

JACKSON FAMILY NEWS

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

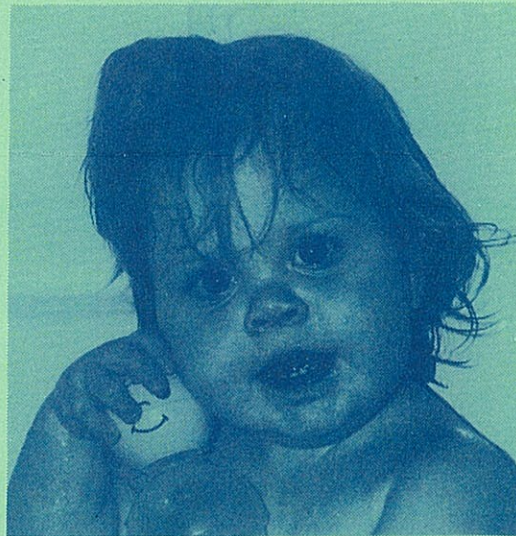
February 1992

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!

It has really been wonderful to reflect on this past year of ministry and realize that our outreaches continued to grow, even in the face of struggle and weakness! We were contacted earlier in the year by the Nashville Metro Arts Commission and the Nashville Airport Authority concerning the possibility of performing our music in the main concourse of the Nashville Airport! We were totally astounded! Each week, special concerts were being arranged to

promote local musicians and to provide an opportunity for travelers to enjoy "Music City U.S.A." Having heard about our music and emphasis on the family, these folks were interested in having us sing and play for two solid hours during the midday traffic at the airport. We realized very quickly what an incredible outreach we could have in a situation where a majority of the people hearing us may never have heard of God's hope for the family! We accepted the invitation and shared our musical testimony for two hours. It was incredible to watch the wonder and astonishment on the faces of people as they came upon us in the airport that day! The lady who had invited us said that our music (and especially, the kids) attracted a lot of attention and drew one of the largest crowds! We were thrilled, knowing that Jesus Christ said, *"If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me!"* He still is attracting men and women to Himself today!

Another great opportunity in 1991 came in the form of an invitation to be part of the Mar Thoma Church of



HIGH FLYING OPPORTUNITIES

of their beliefs can be traced back to the ancient customs of India. We were pleased to be introduced to one of the church's leaders following a concert that we had given in Florida. He told us that he felt that the Mar Thoma churches needed to hear more foundational truth to build godly families. Then he said that they would like for us to share in a full concert at their North American Conference! Our heads were spinning as we began to see the potential impact! When we sang at the Conference in July, their response was overwhelming. We were moved, too, as we saw an ocean of bronze skinned, dark-haired people (many of which were wrapped head-to-toe in fine silk) jammed to capacity at the conference center! It was a totally different cultural experience for our family but we see these new opportunities as open doors for great future ministry! This summer, we have agreed to be part of another Family Conference in Detroit as well as a Mar Thoma Youth Conference in New Jersey! We are praising the Lord!

North America's Family Conference. The Mar Thoma Church, originally, was founded in India and traces its beginning to the Apostle Thomas, who brought the gospel of Jesus to these people. This ancient church group has grown and spread to countries all over the world, including North America. The people who are part of the Mar Thoma Churches of North America are mostly from India. Much of their way of life, the way they dress and a majority



"Heartfelt Thanks" to those of you who financially support us and make this ministry possible in so many ways! Many of you have stood with us steadfastly even when we have been slow in our responses because of heavy responsibility. Even our newsletter has come infrequently because of basic financial concerns getting a mailing out. But we feel a commitment to each of you, although miles often separate us. We hope to see many of our special friends as we get back to a full schedule this year. We are also reorganizing our office to more efficiently handle ministry responses, receipting of gifts and newsletter mailing. We love you and want to be diligent, useful servants for the Lord!



DOUBLE BLESSING! THE JACKSON KIDS

We are very pleased to announce the arrival of our second recording for children. No doubt, many of you remember when Brittany, at age four, recorded an entire collection of songs for children. At the time, we had no idea how effective this recording would be at reaching so many. Now Brittany, at age 7, and her 6 year old brother Brent, have completed their first recording together, called DOUBLE BLESSING! This energetic compilation of original songs and old favorites is a real treat for children and parents. The instrumental accompaniment for the new Kids album was produced utilizing top quality digital recording and performances by some of the finest Nashville musicians. Songs included are:

- Double Blessing
- Singing Praises (*written by Brittany with her daddy*)
- It Is No Secret What God Can Do
- His Banner Over Me Is Love
- Oh, Be Careful Little Eyes
- I Met Jesus At The Crossroads
- I Want Daddy With Mommy
- Can't Wait!
- Plus 3 Others!

