

The Heart of a  
Servant  
Leader



The Heart of a  
**Servant**  
**Leader**

Letters from Jack Miller

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C. JOHN MILLER

Edited by Barbara Miller Juliani



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## *Foreword: My Most Unforgettable Christian*

As a boy I enjoyed reading the *Reader's Digest's* column, "My Most Unforgettable Character." If I could write this column about a Christian, it would be about Jack Miller.

I first met Jack when I was a young seminary student. I came to seminary because I wanted more knowledge; I believed that I could help people change by skillfully reasoning with them. So I signed up for one of Jack's classes thinking that he would help me with that project. Instead he spoke on repentance and humility in the life of the believer, and I felt completely exposed in my pride and arrogance. But I knew that this was just what I needed to hear, and I went home and told my wife Valerie that I was going to get in this man's shadow and learn everything I could from him.

I did get in his shadow, and I found out that what Jack preached he also lived. He preached that the gospel of Jesus Christ is powerful enough to change the hardest heart and then he took that gospel everywhere—to counterculture young people, to the inner city, to street gangs, to drug addicts, to intellectuals, to artists, and even to some businessmen—and I and other students went right along with him. He taught us to pray and repent as we took the gospel to the world, and then modeled that for us by stopping often to pray and repent himself.

I stayed in his shadow as he planted New Life Presbyterian Church, and I watched as he preached servant leadership and every-

member ministry and then put feet on that by giving everyone a job to do; I started as the youth leader. Even when I left to plant a church in the South, I stayed in Jack's shadow—often calling him for advice and then going on mission trips with him as he worked to start World Harvest Mission.

Jack's unexpected death in 1996 left many of us without our spiritual father and mentor. There are many of my peers who would say that Jack Miller was the Christian who had the greatest influence on their lives. Although I don't know how Jack found the time, he mentored many men and women exactly as he mentored me—by taking us along with him on his amazing faith journey. Jack taught us to believe the promises, trust the Spirit's work, choose humility, and above all to want the glory of God in every way. One friend of mine says that he sees Jack's gospel fingerprints everywhere.

I am so thankful that Jack's daughter Barbara has given herself to this project of editing his letters. When I read through this book I was challenged, convicted, and comforted. As you read you will meet a humble, yet joyful servant of God whose heart reflected his heavenly Father's heart for the church and the spread of the kingdom of God. These letters are heart to heart and life to life.

Jack was “my most unforgettable Christian,” but he wanted everything he did to point away from himself and toward the risen Christ whom he worshipped with all his heart. Jack would say that any shadow he cast came from being in the presence of the crucified, resurrected Savior. I know that he would want these letters to be used by the Spirit to point you to Jesus and the sufficiency of His gospel.

*Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had the power to do what he had promised.* Romans 4:20

Clyde Godwin, Director, World Harvest Mission

## *Introduction*

*This letter is written to you, the reader of this book of letters. If you are a person who likes to skip introductions and just plunge in—feel free. But if you would like some background material on the letters—who wrote them, why they were written, and what makes them useful now—then read on.*

July, 2003

Dear Reader,

This book, *The Heart of a Servant Leader*, is a collection of letters written by my father, Jack Miller. Besides being a husband and father of five, Jack was an evangelist, a church planter, a seminary professor, a missionary, and an author.<sup>1</sup> And, although nobody used this word thirty years ago, he was a mentor to many young men and women.

Whatever Jack did, he liked to have a crowd along to do it with him (we thought that was why he had five children—a guaranteed audience and student body). We lived just outside of Philadelphia, and our large old home was always full of students, church members, and sometimes random people Jack picked up

1. He wrote *Repentance and Twentieth Century Man*, *Powerful Evangelism for the Powerless*; *Outgrowing the Ingrown Church*; *Come Back, Barbara*; and *A Faith Worth Sharing*.

hitchhiking.<sup>2</sup> He shared his faith with all of them, and when some became Christians (including a few seminary students), he started teaching them how to share their new faith. His teaching methods were very hands-on. When he went to a bar, to a city subway stop, to a hospital, to a park, or even to Africa and Ireland to share his faith, he brought along whoever happened to be in our living room the day he was making plans.

