

Mahon Dispatch #08 09.01.10 A word about our dispatches before departing for South Africa

(Having trouble receiving our emails? You can go to our website each week and seem them posted. In fact why not add this link to your favorites bar?!?)

<http://gciweb.org/whats happening.asp>

Message of the week: **The Marriage Covenant Seminar Lecture Four – The Nature of the Marriage Covenant**

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=21310203836>

iPhone / iPod Touch / Blackberry / Mobile Phone Apps are available. After going to the message link above scroll down and click on the device icon you are using

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Russian Resources: <http://www.gciweb.org/Russian%20Resources.asp>

Spanish: Recursos en Español

<http://www.gciweb.org/Spanish%20Main%20Page%20Resources.asp>

Feel free to duplicate Bible studies for your personal, family or ministry use but they may not be reproduced for sale. *Matthew 10:8 "...Freely you received, freely give."*

- I. The Nature of Our Dispatches
- II. Ephesians 6:18 -22, guiding principles of the missions team
- III. The first conviction: the primacy of intercessory prayer
- IV. The second conviction: the need for prayer warriors to be kept updated
- V. Modern day Tychicus ...
 - A. To mobilize prayer
 - B. "That you might know about us" – our needs, ministry and coming mission trips
 - C. "That we might comfort you hearts" – God is on the throne, men and women are turning to Christ, the ministry is expanding and your sacrifices are reaping great rewards.
- VI. Prayer Requests (as you petition God please pray over and meditate on the passage from God's holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word)
 - A. Please pray for our safe travels to South Africa and Zambia. Also that the remaining boxes of Bibles, Bible study aids and Bible reference works would make it through customs without pilferage. This is a very great concern in both countries and will require your concerted prayers.
 - B. **Prayer Warriors:** That God would continue to raise up prayer warriors who will co-labor with us in the ministry.

Isaiah 62:6-7

6 *On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest for yourselves;*
7 *And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.*

C. Support Team: Ask the Lord as well, that as our ministry expands, so too with our support team.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

6 *Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.*

7 *Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

8 *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;*

D. Stamina: Pray for stamina as we minister amidst a challenging schedule and pace, across cultural lines, across time zones (where for our poor brains day is night and night is day), often in unfriendly or challenging situations and environments – all of which takes a toll on our physical and emotional reserves. I am sure my Sam son will not object to my giving you one of his favorite Bible verses to claim for us as we minister God’s Word on foreign fields...

Isaiah 40:29-31 “He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”

E. Communication: Ask God to keep the lines of communication open. We are very vulnerable in this area as in many parts of the world not only is the internet slow and unpredictable but equally so are the phone lines and often surface mail is out of the question. Ask the Lord to keep the lines of communication open and to give our support team patience when they are not.

F. Finances: Pray also for the finances necessary to carry on this ever expanding ministry. Our need does not arise from any shortfall but rather from a continual and constant growth. *Proverbs 14:4 teaches, “Where no oxen are, the manger is clean, but much increase comes by the strength of the ox.”* So too in the ministry, with the blessing of God comes an increase in responsibility and work. Pray with us as we seek to keep the “manger” in order here at GCI as God continues to bless with increases in ministry.

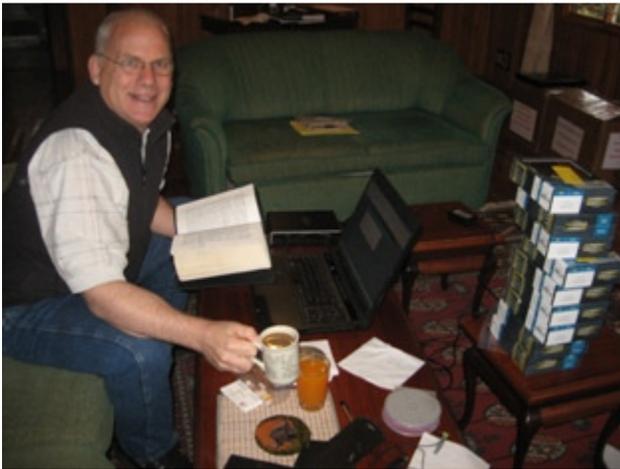
Philippians 4:18-19

18 *But I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.*

19 *And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

Dear Prayer Warriors,

We are often asked about our philosophy of communicating with our prayer warriors. We take our prayer warriors just as seriously as our support team. That is why both our support team and our prayer warriors receive monthly surface mail updates on the ministry. That is why both our support team and our prayer warriors receive real time email dispatches from the very epicenter of ministry activity.



Working on this dispatch from GCI Mobile Africa HQ – Nairobi, Kenya

In fact the most frequent way you hear from us is from our e-mail prayer dispatches. These are pounded out in real time from the front of the battle. Often late at night, after a full day of ministry I send out these reports with pictures that you might labor with us in real time. As a result they are rough hewn with only a marginal attempt is made to put them in spelling and grammatical order. The need of the hour being to get these out to you in a timely manner while phone lines and communication avenues are open.

