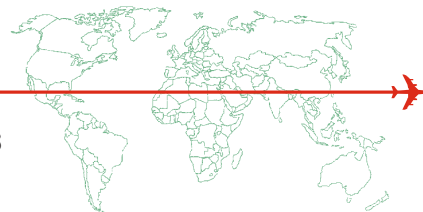




*Celebrating 40 years married!*

## *Lifeline*

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



July 29, 2003

Dear friends,

We say hello again in the Wonderful Name of Jesus! Thank God for the One who is the Rock of our Salvation, and the Shelter in the Time of Storm! As an old hymn says, "I know not what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future..."!

### **Scott and Jen in Ukraine...**

Some of you may know that our daughter Jen and her husband Scott are in Ukraine right now. We talked with Scott and Jen by phone on Monday night in Ukraine. They had just returned from their evangelism in a village and were so excited. By the time the evening had finished, 15 people had repented (that's what the Ukrainians call getting saved). Here is Scott's email report:

"Tonight we went with a young couple who are working as church planters in the villages (Vitale and Svieta). We spent about an hour and a half walking around through the village, inviting people to come to watch a film. The service opened with worship, and we had one of the youth share his testimony. I (Scott) welcomed everyone who had come—about 20 plus our team of 16—and introduced ourselves.

"The video was called "Approaching Armageddon"; it talked about how sin is rampant in the world, "natural" disasters seem to be more frequent, and that it's only getting worse. I (Scott) had trouble with it because it focused on the sin of America. One sequence showed how much an American fighter jet costs, and then showed starving children in Africa. I thought that I had nothing I could say because I had told the group at the beginning that I was an American. Now the video was associating America with violence, immorality, and anti-christ.

"So half way through the meeting I said to Jennifer, "I have no idea what to say!" But I had to get up and do something. So I got up, and let God speak. He preached repentance. He preached that true love requires a choice. He preached Christ crucified.

"The result? God brought 15 new souls into the kingdom -- doubling the size of this baby church! So, in a village of 300, there are now 30 believers! And the news gets better! This village has a Jehovah's Witness cell group. It now has a problem, because more than half of the cell group repented today, including the group leader!

We were also told that a number of the youth who repented were known as the "cool" ones in town, and that the highly-respected babushka's (grandma's) of the village repented. The pastors said that those are the ones that will

surely take the Gospel message to the rest of the people in the village... "And all I can say now is..."AMEN!"

**Scott & Jen**

Scott and Jen and the youth team were "riding high" with joy from their time of adventure with God that day! The fact is, once you have experienced this kind of joy, every other kind is pale and inferior.

You can read more of their experiences and see some pictures at [www.ScarletThread.net](http://www.ScarletThread.net).

### **Evangelism in our own Twin Cities...**

This is first of all for those of you in the Twin Cities...

We have enclosed a flyer which is an invitation for you to join us in evangelistic outreach in the Twin Cities starting August 5. If you live in another place, we enclosed it for your information and to pray for us about this.

Please read the flyer carefully, and consider coming with me (John) and Scott (our son-in law) out into the streets and neighborhoods of our city. Like all major American cities, there is a multinational harvest field right at your doorstep.

*You may not consider yourself able or called to evangelize on streets and in neighborhoods. Nor do I. But God is at work there. In the words of Henry Blackaby, author of the "Experiencing God" teaching series: "Find out where God is at work and adjust your life to be involved with Him where He is at work."*

No, this is not a special calling for you or for us. It is simply that we together live in our city, and together are responsible for our city. And it is harvest time here too! God is at work among the unsaved and unchurched, and the command of the Scripture is to go where the people are, meet them, love them and give them the good news of Christ. If you aren't doing this in another way, **DO IT WITH US. IT MAY BE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY YOU EVER HAVE TO GET STARTED!!!**

The thing is, *you can do this*, especially the way we will do it. We will simply join the well organized evangelism ministry of Living Word Christian Center. For more than 20 years they have gone to the streets, and found a huge harvest of hungry people ready to receive Christ. I have been out with them quite a few times, and if I can do it, so can you. Just come along with us, as we go along with them. It is a low pressure, joyful experience! Read the flyer...

Join us for a time of orientation for this ministry, if you live

### **Prayer Meeting at the Matthews' House Monday, Aug. 4, 7pm**

**\*A fresh Ukraine report from  
Scott, Jen and Megan**

**\*Orientation for our evangelizing  
in the Twin cities**

**\*Prayer for Churches of Praise**

**\*Call with your prayer requests if  
you can't come**

**(directions to our house on the  
back of this letter)**

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in the Twin Cities. Come to our house next Monday night and we'll talk about this opportunity. Monday, August 4, 7 p.m.