But as the church he planted (New Life Presbyterian Church, [NLPC])<sup>3</sup> grew and started daughter churches, and as the mission he helped to start (World Harvest Mission) expanded into more mission fields, Jack's mentoring could not be quite as hands-on. This is when he began to spend more time writing letters to the young Christian leaders he wanted to continue mentoring. Jack spent a lot of time writing letters, and he copied and saved many of them. He always hoped that one day they would be published.

The letters in this book were written to Christians all over the world. Many of the men and women he mentored lived far away from Philadelphia. Some of them were missionaries, some of them were pastors who had attended NLPC while in seminary, and kept in contact with him as they pastored their own churches, and others were men and women who sought him out after reading his books or hearing him speak. But he also wrote a lot of letters to leaders at NLPC; he liked to take the time to organize his thoughts, put them on paper, and then give someone else the chance to sit down and think over what he had written.

In these letters Jack addressed a wide range of questions and problems. Some letters focus on ministry issues. There are letters to church planters wondering how to start and grow a church; to missionaries struggling to adjust to a new culture; to leaders at NLPC about specific plans and problems; to pastors seeking to

2. For the story of how one hitchhiker became his son-in-law and a missionary see *A Faith Worth Sharing*.

3. Jack refers to New Life Presbyterian Church as "New Life," but it is referred to as NLPC in introductory and background material.

apply principles from his books to their specific church; and to Christian leaders in conflict situations (a very large section). And there are many letters that discuss the personal challenges that all Christians face: physical suffering, overcoming sin, learning to forgive, spiritual warfare, dealing with change, and persevering through hard circumstances.

As you read through these letters you will notice that Jack's mentoring did not start with planning, organizational strategies, or practical tips on how to run a successful Christian ministry and/or live a successful Christian life. Although his letters are full of such advice, he didn't believe that those were the most important things a church leader needed to start and sustain a life of Christian service. Jack believed that the Christian leader should be the chief servant—not necessarily the successful one, but the one working to make others successful. But he also knew, from personal experience, how much easier it was to work for your own glory and build your own kingdom (no matter how small).

He found that, in his own life, leadership with a servant attitude could come only from a heart that was changed by an encounter with God. In his mentoring he always began by talking about what was going on in the heart. So many (if not all) of these letters come back to the same theme of having your heart changed by understanding the gospel and then living a life of humility, faith, and prayer. He thought that these were the basics of Christian leadership; any planning and organization had to come after the leader's heart had been humbled by God. This was what had changed his life, his ministry, and his ability to lead; he believed that these things were a necessary prerequisite to all Christian leadership and service.

The letters are organized to reflect these themes. In the first section the letters address the issue of motivation for ministry. Jack emphasized in each letter that the Christian leader must always be motivated by the glory of God. He said again and again that this is

the only motivation that will sustain a life of ministry and bring freedom and joy in serving others.

In the second section, the letters address what Jack considered to be the basic heart attitudes that must be in place for the Christian leader. He believed that understanding the gospel, living by faith, repenting regularly, and praying constantly were the non-negotiables of Christian leadership. This section is divided into two parts. The first stresses what it means to have a changed heart, and the second applies these principles in practical ways to different situations and problems.

The third section on perseverance includes letters on spiritual warfare, conflict resolution, and change. In these letters Jack acknowledged how hard the circumstances were, gave much practical advice, but in the end managed to sound the same themes of being motivated by God's glory and understanding the gospel of grace so that you are filled with humility, faith, and constant prayer. He believed that the way you started in Christian ministry was also the only way to keep going in ministry.

The last section includes letters to those who were suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually. In them Jack encouraged each person to have a greater understanding of how believing the gospel expressed in Jesus would change the way they dealt with their sins, the sins of others, and the hard circumstances of their lives.

Although Jack always wanted his letters to be published, he was also concerned to protect the privacy of those he wrote to. So all names, identifying characteristics, and circumstances have been changed. In each section the letters are organized chronologically, but in some cases the date and chronology of a letter has been changed in order to further protect the privacy of the recipients. Each part begins with an introductory section that discusses the themes of the letters and gives background material provided by Rose Marie Miller, Jack's wife and my mother. Also, the letters are titled to make it easier to identify a specific letter and go back to it.

## INTRODUCTION

For the last year I have been reading and rereading these letters, and they never fail to encourage me, challenge me, and change my thinking about my life and ministry. I also copied many of the letters and gave them to my husband Angelo to read. He immediately used a number of them in teaching he was doing at our church. A few months later he was at a pastors' conference, and a letter he had handed out appeared as part of the seminar leader's packet. So, in an informal way, these letters are already being used in the church to continue Jack's mentoring of Christian leaders. Reading this book is your opportunity to also be mentored by Jack.

