

## Mahon Russian Dispatch #09 10.20.10 - Sharing The Gospel With A Pumpkin

### Pictures:

1\_ Pasha translates for Bible study

2\_Pasah translates for Marriage and Family Discipleship Seminars

3\_Pasha Translates for Presbyterian Church Service, Tyumen

For Daily Quiet Times, Bible Studies, Messages and Pictures visit our website at [www.gciweb.org](http://www.gciweb.org) (simply place your cursor on the link then control + click)

### In this dispatch...

- I. **Spiritual Harvest Time**
- II. **Dispelling The Lies Of satan**
- III. **A Gospel Halloween**
- IV. **Prayer Requests: Please allow the accompanying passages to guide your prayers...**
  - A. Eleanor has been bothered by a continuous clogged ear that is starting to affect her hearing and ministry. Please pray for healing. *Psalms 103:3 Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;*
  - B. Please continue to pray for Pasha who translates for me. He said that he could feel the power of prayer as he translated this past week and wanted me to thank you for praying. Please continue to pray. *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. On Thursday nights I meet with the Elders and male leadership of the church and Eleanor meets with their wives. I host them for dinner and Bible study here at our little apartment and El meets with the ladies at Ravil and Julia's apartment. These have been stimulating Bible studies so please continue to pray for the ministry of the Word. *Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*
  - D. The church has been meeting in the auditorium of the school where one of the members teaches. The city has passed a decree saying no churches can meet in schools. Please pray for a reversal of this ruling. *Proverbs 21:1 On Life and Conduct The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.*

Dear Prayer Warriors,

### **Spiritual Harvest Time**

Well it is this time of year again – Spiritual Harvest Time!. Halloween is upon us and once again we have before us a great opportunity to share Christ, meet our children’s friends and reach out with the gospel to our neighbors. October 31<sup>st</sup> begins a great period of spiritual harvest. First Halloween, then Thanksgiving, next Christmas and lastly New Years. In the Next three months you will have an opportunity to share Christ, invite to church and recruit to Bible study all those friends, neighbors and family members and you have been praying for these past ten months. Since this period of spiritual harvest begins with Halloween I thought I would send out a few tools in this dispatch to help you reach out with the gospel to those around you.

### **Dispelling The Lies Of satan**

Before we begin though lets dispel the great lie of satan concerning Halloween or any other day of the year. That lie is that where satanists, or witches, or demon possessed people, or cults or any other form of paganism gathers in mass their spiritual power is somehow increased. This of course is a satanic lie. I can remember talking to a pastor here in Houston . We were discussing the subject he shared with me two anecdotes. First of a missionary who ministered in the Caribbean Islands . On this Island at a certain time of the year all the Voodoo Demonic Priests held a festival. He said this missionary and the church huddled in prayer, behind closed doors during this time because the forces of darkness were so great, being multiplied by the sheer numbers. He then shared that his church did the same thing knowing that at Halloween there were so many witches and warlocks at work that they met in the church behind closed doors praying for safety. This of course flies in the face of Biblical Revelation...

1. satan is defeated – He is not just defeated positionally in that he will be cast into the lake of fire as prophesied (Revelation 20:10) but he is defeated experientially in our day to day lives. We have numerous promises from God the Holy Spirit concerning this. ***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.***
2. We have but to oppose satan to make him run ***James 4:7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.***
3. satan is on a short leash as evidenced by the fact that he had no access to Job save through the permission of God. (Job Chapters 1 & 2)
4. Pagan holidays, festivals or gatherings do not increase satan’s power by some dark gathering or harmonic conversion of the “force” We have numerous accounts in the Bible which bear this out...
  - a. Even though there were numerous pagan sorcerers in Pharaohs court and only Moses and Aaron to stand before them, the outcome was never in doubt.
  - b. Even though there were thousands of prophets of Baal and only Elijah, the one prophet of God, the outcome of the contest was never in doubt.
  - c. Even though there were thousands of pagan idols, temples, worshipers, priests and demoniacs arrayed against the early church, and particularly against Paul, the outcome was never in doubt

5. Remember this is not the Lord of the Rings nor Star Wars. The power of satan is revealed to us in one place and one place alone and that is the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God. God the Holy Spirit in His inspired holy Word says nothing about satan being able to increase his powers through numbers, in fact both doctrine and divine revelatory history prove just the opposite.

