

Mahon Russian Dispatch #05 10.05.09 "...that you also may know about my circumstances..."

"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. "(Ephesians 6:21)

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Prayer Requests:

A. Physical Stamina – Ministering in three major cities; each in a different time zone; each with a very different climate; all with very challenging ministry schedules; each with its own set of challenges (and bacteria); we look to you to keep us going strong until the end.
Isaiah 41:10 Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

B. Spiritual Refreshment – Ask God to especially bless our Quiet Times Alone With God, or Scripture Memory and Review and our Reading Programs. Ask God to miraculously replenish us as we minister throughout the week. Ask also for times of uplifting and protection from despondency which may accompany physical and mental fatigue.
Jeremiah 31:25 For I satisfy the weary ones and refresh everyone who languishes."

C. Spiritual Protection – God is doing great things. Ministers are being built up. Men are taking up their roles as spiritual heads of their families. Children are submitting to Scriptural discipline and instruction. The church is being built up and supplied with Bibles and ministry tools. Men and women are repenting. This will not go unnoticed by the enemy. Please pray for our spiritual protection.
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.

D. Material Needs – We especially feel this vulnerability on the mission field. Twelve time zones from home we have no alternative but faith in our God who cares for us and watches over us. The fact that you are praying brings us both courage and comfort. Please claim...
2 Corinthians 9:11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Dear Prayer Warriors,

"I'm glad they are staring at you for a change!" I was surprised to hear Christie say this. She had just returned from Oklahoma and a visit to see her brother and sister. Now back in Kenya she has asked if she could join her "Uncle John and Aunt Eleanor" for their morning walk. About halfway through the walk she made this statement. To tell you the truth we had gotten use to the stares. I thought on this dispatch we would give you a little insight into our day to day life here in Tyumen .

First: A pictorial tour of our little "Doma" which is Russian for home.

Second: A few thoughts from the mission field entitled "15 things we haven't done in over 3 months..."

We hope you enjoy the insights...

Pictures – A tour of our "doma" Doma in Russian is house: It is used pretty liberally. We live in a two room "flat" or apartment. It consists of a Kitchen and Living Area/Bedroom. There is also a small utility room with toilet and shower.

1_ Kitchen Table: Here is the view of our Kitchen as you walk in. We eat at this little table. No chairs with backs so we are getting good at working on our posture. The small fridge was decorated with pictures of our last visit by Julia. Careful when opening so the door does not fall off. The jug of water by the Fridge is for drinking. It is about a mile round trip walk for water but Ravil is good about bringing some by when he picks us up for ministry events. The apartment is steam heated which the city controls. Is nice for putting your pj's on at night to warm them up or your socks for the next morning. Nothing on the walls as they are solid concrete.

2_ Stove and sink: This is the view from our little table. The sink is on the far side and is in a wooden frame so you have to be careful not to lean on it. There is no filter on the faucet so you have to let the water run till it clears up. Even then there may be a little surge of rusty water now and then. I am a little hesitant to use this water for shaving (plus there is no mirror) so I shave in the shower. If I nicked myself shaving I am not quite sure what effect the water would have. I think they have some sort of filter system on the shower because it does not run rust – clear – rust like the sink. Once you let it run for a little while it seems to be OK. The stove is electric and the burners work but not the oven. The little sheet metal cabinet in between is nice to store things and the top makes a nice counter for El to chop, mix and work her magic.

3_Bedroom, Living Room and Closet: Here is a nice view of where we spend most of our time when in our apartment. The apartment does not have any closets so any door handle serves as a closet for us. That's my office in the corner. I share it with El though she works some at the kitchen table. When her

back bothers her she uses the couch and a tray to steady her laptop. The couch on the right is also our bed. It folds out flat and we have a couple of sheets and a bedspread to make it up. The lights at the top can be turned on independently for a little evening ambiance.

4_Closet and Mirror: This is the first thing you see when you walk in the door. The coat rack serves as our main closet and there are two back up wall pegs. Our suitcases (not shown) are our Chest of Drawers. There are no mirrors in the apartment (or closets or shelves for that matter). The mirror on the floor was loaned to us and we can step back into the bathroom and get a pretty good idea of what we look like before leaving for a meeting.

