



...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



April 26, 2010

Dear friends,

Greetings again in the name of Jesus! We greatly appreciate your friendship and taking time to reading our letter!

What a beautiful day it is here in Minnesota! The sun is warming the cool spring air, making it a pleasure to be outside. How great it is that we are the right distance from the sun to feel its warmth - and not it's awesome power to consume anything and everything!

Hebrews 12:29 says, "Our God is a consuming fire!" I noticed that verse on a day I had just finished reading an article in a science magazine. The article was about the universe, as seen through the eyes of the Hubble telescope. Looking through this new window to the skies, astronomers were now able to estimate the size and scope of the visible universe. The estimate was that there are at least one hundred billion galaxies, each with at least one hundred billion stars

On a clear night in a country place the sky visible to our eyes is blazing with stars. But most of we see is only one galaxy - the Milky Way - in which our earth resides.

Our sun is just one of those stars.

The sun is an unbelievably huge ball of fire, like thousands of hydrogen bombs going off continuously. How can we comprehend a universe with billions times billions of these all-consuming worlds of fire?

The One who created this universe meant to leave his mark. He filled it with fire.

"Our God is a consuming fire." Who is this One who flung these billions and billions and billions of fiery spheres into space?

Amazingly, this God of fire is the same One who loved this small world so much that He sent His only Son to shed His blood for our sins. He is the same One who established the great covenant of love sealed in that blood, called the gospel of Jesus Christ.

That blood covenant gives us not only forgiveness from all our sin (Eph. 1:7), but also deliverance from its power (Rom. 6:6). That same

blood assures us of healing from our sicknesses, for by His wounds we were healed (Is. 53:5). That same blood covenant declares that we have protection from Satan and the kingdom of darkness (Heb. 2:14-15, Col. 1:13). That same blood takes us from a cursed life to a blessed life (Gal. 3:13-14), and opens up the greatest blessing of all -- to live forever in the very presence of the Father (Heb. 10:19, Eph. 2:13, 2 Cor. 5:1-8).

Jesus was announced by John the Baptist as He who would "baptize you with the Holy Spirit, AND WITH FIRE." Pentecostal fire enables you not only to experience your great salvation in the blood of Jesus, but to also carry its message to the ends of the earth!

Blood and Fire

The Salvation Army was born in the heart of William and Catherine Booth on the East Side of London among masses of poor downtrodden people who had no hope in this world or the next.



This vision became a worldwide army of Christian soldiers, whose motto was "Blood and Fire".

The Blood spoke of the great salvation by grace that comes to us through the shed blood of Jesus

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

Christ. The Fire spoke of the great sanctifying and empowering work of the Holy Spirit that changes believers into faithful and courageous soldiers for Jesus.

These blood-washed fire breathing soldiers, mostly young women and men, took the love and salvation of Jesus everywhere, it seemed.

Roy Haterrsey, biographer of William Booth, wrote this in his book *Blood and Fire*:

"Reformed drunkards, thieves and prostitutes marched shoulder to shoulder with the morally spotless officers of the Army and urged other drunkards, thieves and prostitutes to mend their ways. They were certainly noisy. They shouted the hope of heaven from street corners and played their trumpets and trombones outside peaceful public houses. They were also colorful when they could afford it. The women had given up feathers in their hats and brooches on their blouses and the men had sold their watch chains to help the poor. But they marched behind banners and their working uniform was emblazoned with the scandalous motto "Blood and Fire". They disturbed the peace. Worse still, they disturbed consciences. Indeed, they impertinently suggested that disturbance was their mission."

We need another "disturbance" of the Blood and the Fire. Many Christians and some churches are beginning to press into God every day in earnest prayer for another great awakening in America. Will you? It is becoming very clear that nothing else will save your country from tragedy. We need a fresh movement of the Blood and the Fire! We call it revival!

"Keep the fire burning on the altar..."

A blazing bonfire starts with the tiny fire of just one match. You might feel as though you have very little spiritual fire in you. It is not important how big the fire is in you. What is important is that you don't let it go out.

In the tabernacle of Moses, God demonstrated the place of His spiritual fire in your life. In the outer court was the brazen altar, on which all animals were sacrificed, and their blood spilled - a clear demonstration of the cross of Jesus Christ, where the true Lamb of God was sacrificed, and His blood was spilled for us.

On the day the tabernacle was dedicated, and

the priests were ordained, the first slaughtered animal was placed on the brazen altar. Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the sacrifice (Lev. 9:24). God gave the instruction to keep that fire on the brazen altar burning, and never allow it to go out (Lev. 6:12-13)

Every morning and evening, the priest would take burning coals from this perpetual fire on the brazen altar, and carry this fire into the Holy Place, placing the coals on the golden altar of incense. The priest would burn incense on the golden altar while he was trimming and refilling with oil the lamps of the golden lamp stand.

Keeping that lamp stand lit is a picture of your daily fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The golden altar of incense is all about your prayer life (Rev. 5:8, 8:3). Just as the fire on that altar of incense came from the brazen altar, so the fire for your praying comes from your passionate faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

God's fire came into your heart when you were saved and filled with the Spirit. Stir that fire in you. Blow on it by meditating on what Jesus accomplished for you in His death and resurrection. Pray earnestly and passionately from your heart. An honest cry to God from your heart will stir up your spiritual fire. Get into prayer with other people who yearn for a spiritual awakening in the land.

May the Church of Jesus Christ become a blazing inferno of persistent and united revival prayer. May you help start the fire!

Thank you!

We deeply appreciate your friendship and support of our ministry. We stand in faith for you, your family, and your service in the Lord.

As always, we are trusting God for supernatural provision - for you and for the work to which He has called us.

With love,
John and Jackie

Travel plans: By God's grace, John will be in Ukraine May 20 - June 11. He will minister in the pastors' conference and in various Churches of Praise on the Blood and the Fire. Pray for all travel expenses to be met, for strength and anointing to fulfill the purposes of God during this trip.