Also included as part of the recording are seven special Bible verses for children, quoted by the Kids!

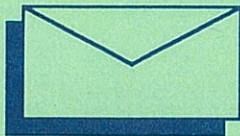
The new album was first made available in our '91 Spring concerts, but we know that it has been awhile since we have seen many of you. (This newsletter is our first since the release of this newest recording.) If you have not had the opportunity to receive your own copy of DOUBLE BLESSING, send \$10 (plus \$1 per cassette for shipping and handling) to Bruce & Brenda Jackson, P.O. Box 292882, Nashville, TN 37230.

FROM A MOTHER'S HEART

Last weekend I was overcome with emotion as some very precious people shared their struggles and victories with us. One couple introduced us to their 18 month old daughter (one week older than Brook). She almost died of SIDS at 5½ months of age but was able to be revived. Due to lack of oxygen during the trauma, she can't move a muscle, not even to swallow a drink. As I held her helpless little body I thought, "Oh God, this could have been my baby! Why does this dear couple have to deal with this pain and we don't?"

We also met a sweet young mother of four children, ages eighteen months to eight years. She contracted the HIV virus while she was nursing her third child and pregnant with a fourth. Her husband, who was a believer raised in a Christian home, was leading a homosexual lifestyle for over two years. Now, he is under counseling and living with his mother. His wife is hoping God can release him from from this evil bondage so that they can live as a family once again. What a wonderful testimony of God's power and forgiveness that would be! But how devastating the effects of sin are for this entire family.

Today, we as believers in Christ, need one another more than ever. Don't be ashamed to reach out to Christian friends for support or accountability as you face your own struggles. We gain incredible strength from our loving heavenly Father when we lift one another up in prayer. ***"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."*** James 5:16 We desire your prayers as we travel and minister to hearts and families that are hurting and need the touch of Jesus Christ!



RESPONSES OF NOTE

We want to thank you for your family ministry. We saw you in concert at our church. My daughter has especially enjoyed the tapes we purchased. My husband and I went through a time in our marriage where things didn't look good but gratefully, we found help to mend the hurt before it was too late. God's healing power and His love have made our family secure again!

— Rialto, CA

Like the chef who never seems to hear about the steak that was cooked to perfection, we sometimes never learn of the good we do. I want you and Brenda to know that I was touched by your ministering last Sunday, but in a way that you might not expect. Your little boy rekindled my interest and resolve to resume Scripture memorization. Thank him for me! Continue to bless others as you blessed us!

— Mt. Juliet, TN

I want to thank you for the tremendous love that you showed my family. Thank you also for your ministry. I was sexually and physically abused growing up. Both my parents were alcoholics. As a teenager, I had two abortions before getting pregnant with my daughter. My current marriage is my second one and my first husband was also abusive. The last few years have been the best in my life but it has been a struggle to deal with the past. I've spent time in a psychiatric hospital because of suicide attempts, but I'm O.K. now. I am telling you this because I want you to know how much it means to me to hear you sing. Thank you for the help you give others like me, too. God bless you!

— Cypress, CA

FAMILYSONG MINISTRIES, INC.

In 1988, our ministry became recognized federally and locally as a non-profit organization. With a Board of Directors selected for the ministry, gifts and contributions can be receipted for the IRS and an organization for accountability is now ours. Any investment in 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 share our burden for families and help financially through one-time gifts or monthly support. Thanks — we could not do this without you!

ORDER FORM

RECORDINGS

Albums and cassettes are \$10 each plus \$1 postage and handling. Compact discs are \$13 each plus \$1 postage and handling. Shaded areas indicate item not available.

RECORDING	ALBUM	TAPE	CD	\$ TOTAL
DOUBLE BLESSING <i>The Jackson Kids</i>				
BRITTANY <i>An Album for Children</i>				
A MIRACLE & NOTHING LESS				
FAMILY FOREVER				
SHIPPING Add \$1.00 each				
TOTAL ENCLOSED				

- ☐ I am praying for you!
- ☐ YES! I want to share in your ministry.
Enclosed is my ☐ one time ☐ monthly gift of \$ _____ to help you continue to reach families for Jesus Christ.
- ☐ YES! I want to continue receiving the Jackson Family Newsletter.
☐ This is a new address for our family
☐ Add our family to your mailing list

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

All checks should be made payable to FamilySong Ministries. All gifts of \$25 or more will receive a receipt for tax purposes.



FamilySong Ministries, Inc.

P.O. Box 292882 • Nashville, Tennessee 37230

Telephone: (615) 885-3500