I thought it might be timely to revisit our Biblical philosophy of communication with you our co-laborers in the harvest fields of the world.

When Paul ends his letter to the Ephesians he reveals two important convictions concerning the ministry of the missionary.

Ephesians 6:18-22

18 *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,*

19 *and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,*

20 *for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.

22 And I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

We too hold to these convictions...

The first conviction is found in verses 18 – 20...

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

That his ability to minister the gospel on foreign fields was directly linked to the faithfulness of his prayer warriors in standing with him in prayer and empowering his ministry through prayer. This also is a deeply held conviction of both Eleanor and me. We sincerely believe with all our heart that our ability to minister is directly linked to the earnest and effectual prayers of you our prayer warriors and support team. We too appeal to you, as Paul did to the Ephesians, “*pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel...*”

The second conviction we believe is equally important and is found in verses 21 & 22...

21 But that you also may know about my circumstances, how I am doing, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make everything known to you.

22 And I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know about us, and that he may comfort your hearts.

We believe, like Paul, that for you our prayer warriors and support team to labor effectively with us on the mission field through your prayers and gifts - that we must communicate with you and keep you clearly informed of the ministry for which you are praying.

We do this a number of ways.

First: through regular email dispatches such as this that you may be involved in real time ministry events. These are rough hewn documents banged out in the midst of the battle. Usually late at night or early in the morning, sent to you as real time prayer requests that you might participate immediately and directly with us in the ministry. Time is not spent in editing and perfecting these dispatches. Usually I am fighting the clock, trying to get the dispatch out before the line goes bad or the some government computer program picks up on a key word or phrase and shuts it down automatically. These are not works of art or literature but dispatches from the front lines of the battle.

Second: through monthly surface mailings where you receive the “big picture” prayer requests that deal with more sweeping principles and issues in our ministry. These are not limited to our support team, but all who participate in our ministry – both those who pray and those who give are taken with equal seriousness in terms of their co-labor ship with us in the harvest fields of the world.

Third: through a yearly “friends and family tour” where we seek to personally make contact with you and bring this dynamic and exciting ministry right into your home or church. During our last “tour” we traveled over 4,000 miles through five states for the simple reason that it is our conviction that as many of our co-laborers as it is humanly possible, should be offered an opportunity to hear first hand of their ministry throughout the world.

We do these things not as a part of some intricate marketing strategy but rather out of a deep conviction centered in the Word of God that you who pray for our ministry and those who support it financially are equal partners with us in all that we do both when at home and when on the mission field. We do not take likely your personal sacrifice to be pray for and support this ministry. It is a privilege and joy to be on the team with you and we take your ministry very seriously.

We do all this for the same reason and with the same conviction that Tychicus set out on his perilous journey...
To mobilize prayer...

“That you might know about us” – our needs, ministry and coming mission trips
“That we might comfort you hearts” – God is on the throne, men and women are turning to Christ, the ministry is expanding and your sacrifices are reaping great rewards.

I close this email as always with a deep and abiding thankfulness for your sacrificial and effectual prayers which empower and drive this ministry ever forward in the cause of Christ.

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1
Rev. John S. Mahon

Grace Community Int. – Ministering with you, side by side, in the harvest fields of the world – ministering in Nairobi, Kenya while preparing for South Africa and points south...

Please allow me to close with dispatch with a hymn from my prayer notebook that has been especially meaningful to me...

(Psalms 104:33-34 “I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD.”)

Link to music/tune for this hymn: <http://nethymnal.org/htm/r/o/rockages.htm>

Rock of Ages Cleft For Me

Rock of ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee
Let the water and the blood

From Thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure

*All the labors of my hands
Could not meet Thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and Thou alone*

Nothing in my hands I bring
Simply to Thy cross I cling
Naked come to Thee for dress
Helpless look to Thee for Grace
To Thy fountain Lord I fly
Wash me Savior or I die

*While I draw this fleeting breath
When my eyes shall close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown
See Thee on Thy judgment throne
Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee*

Rev. Augustus Montague Toplady *Born:* November 4, 1740, Farnham, Surrey, England. *Died:* August 11, 1778, Kensington, Middlesex, England, of tuberculosis. Toplady attended Westminster School, London, and Trinity College, Dublin. He was ordained an Anglican priest in 1762, and served as Curate at Blagdon and Farleigh. In 1766, he became Vicar of Broadhembury, Devonshire. He left the Anglican church in 1775, moved to London, and began preaching at the French Calvinist church in Leicester Fields. He was a fervent evangelist and part of the Wesleyan revival, though they later fell out over Calvinist doctrines. The great pastor and Bible teacher Charles C. Ryle declared him to be the greatest hymnologist of his century. Rev. Toplady would walk miles in the open air to preach at Wesleyan meetings. Often violent storms would come upon him and he would search out a cleft in a rocky outcropping to protect himself from the worst of the gales.