

## Mahon Russian Dispatch #12 10.31.09 Conserving The Fruit Of The Ministry...

### Pictures:

1\_Typical Fall Day In Siberia

2\_Back From An Invigorating Walk With El

3\_El Teaches Her Last Ladies Bible Study

4\_Fond Farewells My Last Sunday To Preach

5\_This Morning I Taught The Last Youth Bible Study (Igor is fourth from left or second from my right your left)

### In This Dispatch...

- I. Conserving The Fruit Of Our Ministry
- II. Preaching
- III. Bible study
- IV. One on One
- V. Prayer Requests - As you pray for our last week in Siberia, please allow the passages accompanying the request to guide your prayers...

#### A. Safety in Travel & Stamina:

We depart for St. Petersburg Sunday morning 4 a.m. and arrive 7 a.m. (flying west and thus gaining three hours). I preach that same morning from II Peter 1:2 & 3 so I would appreciate your prayers for safety and stamina.

#### B. The Ministry of The Word

*Mark 4:14*

*The sower sows the word.*

*John 15:16*

*You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."*

*John 15:20*

*"Remember the word that I said to you, ' A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

#### C. Protect From satan

*Mark 4:15*

*These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.*

*1 John 4:4*

*You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*

*James 4:7*

*Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

**D. Protect From The World**

*Mark 4:19*

*but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

*John 16:33*

*These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*

*1 John 5:4-5*

*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

**E. Protect From A Wrong Reaction To Hardships**

*Mark 4:17*

*and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.*

*2 Timothy 3:12-14*

*12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*

*13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.*

*14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,*

**F. May The Word of God Fall On Fruitful Ground - Pray for Igor and those like him who have repented and either come to Christ or come back to Christ. Pray for those faithful members of the church that they would be built up in the Word of God and in turn lead others to Christ and to maturity.**

*Mark 4:20*

*And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.*

**Dear Prayer Warriors,**

This is our last week in Tyumen, here in Siberia. Sunday morning we depart at 4 a.m.. We arrive in St. Petersburg at 7 a.m.. I preach that same morning at 11 a.m. on II Peter 1:2 & 3 - **True Knowledge**

### **2 Peter 1:2-3**

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*

It has been snowing off and on for the last four or five days. Daylight hours are getting shorter with sunrise at around 8:30 and sunset at 4:30, but on a cloudy day the days are even shorter. The sun does not pass overhead but moves across the side of the sky so that even at noon we cast a long shadow. This is a marked difference from Nairobi, where at noon you had no shadow - the sun being directly overhead. The temps are in the 20s and with the wind-chill it can be quite cold. There is not a lot of snow falling but it has stopped melting so it will continue to accumulate till April. This is fall in Siberia.

### **Conserving The Fruit Of Our Ministry**

We are spending a great deal of time with people, large groups, small groups and one on one as we seek to shore up and conserve the fruit of the last six weeks of ministry here in Tyumen. God has greatly blessed the ministry of the Word and we praise God for tangible results. A mother called just yesterday. Her son Igor (17) had begun to drink, get in trouble with the law and at school, smoke and act very rebellious at home. Pastor Ravil has a High School Youth Bible Study on Saturday mornings followed by sports (Football in good weather, bowling in bad). I have been doing the messages and your gifts have been buying Pizza and bowling for the boys so there has been a good turnout. I have been presenting the gospel and Igor has responded. His mother said he had stopped drinking, smoking and was going to school. He came to church on his own this past Sunday as was taking notes. He does his Bible study for the Youth Study and is very earnest. He shows all the evidences of a true conversion. Please pray for Igor and for his family that they might all be saved. If you have a church Youth Ministry would you please ask them to pray for Igor.

### **Preaching**

Each Sunday I have been preaching on a series of messages on Convictions. I have been combating the various spiritual attacks on the Word of God and sound doctrine. What a joy it is to get up to preach and see men, women, boys and girls all get out their Bibles, pens and paper in preparation to receive the Word of God. Pastor Ravil has done an outstanding job in communicating to his church the importance of taking the Word of God seriously.

### **Bible study**

Both Eleanor and I have been teaching Bible studies throughout the week. She with the ladies and me with the men and boys. It has been a real blessing to see how seriously this young church takes the Word of God.

### **One on One**

Many, rather most of our evening meals are spent in the homes of church members answering questions and ministering the Word of God. After two or so hours it is off to Bible study. In addition we spend two days each week with Pastor Ravil and Julia encouraging them in the faith and ministering the Word of God.

It is indeed with mixed emotions that we prepare to head back to St. Petersburg. I look forward to a fond reunion with the church in St. Petersburg but it will be hard to leave our friends here in Tyumen. This is our fifth visit in five years and we hold each one more precious than the last. Please pray for us that we would finish strong, ever mindful of the unspeakable privilege of ministering the Word of God on foreign fields.

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. -

Please allow me to close with dispatch with two hymns 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.")*

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee:  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

*Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,*

*Who wert and art, and evermore shalt be.*

Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy - there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

**(Reginald Heber - Born: April 21, 1783, Malpas, Cheshire, England. Died: April 3, 1826, Trichinopoly (Tiruchirappalli), Tamil Nadu, India, of a cerebral hemorrhage while bathing. Buried: St. John's Church, Trichinopoly, Tamil Nadu, India (north side of the altar). Heber attended Brasenose College, Oxford, where he won a number of awards in English and Latin. He received a fellowship to All Souls College, and later became Rector at Hodnet, Shropshire, England. In 1823, he became, somewhat reluctantly, Bishop of Calcutta, India.)**

### **All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name**

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all;  
Bring for the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all!

*Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall;  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace and crown Him Lord of all;  
Hail Him who saves you by his grace and crown Him Lord of all.*

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all;  
To Him all majesty ascribe and crown Him Lord of all.

*O that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all';  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.*

**(Words: Edward Perronet 1726-1792 Perronet, son of an Anglican minister, descended from French Huguenots who fled the continent to escape religious persecution. For a time, Perronet was a co-worker of [John](#) and [Charles Wesley](#). John Wesley was always trying to get him to preach, but Perronet, though capable, was somewhat in awe of Wesley, and always deferred to him. Any time John Wesley was present, Perronet felt Wesley should do the preaching. But John Wesley was not one to take "no" for an answer. So, one day, in the middle of a meeting, he simply announced, "Brother Perronet will now speak." Thinking quickly, Perronet stood before the large crowd and declared, "I will now deliver the greatest sermon ever preached on earth" (you can imagine he got everyone's attention). He then read the Sermon on the Mount, and sat down.)**



**Picture One**



**Picture Two**



Picture Three



Picture Four



Picture Five