This book of letters is named *The Heart of a Servant Leader*, because I believe that they reveal Jack's heart of love for God and his people. As you read these letters, I would like you to feel as if you are having a heart-to-heart talk with an older, wiser Christian who has experienced the struggles that come with Christian leadership, yet is still filled with the hope and joy that come from knowing Jesus. In that spirit, I would recommend that you pour yourself a cup of tea (or coffee) and sit down for a heart-to-heart talk with Jack Miller.

**Yours because of Jesus,  
Barbara Miller Juliani**



# Part 1

## Motivation for Serving: The Glory of God

*What I finally came to as I walked and prayed for you is the old, old story of getting the gospel clear in your own hearts and minds, making it clear to others, and doing it with only one motive—the glory of Christ.*

The letters in this section emphasize how important it is for the Christian leader to be motivated by the glory of God. This was a subject that Jack talked and thought about a lot. Right after he became a Christian, he spent the summer living in a fire lookout that was on top of a mountain in Oregon. During his time alone, he read the Book of Romans and meditated on the gospel of grace and how it brought God glory. The sunsets on the mountain were spectacular. In describing them he said, “It was a glory road of amber, orange, and yellow that started in heaven and reached my lookout.”<sup>1</sup> He felt the same way about the gospel of Jesus that he was

1. Letter to Rose Marie Miller circa 1950.

studying in Romans. For him it was a glory road that came from heaven, reached into his mind and heart, and taught him to live only for the glory of God.

It was his desire to live and work for the glory of God that led Jack to become a church planter and a pastor. But after twenty years of full-time Christian ministry, Jack found out how easy it is to lose that essential focus on God's glory—and to end up depressed and burned out. He faced this kind of crisis in the spring of 1970 while he was pastoring a small church in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and teaching practical theology at Westminster Seminary in nearby Glenside, a suburb of Philadelphia. He had gradually become frustrated in both jobs. It seemed to him that neither the church members nor the seminary students were changing in the ways that they should, and he did not know how to help them. In desperation he resigned from both positions and then spent the next few weeks too depressed to do anything except cry.

Gradually during those weeks it became clear to him that the reason for his anger and disappointment was his own wrong motivation for ministry. He realized that instead of being motivated only by God's glory, he was hoping for personal glory and the approval of those he was serving. He said that when he repented of his pride, fear of people, and love of their approval, his joy in ministry returned, and he took back his resignations from the church and the seminary.<sup>2</sup>

Instead of quitting ministry he took his family on an extended sabbatical to Spain and spent his time there studying the missionary promises of God through the whole Bible. He spent long hours tracing the promises of grace for sinners in Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Joel, Habakkuk, and Zechariah. Then he looked at how they were fulfilled by God in the New Testament. As he studied, he was captured by the vastness of God's promise to fill His kingdom with people from every tribe and nation. He also realized in a new way that

2. *Outgrowing the Ingrown Church* (Grand Rapids: Ministry Resources Library, 1986), p. 21.

the promise of the Holy Spirit's help, comfort, and encouragement was not just for the disciples of long ago; it was for every Christian. He went back to the United States full of hope, not in his abilities, but in the power of the Holy Spirit to be with him, to change his heart, and to use him to bring all kinds of people into the kingdom of God.

This marked a turning point in Jack's life and ministry. Not only did he go back to work with a renewed sense of purpose, he also had a new freedom to live and work only for God's glory. It was out of this time of repentance and renewal that NLPC was founded and missionary work was begun. But Jack never forgot how far he had drifted from his focus on God's glory, and he never forgot how that affected his life and ministry. So, in his mentoring of leaders, he often returned to the theme of God's glory. He knew that if they did not start in ministry with the right motivation they would eventually end up as he did—full of anger and bitterness.

In this group of letters Jack was writing to missionaries and pastors. Some of them were on the mission field, one couple was considering whether or not to leave the mission field, and another couple (his daughter and son-in-law, Bob and Keren Heppe) was deciding whether or not they should become missionaries. To each person Jack emphasized the necessity of living, working, and serving with only God's glory in view.

