

## Ralph and Roberta Winter

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MERRY CHRISTMAS! 1981

THIS MAY FIND YOU SO BUSY that you just have to stuff this in your pocket or purse to read later...so here is a SUMMARY:

*Except for the \$175,000 due Dec 1st we have paid all previous payments. THANK YOU for all your help. But we are still running behind and yet foreclosure proceedings will begin Dec 31st if we cannot catch up completely. ON THE BRIGHT SIDE we have exactly the missing amount now in a virtual pledge from the FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP! See text*

Dear friends, (from Roberta)

The proof that I'm not a naturally gifted writer is that I've started this letter five times. I've lots to say, yet I don't know what to say. Have you ever felt that way?

First, I really do hope you have a glorious Christmas season. For the first time our children are mainly gone: Beth and Brad and 4-month-old Jonathan are in Boston; Becky and Tim are in Morocco, expecting their first child in three weeks; Linda and Darrell will be leading the Institute of International Studies course after the Urbana Missionary Conference in Illinois. Only Tricia, now a college senior, will be home. It will be nice having extra time with her alone. All our daughters (and their husbands) are dears, still serving the Lord with all their hearts.

On the other hand, we do not have much time for just fun with Tricia. We still have waves to deal with. Over the last weeks we've been trying to learn to rest in the Lord when the waves are about to sink us. (Remember the disciples in the boat? And Jesus' response to their anxiety? See Mark 4:38.)

You probably know we face the initiation of foreclosure proceedings in just two weeks, unless we get completely caught up on our payments. And we don't have the slightest idea where that will come from--except God.

It's really scary. And yet, reading through

Dear Faithful Friends, (I'm Ralph)

I confess I feel a little uneasy writing to you at Christmas time. You may jump to the conclusion that this is an end-of-the-year appeal for money! (This is not a request for money.)

Rather, this piece of paper you hold in your hands carries much better news to you than I have ever before been privileged to send.

HERE GOES

I am absolutely delighted to tell you that we now see LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL. And the sheer, cliff-hanging drama of it all is really spine-tingling.

Yet I would be dishonest if I were to conceal from you the fact that despite the good news I'll be telling about in a minute we are up against the initiation of foreclosure procedures if we do not catch all the way up on our payments. As of December 15th, that gap was \$250,000. As of this moment, the 18th, it is down close to \$175,000. (I'll explain in a minute why this is not as bad as it sounds.)

I want very honestly to admit that I feel it is dishonoring to the Lord for us to be behind on our payments. The Christian people to whom we owe the money need it to meet their own needs. It is not as though

# "God has built here the largest cooperative mission b

## Roberta—

Jeremiah for my devotions, I came to this verse: "O Lord...I have committed my cause to you." (Jer. 20:12b)

I personally feel this is where we are. We've done our very best. We've worked and prayed and fasted and praised Him. Now, like lawyers in court, we have rested our case. The Lord, only, must decide whether we survive or not!

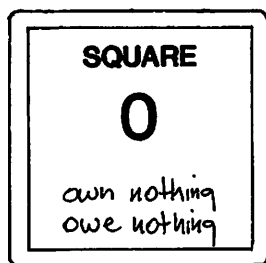
Looking back, it's been a glorious five years. We've learned so much. First, the Lord has been teaching us how to engage in spiritual warfare. Even though the cult has been gone from our campus for two years, we still are very aware of Satanic opposition. But as someone said, "If you are not having any trouble with Satan, maybe he is not having any trouble with you!" So we rejoice that what we are doing he is against! (How's that for double talk?)

Secondly, we have had struggles of faith over fund-raising policies. You can't imagine how much Satan has tested us over our \$15.95 plan. We've been misunderstood because of it, and some people have even demanded that we abandon it. ("Why can't you do things the normal way? Don't worry about competing with mission agencies; just get all the money you can where you can. Everyone else does this!")

