



...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



September 27, 2008

Dear friends,

We say hello again in the wonderful name of Jesus! Thank you for taking time to read our letter; we are believing God for blessing and fruitfulness in your life!

Set your mind...

"For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."

Romans 8:6, NASB

We must learn to examine the content of our mind. Too often our minds rule us, and we submit to whatever happens to be in our thoughts. The problem is that these thoughts are not always from God. Our mind was made to be a tool for our spirit, not a tyrant to rule us.

Your mind must be set in the direction of the Holy Spirit. In other words, you need to set your mind in agreement with the thinking of God. The foundation for how God thinks about your life is found in the thousands of His wonderful promises to you which are sprinkled throughout the Bible. If you will set your mind in agreement with His promises, the fruit of the Spirit will be in your thoughts, for *the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace*. The thinking of the Spirit always brings life and peace. Even when the Spirit is attempting to bring you to repentance from sin, there is an element of life and peace, for He always brings the solution for that sin. God is full of life and peace, and His thinking produces the same in you.

Too easily, however, your mind is not filled with life and peace. It may be filled with "death", which can mean double-mindedness, doubt, discouragement, depression, despair, or defeat. You may be doing this to yourself by choosing the wrong direction for your thoughts (the mind of the flesh) rather than the declared promises and commands of the Word, which is where you find the mind of the Spirit.

In addition, Satan may be injecting thoughts into your mind. The problem is that he comes religiously, imitating God. Satan has some facts about you, so he will try to use them against you, because he is the accuser. When you come under

condemnation, there is always an element of "truth" – or facts – in it, or you would not believe it at all. He also knows how to keep reminding you of the impossibility of your problems. Satan has enough of this information to build a good case in your mind for condemnation and fear, which produces discouragement and hopelessness.

When your mind is set on the flesh -- on natural knowledge rather than God's knowledge -- there seems to be no solution to your problems and all seems lost. Because these thoughts seem so logical, (since your failure is real and the problems are big!) you may give in to these natural thoughts. But they are not God speaking to you! If He were speaking, there would be some life and peace!

Facts about your problems and your failures are not what the Bible calls truth. Jesus said, *"I am the truth."* Jesus also said, *"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free."*

This is why we must have our minds continually cleansed by the blood of Jesus, and our thoughts centered (set) on Him. This is why we need to praise the Lord, and exalt the name of Jesus. This is why we need Jesus on our minds continuously. This is why we need to remember the goodness of God and the promises of His Word.

It may not be logical to us that the mercies of the Lord are new every morning, but it is logical to God and it is the mind of the Spirit. It may not be logical to our natural mind that Jesus never leaves us and never forsakes us, but it is logical to God and it is the mind of the Spirit.

We have the mind of Christ, the Bible says. The mind of Christ is based on His character, His redemption, and His promises. The mind of Christ is the truth. The mind of Christ is rooted in the cross, and in His death, His resurrection and in His unceasing intercession for us. This is why His name, His blood, and the Word concerning Christ are our chief spiritual weapons. These weapons set our minds "in the Spirit" -- where there is

"Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your inheritance, the very ends of the earth Your possession." Ps. 2:8

always hope, there is always wisdom, there is always salvation, there is always a miracle coming! With the mind set on the Spirit, the most logical thing to do in every situation is to TRUST GOD, even when we have "blown it"; even when we have failed or made stupid decisions. Sure, we may need to make things right. We may need to make changes. We may need to repent. But it is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance, not the condemnation of the devil. Hopelessness never brought anyone to repentance. The spirit of death never gave anyone wisdom on how to make things right.

Life and peace come to us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Life and peace are gifts of God. *"He who has the Son has life." "Being justified by faith (in Jesus) we have peace with God..."* That is how God thinks!

The mind set on the Spirit is the mind set on Jesus and the promises of God. Choose life! Choose peace! Set your mind on Jesus and God's great promises! This will straighten out your mind and give you God's thinking for the day – or the night. It will get you in touch with God's logic, God's reasoning, which always results in peace of mind and life worth living!

Here at the Churches of Praise...

I (John) am still in Ukraine. Jackie left for home two days ago with pastor Lynne Hammond. We have had a very unusual and precious time here. The highlight was the prayer conference, at which pastor Lynne was the main minister. Her life of prayer and her authority in teaching was immediately received by the Ukrainian believers, and the atmosphere was charged with God's presence and the passion of the church. It was a time of explosive praise, intense worship, clear teaching, and united prayer, especially for revival in Ukraine. Lynne laid her hands and prayed over each one who knew they were called to be persistent prayer warriors who press through in prayer until victory comes. All of the hundreds of people present came forward for this impartation!

We believe it was a spiritual turning point, not only for the work of the Churches of Praise, but for the nation of Ukraine. As you know, Russia is raising an angry fist to all the surrounding countries, and would like to subdue Ukraine once again. There was a united cry to God to protect Ukraine for the sake of the gospel. Let's believe together that the Ukrainian church will continue to fulfill her destiny of taking the bread of life to the nations!

On to Indonesia???

We are scheduled to land on the island of Java one week from now, and begin teaching Indone-

sian missionaries and church planters on Monday, October 6. The following week we plan to go to the province of Aceh on the island of Sumatra, where we have been several times in past years. Our friends lead a team of nearly fifty who work faithfully among this Islamic people to see them drawn to the Lord. Our purpose is to minister to this team.

The Acehnese suffered for years under conflict and wars, and then the great tsunami hit them head on in December 2004, killing 167,00 people and destroying entire cities. Out of this tragedy some good has come. It is the beginning of God's harvest time! The Acehnese are now much more open and receptive to hear the good news of Christ.

They have been the chief propagators of Islam throughout southeast Asia, and Satan would hate for them to be propagators of the love of Jesus! God loves these courageous and beautiful people, and now is the time to "plunder hell and propagate heaven" with the people of Aceh!

I will arrive home from Ukraine on October 1. We hope to repack our suitcases and leave as soon as possible for Indonesia. *Our problem as of today, September 27 is the lack of travel funds to get there.* We are telling the Lord, "Lord, we are ready to go, but we can't send ourselves." There seems to be an unusual resistance against this travel. We realize that we may have missed God's timing and are to go later, but how is it that four of the six ministers planning to teach in the school on Java had to cancel their travel plans in the last month? Did everyone miss God, or is the enemy resisting?

Please pray. Actually, we think it is God's best for us both to get there on time; plan B will be for me (John) to go. If that doesn't work, we will go on to plan C, which is to press through to go at another time.

Thank you!

We have deep appreciation for you, though we may rarely or never get to see you. If you have read this far in our letter, we consider you to be a good friend. Why else would you take time out of a busy life to read it? Thank you for your interest, your concern, your love, and your prayer.

We are in need of many new financial partners, and a major financial breakthrough on all levels of our ministry. We believe that God has abundant resources, and that He will somehow release them for His work, as we and His friends are obedient to Him.

With love,
John and Jackie

Send contributions to: World Harvest Network, 9201 75th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55428