### ***Something that happens too frequently in Ukraine...***

Recently we received a report about one of the church planters, pastor Roma, who has planted several churches in the city of Zapparozhia. Roma is the son of one of the "senior" pastors among the Churches of Praise, pastor Clava. Roma was returning home to Zapparozhia carrying funds for the churches, and was beaten and robbed on the way. (This sort of thing happens too frequently in Ukraine.) Though he was somewhat injured, it could have been worse. Since he was carrying most of the money under his shirt, the robber got only a few grivna from his pockets. He also was carrying the main church's expensive video projector, to be used to show the Jesus film in the villages. Since the projector was in an old beat up case, the robber did not realize its value and left it with Roma. So the Lord protected, even though it was a bad experience.

Please pray for the churches in Ukraine, for their safety in a culture that has considerable violent crime.

### ***To Ukraine in September...***

We are setting sails for Ukraine again, planning to leave about September 25.

Bible College, pastors' and church planters' conferences, helping with evangelism, considerable time with Gregory and Galina, and many other things will overflow our time there.

Pastor Bob Pullar from Living Waters church will go with us. This is the second year a large team will go from his church to work with the Churches of Praise. The team leaves in a couple of days. It will be great to have their pastor accompany us a little later!

We are praying about whether we will also go to Armenia or Central Asia on this trip as well.

Thanks for praying with us and agreeing with us for God's wisdom and provision.

### ***Preparing materials to share the vision...***

The last few weeks have been very busy, with behind the scenes kind of work that is very time consuming but not visible as ministry. It has involved producing materials to communicate the vision of the ministry, especially the mission of the Churches of Praise. It has also included sharing some of our vision with ministers who have not known about us. So, we now have some brochures available if you want to share the vision with someone: one to introduce what Scarlet Thread is, another to introduce the Churches of Praise, and a third one to introduce the vision of village church planting.

We also have a photo album introduction to the Churches of Praise which we can print, if you want to give one to a minister or businessman interested in what is happening. Visit [www.ScarletThread.net](http://www.ScarletThread.net) to see the first edition of this photo album.

If you are interested in these materials to help us spread the word, let us know and we'll get them to you.

We were asked by a businessman who has supported this ministry faithfully, for our projected budget for the next year. It

was for the purpose of presenting it to another businessman who supports a lot of mission work. So, we did this. A projected budget for the next sixteen months -- one that would fit the expected church planting expansion, and associated ministries among the Churches of Praise. The result was a budget requiring a 500% increase of income into Scarlet Thread from the previous years! The businessman turned out to be uninterested in our budget...but we have it ready. If you want to see it, just ask. If you want to see a financial report of previous years, just ask for that also. We have no secrets.

### ***"...just a Holy Ghost drop in the bucket!"***

Someone said of our need for a 500% financial increase, "It is just a Holy Ghost drop in the bucket"! To God, that's what it is. Just a drop in the bucket of His wonderful provision!

This 500% increase is the actual need. It is not all that the Churches of Praise need. It is the expected need beyond the offerings of the Churches of Praise themselves, and beyond potential gifts to the Churches of Praise from other ministries. And, of course it includes the needs of our USA home base to support what is coming. Well, there's plenty of room for God to move supernaturally.

I am remembering the account of the widow and the jar of oil in 2 Kings 4. *"Bring the vessels, not a few of them..."* She borrowed a houseful of vessels, and started pouring. The oil flowed as long as there was another empty vessel to fill. When all the vessels were full, the oil stopped.

We've got a whole bunch of empty vessels here. Perhaps you do as well. The oil will flow when the vessels are presented to God in faith and obedience, and the pouring starts in faith and obedience. These are the days of seeing the abundant supernatural supply of God released for the exploding harvest in the nations.

*Thank you for continuing to pray for us and for the Churches of Praise. You are greatly appreciated, and we trust God for His rich blessings in your life and family. May you see the Lord's supernatural presence and provision as you "trust and obey".*

With love,

***John and Jackie***

#### **Directions to John and Jackie's house 63 105th Lane NW, Coon Rapids, MN**

1. Find Interstate 694 on the north side of Minneapolis, and go to 252 north, just west of the Mississippi River.
2. Go north on 252 to freeway 610 East.
3. Take 610 East across the Mississippi, to the Hwy 10 Exit.
4. Circle down the exit ramp and go under 610 onto 10 and you will see the Foley Blvd Exit.
5. Circle up that exit ramp to the stoplight and turn left on Foley Blvd. (north)
6. Go about six blocks north on Foley to 105th Lane. **Not 105th Ave.**, which is one block south.
7. Go right on 105th Lane (east), go a long block and a half to our house, #63. It is tan house, with white trim, on the north side of the street.

If you are north of us, find Hwy 10 and go to Foley Blvd. and do 6 and 7. Call us at 763-755-6612 if you need more directions.