

Dispatch Five

08.30.06 East Africa Mission Dispatch #5 The ministry takes shape...

I. A Packed Room

II. Calling upon God to bless the teaching of His Word

III. "Your like a father to me..."

IV. Prayer Requests:

A. Schedule: Ask God to bless the teaching and preaching schedule which has been laid out for me over the coming weeks. Please claim...
Psalms 90:12, 16, 17 "So teach us to number our days, that we may present to Thee a heart of wisdom.... Let Thy work appear to Thy servants, and Thy majesty to their children. And let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and do confirm for us the work of our hands; yes, confirm the work of our hands."

B. Visas: We are applying for our Nigerian Visas from the Nigerian embassy here in Kenya which is a little more tricky than from the US. Please claim...

Proverbs 21:1 "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes."

C. Health is always a concern when in another country in the midst of a demanding schedule. Please claim...
Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

D. Servant Hearts: Ask God to work in our hearts that we might spend our time here in service of the Lord and of the ministry. That we might be a blessing to others and that we might exhibit the servant heart which Christ expects of His ministers. Please claim...

Luke 22:24-27 "And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' But not so with you, but let him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant. For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves."

Dear Prayer Warriors,

I can feel the power of your faithful prayers as the ministry here in Nairobi begins to take shape. God the Holy Spirit exhorts the Corinthians concerning the ministry of Paul, and this same exhortation comes down to us through the ages and is as true today as it was then.

He states clearly - 'you also joining in helping us through your prayers,' and again, "for the favor bestowed upon us through the prayers of many." (II Corinthians 1:11) Prayer warriors help missionaries through their prayers, prayer warriors bestow favor on missionaries through their prayers. Neither the help or the favor would be theirs without the faithful prayers of you our prayer warriors. You are indeed making a difference and as this verse states, "that thanks may be given by many person" and indeed we do give thanks daily for your ministry as do those here in Kenya who are recipients of the help and favor resulting from your prayers. Hey, we make a great team!!!

As I type this email, it is 6:30 and the sun is going down. (The sunrise and sunset this close to the equator only varies about 10 minutes either way during the year.) El is teaching a ladies leadership class and I am banging out a dispatch to you. (El's weekly class will be featured next week - for now these leaders represent about 600 women in Bible study and El's responsibility is to equip them, that they may in turn equip the leaders of these studies, who will in turn lead these 600 women in Bible study each week.)

A Packed Room: (picture #1)

This week the first Family Discipleship Seminar was held for the leadership of NPC Church, Nairobi. The pastor graciously announced that the leadership of the church would be free from the morning service to attend this ten week Family Discipleship lecture series. (Attendance requires, scripture memory, completing the weekly chapter in the Bible study workbook and applying the projects in the workbook to your family life at home.) They had hoped for 20, they set up the room (by faith) for 50 and when the opening prayer was given there were 70 in attendance. We praise God for this response and know that you have gone before us in prayer bringing about this response. God the Holy Spirit clearly teaches this and we know that this principle is at work today as it was in the day of Zechariah - (Zech 4:6)"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts." And we know this response is not the doing of man but God - by the grace of God and the effectual prayers of you our prayer warriors this ministry is blessed.

"O Lord, Bless Your Holy Word..." (picture #2) Our ministry is centered around the Holy Word of God. Over the years my dependence and faith in the Spirit's empowerment of the Word of God has only grown. As Jesus prayed in John 17:17, "Sanctify them in truth, They Word is truth" so I pray and ask God that the Spirit empowered Word of God would prove effective in the transforming the lives of the hearers. Before each message I lift the Word high and call upon the Lord to bless the teaching and preaching of His Word claiming the promises concerning the Word of God.

My greatest confidence in the ministry is in the Word of God - holy, inspired and without error it is the Word of God which we preach and teach.

It is our final authority. By God's grace and by your prayers we will faithfully teach and preach the Word of God in the coming months.

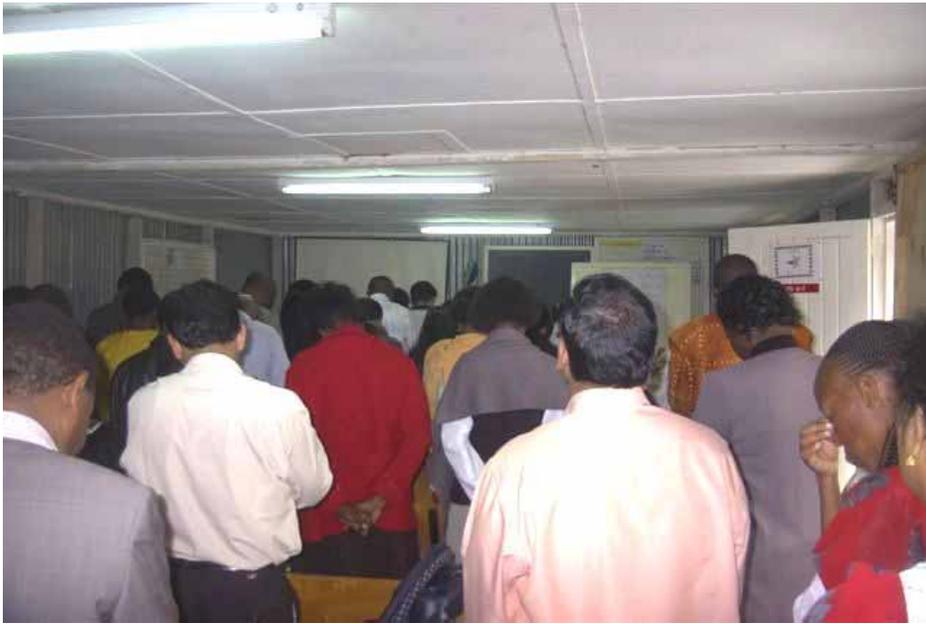
"You like a father to me..." (picture #3) God the Holy Spirit exhorts in II Timothy 2:2, "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." One of the privileges of the ministry is to host young ministers and spend time with them over the Word of God and in prayer. Pictured is Alex who is a campus minister with the Navigators. Alex came by to see me with a list of questions and we spent several hours together in a refreshing time in the Word of God. It is a delight to pass on to young ministers those things which have been entrusted to me throughout my life by older and wiser men of the Word. I can remember as a young minister older more mature ministers taking the time to counsel, instruct and direct me from the Word of God. Men like Sam Clark (missionary from Mexico for whom my son is named), John Crawford (missionary from New Zealand), Ray Tallman (missionary to closed Islamic countries and then head of Moody Bible Institutes Missions Department), Jim Downing (missionary statesmen with the Navigators). Gene Warr (Of whom Billy Graham is to have said, "He is the most gifted lay evangelist in America") It is the greatest of privileges to now be in a position to return these graces so freely bestowed on me. As I walked Alex to the bus stop he turned to me and said, "I really appreciate the time you have given me today. You are like a father figure to me..." I could think of no greater compliment to be paid.

I close this dispatch with the sincerest thanks for your prayers. It is by the grace of God and the faithful prayers of you our prayer warriors that we are sustained and empowered in the ministry.

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1
Rev. John S. Mahon
Grace Community Int.
Nairobi, Kenya



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three