He wrote in a letter to a young missionary couple in Uganda, "What I finally came to as I walked and prayed for you is the old, old story of getting the gospel clear in your own hearts and minds, making it clear to others, and doing it with only one motive—the glory of Christ." Jack believed that this was the essence of serving God, and that when you begin with desiring the glory of God the "how-tos" of bringing Him glory will become clear.

He repeated this message in slightly different ways in each letter in this section. To the couple who was struggling with whether or not to leave the mission field, to his daughter and her husband, and to Jack's copastor who was mentoring missionaries, his mes-

sage was the same: begin with desiring the glory of God, and everything else will become clear. Jack wrote to Bob Heppe, his son-in-law, “Honestly, I find it hard to believe that anyone who wants His glory will be long without some clues as to how to express that glory in a form of service to Him.”

Jack began his Christian life captured by the glory of God, and he learned as a failed pastor and professor that living for God’s glory is the only motivation that can sustain a life of service to God and others. He said this to one of his copastors at NLPC: “The thought that came to me was the power that comes when our vision is centered on the glory and praise of God. Practically I believe that this glory comes into its own when we self-consciously make it our anchor for what we are doing.” The glory of God became Jack’s motivation and his anchor through many years of doing ministry. He believed that there was no other anchor or motivation worth having.

*To a young couple who were one of the first missionary families sent from World Harvest Mission (WHM) to the Ruwenzori Mountains in Uganda.*



March, 1984

Dear Tom and Joanne,

Today is the third day of spring here in Philadelphia, but the weather has in it the sharp fingers of February rawness. But I managed to get my walk through Jenkintown completed anyway, about a mile and a half. While I was walking, I prayed for you and meditated on how to pray more effectively for you. Yesterday we had good prayer all morning and brought you all before the Lord more than once. Then in the evening I had more prayer. But still to pray effectively is more than any human being can work up. I am convinced that prayer, effective praying, is a divine gift that comes while praying. Sounds odd, prayer comes while you are praying? But I think that really there is praying which gets results and that is fine, but then there is praying that gets into the center of God's will and gets bigger results and also

leaves the soul at peace, satisfied that God's will has been contacted and God has responded with peace in the heart.

What I finally came to as I walked and prayed for you is the old, old story of getting the gospel clear in your own hearts and minds, making it clear to others, and doing it with only one motive—the glory of Christ. Getting the glory of Christ before your eyes and keeping it there—is the greatest work of the Spirit that I can imagine. And there is no greater peace, especially in the times of treadmill-like activity, than doing it all for the glory of the Lord Jesus. Think much of the Savior's suffering for you on that dreadful cross, think much of your sin that provoked such suffering, and then enter by faith into the love that took away your sin and guilt, and then give your work your best. Give it your heart out of gratitude for a tender, seeking, and patient Savior. Make every common task shine with the radiance of Christ. Then every event becomes a shiny glory moment to be cherished—whether you drink tea or try to get the verb forms of the new language.

Put quality in your lives then. In the sloppy world in which we live, try to make the most ordinary things have a special touch from God. I think Florence Allshorn used to serve tea in good silver up in Busoga district when all was primitive. Not so much as a touch of home, but as a touch of heaven.

So I have prayed that God would give you grace to seek quality in all that you do and seek to promote quality in others. We have prayed this for your language studies, for your preaching and teaching, and for your whole way of living. Believe me this is no easy battle. You will find in the world of Uganda, as in the world here in the States, “getting by” is the dominant tone. Of course, I know we are all glad just to get by with many things. Some things merit only getting by, but don't give in to it as the rule. Keep up the standards.

I'm also praying that God will give you some "quality people" with whom to work and some "quality converts." I don't mean flashy and razzle-dazzle people. Uganda and the U.S. always seem to have plenty of that sort. But I'm thinking of the solid people like John in the Kampala painting company. He's a real example of how Christ can take a raw pagan out of the marketplace and give you a life that shines for Jesus through honesty and hard work. I just glorify Jesus for such a brother!

Tom, two pieces of counsel: always try to be daring but don't be in a hurry. I'll let you think about that. Another thought: if you don't like what's going on in Uganda, wait a week. It'll be the opposite.

Rose Marie has had much physical weakness of late, for about the last two months. We are watching her diet and sending her to the doctor on Monday. She spent nine days in Florida resting with Jill and Kimberly [daughter-in-law and granddaughter] and got some rest with me when I attended a seminar at Ventnor on "Evangelism and the Poor" by Vinay Samuel.

