

Dispatch Nine

09.22.06 East Africa Mission Dispatch #9 Dispatch Packets from the interior...

(I am now in Lagos and have not been able to find an internet cafe from which to send my reports. Soon I will begin to move into the interior, first to Enugu and then on to Jos, nothing assures me that things will be different there. Thus, like the prayer warriors of old, you will receive a packet of dispatches, which will arrive when means of delivery are found. In days long gone by, missionaries would faithfully write letters regularly to prayer warriors, supporters and loved ones back home, carefully maintaining them in a packet, waiting for some traveler or ship bound homeward to which they could entrust their precious cargo. These packets of dispatches, often tied together with twine or ribbon would then make the long journey home, reporting events weeks, months if not years past. They did this because of their keen sense of stewardship and their reliance upon their prayer warriors. In the same way I will continue to "report" following the example of these saints of old. Rather than tying them with twine or securing them in an oilskin packet, I will keep them safe "cyber style" in a folder which waits for the opportunity of sending them on to you. Yes, I will continue writing them for you, as I know you take a keen interest in this ministry and are praying as best you can - under the prodding and guidance of the Holy Spirit.)

"Packet" One:

Picture #1 Teaching the Navigator New Staff Institute Picture #2 Eleanor sends me off with special Mexican dinner in the heart of Africa Picture #3 Departing for the airport with Dr. Mukolwe. I first met Stanley when he was doing post graduate work at Oklahoma State University. He was a gifted man and soon running the international branch of our ministry at OSU.

He was offered the opportunity to stay in the US and minister to international students but his heart was burdened for his home country to which he returned. Dr. Mukolwe is now the country leader of Kenya for the Navigators in addition to traveling and speaking throughout Africa, giving the Family Discipleship Seminar.

Picture #4 Udobong Idemeter - Udobong and I became friends some 20 years ago when we were both involved in student ministry. He in Lagos, Nigeria and I in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Now he is stepping down as the director of the greater southwest part of Nigeria for the Navigators and he and his family are going as missionaries, sent by the Nigerians to South Africa.

(If you would like to support either of these godly men through regular

prayers or finances you can do so by contacting them directly (see email address below.) I mean this is what it is all about isn't it. Raising up nationals to reach nationals! Give a man a fish and feed him for a day.

Teach a man to fish and feed him for a life time. These are national "fishers of men" teaching their own countrymen to fish as well. Now I consider that a good investment in prayers and resources!!

Dear Prayer Warriors,

09.14.06 - My last day in Nairobi...

Up at 5:30 a.m.

Time in prayer and lecture perpetrations 8:30 - 4:30 Teaching on Convictions, Perspective, Priorities - Navigator New Staff Institute
Dinner with El: Special send off dinner, "smuggled in" Mexican fixins!!
What a surprise this was and such a special send off. Eleanor planned ahead for this and had all the makings of a wonderful Mexican dinner hidden away all this time. We had a delightful time together and what a wonderful sendoff for my ten day visit to Nigeria. I am so blessed to have such a godly wife who only thinks of my needs when getting me off on a ministry trip. Not only did she spend the day washing, packing and organizing my suitcase and ministry items but she also planned ahead and had this special dinner waiting for me.

Truly God the Holy Spirit puts it best...

Proverbs 12:4, "An excellent wife is the crown of her husband..."

Proverbs 19:14 "House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD."

Proverbs 31:10 "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels."

As you can imagine it is no easy thing to be left alone in one African country while your husbands travels to the other side of the continent to minister. Eleanor has though the heart of Sarah as revealed by the Holy Spirit in I Peter 3:5-6 "For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear." Fearlessness is not a virtue relegated purely to men. For the godly woman, the godly wife to face her call, she must like Sarah, be able to "do what is right without being frightened by any fear." I praise God for the blessing of a fearless wife who makes this ministry possible as she not only stands by me but co-laborers with me in the harvest fields of the world.

09.15.06

Up at 5:30 a.m.

Prayer and spiritual preparation for Lagos Dr. Mukolwe takes me to airport Check in and arrive in Lagos after five hour flight "Excuse me Rev. Mahon, my name is Sammy, may I help you"

The Nigerian baggage area was so chaotic and I was beginning to become a bit unnerved. That is when I felt the hand on my shoulder. It was "Sammy". Four years ago he had attended the Family Discipleship Seminar I gave in Lagos and now works in security in the airport. We had a great reunion and he told me that he was now attending the church I would be speaking in the next day and had hoped that we would "bump into each other". What a provision from God. He quickly contacted Udobong outside by his cell phone, had my suitcase and bag of books and tapes collected and then spirited me off through security into the waiting and welcoming arms of my good friend Udobong Idemeter. We had a wonderful reunion and then again, under Sammy's' watchful eye made our way to Udobong's waiting car and from there we drove off into the heart of Lagos, Nigeria. The adventure begins...

Stay tuned for part two...

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1

Rev. John S. Mahon

Grace Community Int.

Lagos, Nigeria



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three



Picture Four