

Mahon Russian Dispatch #07 10.13.09 Highlights from our ministry week...

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Pictures (This dispatch will follow the principle that a picture is worth a thousand words.)

- 1_ Sunday Thanksgiving Service**
- 2_ Saturday and Sunday Afternoon Seminars**
- 3_ Tuesday - all church Bible study**
- 4_ Heading to Bible study**
- 5_ Wednesday and Thursday with Pastor Ravil and Julia**
- 6_ Thursday and sometimes Friday - El's ladies Bible study**
- 7_ The future of the Russian Church**

Prayer Requests - please claim the verses as you pray..

A. Becca Welch - praise God for Natalie Grace and ask for God's protection of mother and child until her birth in February.

Psalms 139:13-14 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

B. Translator - Pasha does the translating and it is an arduous task. Ask God to give him grace and wisdom as he assists me in my preaching and teaching.

James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

C. Marriage Seminar - Ask God to bless the follow-up from the Marriage Seminar. Pray especially for the young couples that their marriages would bring glory to God and be a witness among their contemporaries.

Ephesians 5:33 Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.

D. Family Discipleship Seminar - This Saturday begins the Family Discipleship Seminar. Ask the Holy Spirit to both prepare and then to draw the couples He has selected for this seminar.

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.

E. Word of God – This is our ministry and it is our constant request that you pray for the empowerment of the ministry of the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Dear Prayer Warriors,

This dispatch will follow closely the pictures, providing you with a snapshot (pun intended) of our ministry week. Internet space does not provide a full pictorial report, but this will give you a rough idea of how we spend our week so as to help guide your prayers.

First though let me pass on to you some exciting news. Our daughter Becca Welch is expecting her fourth child and our first granddaughter, (Natalie Grace) around the first week of February 2010. We praise God for this blessing and ask as well that you be in prayer for her and the family.

1_ Sunday Thanksgiving Service

This past Sunday was “Harvest Sunday” the Russian Thanksgiving Day. We held a joint service with a Baptist Church and it was a wonderful day together. I preached on Psalm 67 “Why Does God Bless Us?”. There was an after church fellowship with worship, poems and testimonies. Then there was a “harvest store”. People brought items they had made or grown and the proceeds went to the church building fund. It was a wonderful time and El and I felt doubly blessed as this year we will have two Thanksgivings as we will be back in the US in time to celebrate Thanksgiving with our family and our church.

2_ Saturday and Sunday Afternoon Seminars

Each week on Saturday morning I meet with the men of the church for Bible study and sports. Then in the afternoon from 4 - 7 I lead a seminar on both Saturday and Sunday. We have just finished the Marriage Seminar lectures and will begin this Saturday the Family Discipleship Seminar Lectures. Eleanor takes an active role in these seminars. During the Q & A time after each session she handles the ladies questions. In addition she does not have a moments rest during the tea breaks as the ladies crowd around to ask questions.

3_ Tuesday – all church Bible study

On Tuesday evening we have an all church Bible study. These are practical topical studies such as “How To Memorize Scripture”; “How To Have A Daily Quiet Time Alone With God”; “The Doctrine and Ministry of the Holy Spirit” and “Understanding and Teaching The Word of God”.

4_Heading to Bible study

Many of the Bible studies Eleanor and I lead are in the apartments of members of the church. Here we are in the hallway of one of the complexes waiting for the elevator. It is a real testimony the way the members of the church open their homes and apartments to meetings.

5_Wednesday and Thursday with Pastor Ravil and Julia

Eleanor and I spend Wednesday and Thursdays with Pastor Ravil and Julia. He has a sheet with over 100 questions on it that he maintains throughout the year. When we are in town each year he gets our his sheet, we get out our Bibles and I get out my digital recorder. We spend hours in the Word and he keeps the recordings for father study.

6_Thursday and sometimes Friday - El's ladies Bible study

Eleanor has an active ministry here in Russia . She teaches Bible studies for the ladies, she meets with Julia and gives her counsel and encouragement, she handles the ladies questions at all seminars and she is regularly asked to meet spontaneously for some ministry event. Recently all the young the young wives asked to meet with Eleanor for a Q&A session on marriage (They started at 7 p.m. and she got home will after 11 so it was a great success). Last week she was asked by one of the members of the church who is a teacher to speak at her school on American Holidays. In addition to this there are her administrative duties with GCI and don't forget how she takes care of me.

3 & 7_The future of the Russian Church

The future of the Russian church belongs to young men such as Pasha and Kirill (Pictures 3 & 7). I have had the privilege of ministering to these men as single men, as young married men and now as fathers and heads of households. They have good careers and a growing family. They are active in the church and are in fact the future of the Russian church. Both Karrill and Pasha have made every seminar, Bible study and meeting, despite the long hours they work. You can see the pride in the eyes of their young wives to have such zealous husbands. True they are not common now but they are the seeds of change. This is the new Russia - Christian husbands and fathers, good careers and devoted to God and their church. What a privilege it is to invest spiritually in men such as these.

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 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.")

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision O Lord of my heart;
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Walking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

*Be thou my Wisdom and thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.
Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
Riches I heed not nor man's empty gain,
Thou my inheritance now and always.
Thou and thou only first in my heart,
High king of heaven my treasure thou art.*

High king of heaven, my victory won,
My I reach heavens joys, O bright heaven's son,
Heart of my own heart, whatever may befall
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

(Words: Attributed to Dallan Forgaill, 8th Century little is known of this man beyond this poem.)



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three



Picture Four



Picture Five



Picture Six



Picture Seven