But spiritually Rose Marie has continued to grow, really very encouraging. I think all the wear and tear of the last year have begun to catch up with her. She has closed down her Thursday afternoon Bible class. The results have been great, but my feeling is that a good foundation has been laid for these women and now they can seize the opportunity to build on it.

Naturally we are most eager to hear reports of your trip west and to learn how you are settling in. We take up an offering at New Life this week to help with your costs. . . . Greetings to Zeke and James. We also pray for them.

In Christ's love,  
Jack Miller



*When Jack first became a Christian, he read an appeal from a pastor in Ireland for Christians to come and preach the gospel there. He was very moved by that appeal and decided that one day he would go to Ireland as a missionary. He was never able to be there on a full-time basis, but NLPC began sending short-term mission teams to Ireland in 1977. From that small beginning grew a team of missionaries that World Harvest Mission sent out. This letter is to a pastor who is preparing to go to Ireland to encourage the team of missionaries there.*



April, 1984

Dear Steve,

This is our first morning at Ventnor by the sea. Our hope was for warmer weather, but this morning we awoke to gaze upon a new blanket of snow. But we praise God who is sovereign over all weather and rejoice that already His gracious Spirit is refreshing us. This day we began by reading Psalm 115—the great “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory.” It was health to our souls to renew our vision of God’s glory as the great reason for our being here in the world and the inspiration for every task given us by the King.

We had prayer this morning for you and your journey to Ireland. We also had in view your request that we pray that you be a leader with vision. We are praying that for you more and more.

The thought that came to me was the power that comes when our vision is centered on the glory and praise of God. Practically I believe that this glory comes into its own when we self-consciously make it our anchor for what we are doing. What I would really urge upon you is to dedicate this trip to God for His glory, that God would be honored during it by a marvelous demonstration of His grace and saving power.

I say that in the light of the depression that seems again and again to gather over things Irish—and probably in some degree over our team. What we need is a greater vision of Christ increasing until He has changed Ireland and then to give God no rest until this takes place. I think that means a new call for prayer for Ireland, the land where Christ's name has been shamed and is being shamed.

What I would stress, then, is that a man of vision gets his vision only in and through prayer. Only prayer with a goal of glorifying God at any cost can give God's vision to a man or a woman. I covet this for myself—and for you.

I would encourage you to remember that such a desire for vision is already a gift of the Lord, and what He has begun to give He wants to increase. Hindrances there are. One of these happens to be reservations in our hearts about the nature and character of His will for our lives. We secretly suspect that His will might be more demanding, more crucifying of our desires, than we can handle. But daily surrender to His will as you pray, and it will bring a freedom from anxiety that you cannot believe.

Recently I was caught up in a spirit of anxiety. Nothing would shake it. But I simply gave myself to thanking and praising God for everything I could think of. Result? As I increasingly gave Him the glory for all His great works, my faith recovered from its near death and I ended up walking on water and singing a song as I went. Praise and glorying are mysterious visitations of the King and the moving of His kingdom.

The times we have spent together as a staff recently have been profitable and confirmed me in the conclusion that Christ is in our midst. Praise the Lord for the wisdom God has given you for doing His will. I commend you for your really seeking and learning from God during these past months as we worked through the selection of a new staff member. I think you have handled matters very well indeed. Thanks for being my good friend.

Again, you go to Ireland with our prayers.

Most warmly in Christ,

Jack



*To a young missionary couple who is unsure whether they should stay on a mission field.*



September, 1984

Dear Jim and Anne,

Warm greetings to both of you in the Lord Jesus Christ! You have been much in our prayers over the past two years. Too, you are in our hearts as we have prayed for you during this time of re-examination of your role. . . . I was a bit concerned that you might quickly return without thinking through the issues of your call—or lack of call to

that land. But your correspondence to Charles [another pastor who had been mentoring Jim and Anne] has been encouraging to me.

In what way? Mainly in your growth in self-knowledge and honesty. One evidence of the Spirit's presence in our lives is our seeing where we really are and admitting it to others. One cannot make progress in life or ministry without being a forthright and forthcoming person. Probably each one of us has tons of kinky motives and loads of self-deception—or at least we do until we begin to ask the Holy Spirit to search us out. So, I am really pleased at your openness with Charles and encourage you to continue in it. That is of the Holy Spirit, I do believe. I was pleased as I reflected upon it that you made your innermost thoughts known to him. Believe me, we don't love you the less for that. We accept you just as you are, just as we want you to accept us just as we are.

