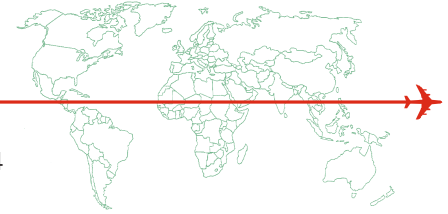




Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



October 7, 2004

Dear friends,

We greet you once again in the name of Jesus, and thank you for taking time to read our letters, and for praying for us.

John stayed home in September...

I (John) did not go to Ukraine as planned in September. As the date drew near, I seemed to have less and less peace about leaving home at that time. We learned over the years that it is important to assess what is in our spirits where the presence of the Lord abides. I realized that I was not at peace to travel on the planned dates. Two days before I was scheduled to leave, I cancelled my travel plans and stayed home, not knowing for sure why. I needed to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

At the time, Jackie's sister-in-law Jean was very ill, her life threatened by a severe infection that was resisting antibiotics, and we wondered if that might be the reason I should stay home. Thank the Lord that days later she began to recuperate, and she is now home!!

It soon became evident that I needed to be home for another reason -- my wife. Jackie has not felt well for some time. She was enduring several things. I want to describe her situation somewhat, so you can take it all to the Lord in prayer, and agree with us for her health. We don't want to magnify the problems, but magnify the Lord and His Word, so please read this account with your eyes on Jesus!

It was discovered some time ago that Jackie had stomach ulcers, for which she is being treated with medication. The ulcers were precipitated by other medication for her persistent headaches and foot pain, which she of course stopped taking. Some of the stomach discomfort has remained. One day, however, Jackie experienced a severe pain under her ribs that seemed different from previous stomach discomfort. Alarmed, we both felt she should see our family doctor. Thinking it could be angina heart pain he ordered a echocardiogram stress test, which was scheduled as soon as possible. During the procedure the attending cardiologist told us he saw blocked arteries of the cardiac muscle, and immediately put her on several heart medications. Jackie has never been diagnosed with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or angina pain, but the doctor insisted she take medicines for all these things now..

Since doctors were now ordering conflicting medications, Jackie sought the advice of a doctor of internal medicine to arbitrate her care. He immediately referred her to physical therapy for evaluation and treatment of her headaches, a podiatrist for her foot pain, and a consultation with another cardiologist. After reviewing Jackie's records, cardiologist #2 ordered an angiogram for the very next day, and prepared us for possible angioplasty or surgery.

At the completion of the angiogram, the doctor told me that all Jackie's arteries are clear, no angioplasty or surgery is needed, and her heart is functioning perfectly! *Thank you, Jesus!*

Today I was in my office writing this letter when Jackie came home from seeing the podiatrist (foot doctor) about the pain in her feet. After hearing the history of her feet pain, he said "What has taken you so long to come to me? I think I can help you." As he showed Jackie the x-rays of her feet and pointed out the (genetic) deformities in three areas, he explained that this was causing pain in all the other places on her feet. He felt reasonably sure that with surgery he could alleviate 90% of her discomfort.

Recovery from this foot surgery (on both feet) can be long and painful, but he encouraged her that life after surgery would be better than before. Jackie explained to me that soon after the doctor walked into the room, she was touched by his compassion and tenderness with her feet, and she began to cry. Because of her stomach ulcers, she has been unable to take anything for pain in her feet for months. I think she was weary from the pain of it all. She cried during the whole visit, as this gentle man described how he would like to help her. This surgery is tentatively scheduled for later this month.

All this unfolded during the time that I would have been in Ukraine. We were both very glad that I was home to walk with her through all of this.

I will need to help her at home for at least the first two weeks after this surgery on both of her feet. I really need to travel to Ukraine by Nov. 12, but this surgery will keep Jackie home. She may need some help from her friends while I am gone. Full recovery can take up to three months, and we will trust God for an excellent and quick recovery.

Here is Jackie's testimony in the midst of this:

"After cardiologist #1 finished telling me what he saw on the stress test he gave me four medications. He strongly urged me to see cardiologist #2 right away, and absolutely to take the blood pressure medicine, the high cholesterol medicine, and described in detail when and why to take the nitroglycerin. I felt as though I had slipped into someone else's life! I didn't have high blood pressure or high cholesterol, and I never had chest pain! What was this!?"

"Before calling John to pick me up from the hospital, I told the nurse escort watching over me that I would be fine. I needed to process all this before I called John. She left reluctantly, making sure I was OK. As I sat in the lobby, I was talking to the Lord, extolling Him quietly as Lord. (Acts 2:36) It was HIS REPORT THAT I WOULD BELIEVE. (Deut. 1:25, Rom. 10:16) God has the last word in this, NOT all the doctors in the world! I thanked Him for His goodness and faithfulness, and that His name is higher than any other! (Phil. 2:10) I knew that He is my Creator (Ps. 139), my Health (Ex. 15:26), and my Healer (Is. 53:5)! "Though I was stunned by all the information thrown at me about my body and heart, great peace gradually came into my

spirit. Then I knew, REALLY KNEW that I would live every day God had ordered for me on earth, that there would be NO early death for me (Psalms 118:32). I knew I would fulfill the call of God and NOT as an invalid! (Deut. 33:25)

"I sensed that I was to take the medical tests that were being ordered. I did not have assurance what the tests would report, but I did know I would not end up ill or in pain. I didn't even know how I would get to that state of health, but I knew in my spirit that being well without pain would be the final outcome. After this transaction in my heart, I was ready to call John to come and pick me up."

