

## **Mahon Russia Dispatch #1 09.20.09 - Hitting The Ground Running**

- Pictures**
- 1. Tuesday morning men's Bible study**
  - 2. Marriage and Parenting Seminars**
  - 3. Sunday morning service - Reformed Presbyterian Church**
  - 4. Sunday evening service - Baptist Church**
  - 5. Bibles for ministers**

As the fall semester begins let me encourage you to take a look at the Daily Quiet Times Alone With God offered at our website - [www.gciweb.org](http://www.gciweb.org) These are offered at no charge and may be downloaded to your computer, a disk, flash drive or printed directly from the website.

If you are not having a Family Alter, now is the time to begin. Your children are all starting back to school, promotion Sunday is taking place at church, adjustments are being made in life as the summer ends and the pace of life picks up. What better time to commit yourself personally to a Daily Quiet Time Alone With God.

Do you and your wife have daily devotionals together? Again, what better time to put your marriage on a more sure footing by beginning to meet with your spouse each morning in a Daily Quiet Time Alone With God? What better time to begin your Family Altar by leading your family tougher either in the morning or at the dinner table in Daily Devotions?

To help you with this I am presenting in this Dispatch three books or you may choose to go to our website and choose from the multitude of themed quiet time sheets. My sincerest hope it that as a result of these offerings you might grow closer to God, stronger in your love of God and man and as a result become a more obedient disciple of our Lord and Risen Savior Jesus Christ.

In this dispatch...

- I. Men's Bible Study**
- II. Marriage Seminar & Parenting Teens Seminar**
- III. Reformed Church St. Petersburg & St. Petersburg Baptist Church**
- IV. Seminary Classes**
- V. Prayer Requests...**

A. Men's Bible Study: Ask God to bless these men as they study and memorize God's Word. These are Elders, who themselves are teaching God's Word in their church. Please claim...

***2 Timothy 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.***

B. Marriage and Parenting Seminars: Please pray for God to use the Marriage Covenant Seminar and Family Discipleship Seminar to raise up a generation of Christ centered marriages and families. Ask God to make each family a lighthouse to Russia and a source of continuing generations of Christians who love and serve the Lord. Please claim...  
***Joshua 24:15 "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD , choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD ."***

C. Preaching and Teaching In Churches: Call upon the Lord to empower His holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word as I preach and teach in churches each Sunday. Please claim...  
***Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.***

D. Seminary Classes: It is a humbling and fearful thing to be teaching the future pastors and teachers of Russia . I feel a great burden of responsibility. Please ask God to use my classes to not only impart knowledge but the obedient life that must accompany knowledge. Pray for these young ministers that they would be "Ezras". Please claim for their lives...  
***Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel .***

E. Bibles, Bible Study Aids and Bible Reference Works: Your sacrificial gifts make it possible for us to present to pastors and ministers quality Bibles which they would otherwise not possess. Please pray that the Lord would continue to lay this ministry of liberality on the hearts of those who pray for our ministry, that we might in turn supply national pastors and ministers with quality Bibles, Bible reference works and Bible study aids.  
***2 Corinthians 9:10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;***

Dear Prayer Warriors,

It is Sunday morning as I type this and I am doing the last bit of preparations for my sermon (see attached file). Winter is not yet here in St. Petersburg (according to the Russians) but it is already as cold or colder than our Houston winters. In fact I find myself humming Christmas carols – and it is just September! We are losing about 7 minutes of daylight each day and with that the temps have begun to fall – about ten degrees each week and we will hit the thirties this week. By Christmas the long Russian winter will have set in, in earnest with virtually no daylight at all and temps registering well below freezing, into the teens and single digits. We however are kept warm by our zeal for the Lord, the ministry of the Word and our labors in the harvest fields here in Russia . We have been here just over a week and having hit the ground running we have much to report...

### **Men's Bible Study**

Everywhere I go I am told the same thing. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century men will just not get up early in the morning to do a challenging Bible study, let alone memorize Scripture. Everywhere I go I find men who are willing to get up in the morning, do Bible study and memorize Scripture. This morning I will be meeting with a fine group of Russian men who love the Lord and are committed to His holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word.

### **Marriage Seminar & Parenting Teens Seminar**

The last two weekends have been action packed and we could feel the sustaining power of your prayers. Both Saturdays were spent giving seminars on marriage and family. The first Saturday in Russia we presented our one day Marriage Covenant Seminar and this was followed by our Parenting Teens Seminar. Both were well attended and well received.

### **Reformed Church St. Petersburg & St. Petersburg Baptist Church**

The last two Sunday's I have preached the morning service at the Reformed Church of St. Petersburg, Russia. A number of pastors attended the seminars and we have received Sunday evening and Wednesday evening invitations from them to preach in their churches as well. This past Sunday night it was my privilege to preach at the Baptist church here in St. Petersburg .

### **Seminary Classes**

My teaching ministry at the seminary has begun in earnest. I could not be more encouraged by the maturity and zeal of the students attending the Reformed Seminary here in St. Petersburg , Russia . As the Visiting Professor of Pastoral Theology I will be teaching two intensive courses – one on marriage and one on the family. What a privilege and joy it is to invest in the lives of the spiritual future of this great country.

In closing this is our ministry – establishing marriages and families in the Word of

God; building up and serving the church; raising up the next generation of pastors and leaders in the church and supplying national pastors, ministers and lay ministers with the tools to do their ministry. What a privilege to be a part of so great a work. What a privilege to co-labor with you in the harvest fields of the world.

As always we minister by the grace of God and by the empowerment of your faithful and effectual prayers.

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1

Rev. John S. Mahon

Grace Community Int. – ministering in St. Petersburg , Russia and points east...

Please allow me to close with dispatch with a hymn from my prayer notebook that has been especially meaningful to me. When I sing this hymn I often think of three verses from my prayer notebook...

*Psalm 23:1 ...The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

*Psalm 80:1 ...Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel , Thou who dost lead Joseph like a flock; Thou who art enthroned above the cherubim, shine forth!*

*Isaiah 40:11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs, And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.*

## Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.  
*We are Thine, Thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;  
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.*  
Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! We will early turn to Thee.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! We will early turn to Thee.  
*Early let us seek Thy favor, early let us do Thy will;  
Blessèd Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.*

**Dorothy Ann Thrupp (1779-1847) Wrote many poems and hymns for children's ministry. Note the vocabulary and subject matter of this hymn. The depth of these words tell of the seriousness with which the church and ministers took when ministering to the young. A seriousness which has now all too often been replaced by story telling and playtime.**



**Picture One**



**Picture Two**



**Picture Three**



**Picture Four**



**Picture Five**