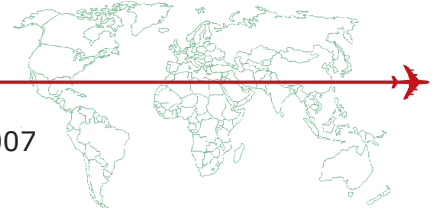


Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



September 24, 2007

Dear friends,

We greet you once again in the Wonderful Name of Jesus! As we have often said, it is a privilege for us to be able to write to you, and when you actually read our letters and pray for us, well..WOW, that is a great thing to us. It seems as though the summer passed very quickly, and here we are into the fall season (except for a few of you in New Zealand it is your springtime!)

The Blood Covenant...

Our teaching ministry continues to focus on the foundations of our faith, which we in summary call the Blood Covenant. The bottom line of the Christian's faith and life is the salvation which we have through the sacrifice or the atonement of Christ. There is no other salvation offered except this one. There is only one blood sacrifice that has satisfied the holiness of the Father, and that is the blood of His own Son poured out on the cross – poured out for all people. Thank God for that blood sacrifice, for without it we would not even know God, and have no hope of life beyond this world.

The Blood Covenant has been the subject of most of our teaching in the past fifteen years, both at home in the USA, and out among the nations.

For many years we taught prayer warriors from various churches here in Minnesota. Though they came from what I would call the finest churches in the area, it seemed that many of them were not courageous in prayer. For effective prayer, a strong foundation is needed. Jesus taught us to pray expecting great answers, and He assured us that we could push back the spiritual powers of darkness. For this work, you need to know the authority and power of your salvation.

Meanwhile, in Ukraine we found ourselves continuously ministering to new Christians and spiritually very young leaders. They needed something solid, so that wherever God sent them – perhaps alone in a village without others to support them – they could stand strong in the Word of God.

Hence we continuously returned to the basics of the gospel -- who Jesus is, what He accomplished in the shedding of his blood, his death, and his resurrection, and how to put that good news to work in daily life and ministry.

There were many times when we only had an hour with a group of young Christians, people who we knew we might not see again. What could we tell them in an hour that would make a difference? This continuously brought us to the same place: "What happened when Jesus hung on the cross?"

Or, in other words, "What is in your blood covenant salvation?"

We sometimes call this short teaching "The Gospel in your hand".

Here are the five most important things that took place in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as applied to your life. There is one point for each finger of your hand. I have said to some people, "if you don't have paper, write this on your fingers!"

The Bible tells us to lay hands on people to bless them. You can know what is spiritually in your hands, what kind of blessing you have to give. You can know what are you imparting. That knowledge gives bold faith. In your hands there is the power of a great Gospel!

This "five fingered Gospel" is not only used for praying for people, however. This is the foundation of your faith and the foundation of your expectant hope in God. As the hymn of the Church declares, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness!" Your hope can be built up. It can be built on the Solid Rock! You can have God's knowledge about your freedom from sin, and sickness, and Satan. Your faith can be solidly built on the knowledge that you are blessed and not cursed, and that your life and work will prosper because of the blood of Jesus. You can have that boldness built into you, that impels you into the presence of God, and keeps you in fellowship with Him.

I have seen old houses cranked up off the ground so that a new foundation could be put in place. You might feel like an old house, but God wants ALL his houses resting on the solid rock of Christ.

Here is the gospel in your hand. Here is the five point summary of the blood covenant – describing what happened when Jesus died on the cross. Here is what Jesus meant when He cried out, "IT IS FINISHED!"

1. *Jesus broke the power of sin, that we could be forgiven and made holy.* 1 John 1:7; Romans 6:5-11; Ephesians 4:23,24
2. *Jesus broke the power of sickness, that we could be healthy.* Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24; Mark 16:18
3. *Jesus broke the power of Satan, that we could be free.* Hebrews 2:14; Rev. 12:11; James 4:7
4. *Jesus broke the power of the curse, that we could be blessed and fruitful.* Galatians 3:13-14; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Matthew 6:25-34

5. *Jesus restored our fellowship with our Father.* Hebrews 10:19-22; Ephesians 2:13-18; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 This is the most important of all. It is the "thumb" in the five-fingered Gospel. The other four work in association with this one.