I am in accord with what Charles has written to you. He is a wise brother, and I have full confidence in him. Would I add anything to his advice? Perhaps a thought or two along the lines mentioned above. It's vital that you not stay to please Charles, or me, or anyone else. That would please us, but the crucial thing to get hold of is your own identity and call. You can make decisions only out of that kind of grip on reality. So don't stay just to please us, but only because you believe the Lord of the church wants you there to do something for him.

Now I do not think such a disclosure of His will is gained on the cheap. It requires prayer and fasting and some earnest and painful heart-searching. When I do this, I ask the Holy Spirit to search out my innermost heart motives. Guess what I often discover? That my motives are usually mixed. Especially I am likely to discover I am not doing things for God's glory and out of delight and fellowship with Him, but out of half-concealed self-interest and self-glorying. I do not mean that no heavenly motives go into the mix of my inward thoughts, but often because I can detect some good motives in myself, I feel that this is the last and only word. Don't believe it about me or

Charles or yourselves. The scriptural emphasis on our encounter with the flesh needs to be taken seriously. I am thinking of some of the underscoring of things like “ambitions” in Galatians 5. It’s there in all of us and cannot be ignored.

So especially ask yourself: what is my concern for the glory of God in my life? How much am I led by concern for my own comfort and feeling of well-being? Do I witness out of enjoyment of God? Do I love people—not just on the mission field, but people? Am I willing to imitate the Good Shepherd and die for them? Do I really know the power of the Holy Spirit as I daringly witness? Do I really confront the lost with heaven and hell? Am I repenting regularly?

Once you wrestle over a period of time with these questions, you can much more easily decide whether you should be [on this field] for a longer period of time. Take great care not to be hasty. “He that is hasty in spirit exalts folly.” But it just may not be God’s will for you to be there as long as we might like. But the reason must be related to His purpose for your life. You might decide that your calling is not to be there because of a revelation of Christ’s will to you. This is not to say at all that I am encouraging you to come home sooner, but to get you to put the matter of your whole personal relationship to the Father before God and to decide based upon a clear dependence upon Him in the light of your careful evaluation of your gifts, calling, motives, etc. In other words, to quote my dear wife Rose Marie, “It’s important not to decide hastily like an orphan in flight, but like a son who knows the Father’s unconditional love.”

I think I also need to apologize to you both for my failure to help you more. Actually, here at New Life we see that we have been far too casual in some of our training and preparation for ministry. I don’t say this to run ourselves down or because I am guilt-ridden about it. I am not at all, but I think the “flesh” in me kept me back from giving better leadership to you and your ministry. So forgive me please.

Let me assure you how much more seriously we are beginning to take this whole enterprise. All of us here are seeing it as a much more demanding undertaking than hitherto. We also see how much we needed to have much more prayer behind it. Let me counsel you, too, to pray much more. Pray and keep praying and then pray some more.

You are in our hearts. Very much so.

Most warmly in Christ,

Jack



*These next two letters are written to Jack's son-in-law and daughter who are deciding whether they should become missionaries to Ireland. They eventually become missionaries to Asians in London.*



April, 1986

Dear Bob,

Greetings in Christ, dear brother! I was very happy to talk with you on the telephone when Keren called. It is my hope that the specialist will find nothing when he examines me on Wednesday. But as Rose Marie put it when she had a similar procedure, "Whatever is there is there, and my trust is in God to heal me if that is needed. So why worry?" I can learn from that undaunted spirit.

I also wanted to add a few thoughts to our conversation. My sense of things is that God is speaking to you, and using your need to make a decision on future direction to impart to you a deeper knowledge of Himself. If I understood you aright, you are wondering why you don't have more of a sense of call to a work for God, whatever it may be. Certainly that is a good question.

Perhaps my thoughts may not be all that helpful. You can sift them to see if they have any worth. But when I find myself without guidance from God, one of the first things I check out is the question whether or not I want guidance from God. That is often the big issue for me. Put simply, why should God give me guidance when my mind is closed to some aspect of His will?

