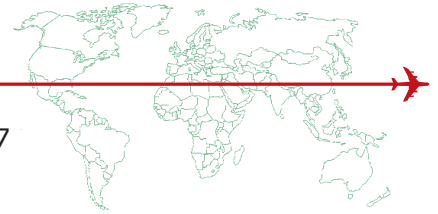


## Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

May 4, 2007



Dear friends,

Jackie and I greet you in the Wonderful Name of Jesus!

*We would like to invite you to our home for an evening of pictures, popcorn, and fresh vision! It's been a long time since we have seen most of you who get our letter. Join us!!!*

If you can't come, and have a prayer need, please send us your request (preferably by e-mail at [ScarletThreadInc@yahoo.com](mailto:ScarletThreadInc@yahoo.com)).

We have lots of fresh vision and renewed enthusiasm these days that we'd like to share with you.

This is even beyond showing off our grandbabies: these six bundles of energy, with five of them in diapers, are giving us great reasons to stay young and healthy!!

It was fourteen years ago that we first set foot in Ukraine. We thought at that time it would be a one-time visit.

As many know, that first church plant has grown into the Churches of Praise, with two large churches as a base, several colleges, a rehab center and a wide variety of ministries. This has spread into half of Ukraine. Among the thousands of towns and villages that have had no church, we have planted more than 400 churches since 2002.

Churches of Praise has become a large family and we are honored to be part of that family. We even have our own little cottage in Gregory and Galina's backyard. *We consider this twenty foot square cottage the greatest "time share" destination in the world! It's there for other ministers to visit and enjoy God's work like we do!*

Early on, the Lord showed us His view of Ukraine and the Ukrainian church. We knew we were not involved because they were a "poor mission field". Actually, Ukraine has one of the richest Christian heritages of any country. That was mostly obliterated under communism; yet even in the darkest years the Church in parts of Ukraine never bowed to communism. In fact,

as the black soil of Ukraine provided grain for bread to other countries, Ukraine was the spiritual "breadbasket" for the rest of the Russian speaking world.

If you travel anywhere in the many countries of the former Soviet Union and look for a church, you will most likely find a Ukrainian missionary in the history of that church -- be it Baptist, Pentecostal, Charismatic or any other denomination. Dedicated Ukrainians did the majority of the work in establishing churches, even under communist persecution.

Nevertheless, communism created a spiritual vacuum, including throughout most of Ukraine.

Most Ukrainians know little of their spiritual heritage. Most were raised in atheism, and experienced spiritual poverty and broken families.

Krivoy Rog, home base for Churches of Praise, was originally built by rejects from society who were sent there to work the iron mines. Criminals and unwanted people were the foundation of the city. Perhaps that is why the city has known the highest drug addiction and alcoholism

in the nation, and the divorce rate has been more than 85%.

Yet, in the midst of devastation, God was still at work -- even in Krivoy Rog. Go back to 1923. The great Pentecostal revival on Azusa street in Los Angeles had by that time touched many nations, since so many immigrants were in Los Angeles. So also it touched Ukrainians. Those Ukrainians brought that fire to their homeland, even arriving in a village on the edge of Krivoy Rog in 1923. The grandparents of Gregory and Galina experienced this outpouring of the Spirit.

Churches of Praise have come from this original Pentecostal revival fire in Ukraine. When Gregory and Galina were impacted by the fresh move of the Spirit that spread into the Soviet Union in



Your young brother in Christ, March 2007

**You are invited to  
John and Jackie's house  
763-755-6612  
Friday, May 18, 7 pm  
Vision Update!  
Pictures from Afghanistan!  
Popcorn and Conversation!  
Praise and Prayer!**

the 80's and 90's, they determined to follow that Holy Spirit. They knew they had to step outside their Pentecostal denomination which had lost the original fire, and open a new church for the lost people of their city.

*God dropped us into that moment in Krivoy Rog in October, 1993.*

Though our mission was to the whole world, all of our attention had been towards south and south-east Asia. Ukraine felt like a major distraction.

God, however, showed us that the Russian speaking harvest was *His harvest*, and like migrant farm workers who serve the harvests where ever they ripen, we had to help bring in the Ukrainian part of that harvest.

We soon saw a larger purpose: God wanted us to serve Ukraine and the Churches of Praise until they stepped into their God given national mandate of being a "breadbasket for the nations".

That is now beginning to happen. Churches of Praise first spilled into Kyrgyzstan; then into Armenia; and now we have a base in Afghanistan.

By God's grace we will continue as part of the Churches of Praise 'till many nations shout praises to the Lord -- due to the influence of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters!!!

Meanwhile, the lid has come off our older life-long call to touch ALL nations. We have begun to pray about new involvement in other parts of the world, and about returning to countries where we have worked in the past.

When the great Soviet harvest opened up to the West, the pornographers were more ready with their products than the church was ready to take the gospel through the open door.

Christians need to be ready to go through the doors that God opens around the world. They should be the first ones in!

They should even go where doors seem slammed shut! There is always a way, you know, **if God says GO!**

This vision is simply to do what Jesus told us all to do: go into ALL THE WORLD and preach the gospel. He said this gospel will be preached AS A WITNESS TO ALL NATIONS, and then the end will come. It is not a special revelation. It is the written Word to all the Church. Is there a vision more important than this one?

We are broadening our ministry : developing a "lean machine" with a wide reach -- ready to quickly run to the ripened harvests where ever they are: places opened by prayer, by revival, or even by natural disaster or war. We want to be able to move quickly, so that God's harvest may not be lost in the field. The purpose is to partner with active ministries whom God is using to bring in His harvest.

There are "fountainheads" for the gospel in many countries of the world. Like the Ukrainians, the Argentines are on the move. So also, among many, are the Brazilians, the Samoans, the Africans, the Philipinos, the South Koreans, the Indians, and the Chinese. They are in motion to spread the gospel, and simply need friends to help them keep going. You can help them.

We are Americans. We know why God raised up America -- to bless the nations! If you are an American, you share in this national mandate.

We decided early on that the best thing we could do for our country was to do what our country is called to do -- bless the world.

Even more so, we are Christian. Like you, we have a commission from Jesus Himself. There is only one commission. Go into ALL the world and preach the gospel. Go and teach ALL nations.

Many don't take the word "ALL" seriously. They think that Jesus said that to the whole Church, but not to them. Some think they should just be concerned about their own corner of the world.

Jesus did not speak those words to the whole Church. He spoke it to *eleven men*. He told **them** to go into ALL the world. They went as far as they could go. Thomas died in India. Matthew got to Kyrgyzstan. *How far will you go?*

We together with you are more than eleven. His written commission is to you and to us, not to a crowd. Will you continue to be part of our "eleven"? Will you go? Will you keep praying for us, and supporting the vision to bring the good news of Jesus to the nations?

We are now senior citizens. Many of our friends are "retired". We have no need to retire. We are already doing what we always dreamed of!

Pastor Gregory made an observation about Christians: *those who have a vision live long.*

What about you? Perhaps you are a senior citizen. Whether young or old, sign up with God for the next and best part of your life -- you are now free to serve God with all your heart!

Are you concerned about your health? The healthiest thing for your heart and your brain and your body is to have a strong vision. Many people who retire don't even live long enough to enjoy the benefits, because they are trying too hard to "relax". Come along and have more fun serving God!

*Thanks for being our friend.*

With love,

**John and Jackie**



Your new brother in Christ  
March, 2007