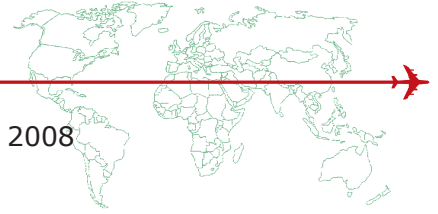




Lifeline

...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



February 3, 2008

Dear friends,

We greet you once again in the wonderful name of Jesus! It is always with joy that we write you, and consider it an honor that you take time to read our letter!

Blood Covenant Seminar

We just finished a wonderful time with a group of believers in our home church doing a blood covenant seminar, which we called, "It is Finished!" We taught at the communion table for two evenings and a Saturday morning, magnifying Jesus and His glorious salvation for every area of our lives.

Since more people showed up than expected, those who prepared communion for the first night didn't provide enough for everyone. How strange this felt to us, when our message is that God's provision in Christ is "more than enough" for everyone and every need! Since our teaching is also in demonstration of the truth, we asked the Lord how to serve communion during the rest of the seminar.

We both immediately knew what to do. On the second night we set out several gallons of grape juice and ten large loaves of bread, and told the people they could come to the communion table anytime during the teaching and take as much as they wanted, as often as they wanted! We kept on teaching as the people kept on coming to the Lord's table. It was a clear reminder that God's provision in Jesus is indeed "more than enough!" God Himself encourages us in Hebrews to come to His throne of grace *continuously* to receive all the mercy and grace that we need!

We emphasized once again the five great things that happened on the cross (count 'em on one hand!):

1. He broke the power of sin and made us holy.
2. He broke the power of sickness and made us healthy.
3. He broke the power of Satan and made us free.
4. He broke the power of the curse, and made us blessed and fruitful.
5. He restored our fellowship with God. This is the greatest of all the blessings!!!

These are the things that come in your salvation, and when you are brought into Christ through the blood of Jesus, they are all yours.

Facts vs the Truth...

You might be sick or troubled or in debt. Those circumstances are *facts*. But beyond those facts is the TRUTH. Jesus is the TRUTH. He is your TRUTH! Go beyond the facts of your present circumstances and focus on the most powerful truth of your salvation. That truth, when you understand it and believe it, will set you free.

Vita is a powerful Ukrainian Bible teacher in the Churches of Praise. Leader of women, instructor in the colleges, she is a powerhouse. A few months ago, she became ill, losing the use of her hands and her legs, and ended up in a wheelchair. The doctors said she would be there the rest of her life.

In the hospital with other sick and disabled people, she asked God what she should do. She reported, "Then I remembered what John Matthews taught about facts and truth." Yes, it was a *fact* that she was in a wheelchair without use of her hands and legs. But yes, the *truth* was higher and more powerful, that Jesus was her Healer!

She made a decision to go beyond the facts of her sickness and the wheelchair and focus on the truth of her great healing in Jesus!

She walked out of that hospital.

Now Vita returns to minister to the sick. The doctors have asked her to help patients spiritually with their healing! Don't be stopped by the "facts" of your life. Hold to, cling to, exalt, magnify, and proclaim the TRUTH of your life, that Jesus is the Lord and His blood and His Word have never lost their power!!

Churches of Praise

When not in Ukraine, we keep in touch with pastor Gregory in Krivoy Rog regularly by conference calls, since we need Anya to translate. In this case cell phones are a great blessing, enabling the three of us to talk, regardless of where we each happen to be. (I'd rather be with the churches there, than most anywhere!)

The work of the churches is going on strong. It is a season of strengthening ministries that have been started, though the desire in the leaders to open new churches is strong. (You may remember that new churches were opened in many, many villages in a very short time.) We are waiting on the Lord for His timing and provision for the support of a new wave of church planting.

In the meantime, the new pastors and leaders are gaining confidence and learning to help each other be fruitful in ministry. It is a time for growing and maturing in the churches.

So much remains to be done, even in Ukraine itself, which by missionary standards has more gospel than many countries. Thousands of villages and small towns still have no gospel witness and no church.

Looking east from Ukraine...

From the vantage point of Ukraine, we always look east to the vast areas of Asia, from the Middle east all the way to China. Jesus himself said it: *"The harvest is ripe, and the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest, that He will send laborers into the harvest."*

Agree with us in prayer for the Lord to raise up and send out new laborers. When God sends the laborers there is always good fruit. People come to Christ if the missionary goes in obedience to the Lord. Also, when the Lord sends the laborers -- not just man sending them -- He adds the financial provision and the anointing of the Spirit which is mandatory to accomplish God's plan.



These men in central Asia gave their lives to Jesus in the last few weeks, and were just baptized in water.

In the middle of the world's turmoil, the chief work of the Holy Spirit is to bring in God's harvest. Always look beyond the news of war and trouble, and seek to know what God is doing. Don't fear the enemy's trouble in the world; He is trying to stop the harvest. But God is GREATER. Even in war torn central Asia, in the countries which radical Islamists claim as their own, where terrorism is on the rise -- even in those places God is at work.

Last March, Gregory, Anya and I travelled for the first time to one such country (not named for reasons of security), and there witnessed the salvation of a dozen Muslim men and the birth of four

tiny churches. Now, a year later, more men have come to Christ, and two more small churches were added. Just three weeks ago, ten new converts were baptized by R&A, in the same bathtub where we baptized the first bunch of guys last March. And more are now ready for baptism. *These babes in Christ need to be shielded from evildoers by prayer.*

The pictures show some of the story. Precious men, saved out of great spiritual darkness, in the midst of trouble and danger finding life in Jesus!

We rent for the ministry a large sturdy house in the capital city. The \$6000 yearly rent is due in March. No budget or financial backing exists for this need, only what our friends and the Ukrainians can send there. Please agree with us in faith that the rent will be paid on time!

These little churches are very important, as they exist in an Islamic culture. Most Christian organizations have vacated the country due to the danger of kidnapping and murder by the Taliban.

Staying home for a little while...

We are remaining in Minnesota somewhat longer than usual this winter, so that I (John) can do some writing. Instead

of writing one large book as originally planned, I am working on six small books. Our plan is to travel to Ukraine near the end of March.

As you know, we depend on friends like you for our salaries, the expenses of the ministry at home, and the support of our mission work. Thank you for praying for us, and for giving as the Lord enables and directs you.

With love,
John and Jackie



Many new believers have been baptized in R&A's bathroom



R. is discipling the new believers in typical Asian style, gathered on the floor.