

## Partner Letter

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The voice of those who escaped from behind the iron curtain johnmilitaru@yahoo.com · www.johnmilitaru.org

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Romans 8:12-14

Dear Partner,

Praise the Lord for our helper, the Holy Spirit! Without Him we, Alexandra and I, would not be where we are today. We're so honored that He has hand selected each and every one of us to proclaim the Gospel all over the world. You and I, partner, are a vital piece of the story God is writing through this Ministry! Thank you for seeing the vision here at JMM, praying and supporting us. Together we will continue to be led through His Spirit to accomplish and fulfill the mandate He has called each one of us to, which is to depopulate hell and populate heaven one soul at a time (Matthew 28:19-20)!

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our monthly Holy Spirit-inspired letters! We take our letters to you very seriously and prayerfully. We love sharing with you what has encouraged us and we hope it's encouraging for you also! So much is pouring in from people that are being healed and delivered, people are learning how to be led by the Holy Spirit, and praise reports of how the Lord came through for longtime prayer requests and needs. Throughout the year we receive praise reports from people that we've prayed for during mission's trips who testify of how the Lord came through exactly how we prayed in agreement! We also love sharing with you how people were touched by the presence of the Holy Spirit in an unusual way for the first time in their lives. For some of us that grew up in a Spirit filled church or family, we can take this for granted and we don't realize that many people have never experienced this Holy Spirit presence before. We give God all the glory and honor! Please continue to let us know how we can pray for you!

The Holy Spirit longs to guide and direct every child of God in every area of their lives. But recently the Lord brought something important to our attention: is a Christian's spiritual time in debt to the flesh or to the Spirit (Romans 8:12-14)? In other words, are we in a deficit in our time with Jesus because we've put too much time into the flesh (the things of this world)? To answer this question and understand our relationship with Christ better on a spiritual level, all we have to do is look at Apostle Paul. His commitment to the Gospel and relationship with Christ was unmatched. He was completely penetrated from the inside out with the love of Christ because he died to himself daily (1 Cor. 15:31). Are we dying daily to ourselves? Or are we dying daily spiritually? Apostle Paul was human like you and I and struggled with dying daily to the flesh because in Romans 7 he says, For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. But despite this struggle, Paul strived to separate himself from the world and dedicated his life to the mandate of spreading the Gospel. His communication with God, through the Holy Spirit, became so vital to him

to the point where he died daily to himself. He did everything possible to not allow anything to come between Him and his relationship with Jesus.

...Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. Hebrews 12:1

Sadly, in the age we're living in, there are a lot of distractions that slow us down or sins that trip us up. Our quiet time with the Lord has become almost non-existent. We have families to take care of, housework to do, food to cook, business and errands to run. And on top of all the busyness of life, we spend more time checking our social media feeds, watching YouTube or Netflix, or texting than spending quality time with our Helper, the Holy Spirit. All these outside noises have caused us to lose our patience and shorten our attention spans, making it difficult to focus on the Word that the Lord is trying to speak to us. We don't realize that all these distractions and notifications that come through can choke the Word that we read and make it unfruitful (Matthew 13:22).

We've become a generation that is so attached to technology, that instead of silencing our notifications, we've silenced God. The truth is, God through the Holy Spirit, longs to speak to us; to guide and direct our footsteps and to be involved in every detail of our lives (Psalm 37:23). That's why it's so important to remember that our time with the Lord and time spent in His Word does not have an "endpoint" just because we get up from our knees, close our Bibles, or finish our devotions. It's a process that takes discipline and intentional thought because our flesh will fight us every step of the way.

So, we want to leave you this question: Are you indebted to God with your time? This debt is not to be taken as a burden but as a joyful response to the sacrifice that He made for us on the cross by taking ALL of our burdens upon Himself. Our opening scripture says that we are called to live according to the Spirit and not according to our flesh. And the only way we can do this is by spending intentional time in His presence and in communion with Him without any notifications or distractions around us. The Holy Spirit wants to help you navigate through all of life's challenges. Take some time and reflect on where you can cut distractions out of your life and little by little shift your focus back on Him. Ask Him to help you carry His presence with you throughout your day. Remember to put Him first and then all the other things will be given to you.

But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides. Matthew 6:33 AMPC

In His Service, John & Alexandra