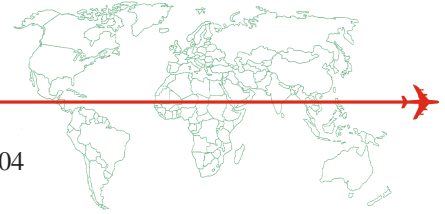




## Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



November 9, 2004

Dear friends,  
Jackie and I greet you once again in the wonderful name of Jesus! We are very thankful for you. We feel honored that you read our letters and pray for us. We also believe God for blessing and fruitfulness in your life and in your work.

### **Our Anchor Holds!**

We grew up singing the great hymns of the church, hymns not so popular these days due to the rapid change in musical styles. Some of the classic hymns carried a strong and timeless message, such as this one:

*“Tho’ the angry surges roll  
On my tempest driven soul;  
I am peaceful, for I know,  
Wildly though the winds may blow,  
I’ve an anchor safe and sure,  
That can ever more endure!*

*“And it holds, my anchor holds;  
Blow your wildest, then O gale!  
On my bark so small and frail;  
By His grace I shall not fail,  
For my anchor holds, my anchor holds!”*

Another classic hymn has this refrain:

*“We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,  
Fastened to the rock which cannot move,  
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s love.”*

This anchor is spoken of in Hebrews 6:19,20:

***“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever...”***

The “Presence behind the veil” is God our Father Himself in heaven. It is His presence on His throne, which throne is the “mercy seat” within the heavenly Holy of Holies. Jesus went there ahead of us with His own blood on our behalf. Through that precious blood of Jesus, the way into God’s presence was opened to all of us who put our faith in the blood of Jesus.

We need to anchor our souls (our thoughts and meditations) at this mercy seat in heaven.

While meditating on this heavenly anchor some time ago, I realized that an anchor is normally cast downwards — into the sea, to hook a ship to something immovable on the ocean floor. But in this case, **we are to throw our anchor of hope upwards into heaven itself**, and see it lodged at the very throne of God!

This anchor of hope is explained clearly in Hebrews 6: *Our hope is the rock-solid promise of God to bless us.*

The explanation begins with Abraham, our father of faith, and leads to YOU: Open your Bible to Hebrews 6:11-20, and Galatians 3:16,29:

**1. God’s covenant, which is the collection of His promises, is a covenant of blessing, first spoken to Abraham.** *“For when God made the promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.””* Heb. 6:13

**2. The promise to Abraham was spoken not just to Abraham, but to His SEED which is Christ!**

*“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.”* Galatians 3:16

**3. The great news is this: YOU are Abraham’s seed because you belong to Christ!**

*“And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”* Galatians 3:29

**4. You are one of the “heirs of promise”!**

*“Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.”* Heb. 6:17,18

**5. God swore on His own character that He will bless you!**

What were the two “immutable” (unchangeable) things? They were both God’s promise to bless – the same thing said twice! First He said it as a promise; secondly He said it as an oath, swearing by His own faithfulness and integrity — because there is nothing stronger to swear by!! — that He will bless!!

He said *“I will bless you!”* Then, as an oath, he added *“Surely blessing...!”* In other words, He said the same thing twice. *“While surely blessing you, I will bless you!!”* Twice He said he would bless, and in both cases, the word is unchangeable, for God will not, and cannot lie!

**6. What God swore to Abraham He swears to you!!** *“Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.”*

**7. This great promise of blessing is your great hope!**

*“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”*

**8. Jesus sealed this covenant of promise with His own blood!**

When Jesus entered heaven with His own blood, as our High Priest, he settled all accounts against us:

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*"He forgave all your sins, and blotted out the charges proved against you, the list of his commandments which you had not obeyed. He took this list of sins and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross." Colossians 2:13,14 Living Bible*

He also removed the curse from our lives due to our sin (Galatians 3:13), and established a blood bought covenant of blessing and fruitfulness for our life. (Hebrews 9:15) He opened the way for you to enter in and live in the Presence of the Lord. (Ephesians 2:13,18)

### **9. This is the anchor for your soul.**

This is the reason for continuous hope! This is the basis for courage and stability in the middle of anything, whether life is like a calm sunny day, or a raging hurricane. This anchor holds!!

Cast the anchor of your mind and your meditations at the mercy seat in heaven. See yourself firmly placed in God's Presence through the blood of Jesus! Acknowledge and agree with God's sworn word to you, that His immutable (unchangeable) determined promise is to bless you and multiply that blessing! **Actually, He has already given you the blessing!** (Ephesians 1:3) You can just receive it as a finished work!

This is our hope. This HOPE we have as an anchor of the soul. Another great hymn of the Church says it clearly:

*My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus" Name!*

*On Christ the Solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil!*

*His oath, His covenant, His blood,  
Support me in the 'whelming flood;  
When all around my soul gives way,  
He then is all my Hope and Stay!*

*On Christ the Solid Rock I stand,  
All other ground is sinking sand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

On some days, you may feel weak in faith. It may be better to say you may lack specific faith for the specific need of the day. Your hope is what will bring you to fresh faith, because your hope will remind you of the great truth. The great truth is that you have direct access to your Father in heaven, and He has sworn that He will bless you because you belong to Christ, who is Abraham's seed!

On any day, regardless of your circumstances, your feelings, or your thoughts, you can pull on your anchor and know it is firmly lodged at the mercy seat, where you have access to God through the blood of Jesus!

That hope will give you courage to continually "come boldly to the throne of grace, to receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16

### ***Come on, Christian...put your hope where it belongs!!***

There is a wonderful Father in heaven who loves you, and Jesus your Great High Priest who has shed His blood for you! There is a place of mercy and grace for you every day and night, where you can come freely to receive everything you need! It is not called a throne of judgment. It is called the throne of grace!!

*"Let us therefore come boldly to the **throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* Hebrews 4:16 *"Therefore brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, LET US DRAWNEAR..."* Heb. 10:19-22

Your Anchor Holds!

### ***John leaves for Ukraine November 15...***

I will meet Jim Kaseman, leader of AFCM, our ministers' fellowship, in Kiev. We will fly to Dnepropetrovsk, and then travel two hours by car to Krivoy Rog, arriving there Wednesday evening, Nov. 17.

The main event of the first week will be a pastors' conference and a three day celebration of the birthday of the Churches of Praise. Pray for us to minister under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, speaking the Word in season, and especially that Jim will deliver the Word in his heart with liberty and boldness and clarity. I believe it will be a time of strengthening foundations for the expansive ministry of the Churches of Praise.

Jim will leave Ukraine on Nov. 22. I will stay until Nov. 29 to teach the blood covenant foundations in the Bible colleges, and to meet with Gregory and other leaders.

I will return home on November 30, just ahead of another surgery for Jackie. This one (on December 2) will be to remove her gall bladder. This problem was diagnosed since we last wrote. Please pray that she will stay physically well, without a repeat of severe pains due to the stone filled gall bladder. This is what first took her through a series of tests for the heart, but now the truth is known what has caused her pains. She is eating very little until the surgery, and we trust there will be no complications while I am away. Her feet are healing very well from the surgery on both of them October 18.

*Though my travel expenses are met, we have some very large needs at the home base, so thanks for your agreement of faith with us that every need will be met.*

### ***Thank you...***

We appreciate you deeply and thank you immensely for supporting us in faith, in prayer, and with your love and financial contributions. May His peace fill your heart and your home.

With love,  
**John and Jackie**