

JACKSON FAMILY NEWS

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

Summer 1989

We live in a day when communication is occurring at its fastest rate in the history of mankind! Car phones, video cassette players, compact discs, laser printers, and fax machines all add to the growing list of items which enhance the speed and quality of our communication. With all the miracles of technology within our grasp today, you may be wondering why you do not hear from friends and family more often, and why Bruce and Brenda Jackson haven't sent you a newsletter in a while! The amazing part about all of man's incredible achievement in media is that it still takes time to communicate. This past year has been one of the busiest, but most profitable, years of our lives. As this ministry to families has grown, we have seen our investment of time and resources in this outreach begin to yield rich reward. We often reflect on the special times we have had with many of you and how we wish that we could let you know, regularly, what God is doing. The notes of encouragement and response which come in the mail, the joyous times of sharing in each concert, and the heart-felt decisions for Christ in people's lives would excite you as you see God's hand at work! Thanks for understanding that doing the work of the ministry sometimes means less time for reflection and newsletters!

Upon returning from an East Coast trip this past fall, we were once again confronted by an ever-increasing problem of space for the needs of a growing ministry, as well as the space needs of growing children! After much prayer concerning the situation, we decided to ascertain God's will in



***Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us
with every spiritual blessing in
the heavenly places in Christ!
Ephesians 1:3***

the matter by placing our home on the market. Within 24 hours, God produced a cash buyer for our property and we were propelled into a myriad of decisions and happenings. It was also during this time that we recorded and produced a new album, moved all of our belongings into a warehouse, did 15 concerts in 25 days, and had a merry Christmas! We knew that as we left for a two-month tour in the motorhome, things were probably not going to improve immediately. At the time of this writing, we have not yet relocated our home and office. Temporary office facilities are in place and we are still living in the

motorhome (learning more about family ministry!) Pray for us as we make crucial decisions concerning our needs and the future!

In this past year, we have traveled as far north as Minnesota, as far south as Texas, as far East as New York, and as far west as California. We get tired just thinking about it! In over 35,000 miles of concert dates, we have had the privilege of being hosted by 20 different church denominations this year – a testimony itself to the far-reaching needs in families of every denomination. One of the highlights of our western tour this winter was the opportunity in California to visit with James and Shirley Dobson of Focus on the Family. Having just returned from the Ted Bundy interviews in Florida, Dr. Dobson was eager to share his insights from the interview, which linked these violent crimes to the influence of pornography in a young boy's life. It was wonderful to hear the burden on this fine Christian leader's heart concerning areas of the family. We

also had the privilege to talk with him and give him a brand new copy of our most recent recording which deals with family issues.

We have had several concert opportunities again this year to share our testimony as a Christian family in totally secular situations. Christmastime seems to yield the greatest openings for this kind of ministry, as people begin to search for true meaning in the season and some family-oriented, wholesome entertainment. We sang at one of Dayton, Ohio's most prestigious country clubs for a civic organization and have received other



invitations for this year as a result. This spring we did a benefit concert in a new 1,000 seat high school auditorium for a group called "Concerned Area Residents for the Environment." A group of concerned families hosted the event in an effort to heighten public awareness and support legislation that will be pro-family and for a cleaner environment. The event was well-attended and offered us an opportunity to give our testimony for Christ. Brittany and Brent helped to make a memorable evening with their participation in selections from *The Sound of Music* and Brittany's solo on *Tomorrow* from the musical *Annie*. ■

JUST RELEASED...

We are pleased to announce the release of a new recording that is sure to be a special ministry to you with the broad range of needy areas that it addresses. **FAMILYFOREVER** is a high-quality, digital recording, featuring the latest in computerized instrumentation and sound technology. Captured for you on chrome cassette, the fidelity of this recording and its subject matter will be enjoyable as well as encouraging to you. Songs featured on the album include:

- Jesus Be the Daddy In Our House
- I Pray for You
- Trust and Obey
- Who Cries
- Holy Ground, and five others!

We are excited about the impact that this recording is already having for Jesus Christ. For your financial investment of \$10 or more in this ministry, we will send you a cassette of **FAMILYFOREVER** that will be a fine resource in your own home or the home of one who needs encouragement (please include \$1 per cassette for postage and handling).