I may have reservations in my heart about a path that I suspect He may want me to take. Or I may fear that He wants me to undertake a work that is beyond my capacity to handle. I look at myself and say, "It is impossible for me to do this thing. I lack the gifts for it, or at least I lack the sanctification that it requires." Tied in with this can also be a fleshly love of comfort and honor, or the security of a life where it is clear that I have things somewhat under control. In other words, my attitude is: "Don't disturb me, God. Don't call me to walk on water or something else that is contrary to good sense."

But how do I disentangle myself from conflicting and confused aspirations, some of them partly unconscious? You were a big help to me at the time you were so sick with the kidney problem. You did not see God's hand and presence until you surrendered your life and your healing to Him—and sued for healing on the basis of His glory and not a self-centered desire to get well. That really helped me. Indeed, I especially remembered it when God left me helpless at the first onset of my heart attack. I found it very liberating to surrender my will to His and commit myself to live for others, not for self, and in this way to reveal His glory.

Honestly, I find it hard to believe that anyone who wants His glory will be long without some clues as to how to express that glory in a form of service to Him. So—back to the basics.

Ask yourself, what is there in my generation that Keren and I can do that perhaps no one else can do? I think you can see that as you enter more fully into the joy of the Lord, which always accompanies those who live for His glory.

In the past your faith and perseverance have often been an inspiration to me. Expect that the Lord who has shepherded you so faithfully in the past will do so in the future.

Much love,  
Dad



*To Jack's daughter Keren as she and her husband are praying about going on the mission field.*



April, 1986

Dear Keren,

Greetings through the grace of the King! I have missed you and your team here in Malaga. Give Gillian and Natie a hug for me, and tell Gillian I have not forgotten about our plans to have lunch together

in Dublin. Lord willing, we shall have a fine lunch together. There is even a McDonalds there if she wants a hamburger.

The weather continues to be on the cool side here; the Spanish say that the coldness of March is a historical first. No one can remember it being like this. Actually it's not all that cold, only when it gets windy or rains a bit. Your mother has been praying for warmer weather, and now that the land has had an unprecedented soaking I expect her prayers will be heard. I think of it this way. If the land here and in Morocco needs the rain, we tourists can put up with some coolish weather for a while. You wouldn't believe Morocco between Casablanca and Fez. The valleys are just splendid with green grass and flowers. The verdant land is singing the praises of its Maker, and so shall we in fullness when Jesus brings in the big springtime of His new world. This old world is such a mess when you get to know it: so much hatred in it, so much revenge, so much greed, and an almost endless supply of human foolishness. It makes it a mystery that we mortals cling to it with such strong fingers when we are really holding on to winter's fog, mist, damp, rot, and mud. Lord, give me a longer view. Help me to see springtime in Your return. Help me to long for the green land to come!

Yet in the meantime before He comes or I go to be with Him, my prayer is that I may fulfill His purpose for me. I want to serve Him with my whole heart in my generation, and do my part to further the interests of His love working in the world.

Well, as you and Bob struggle to discern His will, there is nothing that can clear the vision faster than the discovery that all things are temporary and so am I. So what I do with my life should center on working with matters that will remain unshaken at the return of the Lord Jesus. Get a good view of the temporariness of life and—believe it or not—you will enjoy it more. When we get our footsies so mired down in time that we think it is eternal, we become subject to all the ups and downs, the vagaries, of time. Our loves are

so easily disturbed because we are loving only what is changing and finally will be replaced altogether. But to see this temporariness of many of our dreams isn't bad. We cannot remain adolescents forever. God's will is for us to become adults, and the heart of being an adult is the capacity to put away the toys and put on the love and joy and peace of Christ. The mind of Christ brings such quietness where otherwise the life would be ruled by discontent and all kinds of defenses and ambitions.

But then Christ gives the surrendered Christian good dreams, beautiful visions of His glory working in lives, and gives us a simple trust that He will grant us the deepest desires of our hearts. Think of how He will answer our prayers for Gillian and Natie. As we agree in prayer for them we can expect them in turn to become images of Christ, renewed by the inbreathing of the Holy Spirit. What a comfort that must be to you!

Think too how your being in Christ confers on you as a wife and mother, as a colaborer with Bob, an inexpressible worth and dignity. You are the daughter of the Highest. You are of the royal line through adoption. . . . Amazing grace!

We do miss all of you here, and look forward to our reunion in Ireland. It is a privilege to have you for a daughter. You bring much joy to my heart. Keep the faith.

Much love,  
Dad

