

Mahon Home Dispatch #13 03.04.08 On The Move...

Pictures

1_Helsinki to Tallinn, Estonia by ferry across the gulf of Finland

2_Bus from the ferry to bus station

(The bus dropped us off about 5 blocks from the actual station and El was a real trooper as we moved our luggage along the narrow sidewalk)

3_Bus from Tallinn, Estonia to Riga, Latvia

(The air was so thick in the Riga bus station that we gladly spent the two hours outside waiting for the bus. Reasonably fresh air but BRRRR)

4_Bus from Riga, Latvia to Vilnius, Lithuania

(Having left Helsinki for the ferry at 6:45 a.m. we arrived at the bus station at Vilnius at 10:30 that same night - whew!)

5_El meets with staff women

(El shares her testimony with CCC staff)

6_Teaching staff workshop on witnessing

(It is such a joy to meet with CCC staff. Their commitment to the Word of God and the clear presentation of the gospel is unequalled.)

In this dispatch...

- I. Your Prayers Have Brought Us Safely To Vilnius**
- II. The Visas Have Been Issued**
- III. We Look To Your Sustaining Prayers**
- IV. Prayer Requests** (Please allow the Word of God to guide your prayers for us during this crucial period of our ministry)

A. That you would sustain us materially - as in this case and others there have been unexpected expenses.

2 Corinthians 9:12-15

12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

13 Because of the proof given by this ministry they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

14 while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

B. That you would sustain us physically - the stress of constant travel is upon us and the prospect of persecutions is before us.

Isaiah 40:28-29

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

29 He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power.

C. That you would sustain us emotionally - it has been a long three months with many mountain top experiences, yet these mountains have had to be climbed at a cost and we can feel that cost as the days, weeks and months have passed.

Isaiah 26:3-4

3 "The steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in Thee.

4 "Trust in the LORD forever, for in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.

1 Peter 5:6-7

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

7 casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.

D. That you would sustain us spiritually - satan is not a bit happy that we are going into this land which he had officially proclaimed "Closed!" God the Holy Spirit ends the great teaching on spiritual warfare and the spiritual armor of saints (Ephesians 6:10 - 17) with this exhortation and we too appeal to you for these same fervent prayers.

Ephesians 6:18-20

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

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Your prayers have brought us safely to Vilnius, Lithuania and now even further. Our Campus Crusade host told me today that it is no less than a miracle that in one day we received our visas into that special country to our south east that you have been praying so diligently about. We depart tomorrow (having paid no bribes and having bent no laws; without lying as to our purpose nor deceiving as to our calling; should we suffer for this decision it will be as servants of the Lord not as worldly deceivers - II Corinthians 4:1 & 2) and would ask that you not

email us during the week of our ministry there. We hope to be able to send you at least one email out but we ask for your own security not to email us.

This visa did not come without trials. When the travel agent in Vilnius called the embassy about the visa I could hear the loud animated words on the other end of the line from across the desk where I was sitting. The young lady's face became redder and redder as she listened to the tirade. When she hung up, her face red and quite shaken she said, "Are you sure you do not want to handle this yourself?" We declined but did pray and you were praying, and God answered those prayers. We praise God for your ministry of intercession for that is the only explanation. There was a punitive fee as they charged us four times the normal amount, but we did not hesitate and tomorrow we are off.

We ask though that you continue to pray. That you would sustain us materially - as in this case and others there have been unexpected expenses. That you would sustain us physically - the stress of constant travel is upon us and the prospect of persecutions is before us. That you would sustain us emotionally - it has been a long three months with many mountain top experiences, yet these mountains have had to be climbed at a cost and we can feel that cost as the days, weeks and months have passed. That you would sustain us spiritually - satan is not a bit happy that we are going into this land which he had officially proclaimed "Closed!".

To aid you in this last prayer request we are attaching a Spiritual Warfare Prayer Sheet as well as a couple of studies on satan's deceptiveness to aid you in your prayers for us as we travel south east. Our host's home - both here and in his former country has been broken into by agents; (records concerning both himself and his children were stolen and then returned through multiple break ins); both his dogs have been poisoned; the pastors and staff who we will be visiting are regularly called in by agents for prolonged interrogations - we must ask you now to place a hedge around us and return us safely back to Vilnius in seven days. I do not want to be an alarmist, I am simply sharing with you the facts as I understand them. Your co-laborship in this exciting endeavor is dependant upon clear communication and we seek to honor your participation in this ministry by clear and constant reports.

In closing a missionary who has been expelled and now resides in Vilnius, when hearing of the miracle of our visa told us that he was envious of the opportunity which God had created for us this coming week. We feel all too keenly both the privilege and the reasonability of this visa. Petition the Lord of the harvest that we would be found faithful.

As always we enter this new and exciting field we minister...

By the grace of God

And

By the fervent and faithful petitions of you our prayer warriors.

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1 & 2

"Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

John and Eleanor Mahon

Vilnius, Lithuania - the door has opened - we are walking in...



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three



Picture Four



Picture Five



Picture Six