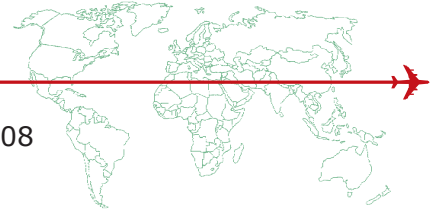




Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



April 29, 2008

Dear friends,
We say hello once again in the Wonderful Name of Jesus! It is always a privilege and honor for us to be able to write to you; we thank you for reading our letters, and praying for us.

Scarlet Thread Ministries is now World Harvest Network.

One year ago, I (John) awoke with the name "World Harvest Network" in my heart. It took some months for us to understand that the Lord wanted us to raise a new banner for ministry. It became clear that this was the simplest name for what we have been doing and intend to do in the future. It is partnership for missions: working together to bring in God's harvest and to see new churches established. Our hearts especially go to parts of the world where people have not yet heard the gospel.

Our desire is to stand with those on the frontiers of evangelism and church planting, encouraging them, getting others to help, teaching young leaders and young believers to build their lives and ministries on the foundation of Jesus Christ and the written Word of God.

Churches of Praise will continue as a primary ministry for us; that stewardship alone is more than we can do ourselves. We continue to need other pastors and ministers to help us serve the continuing expansion of Churches of Praise. As you know, this ministry itself brings us to other countries, as the Ukrainians take up their call to the nations.

In addition to this continuing responsibility, we are drawn once again to Jesus' words to "*lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white (ripe) for harvest.*" John 4:35

In years past we always gave some of our energy to our home area in the USA, even though we are called to go to other nations. During the last few years, the rapid church planting in Ukraine took almost all of our attention.

Now, our home country again tugs at our hearts. As you probably know, every major city in the USA has a deposit of people from most countries in the world.

As you also know, America needs a major revival. If she is to survive the cultural and spiritual war raging within her, a fresh fire of the gospel of

Jesus Christ needs to spread through the land. How much hunger for God is in our country? I have decided it is greater than what meets the eye. There are rising forces against Christ in our culture, and perhaps church attendance is dropping in many places, but what is in the hearts of people outside the walls of the church?

This past week was an eye-opener. Our home church hosted an evangelist, who came not to win souls in the meetings, but to send out believers into the streets of our city. Hundreds of believers went to the streets, hospitals, and nursing homes, asking people one-on-one if anyone had ever told them that God loves them. Literally thousands of people prayed to receive Jesus outside the walls of the church -- one at a time, all in the last few days. God is at work in America drawing people to Himself.

Here are a few stories from the last few days:

A middle aged lady, seasoned in witnessing, came to a street corner and noticed a well dressed businessman on the opposite corner. Because he looked very dignified and polished in his fine suit and beautiful leather briefcase in hand, she was hesitant to approach him. She thought he may be very proud and intellectual. But her heart told her she had to go to him. She approached him, and asked him if anyone had ever told him that God loves him. He looked shocked, saying "Just two days ago someone else asked me the same question, and I brushed him off, telling him abruptly that I had no time to talk about that. For two days, I have been asking myself, 'Why don't I have time to talk about God?'"

With tears in his eyes he listened to the gospel and gave his heart to Jesus, offering profuse thanksgiving to this middle aged lady for taking time to talk to him.

A tiny woman in her twenties gave this report: She said this was the first time she ever went out to talk to people about the Lord. Her team went to the Mall of America, our famous shopping center, and she went to the food court. She noticed several men, whom she called "creatures". (Jesus said, 'go into the world and preach the gospel to every *creature*'...) They were large, muscular, tattooed men sitting at a table. She went over to them, somehow propelled by the grace of God.

She asked them if anyone had ever told them that God loved them. They were stunned. She continued, and asked if she could pray for God to bless them. They agreed. After prayer, she asked if they wanted to take God's gift of salvation. They did, and all gave their hearts to Jesus.

Then one of them told his story. He said he had just driven straight through from New Orleans. He had been in a life style of drugs, etc. and somehow felt he had to get away from that city. He felt only one thing inside: get to Minnesota. He did not know why. When he came to the Mall of America and arrived in the food court, he felt compelled to go sit at this particular table.

With tears he expressed deep gratefulness to this little lady, and expressed to her that he knew this was the beginning of a great change in his life!

Another woman walked down a sidewalk in the city and noticed three men at the street corner. It seemed they were involved in a "business deal". (It was a drug deal.) She just walked right into their space and asked them if anyone had ever told them that God loved them. They stood stunned. Two of them backed away to leave. One of them gave all his attention to this first-time soul-winner. She told him of the love of God, and asked if she could pray for him, and if she could put her hand on his shoulder while she prayed. He agreed. The power of God came on him, and he began to shake, and to cry, and nearly fell to the sidewalk. He shouted, "Did you feel that, did you feel that!?" She asked him if he would like to receive God's gift and give his life to Jesus. Oh, yes, for sure he wanted to do that! He told her this was the greatest thing that had ever happened to him!

A lady walked into a nursing home, and into a room with five people in their beds. She had never witnessed before this day. "Do you know that God loves you," she asked them all. One shouted out, "You're in the wrong room, lady; we're all Jewish in here!" She just continued, "If you died tonight, do you know where you would go?" One lady said, "Heaven!" "How do you know?", the soul-winner asked her. "Because I'm a good person!", she retorted. From the other side of the room, a resident shouted, "Oh, no you're not!"

A few minutes later, all five of them asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.

How do we know if someone is hungry for God, or if God has prepared them to come to Christ? It seems we just have to love people enough to ask them a simple question. God may have prepared them for that miracle moment when you ask, "Has anyone ever told you that God loves you?"

Jesus said, *"The harvest is plentiful, and the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord of the Harvest, that He will send laborers into His Harvest."*

Matthew 9:37,38

Will you be a soul-winner?

Will you pray with us that God will send out more laborers? When I prayed that prayer many years ago, I became the first one He sent in answer to my own prayer. Within weeks of that prayer, we were launched into a full-time ministry, which has continued for thirty-six years.

The Lord has put it on our hearts that *"the best is yet to come."* Stepping into a broader vision at age 65 is not because we feel so strong or so smart. Our feelings are many times the opposite.

But we know the Bible teaches us to live by faith. That is our desire, to keep serving Him in faith, and trusting Him to supply all that is needed for spirit, soul and body.

We believe the same thing for you.

*He gives strength to the weary,
And to him who lacks might He increases power;
Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
Yet those who wait for the Lord
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.*

Isaiah 40:29-31

Please remember that the strength is actually IN THE PROMISE OF GOD. As you meditate, receive, and agree with His promise, the grace within the promise is transferred to you!

This is why it has been said that *"The future is as bright as the promises of God."*

Go through your Bible once again and find the great and abundant promises. They are all for you. Look at them, think about them, take them as your own. Let His promises be the resting place of your mind and heart. They are your "home".

As children we both were taught to sing this song:
*Every promise in the Book is mine;
Every chapter, every verse, every line;
All the blessings of His love divine,
Every promise in the Book is mine.*

A special thanks to those of you who have faithfully given. May the blessing be multiplied back to you. Please agree with us in faith that we will experience a financial "summer bump" instead of a "summer slump". There is much to accomplish, and we need many friends!

With love and appreciation,

John and Jackie