carpenter who built many homes and churches on Whidbey Island, Washington. After her father died when Alice was 12 years old, she then lived with her married sister and husband, Hazel and Harry Vischer, near Brooklyn, Michigan. After high school, Alice attended Nyack Missionary Training Institute (now Nyack College, Nyack, N.Y.), training to be a nurse.

In 1932, while attending Nyack, she met and married Einar Mickelson. After two years of Alliance pastorates in Wisconsin and Michigan, Einar and Alice (now with two young sons) went to Borneo, Dutch East Indies as CMA missionaries, where they ministered for five years. After furlough, in the fall of 1941, Einar went to New Guinea (today called Irian Jaya, Indonesia). Due to the threat of World War II in that part of the world he went alone to continue pioneer mission work. Because women and children were not permitted to travel outside the USA, Alice remained in California with her sons Robert and Rollen and baby Jacqueline. Einar was in New Guinea when WWII broke out, and by a dramatic rescue escaped from the Japanese. He returned to the USA in 1943. During his two plus years in New Guinea, Mrs. Mike (as Alice was called by missionaries and nationals) had little communication with her husband, and for a period of 18 months didn't know if he was dead or alive.

After World War II, in 1945, Einar returned to New Guinea to the Wissel Lakes area, while Alice remained in California now raising four children, including a new addition, baby Cynthia. In 1947 Alice took on the daunting task of traveling on a freighter with her four children, now the ages of 2 to 13 years old, from New York to New Guinea. In 1954 Einar was part of the much talked about dramatic amphibious plane landing on the Baliem River in the Baliem Valley, New Guinea to begin the CMA's pioneer missionary work among the Dani stone age people. The account of Einar's work in New Guinea is recorded in his book, "God Can" and in a Reader's Digest article by C.W. Hall (Feb. 1957).

After many years' work in New Guinea, Einar and Alice went on to the Philippines to work among the Indonesian people in the southern islands of the Philippines with a vision of raising up tribal Bible Schools. Einar died in 1969 and is buried on the Mickelson Memorial Bible School property on the southern tip of Mindanao, Philippines. After her husband's death in the Philippines, Alice returned to the USA to retire and to enjoy her children, now married with grand children.

Alice, like her husband, made great sacrifices to fulfill the Great Commission. One day at the throne in heaven a great throng of people will be behind Mr. and Mrs. Mike praising God that they and other missionaries had come and told them the good news of Jesus! Over the years as a missionary, Mrs. Mike often served by showing hospitality to others. Memories recalled by fellow missionaries tell fondly of her encouraging and warm hospitality to others. Her firm "You can do it!" attitude inspired others to make rugged shelters more like home, and local foods more palatable to western appetites. Her creative thoughts helped new recruits adapt and adjust to strange new surroundings. Her laughter lightened many and her ability to make "something out of nothing" inspired others to embrace a foreign country and make a new "home" for themselves, as they pioneered in bringing the gospel to lost and unreached people of a stone age culture.

At her 90th birthday celebration at Town and Country Manor in Santa Ana, California, she made a comment that she couldn't believe she was that old. Shortly thereafter her health failed until her death.

Her son Robert of Laguna Woods, California, Rollen of Pleasanton, California, Jacqueline Matthews of Coon Rapids Minnesota, Cynthia Harvey of LaMirada, California, 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren survive Alice.

A memorial was held August 13 in Santa Ana, California where Alice's children, grandchildren, and friends (some by email) gave tribute to her. Alice's son-in law, Rev. John Matthews officiated.

Alice is now celebrating in heaven with her husband, Einar, and many others and seeing her mother's face for the first time.