When I told him that I gathered neighborhood children in my home every Halloween and taught the gospel through the pumpkin he was aghast. He exclaimed, “Don’t you know that pumpkins are demon possessed!?” I replied that actually, I did not know this and if a demon ever tried to enter one of my pumpkins I would cast him out. (One good illustration of the spiritual impotency of pumpkins is an incident in Kenya . One year we were in the country over Halloween and our host asked us to do a gospel presentation using the pumpkin for his children and neighborhood friends. We did just that. Each went home with their “Gospel Pumpkin”. The next day we asked one of the children what they did with their pumpkin when they got home. She looked at me kind of funny and replied, “We ate it”. So much for the fearsome pumpkin.

Now I do not know what you do with Halloween but whatever you do it should not be done out of fear.

Now I do not know what you do with Halloween but whatever you do it should not be done out of superstitions

Now I do not know what you do with Halloween but whatever you do it should not be guided by a lie of satan.

### **A Gospel Halloween**

As for us, when we had children in the home we had a Halloween party every year. We taught the gospel by having a pumpkin carving session and we taught the Bible by having a trivia contest. We set rules and guidelines on dress and behavior. The costumes were always on a theme such as “Noah’s Ark ” or “Your Favorite Pet”. It was such a hit that our children’s non-Christian friends all looked forward to it and their parents would call and around the first week of October and say, “You are having the Mahon Halloween Party again this year aren’t you?” Each child was sent home with their Gospel Pumpkin and a sheet of paper explaining the plan of salvation as explained while making their Gospel Pumpkin. As the children got older we had a Halloween Trivia Test. We would give them the test and have prizes. There was always a pile of Bibles out for them to use to help get the right answers. There were many lively discussions as a result of this test and the gospel was always clearly presented. I can remember some of the kids really taking exception to my answers and can still see them in my mind’s eye looking up the Bible verses with the help of our children. One of Sam’s friends, Jesse Hicks started to come to a weekly Bible study at our home as a result of this test, he came to Christ, joined our church and is now a Youth Minister.

As for satanic covens that gather on Halloween, I don’t know of any. If I did though I know what I would do. I would go over to the house, cast out the demons, lead the attendees to Christ and then send them all out as evangelists. Not a bad plan and I have a pretty good blueprint to follow...

***Luke 8:26-39***

***26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee .***

*27 And when He came out onto the land, He was met by a man from the city who was possessed with demons; and who had not put on any clothing for a long time, and was not living in a house, but in the tombs.*

*28 Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, " What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me."*

*29 For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.*

*30 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion "; for many demons had entered him.*

*31 They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.*

*32 Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and the demons implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission.*

*33 And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.*

*34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran away and reported it in the city and out in the country.*

*35 The people went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened.*

*36 Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well.*

*37 And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned.*

*38 But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but He sent him away, saying,*

*39 "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.*

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1

Rev. John S. Mahon

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.")*

### Faith Is The Victory

Encamped along the hills of light, Ye Christian soldiers rise, An press the battle ere the night Shall veil the glowing skies. Against the foe in vales below Let all our strength be hurled; Faith is the victory we know, That overcomes the world.

*His banner over us is love, Our sword the Word of God; We tread the road the saints  
above With shouts of triumph trod. By faith they like a whirlwind breath, Swept on oer  
every field; The faith by which they conquer death is still our shining shield.*

On every hand the foe we find Drawn up in dread array; Let tents of ease be left  
behind, And onward to the fray. Salvation's helmet on each head, With truth all  
girt about, The earth shall tremble neath our tread An echo with our shout.

*To him that overcomes the foe, White raiment shall be given: Before the angels he shall  
know His name confessed in heaven. Then onward from the hills of light, Our hearts with  
love aflame; Well vanquish all the hosts of night, in Jesus' conquering name.*

Refrain: Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory! O glorious victory, That  
overcomes the world.