We receive God's health and strength for Jackie!!

We ask you to agree with us for complete healing throughout Jackie's body, because we know, in spite of what her circumstances are, *"By His wounds she was healed."* It has not been normal for her to see many doctors, as she is right now.. We are grateful for the excellent medical care at this time, but most of all grateful for the blood covenant of healing and health that we have in Christ.

Lots of phone calls to Ukraine...

Because I did not go to Ukraine, I have spent many hours talking long distance with pastor Gregory. This is an adventure in itself, since we must communicate through a translator. The "conference calling" technology makes it work, with the assistance of Olga our friend and translator who lives here in Minneapolis. Still, this three way calling is sometimes difficult. The connection to Ukraine may not work, it may be a bad connection, and sometimes the connection is lost in the middle of a conversation --requiring another ten minute process of dialing all the numbers to get back on line together. But, thank God we can make it work with His help. I am usually honoring the blood and name of Jesus, calling for angelic assistance, and for God to anoint the telephone systems while I dial and while we talk!

What's the news from the Churches of Praise?

Everything keeps moving ahead. The new Bible College year has brought a good strong group of 60 students. The next 3 month mission college for village workers has begun with nearly 30 enrolled. Included in that student body is a Tatar former Muslim, a new convert from Crimea in southern Ukraine. A team was sent there this summer to begin opening new churches.

The report from this team is that the Tatars seem even more hungry for the gospel than the ethnic Ukrainians in Crimea! Please pray for a great harvest among Muslim people living in Ukraine. At least 15 new Churches of Praise have now been opened in Crimea this summer. The first converts are mostly ethnic Russians and Ukrainian, with a beginning harvest among the Muslim Tatars -- demonstrated by the new convert in the mission college, being trained to go back to Crimea as a minister of the gospel!

Church planting fire continues everywhere, with the number of Churches of Praise in excess of 500. Churches of Praise are now in nearly half of the 27 provinces (oblasts) of Ukraine. In addition, 25 of them are in the country of Armenia, and 40+ in Kyrgyzstan. Perhaps 10 are in Kazakhstan, and several are in

the country of Moldova on the western border of Ukraine.

The church planting teams are doing well, and God is doing miracles in the lives of people. Many are coming to Christ. Doing well does not mean things are easy, however! This work goes forward through the great dedication and sacrifice of hundreds of believers daily doing the work of evangelism and opening churches. Resistance is commonly faced, and it takes prayer, effort and God's intervention through healings and miracles to see a new church opened. These church planters are our heroes!

Pray for our translators...

Please pray for the team of translators that we depend on in the Churches of Praise. Relationship issues have developed over salary and work assignments. We know Satan would like to cause division, since the ministry of all foreign teams depend heavily on the work of the translators. Though Gregory and I oversee the translators together, we have wanted them to be directly under his authority, and not ours, since Gregory is their pastor.

The translators are young adults, and because of this work are frequently thrust into situations beyond their maturity. This happens when they must translate private conversations with ministers and can be right in the middle of serious issues and problems. This can result in them carrying knowledge unknown to others, which is not easy. Their work can also cause them to be exalted above their peers in an abnormal way because they work with senior ministers, and are always on display on the platform with the speakers. They also get a better salary than many other ministers in the churches, who work just as hard or harder, and yet not as much as professional translators who work in the business world.

There are four young adults who have worked with us for several years translating for the continual flow of foreign ministers from the West coming to Krivoy Rog. They have grown up in the Church of Praise, and until now have been exemplary servants of God. Right now there are tensions and issues to be resolved. Pray for heart attitudes to come under the Lordship of Jesus.

Meanwhile, at my desk...

I am still pursuing the goal of writing the blood covenant foundations, which we want to distribute among all the Churches of Praise. Please keep praying for this project..

Our home base finances...

For 18 years, since leaving the pastor's ministry, we have depended on the Lord and His friends for our income. Some of that has come through regular committed gifts, but a large part of our income each month comes in unusual or unexpected ways -- though normally from those who know our ministry. Will you believe with us for His unusual and extraordinary provision to be released soon?

We are grateful that you took the time to read this letter! If you read this far, we know you must be our friend! May the blessing of the Lord increase in your life and family and ministry as you trust and obey Him.

With love,

John and Jackie

Remember: for tax purposes, write checks to "Scarlet Thread Ministries"

63 105th Lane N.W., Coon Rapids, MN 55448 Tel: 763-755-6612 Fax: 763-755-2045 E-mail: ScarletThreadInc@cs.com