5_View from front door: This is what you see when you walk out of our apartment. It is a post-soviet apartment so the bottom half of the concrete wall is painted blue instead of army green. The elevator will just fit three people in at once. We are on the eighth floor so an elevator really comes in handy.

6_When elevators don't work: Just to the left of the elevator is the staircase. El has made the eight story climb once already and I can assure you that the elevator system gets a liberal dose of prayer each morning in her quiet time alone with God.

Now I would like to take a moment to share just a few thoughts from the mission field entitled "15 things we haven't done in over 3 months..."

1. Drink water from a faucet
2. Brushed our teeth from water from the faucet (or even opened our mouth for a second in the shower. (Speaking of showers, sinks etc, we let it run for a little while till the water is clear before getting under it.)
3. Slept in our own bed - actually we have slept in five beds in five different living situations but not our own bed or one we fit in; and to be technically correct one of the five is a couch.
4. Used a phone - cell phone or land line or Dixie cup with string
5. Sent or received mail (or been to the mail box for that matter).
6. Watched TV (no big loss here but there it is never-the-less)
7. Listened to the radio
8. Driven a car
9. Used a dishwasher (She washes & I dry)
10. Used a dryer (El hangs the clothes to dry; unless it freezes then she hangs them out to freeze) Might also mention we do have a washing machine, last trip she did all the wash in a bath tub, so we are counting our blessings.
11. Visited our children (ouch) or held our grandchildren (double ouch)

12. Seen a squirrel (monkey, baboon, giraffe, crows, rats and dog packs but no squirrels)
13. Been to a movie
14. Eaten at a Mexican, Chinese (this is a big one for El, Thai Restaurant (or Starbucks – that’s a big one for me at least)
15. Americana miscellaneous stuff like discuss politics, football, baseball, use a dollar bill or put a coin in a machine (Subway tokens yes, but they aren’t really coins), heat something in a microwave, fix a cup of coffee in a coffee maker or cook in a stove, you know, those little familiar things...)

In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians he closes by saying that he is sending Tychicus to them. (Ephesians 6:21) *“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.”* We hope this dispatch will serve as our Tychicus so that you may now about our circumstances of life and how we are getting along.

As always we minister by the grace of God and by the fervent and effectual prayers of you our prayer warriors. Because of your ministry we are upgirded and able to stand firmly for the faith on foreign fields of service.

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1

John & Eleanor Mahon

Grace Community Int: Covered by your prayers as we labor in Tyumen , Russia .

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.”)

I Need Thee Every Hour

*I need Thee every hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford*

**I need Thee every hour, Stay Thou near by;
Temptations lose their power When Thou art nigh.**

*I need Thee every hour, In joy or pain;
Come quickly, and abide, Or life is vain.*

**I need Thee every hour, Teach me Thy will,
An They rich promises In me fulfill**

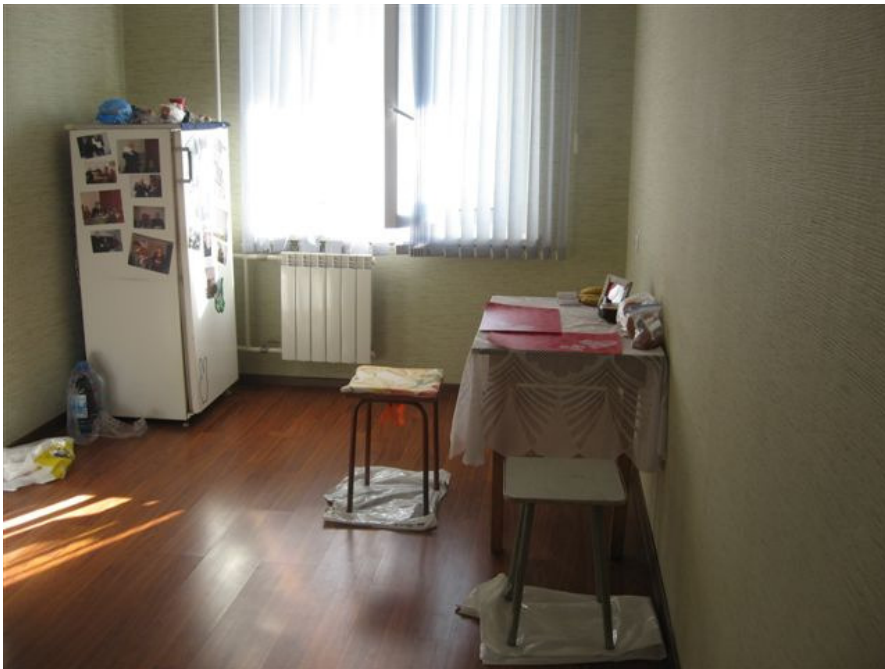
I need Thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son.

