



...a prayer letter from John and Jackie

October 13, 2011

Dear friends,

We greet you once again in the Wonderful Name of Jesus!

The letter is later than normal, frankly because we for a while were not sure what to write to you.

For over twenty five years since leaving pastoring a church, we have been living and serving essentially one day at a time, not often having long range plans set firmly in place, though our goal of serving God's harvest in the nations has never changed. It has turned out that each of those years have been similar, travelling overseas several times during the year, and while at home volunteering in our home church as well as administering our ministry, lots of praying, and always pursuing writing and publishing in some way.

Since arriving home from Ukraine this time, I was asked repeatedly the usual question, "When are you going again?" And, as usual, I had to answer, "I am not sure yet". It is always one step at a time, waiting for God to say "Go now". Sometimes that "Go now" is actually knowledge a couple of months ahead of travel.

However, once it was on the very day of travel that I heard the Lord say "Go now" in my heart. You might remember me reporting on that trip. Sitting in our home church on a Sunday morning, I heard the Lord whisper, "You're going to Ukraine today." I leaned over and whispered to Jackie what I had just heard. She whispered, "OK."

At 3 p.m. I was on the phone with Gregory in Ukraine to confirm the unexpected plan. By 4 p.m. I had purchased my ticket online, and at 5 p.m. I was out the door on the way to the airport.

Well, that has happened only once in the fifty four trips to Ukraine.

As of today I have no word to "Go". Meanwhile, I am breaking through on the writing of the foundations we have taught under the title of Blood Covenant. If I get to stay home this fall, I think I could have the rough draft done by Christmas. Wow, for me, that would be a great thing!

I have become quite sure the devil has put up lots of resistance concerning this writing, but I don't

want to ask for prayer again. Just plead the blood over me and my computer and Jackie and tell the demons to shut up.

Since being at home, it's like the enemy has thrown everything he ever threw at me -- all at once, including the kitchen sink!

The problem is, his gloomy ideas creep unnoticed into the mind, and his darkness sneaks in and increases through lies and accusation. In other words, I slowly began to feel like a total failure at life and ministry.

It's the old lessons from God that brought me out of it -- and maybe somebody prayed for us!

Anyway, it dawned on me (duh) that the problem was Satan, not me. What was happening to me was the same old garbage that he has always used against me. Furthermore, the solution was still the same. (Duh again.) *Get my eyes off me and trust in the Lord again.*

I won't bore you with the specifics of our circumstantial battles and surely won't describe the dark thoughts that seemed to overwhelm me. They are probably common to many of us.

The truth is this: whatever the problem, there is an answer in God and in the blood of your salvation! Mark 10:27

Like many times before, I had to stop trying to find the victory over all this darkness, and needed to remember I already have the victory in Christ. Eph. 1-3. As times before, the solution was like turning on the light switch in a dark room, rather than standing there rebuking the darkness and trying to make it leave! And it helped to realize that the darkness was not caused by me.

If you walk into a dark room, you are not the cause of the darkness. Just turn on a light, and the darkness will flee!

The light is our chief means of spiritual warfare as believers: it is even called the armor of light. Romans 13:12.

The light overcomes the darkness. Even lighting a little match wins over a totally black darkness.

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

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So, do what I did (finally). Don't fight against your gloominess. Don't try to find your way back to God. You are already in His presence by your faith in the blood and He is as close as your own spirit, for "He who has joined himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him". I Cor. 6:17

As an old preacher said to me, and I say it to you again, "Stop trying to get into a room you are already in." Just lift your hands and tell the Lord you love Him, and know that He is present with you, and thank Him for bringing you close to Him through the blood of Jesus. Thank Him for taking care of whatever you are worrying about. The more you give thanks and honor Jesus and welcome the Holy Spirit and honor the blood with your mouth and in your heart, the more room you give for God to move in your circumstances.

The bigger your problems, the better it is to not worry about them. Big problem + no worry + trust God = ready for a miracle.

No one has improved on what the old saint penned in this hymn: *"Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."*

I will continue writing out the Blood Covenant as a major occupation until God says "Go" again, and

continue between mission trips until it is done. The book will be translated into several languages, printed in several countries, and distributed to new believers in a whole bunch of places. *Will you agree with us for the many things that need to happen for this to be done?*

For me, getting this book done is more important than a mission trip. If Jackie and I can accomplish writing this book, each copy will be our missionary to someone far away who has little to read, and who we may never get to teach personally. That is why we are writing. (I write, Jackie edits.) Our vision for this writing is to build up the young believers in the far away places of the world.

Pictured above is the building given to the Poltava region to house church planters.

The building is a good one for them: solid, good roof, solid brickwork. It needs \$2500 of renovation. It would be great to be able to have a part in housing those church planting heroes, don't you think? If you met them, you would be humbled and blessed just to know



A home for Ukrainian church planters

them. They serve selflessly to take the gospel to people who do not have it, and work tirelessly. They endure inconvenience and hardship, with little or no money, and deserve more than anyone could give. There are many of them in our beloved Churches of Praise.

The leading pastors of the Poltava region, who have established fifty two Churches of Praise and are opening several more now, are pictured below with their main church. They are Vadim and Tanya, who planted the mother church of the Poltava region, which is the central base from where the work extends to the villages. Tanya also has opened and is pastoring a church herself. Like Gregory and Galina in Krivoy Rog (who watch over them), Vadim and Tanya have large hearts totally committed to the work of God.

Meanwhile, we are still receiving offerings for bicycles for church planters. \$110 for a good bike. We have received enough for five bikes. Seven are needed for the Poltava region where I was in August, but dozens more are needed for all the other regions where Churches of Praise are being planted.

Enough said for now. Jackie and I love and appreciate you, and thank you for praying for us and for supporting us as the Lord leads you. You who read our letters are our base of support, both spiritually and financially. We keep you in our hearts and believe the Lord for His blessing and His power to move in your life.

Keep yourself in the love of God. Jude 21

With love in Jesus,
John and Jackie

Ukrainian Pastors Vadim and Tanya and a meeting in their main church

