



Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

January 31, 2006



Dear friends,
Jackie and I greet you again in the name of Jesus! We know by the calendar that we are well into 2006, but we don't really feel ready for a new year, mainly due to Jackie's broken leg. Because of that, some things are on hold for us until she is walking again.

It was a serious break of both bones in her lower left leg, requiring extensive surgery, resulting in a long metal plate in the large bone, and a long metal rod through the small bone.

She is required to put no weight on that leg for some time. Needless to say, she needs lots of help in her daily life these days. Because of this, I plan to stay home until she is able to care for herself. Thank you for exercising your faith with us for her full recovery. How did it happen? She stepped wrong off a stair, thinking it was the bottom one, but it was the second from the bottom. Her leg broke, and down she went.

Armenia and Iran...

Meanwhile, Gregory went without me to Armenia and into Iran. (I had planned to be in Armenia with him in January). I wasn't planning to go into Iran on this trip, but to minister to the Armenian leaders. As an American, my presence on the team going into Iran would have made it too complicated. Actually, I think things worked out better without me. I sent my travel money so that both Gregory and Galina were able to go to Armenia, and from there into Iran. I see now it was very important for both of them to be there. They took with them the brother from Churches of Praise in Armenia who will begin the ministry in Iran. Though of Armenian descent, this brother was raised in Iran, where there are many Armenians. The Armenian presence in Iran dates to 400 years ago when many were brought from Armenia as prisoners.

The present plan is to bring disciples out of Iran to be trained in a new mission college in a neighboring country, since it is too difficult to do this training within Iran at this time. It is possible this might begin in April, and I hope to be able to travel by then. What a privilege it will be to teach new Armenian and Iranian church planters!

You probably realize that this information as it relates to Iran is for prayer and not for public use. This ministry into Iran has many security risks.

We are rejoicing that this new door has been entered, even at the time when we ourselves had to stay home! Since our early years in Ukraine, we have known that God's word for the Churches of Praise is to go into countries in the east where the gospel has not yet been proclaimed. This is part of that fulfillment!

Bringing Gregory and Galina to our city ...with your help!

We believe the next step of travel is not for us to go, but to bring Gregory and Galina from Ukraine to our city. They already have long-term visas to the USA, and we have set dates for them to come March 17-27.

We want as many people as possible to be able to meet them, to be ministered to by them, and to catch the fresh anointing that they carry. We will let you know more about this in the days ahead. Please agree in faith with us for this.

We are trusting the Lord for the funds to purchase their air tickets as soon as possible (including the ticket for their daughter Anya coming as their translator). *If you would like to help with their travel expense, please write that on the return envelope with your contribution.*

"Your First Calling", March 16-18

We will be leading a new event in March, during the same week that Gregory and Galina will come. (They will be with us in the meetings) This special event is called "Your First Calling". This ministry is illustrated in Mark 3:13-15, the record of Jesus commissioning His twelve as apostles.

**"He chose twelve,
that they might be with Him...."
Mark 3:14**

**Your
First
Calling**

March 16-18
Thurs. 7 pm
Fri. 7 pm
Sat. 10 am & 2 p.m.

**with
John & Jackie Matthews
and
Gregory & Galina Sukhina**

At first glance it seems this was their commissioning to go out and preach the gospel. It certainly was that, but going out to preach the gospel was not the first commission. Their first calling was "to be with Him".

"And he went up on the mountain, and called to him those whom he desired; and they came to him. And he appointed twelve, (1) to be with him, and (2) to be sent out to preach..." Mark 3:13,14

This commissioning is the same for all disciples of Jesus. No matter what is your calling or task in the kingdom of God, and no matter what your career is, your first calling is this: to be with Him.

That is what made the difference in the lives of these apostles. They had been with Jesus. After the resurrection and Pentecost, it was recorded what people observed about them:

*"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. **And they realized that they had been with Jesus.**"* Acts 4:13

Do people notice about you that you have "been with Jesus"? It can be true for you. It is possible. It is normal Christian life. It is God's idea and plan for you. He has provided a kind of life for you just like Jesus lived while He was on the earth. His earthly life was spent in close fellowship with His Father. That is what made His life so supernatural. Jesus described His way of living by saying that he did what He saw the Father doing, and He spoke what He heard His Father saying. Jesus lived a life of real, daily fellowship with God, and He has made such a life possible for you.

It is a guarantee that when you are able to break through into enjoyable and powerful fellowship with God, everything changes for the better. You will see God at work in your life, and you will see increasing signs of His grace and presence -- both on the inside of you and all around you. You'll feel better, you'll think more clearly, and your labors will have more fruit!

This special event is for the purpose of helping you have a strong life with God. Perhaps you

would agree with us that this is easier said than done! For that reason our desire is to help lay the needed foundation and let the Holy Spirit impart the anointing that God has made available for each one of us of to walk closely with Him.

"Your First Calling" is a ministry of refreshing, teaching, and impartation.

Mark the dates: March 16-18.

You can read our minibook "Your First Calling" at our website: www.ScarletThread.net. It introduces the theme of this ministry. Just punch the "Publications" button and click on the picture with that title to open it. (Adobe Reader file)

This event, "Your First Calling", can come to you...

Many of you who get this letter are in other cities, other states, and even other countries. The fact is this: we will come to you wherever you are -- to your church or your ministry -- and lead this same event. Just invite us.

Thank you again...

Our primary purpose for this letter is that you will pray for us. Whether it is Jackie's leg or launching into Iran or Gregory and Galina's coming to the USA, or "Your First Calling" ministry, we need God's intervention, His anointing, and His grace. Otherwise, nothing will happen.

Your agreement of faith is absolutely necessary to us. Thank you for praying. Your financial support, as God leads you, is also necessary to us. Thank you for giving as the Lord enables you. The opportunities are greater than ever!

We love and appreciate you, and are trusting God for His blessings to abound in your life. Always remember that the best is yet to come. As you yield to God, His grace increases. And His mercies are new every morning!

Some of you are retiring from your careers, but consider this season in your life to be a *refiring* -- a time for giving yourself more fully to God's divine purpose for your life.

Most of all, give yourself to Him -- every day.

With love,

John and Jackie