To Ukraine and Armenia, September 28...

I, John, will leave with our son-in-law Scott a few days from writing this letter. Scott will return home ten days later, and I will continue on in Ukraine until October 20; then I fly to Armenia. On October 28, I will head back home, unless God opens up a trip to Afghanistan -- please pray!

Our time will be filled with teaching, preaching, praying, and ministering to pastors and leaders in training. Scott, a minister and teacher of the Word, will have a full load of adventures with the Holy Spirit along with me.

Beyond helping Gregory in the general oversight of Churches of Praise, the time in Ukraine will be taken over by two day-time Bible colleges, two evening Bible colleges, and the monthly pastors conference. In Armenia, two new Bible colleges will open on October 15: one in Yerevan, the capital, and the other in the city of Vanadzor where there is a bustling young church with a harvest of new believers. I will split my time between those two colleges.

By the help of the Holy Spirit, I will teach the Blood Covenant foundations over and over and over during this trip. Please pray for the hearts and minds of the people whom I will teach. Pray for them according to Ephesians 1:15-20, that they would have a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ, and that God will open the eyes of their hearts. The answer to this prayer may be the most important thing in the life of every Christian. When the total Gospel is completely unveiled inside of us, so that its reality outweighs all our problems, and our attention becomes fixed on the redemption in Christ – then all other wonderful things start to happen in our lives!

If you would like the outline of what I teach on the Blood Covenant, write in a request for this free pamphlet on the return form accompanying this letter.

An update on the finances...

As we step into the fall season of ministry, and plan for winter and spring, our hearts are set to keep going wherever the Holy Spirit leads us. Mostly that means going long distances! As you know, our going is no more important than your partnership of prayer and giving. No missionary can fulfill the call without the supply of prayer and finances that make it possible to go.

Our faith budget is much larger than it was a few years ago. Expenses of the home base, travel expense, church planting expense in Ukraine, Armenia, Afghanistan, and Kyrgyzstan – all of this requires more funds than ever.

As you probably know, we are not salaried, and are not backed financially by any church or any organization. The total income is from friends like you whom God leads and enables to give. Four churches do support us some, and for that we are grateful. At the present time, the contributions from those who give regularly covers 1/3 of our minimum monthly budget. We thank God for some people who have stood with us in their giving for years and years. The rest must come from others. All giving is very supernatural to us (regardless of the amount), which, when it arrives, always startles us and produces in us deep thankfulness to God and to His people.

For several years, through some extraordinary funding, we have been able to send seven to nine thousand dollars each month to support church planters in Ukraine, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and now Afghanistan. This financial assistance has provided transport, food, and other expenses to keep courageous laborers for Jesus moving from village to village with the gospel and opening new churches. This amounted to about \$30 a month for 12-18 months to establish a village church.

It has been an ongoing miracle to see the evangelism and church planting ministry establish light-houses for the gospel in hundreds of towns and villages where there had been only spiritual darkness.

Just now this special funding has stopped, leaving an army of hard working church planters suddenly without financial support. As you can understand, this is of great concern to us. To see the work of the gospel stop through lack of finances is tragic.

We believe God will open up new resources. He is the Chief Sender and Suporter of His Laborers, and He will work through His people. Please agree with us in faith and prayer for this. The spreading of the Gospel is God's main work. Jesus said, *"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached as a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come."* Matt. 24:14 The supply for His own workers is high on His list of priorities. Surely He will supply the resources that His laborers need to do the work of the Gospel!

Again, thank you...

We are continuously grateful for your friendship, your concern, and your believing prayer. As God leads and enables you to give financially, we have deep appreciation in our hearts. We all share in the fruit and in the rewards, for each part is equally important!

"How will they preach unless they are sent?"

Rom. 10:15

"The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike." I Sam. 30:24

Thank you!!

With love,
John and Jackie