Refrain:

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee.

O bless me now, my Savior – I come to Thee.

(Annie Sherwood Hawks *Born:* May 28, 1836, Hoosick, New York . *Died:* January 3, 1918, Bennington , Vermont . Hawks' poems first began appearing in newspapers when she was 14 years old. She married Charles H. Hawks in 1857. They lived in Brooklyn , New York , and attended the Hanson Place Baptist Church , where [Robert Lowry](#) was pastor. It was to Pastor Lowry that Annie entrusted her hymn who added the tune and the refrain and saw that it was published at the National Baptist Sunday School Convention in 1872. When her husband died in 1888, she moved to Bennington , Vermont to live with her daughter and son-in-law (W. E. Putnam). She wrote 400 hymns in her life, mostly for use in Sunday schools. Annie Hawks wrote: "One day as a young wife and mother of 37 years of age, I was busy with my regular household tasks. Suddenly, I became so filled with the sense of nearness to the Master that, wondering how one could live without Him, either in joy or pain, these words, "I Need Thee Every Hour," were ushered into my mind, the thought at once taking full possession of me. I did not understand at first why this hymn had touched the great throbbing heart of humanity. It was not until long after, when the shadow fell over my way, the shadow of a great loss, that I understood something of the comforting power in the words which I had been permitted to give out to others in my hour of sweet serenity and peace.")



Picture One



Picture Two



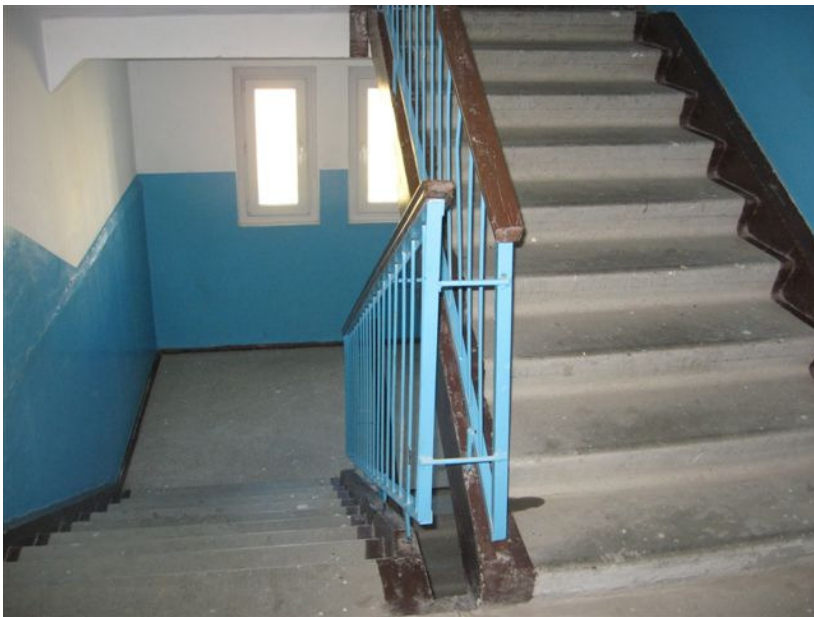
Picture Three



Picture Four



Picture Five



Picture Six