(John Henry Yates Born: November 21, 1837, Batavia, New York . Died: September 5,  
1900, Batavia, New York . Yates worked in a number of jobs, including shoe salesman,  
newspaper editor, and hardware store manager. He became a Methodist minister in 1886,  
and later pastor of the West Bethany Free Will Baptist Church. Ira Sanky evangelist D.L.  
Moody's song leader wrote the music for this stirring call to action.)

### **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing; A helper He amid the  
flood Of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe, doth seek to work us  
woe – his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his  
equal.

*Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing, Were not the right  
Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing, Dost ask who that may be? Christ  
Jesus, it is He – Lord Sabaoth His name, From age to age the same, An He must win the  
battle.*

And though this world with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us, We will  
not fear for God hath will His truth to triumph through us. The prince of  
darkness grim, We tremble not for him – His rage we can endure, For lo, his  
doom is sure; One little word shall fell him.

*That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts  
are ours Through Him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also  
– The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever.*

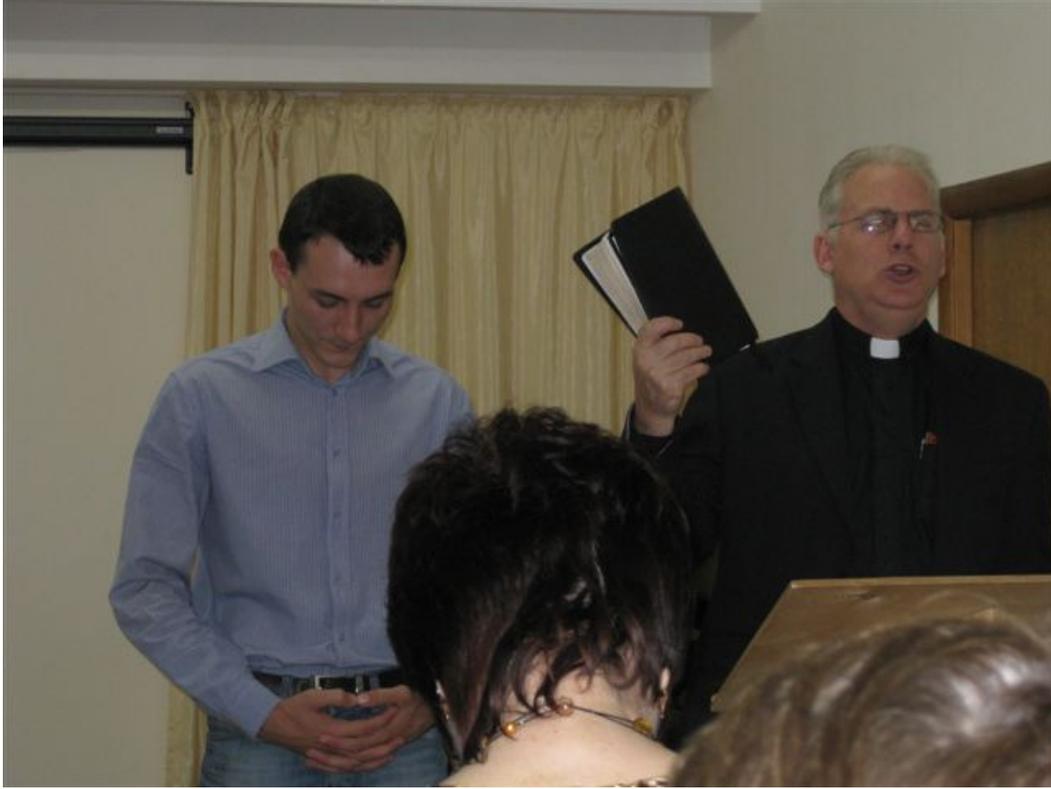
(Martin Luther Born: November 10, 1483, Eisleben, Germany . Died: February  
18, 1546, Eisleben, Germany . Luther began the Protestant Reformation in 1517,  
and the Lutheran denomination bears his name to this day. In addition to being a  
reformer, he was quite active in the area of church music.)



Picture One



Picture Two



**Picture Three**