FAMILYSONG MINISTRIES, INC.

In 1988, our ministry became recognized federally and locally as a non-profit organization. This is an exciting part of growth as a board of directors is selected for the ministry. Gifts and contributions can be readily recognized and receipted for the IRS and a much-needed organization for accountability is now ours. Any investment in the outreaches of this ministry to families must be made to FAMILYSONG MINISTRIES or channeled through a local church to receive an income tax deduction. We deeply appreciate our friends and partners who have shared our burden for families and have chosen to help financially through one-time gifts or monthly support. Thanks – we could not do this without you!

Over THERE? An Invitation to Europe!

Recently, our family has been invited to share our ministry in three countries of Western Europe! The thought of leaving the borders of this country really overwhelms us – we feel as though the United States is a needy mission field. However, we want to be obedient to the call of God wherever He may lead.

The first invitation has come to us from missionaries and churches looking for a tool for evangelism among the families of their countries. The second invitation has come from the military in two countries, desiring to encourage the marriages and families that are torn by separation and infidelity. We originally thought that we could, potentially, make the trip in August of this year. We have had to reconsider our plans, though, because of the pressing need for office and home relocation. We will make the trip when the necessary funds are available. We want to raise as much of the total cost for this trip ourselves, so that we can freely give our time to those interested in utilizing this unique tool for outreach. God is opening a tremendous door of opportunity to us! Pray that we will have wisdom as we select the proper time for the trip and as we plan the details.

If God has laid a burden on your heart for missions and you would like to have a financial part in this venture or if you would just like additional information or updates, write to us and let us know!

We Expect a Miracle!

*For a split second,
the lights inside
the coach flickered
and then all power
was totally lost!*

Brittany, who is now 5 years old, has been singing a song in each of the concerts that we think appropriately summarizes all that has happened this year. The words are, *"I anticipate the inevitable, supernatural, intervention of God—I expect a miracle!"* We did not know, however, that we were in need of a miracle one night as we were traveling through St. Louis on our way toward the West Coast. The rain had just begun to fall more heavily, the children were happily playing on the back bed of the motorhome, and we were all about ready to conclude our travel for the day. For a split-second the lights inside the coach flickered and then all power was totally lost! Fortunately, the engine was still functioning properly, but all other electrical power was gone. We were not overly concerned, but knew that power would be necessary for heat and other essentials as we were living in the motorhome. After contacting the coach manufacturer, we were directed to a competent service area in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Lengthy checks and investigation produced a startling discovery – the wiring harness from the batteries to the coach was completely severed and a fire in the wiring had resulted. The service manager told us that in very few cases had something like this occurred, but in every situation he had seen, the entire motorhome was consumed by flames in a matter of moments. We were shaken, but realized that the angels of God had miraculously intervened on our behalf! In all probability, the rain showers that we had encountered that night in St. Louis were "showers of blessing" that extinguished the potentially hazardous flames!

Some of you have prayed with us and given financially toward certain needs in this ministry, and we thank you for your support!

One of those special answers to prayer was the sound equipment that we were able to purchase this past year. We have been thrilled with the way in which God has enabled us to make quality purchases that will adequately care for each ministry need. Shortly after acquiring our sound components, however, we started having an intermittent problem with the system. Periodically, one side of the speaker would just not work and the only cure for the difficulty was a thump on the side of the mixer. Needless to say, this was not a satisfactory way to exist with our new sound board! We had the system in the shop on two separate occasions only to discover that the technician could find no problem. One morning, during a concert in Phoenix, Arizona, one side failed totally, and no amount of thumping would revive it! We were somewhat dismayed to be experiencing such difficulty in the midst of a major tour. The next morning, we were in touch with the retailer in Chicago where we had purchased the equipment. To our amazement, the store's only branch location in the USA was in Phoenix! Their solution was a speedy one – they handed us a brand new board in trade for our problem. Any other solution could have meant days of waiting for service to be completed at great inconvenience to the ministry. ***God's answers are always right on time!***

For He will give
His angels
charge concerning you,
to guard you
in all your ways.
Psalm 91:11