



Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

May 1, 2005



Dear friends,
Jackie and I greet you once again in the glorious Name of Jesus! It is our joy and privilege to communicate with you, and thank you again for reading our letter!

The Churches of Praise in Ukraine...

We continue to be greatly encouraged by what the Lord is doing in Ukraine and the other countries where Churches of Praise are active. Many people continue to repent and give their lives to Christ in the evangelism and church planting.

The winter Mission College finished last week, and the 40 students were prayed over and sent out at the April pastors conference into their six month internships, to do village church planting. On May 20, the next crop of students from the villages will arrive for the fourth Mission College.

Seventy people now live in the new building (students and rehab) and are really happy with the hot water, and twelve beautiful showers, toilets and sinks. This is a major upgrade from that many people sharing one shower!!

In Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan...

The work of evangelism and church planting is also going strong in these three countries, with dozens of new churches opened in towns where there has been no gospel and no church.

Uri and Olga from Krivoy Rog lead the work in Kyrgyzstan. In addition to dozens of churches opened in unchurched towns in various parts of the country, they have established churches in seven prisons.

Within the prison ministry in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan, the Churches of Praise have now established churches in more than 20 prisons.

Oleg, with his wife and four children, are overseeing the work in Kazakhstan. They moved to the city of Almaty from Kyrgyzstan several months ago, which was a very large step of faith for them. Several churches have been opened in Kazakhstan.

Alex and Alex, with their Armenian wives and new babies, are overseeing the work in Armenia. With their team of Armenian church planters, they have opened several dozen churches in Armenia in the last two years.

Our travel plans...

We plan to leave for Ukraine on June 10, staying there for the remainder of June. Perhaps I (John) will stay longer than Jackie.

We will teach in the summer Mission College, and with Gregory and Galina lead the annual Congress of the Churches of Praise June 18-25. Steve and Marilyn Hill from Holland, and Ken Beaudry from Minnesota plan to join us for the congress.

Congress of the Churches of Praise...

Leaders from Churches of Praise all over Ukraine as well as from the other countries will be together during these days. It will be a time for teaching, worship, decision making, and impartation from the Holy Spirit.

The vision is far greater than what has yet taken place. Though hundreds of Churches of Praise exist, we believe we will see the churches multiply greatly in the months and years ahead.

What is it like to think about reaching countries?

Following the congress, we will spend considerable time with the leaders who have been working in the other countries. This will be a very important time for clarification of vision, strategy, and goals for reaching countries for Jesus.

What a challenge it is to think about how to influence a country! We need the Lord to stretch out of our minds to think like

he thinks. We need Him to increase the capacity of our hearts to love the people and nations of the world as much as He loves them, and to be as concerned for their eternal salvation as He is.

We are asking the Lord to give us fresh vision and new fire for the nations. Will you ask Him for the same thing for yourself?

Lots to believe God for...

Last year, 1200 workers attended the Churches of Praise Congress. It will be larger this year. We are trusting God with Gregory for the finances needed for this important event. The cost is very large for them, and we are trusting that many of our friends will help us to help them.

Please agree with us in faith that the expenses of the Congress

will be met, including the transportation of the leaders from Armenia and Central Asia.

This need includes our own expenses, of course. As is often the case, we have made the plan to go before we have the money to go. Ticket prices to Ukraine are the highest they have ever been. Do you suppose God is worried about that?

Thanks again!!

Thanks for agreeing with us for His supernatural provision! We hope God will lead you to be a partner with us. Though you may never go to these countries yourself, you can share in the victories and the fruit!

Never underestimate the effect of your prayer of faith, even your simplest words to God. Powerful results come from ordinary people making large requests of our extra-ordinary, awesome and wonderful God!!

May you experience God's increased blessing, His abundant grace, and multiplied peace in your home, your family, your work, and your service for Jesus!

With love,

John and Jackie

**Update and Prayer
at John and Jackie's House
Monday, May 23
7 p.m.**

You are invited! We'd love to see you!

New pictures and video
of Churches of Praise,
including inside a prison

Call if you'd like to help, or need directions
763-755-6612