



...a prayer letter from John and Jackie



November 17, 2010

Dear friends,
Greetings again in the name of Jesus!

I (John) am off to Ukraine again on November 30 for the fifty-second trip since October, 1993, when we had the privilege of helping Gregory and Galina Sukhina open their first Church of Praise.

Today it is a fellowship of 185 churches in a dozen of the 28 oblasts (states) of Ukraine. Most of that growth took place in the years of 2002 to 2007. Since that time the priority has been to strengthen these 185 churches.

This year the passion to open new churches has risen again. During our annual Congress of the Churches of Praise in July, plans were announced by various leaders that added up to 96 new churches to be planted in the coming year.

This is a daunting goal, for it depends on the sacrificial effort of many seasoned ministers, dozens others to help them, and no one knows where the finances will come from.

A few days ago, I spoke with Gregory by phone, as I often do. He told me that about 30 of the new 96 planned churches have already started.

In the early years, Jackie and I would often travel to most of the Churches of Praise. When the rapid opening of new churches began in 2002, that became impossible. It became clear that the Lord wanted us to concentrate on teaching and encouraging the leaders, and build up the main churches that send out most of the church planters.

There are some photos on page two of this letter showing my typical activity when in Krivoy Rog. If you came with me on a trip, you would probably join me in doing the things that are pictured.

Much time is spent praying, teaching, preaching, interacting with leaders, and ministering to many of them personally. It is a great honor to encourage people so deeply dedicated to the work of the gospel!

The main church campus is the nerve center of the Churches of Praise all over Ukraine. Pastors from other cities come and go frequently from Gregory's office. He spends a large share of his time with these pastors, in addition to pastoring

the main church. His private office is "grand central station", often full of people. His counseling ministry is normally done at his office table with people sitting around the room listening in, many of whom are waiting their turn. Some are there just to learn, or maybe help pray for the people. Anyone present may throw in a comment during a counseling session. Only rarely will Gregory take someone to another room for a private conversation. His office is open to all. A pastor coming for advice may be followed by a drug addict brought from the street, on his or her way into the rehab center on the church campus.

When I am in Krivoy Rog, I do my best to support the vision of pastor Gregory and the other pastors, and not have my own agenda. I am there to serve what the Lord has put in their hearts. It is always a great adventure with God, depending totally on His Spirit in every situation.

***I will travel November 30 - December 16.
Jackie will be at home during this trip.***

We are trusting the Lord to provide all the finances needed for the trip and for the home base.

Thank you for agreeing with us in faith that all the needs will be met. We deeply appreciate your friendship. Thank you for reading our letters, for praying and giving as the Holy Spirit leads you.

Take this encouragement from the Word and make it yours:

"So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace."

These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever."

2 Cor. 4:16-18 The Message Bible

With love,
John and Jackie

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

write checks to: World Harvest Network, 9201 75th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
Email: JohnandJackieMatthews@gmail.com Telephone: 763-755-6612



An altar call



Prayer in Gregory's office before the meeting



Ministers' meeting



Praying for the renewal of the spirit of our minds



Praying for ministers



With Gregory in the conference room



Preaching in the main church



Dancing with those who had July birthdays...mine is July 4!



Bible College



Communion



A baby dedication



Praying over needs in Gregory's office



Communion



Another altar call



Bible College students and me.