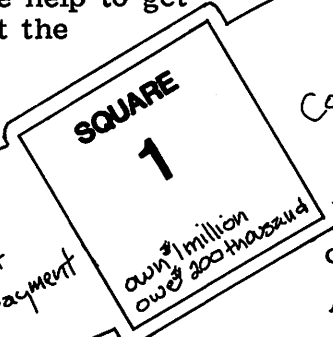
We've had both good and bad publicity, in both secular and Christian press. But we feel God has been with us. And how we praise Him for saints like you, by the thousands, who are daily praying for us! You have been our lifeline.

Just this year, finally, we are beginning to see happen what we've been praying for all along. Let me explain.

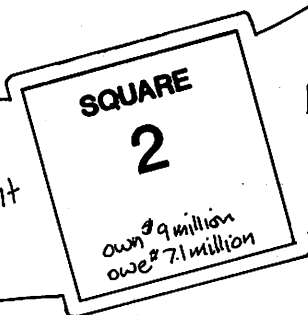
For years we have struggled with one basic question. How could we help to get a million people praying about the Hidden Peoples? Unless we can see a



1977 Complete 1st half of downpayment



1978 Complete downpayment



1979 Now occupy of Camp

## Ralph—

we are now further behind than we have been for two years. They feel they must ask us to catch clear up.

On the other hand, the Lord has allowed us to pay \$3,711,000. The amount that is delinquent is less than 7% of that amount. It would be wrong to say the Lord has abandoned us entirely! We are just glad strong help is clearly in view.

But first, let me get something off my heart:

Please tell me the truth. Have our existence, our stuggles, or our series of apparent predicaments become a bother to you? Dear friend, will you be willing to bear with us? For example:

1. Some people are losing patience with us. Just when we can truly see light at the end of the tunnel they are wondering. They can't believe that God would allow us to struggle so long and hard--40 months in the wilderness--without a permanent solution to our funding! (That's almost how long we have occupied the whole campus and struggled to make these quarterly payments.)

But are great things built in a day? Perhaps God wants to do something to us, not just through us? Can God rush us personally through many stages of growth all in one day? Is God testing our patience and yours?

2. Other people find it hard to believe that we will no longer raise money once our property is paid for. How could this one organization be self-sustaining

(we already are) when every other Christian organization constantly needs money?

Answer: It is a miracle of collaboration.

...dedicated to the task of helping

# ase in history...

## Roberta—

"movement" of vast proportions, the thousands of new missionary recruits God is calling don't have a chance! Someone has to send them!

This year, 1981, was the year of the Frontier Fellowship Daily Prayer Guide, our greatest hope for helping start a movement of this sort. Even Christians with burning hearts need reminders to pray. And the Prayer Guide is that! Already 12,000 new prayer partners are "pledged." (See Ralph's comments.)

How on earth will that help us with our financial burdens? Well...our verse from the very beginning has been "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Being rather a simple person, I take that verse as it is. Jesus said that if we at the USCWM seek first the Kingdom of God...But what does that mean for us? We believe it means searching for and bringing into His kingdom individuals within those 16,750 still "hidden" people groups. Doesn't it?

"Seek His righteousness" means to me

**SQUARE 3**

own \$ 11 million  
owe 7.2 million

that we as individuals on staff must keep our hearts pure and our hands clean. We must trust the Lord to overrule things that we don't understand and that hurt. We must do things in His way and in his time, being careful not impatiently to force into existence the solutions we desire, even to get what He has already promised. We must wait patiently for Him to act and trust Him! We really must, you know!

"And all these things shall be added..."  
"These things" are what we need--food,

## Ralph—

Already 42 different mission agencies have stationed their people here. More come all the time. And we serve over 100. We receive over \$2 million worth of people from various Christian

**SQUARE**

**5**

own \$ 20 million  
owe \$ 9.7 million

1981  
Enter: Frontier Fellowship

**SQUARE 4**

own \$ 18 million  
owe \$ 10.2 million

organizations. This is a very different kind of Christian organization!

3. One very fine young Christian leader has earnestly declared to us that he does not believe a faith ministry should ever "lock itself into a debt like that." Perhaps he (and others) have overlooked what I just mentioned about the very unique self-sustaining aspect of this vast project.

