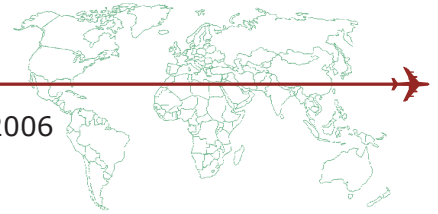




Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

September 30, 2006



Dear friends,

Jackie and I greet you again in the name of Jesus. We are so very grateful for your friendship and support. Some of you are new friends; on the other hand, some of you have known and supported us for decades! Thank you for remembering us!

The Jesus School of Prayer...

We held the School of Prayer at North Heights Church as planned, with 120 people from 40 churches attending. It was good to see some old friends, and to make new acquaintances. The presence of the Lord was there, and we were grateful to have Gregory and Galina come from Ukraine to participate as well. Our friends from Triumphant Faith Christian Center were such a blessing to the School of Prayer. They prayed for weeks beforehand, they greeted people, handled registrations, took care of the offerings, etc. They were a backbone of help for us. Thank you, pastors Roger and July and friends at TFCC!! You are a great blessing.

Mark and Janalee Johnson provided the worship team. They pulled us up to "higher ground" and ushered us into the presence of the Lord. Thanks Mark and Janalee and team!

Our fellow ministers Ken and Carrie Beaudry and pastors Roger and Judy were a great spiritual assistance as well. They prayed for a lot of people, and many were touched in a special way by the Holy Spirit.

One of the fruits of Gregory and Galina being with us was that several men responded to the needs of the troubled children in Krivoy Rog. Consequently, a team of men who have never been to Ukraine will travel there this winter, around the time of Christmas in Ukraine on January 7. Perhaps two thousand troubled kids will be brought into the two main churches from all over the city, and by God's grace, they will have a Christmas celebration like they never had! These men plan to provide special gifts for all the children. Please pray for the lives of troubled, homeless, and street children in Ukraine to be restored through the love of Christ.

John goes to Armenia and Ukraine October 25-November 22

I have been trying to get to Armenia for a long time, but have been hindered from getting

there. I plan to be with the seventeen Churches of Praise in Armenia and to spend time with their pastors and leaders.

In addition, I'll have some time with our new Armenian missionary to Iran. Through his efforts this year in Iran, seventeen Iranians are ready to come to Armenia to a new Mission College which will be opened for them. (It is not wise to run such a school in Iran now.) Several hundred dollars per student are needed to help them come from Iran to Armenia, and to feed and house them while they are at the Mission College for three months of intense training. Please pray with us that this need will be met, and that training can begin soon for these students. The goal is that they will return to Iran to evangelize and make disciples, planting churches in very difficult circumstances.

Regarding the work in Ukraine, it has been a season of solidifying and strengthening the leaders and churches this year. Though new churches continue to open, the greater work this year has been to get young churches established. There are many, many new Christians and young leaders to train. Yet, the harvest remains ripe and ready in thousands of towns and villages with no gospel and no church. The Lord spoke to us before the church planting fire broke out four years ago, that when the number of Churches of Praise had reached several hundred, they would be ready to BEGIN!

The eternal destiny of peoples and nations are at stake. Though Jackie and I are in our 60's, we intend to keep serving God's harvest in these last days.

Will you help us? We feel a great need of prayer support; and the financial needs have increased. We know God is faithful, and it is to Him that we look and in Him we put our trust, but we cannot do this alone.

We need you.

Dressed for Battle:

How to Put on the Armor of God, and KEEP IT ON!
January 4-6, 2007

Following the holidays, we will hold a three day event on understanding and being equipped for spiritual warfare. (over)

We all know that war is going on in several places in the world. The USA stands in the middle of some of the worst conflicts, without any end in sight.

Even worse is the war for the minds and hearts of people. This is a hot war where the clash of values and world views is loud and compelling. It is a spiritual war against God and against you. Supernatural in nature, this war must be fought with supernatural weapons.

Satan engages this battle on a very personal level -- in your heart, your mind and emotions. It is a war you must win, for he is committed to your destruction. It is a war you can win. In fact, it is a war that Jesus has already won, and you simply need to enforce that victory!

Years ago, when I was in India, feeling homesick and discouraged, I decided to pray for India to pass the time. My prayer fell to the floor, it seemed. God spoke: "John, first take charge over your own mind; then you can fight for India." I did, and then I did.

The weapons for our victory are the same weapons we use to win victories anywhere. If you can capture your own mind, you can help capture a city!

Living in God's armor is absolutely necessary. A soldier in battle does not remove his armor and abandon his weapons -- ever.

Regrettably, many people don't even know that a spiritual war is affecting their lives. Consequently they are simply prisoners of war in the spiritual realm. God did not call us to be prisoners of the enemy, but instead to be overcomers and to be victorious in every situation.

God's idea for you is to be "more than a conqueror" -- not to merely exist, or to hope you can just make it through. You can walk in freedom and joy regardless of what is happening around you. Of course, that freedom and joy come from within, and the armor that keeps you protected is also internal, yet very real and very powerful.

"Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand in the evil day." Sometimes the "evil day" is the one you are now experiencing. It is the day when everything seems to go wrong, or to go out of control. Even at such times, there is a way to be in peace, to have the joy of God, and to see God work supernaturally.

If the Bible says you are to put on the full armor of God, it must mean that you might not have done so -- even though you are a Christian! You might be living like a soldier naked and unarmed in the middle of battle! No soldier wants to be

under fire without armor! We are all spiritual soldiers in a spiritual battle, and must wear God's armor at all times!

Some think, "Well, I am not really into that spiritual warfare stuff." Maybe not. But Satan is. And he won't leave you alone just because you have a philosophy against spiritual battle.

Others think, "Oh, yes, I really am in a spiritual battle! The devil is all over me!" Maybe. Maybe not. The truth may be that you are making yourself miserable without much help from the devil at all!

You don't want to ignore the spiritual battle affecting your life, nor do you want to exaggerate the enemy's power! You need to see this ongoing struggle as God sees it, and live in the same armor God uses!

Come to think of it ...if God has armor, he must think there really is a battle!

Five grandchildren, going on six...

Jonathan, Jaden, Eric, Jenna, and then Anna. Now, like the classic testimony of many couples after adoption, Jen and Scott find themselves pregnant. Their doctors said they had less than 2% chance to ever get pregnant. Sometime during preparations for travel to get Anna, God did something wonderful! Our sixth grandchild is due to be born in February 2007!

Thank you, Thank you and Thank you!

Many, many thanks for remembering us, praying for us and for supporting us financially as God leads you!

In addition to regular givers, we depend on the unexpected giving of many, so we thank you for listening to the Lord and for giving as He leads you.

Your prayer and your gifts are to us a partnership in ministry. We know that the fruit of this ministry, and the harvest being reaped so far away from you, is your fruit and your harvest as much as it is ours and the workers in Ukraine and beyond.

With love,

John and Jackie Matthews

*He signed my deed with His atoning blood!
He ever lives to make His promise good!
Though all the hosts of hell march in
To make a second claim,
They all march out at the mention of His Name.
They all march out at the mention of His Name.
They all march out at the mention of His Name...
Jesus!*