

JACKSON FAMILY NEWS

A Newsletter for Friends and Partners in Ministry of Bruce & Brenda Jackson

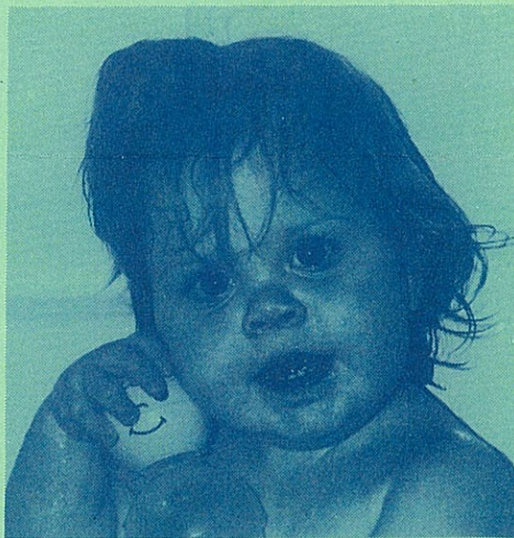
February 1992

As we begin this year of 1992, it occurs to me that no parent is ever prepared for the reality that they will be totally consumed by the addition of an infant to their lives! No doubt, there will be some of you during 1991 that wondered whether we had all been taken hostage by Mid East terrorists or swept away by savage Tennessee flood waters. Thankfully, neither of those events happened this year. However, an earthquake, measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale and affectionately known as baby Brook, did hit our home and ministry this year and we have been busy picking up pieces instead of corresponding with friends!

I am sure that many of you remember the traumatic events surrounding Brook's birth and tenuous first weeks of life. What a miracle of God it truly is that both Brook and Brenda are healthy and whole today! Brook is now eighteen months old and full of excitement as she discovers each new sensation. As parents, we still shudder at the sight of Brook putting everything in her mouth in order to properly discover it. Items such as used chewing gum, a Raid roach motel and various kinds of dirt have all found their way into our baby's pretty little mouth as we have traveled this year! We have come to realize that we can't "baby proof" all the places we go. But that has certainly not stopped Brenda from trying!

Brenda has had a slow climb up to a full recovery. Six months following Brook's birth, she still was fighting extreme fatigue and uncharacteristic mood swings. She felt as though she was experiencing the effects of being a new mommy, in addition to keeping up with the demands of our concert ministry! Not long after that time, a doctor found that her thyroid gland had virtually shut down as a result of the ordeal of Brook's delivery. The doctor reported that most people who have that small an amount of thyroid activity

usually are in severe depression or become suicidal! Getting Brenda's system regulated, after that much imbalance, was no small task. But following several months of help from the doctor, things seem to be somewhat back to normal. Understandably, we had to cut back the number of concert dates that we were doing to keep extra pressures at a minimum. *We also faced a serious financial situation because less concerts yields less income and we had already been two months without income as a result of the birth!* Some of you helped us by giving financially during these rough times and on several occasions we were spared serious consequences. We deeply appreciate the willingness of so many of you who stand with us and are there to help as the Lord directs!



Brook — our own private earthquake!

Brenda has mentioned several times this year that certain Scripture has come to life for her as she has dealt with large amounts of frustration. II Corinthians 12:9 & 10 teaches plainly that *"His power is perfected in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses so that Christ's power may rest on me...For when I am weak then I am strong."* Were it not for the Lord's strength in 1991, we could have certainly quit! It has never been an easy task to accomplish this ministry. When we first stepped out on faith it was difficult and it has continued to be so to this day. However, we have never seen more need for outreach to families than right now. We are also aware that Satan will try to stop any move of God. We hope that you will strengthen our outreaches by your prayers. We are dealing each week with twisted lives and serious attack on God's special creation — the family. Your prayer support is one of the most vital parts of this ministry. We can't do without it!