Consider the following: Is it less Biblical to be forced to raise a certain amount each year for a short period, than to be forced, like most agencies, to have to raise money year after year forever?

Furthermore, it is a simple fact: this set of properties, at this price, could never be purchased little by little over a period of time. Just like a house--you can't buy it one room at a time. You have to pay a down payment and then struggle with the payments on a mortgage. Is that less Biblical than struggling to pay for rent or for food?

### THE NEW FACTOR

However, let's get to the good news. Suddenly, surprisingly, all such worries are cast into a new light. We are truly grateful to the Lord for the astonishing emergence of the Frontier Fellowship and the manifest willingness of dozens of larger organizations to participate in it.

Read carefully the summary on the back panel of the enclosed brochure, "Count on Us!" That explains how.....

to reach the remaining nations by the year 2,000."

## Roberta—

clothing, money for the payments, etc. "Will be added" means God will bring them to us. Surely the God who moves planets around and owns all the silver and gold in the whole universe can take care of our payments. Don't you think?

"Ah, but...will He?" That's His problem. Our job is to be sure we obey Him. If we are sure of that, He will not abandon us. After all, His glory and reputation are at stake. What earthly commander, to say nothing of a father, would send his troops off to battle and not give them the equipment they need? And if He sees that what we think we need is not what we really need, that's O.K. too. We are merely His servants.

So that's where we are at this Christmas season--resting in His care. God has done miracle after miracle for us in the past. He often chooses to let his people fact crisis after crisis--for His own glory's sake. There is nothing to be ashamed of when we are in the center of His will, as we truly seek to be.

To have a financial crisis every three months is not surprising to us. After all, they are merely our mortgage payments, and as such are planned, not unexpected. We knew we would have these crises for seven years at least. And we have had them, now, for four years.

So rejoice. Nothing is going wrong. Nothing is out of control. In fact, more than ever before things are really going right. But do continue to pray.

Christmas is a time for rejoicing. Immanuel--God is with us. How wonderful to be reminded of this thought once again.

Yours, in His loving care,



This is a first class mailing that assumes your continuing interest. In case this project is not something you wish to hear about more than once a year please feel free to tell us that on the enclosed card.

## Ralph—

a small part of the money raised through the loose change from the Frontier Fellowship is coming to the U.S. Center. However, these are the numbers of people sought for this daily devotional discipline by the following agencies:

1,000 Lutheran Bible Inst. of Seattle  
2,000 North Africa Mission  
3,000 Africa Inland Mission  
1,000 Gospel Recordings, USA  
1,000 Christian Missionary Fellowship  
1,000 International Missionary Advance  
1,000 International Students, Inc.  
2,000 UP Order for World Evangelization  
12,000 Frontier Prayer Partners

This means that if these agencies reach these goals, they will annually receive \$100 x 12,000 = \$1,200,000 designated for Frontier Mission work, of which (\$15 x 12,000) \$180,000 will come to us.

But note: isn't it curious that if that amount of money were to come to us in the form of "faith advances," it would, in fact, put us completely in the clear? But mission agencies are not as likely to be in a position to advance funds as are local congregations.

Alternatively, then, we seek churches and groups to make a \$750 "faith advance" by December 31. That's \$15 times 50 people. The enclosed brochure speaks of needing 333 groups. Now, Dec. 18th, it's only 240!

Remember, these groups are only the beginning. Many others are in process. The Evangelical Free Church is now officially involved with its own version of the Daily Prayer Guide. So also is an active group of evangelicals within the United Presbyterian Church. They are thinking in terms of 100,000!

We believe we see light at the end of the tunnel! Don't you? Even if we do not make the Dec. 31st deadline, even if a Notice of Default is posted. We still have 90 days, and at the rate things are happening, I truly believe we'll be able to catch up, stay up, and to over the top with our large payment in 1983. I pray that the Lord will give you the same faith.

Cordially in His Commission,

