

## Mahon Zambia Prayer Dispatch #05 00.00.10 / Building Up The Church

### In this dispatch...

#### I. GCI - Building Up The Church

#### II. Prayer Requests: As you pray please allow the accompanying passage from the Word of God to guide your prayers

*2 Corinthians 1:11 "you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many."*

A. Ask God to bless as we seek to build up His Church throughout the world.

*Ephesians 4:12-13 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

B. Call upon the Lord to bless the ministry of the Word that the churches confidence would rest in the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God and not the mysticism which abounds in the church today.

*Ephesians 4:14-15 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,*

C. Pray for the empowerment of the ministry of the Word of God.

*2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you;*

D. Beseech the Lord of Harvest to increase the laborers who go with us to minister the Word.

*Matthew 9:37-38 Then He said to His disciples, " The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest ."*

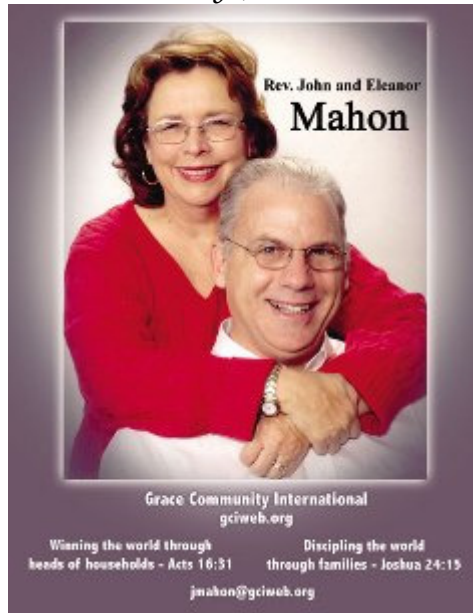
E. Petition the Lord to grant boldness in lifting up Jesus.

*Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

F. Entreat the Lord to encourage our hearts as we move against the tide, making the Word of God the central aspect of our ministry as we make disciples of all nations.

*Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*

*teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*



Dear Prayer Warriors,



### **Bringing the Word of God to the Church**

In an age when the mystical takes precedence over the eternal, inerrant written Word of God it is a privilege to call the church, pastors and church leaders back to the Word of God. This is our ministry and I realize we are swimming upstream on this issue. The first obstacle to this is the church's growing acceptance of mysticism. Extra-Biblical Revelation exists on all fronts. People go to Hell and come back, people go to Heaven and come back, appearances of the Virgin Mary, Jesus and angels abound. Men and women claim to have a direct word from God or prophetic revelation. Who needs to do in-depth Bible study on heaven, hell, angels, demons or the second coming of Christ when everywhere there are mystics who falsely claim to have direct revelations. The second is an amazing phenomenon of the devaluing of the ministry of teaching the Word of God for that of good works in the modern mission movement of the

evangelical church. I can remember as a young Christian hearing often of the emphasis of good works in missions by the liberal churches because they had neither the skills nor the inclination to teach and preach the Word of God. Now my teams are often confronted by members of these same evangelical churches as to why they are going to teach the Bible and do evangelism and not dig wells, build buildings or distribute aid. Our ministry on foreign fields is that as modeled by the Book of Acts, as commissioned by Jesus and as taught by God the Holy Spirit in the Epistles – to preach the resurrected Savior from the Word of God, to make disciples by equipping men in the Word of God, to build up the Church with the Word of God and to ground marriages and families in the Word of God. I offer no apologies nor do I swerve from the ministry of the holy, eternal, inerrant written Word of God and on this my ministry will stand or fall.



Getting pastors and church leaders in the Word

One of the great joys of my ministry is to teach in seminaries, Bible colleges and staff training institutes on how to know, understand, study and teach the Word of God.

Zambia was no different than anywhere else. Wherever I go I find ministers who want to go deeper in the Word of God.



Conferences which build up the Church

GCI has no “stand alone” conferences. We go to serve and build up the church, not compete against it. Here is a group picture of leaders from a local Baptist church in Lusaka, Zambia.



Meeting informally over the Word with pastors and church leaders is one of the high points of my mission work. Whether it is meeting in the homes of church members with the pastoral staff, meeting in local coffee shops over the Word, supplying them with quality Bibles and study aids or driving to their church for prayer and Bible study, my commitment is to encourage and build up the pastors of churches. Because of your faith and generosity, in Zambia I was privileged to do all of this and more.



Building up marriages and families in the church remains a priority for the ministry of GCI. All over the world we find churches suffering, pastors and leaders failing and ministries breaking down because of sin in marriages or defeat in child raising. Our ministry is to not only stop this hemorrhaging but make the marriage and family once again the great testimony of the church.

I close this e-mail 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.")*

Link to music/tune for this hymn: <http://nethymnal.org/htm/d/e/depthmer.htm>

### Depth of Mercy

Depth of mercy! Can there be  
Mercy still reserved for me?  
Can my God His wrath forbear,  
Me, the chief of sinners, spare?

*I have long withstood His grace,  
Long provoked Him to His face,  
Would not hearken to His calls,  
Grieved Him by a thousand falls.*

I have spilt His precious blood,  
Trampled on the Son of God,  
Filled with pangs unspeakable,  
I, who yet am not in hell!

*I my Master have denied,  
I afresh have crucified,  
And profaned His hallowed Name,  
Put Him to an open shame.*

Whence to me this waste of love?  
Ask my Advocate above!  
See the cause in Jesus' face,  
Now before the throne of grace.

*Jesus, answer from above,  
Is not all Thy nature love?  
Wilt Thou not the wrong forget,  
Permit me to kiss Thy feet?*

If I rightly read Thy heart,  
If Thou all compassion art,  
Bow Thine ear, in mercy bow,  
Pardon and accept me now.

*Jesus speaks, and pleads His blood!  
He disarms the wrath of God;  
Now my Father's mercies move,  
Justice lingers into love.*

Kindled His relentings are,  
Me He now delights to spare,  
Cries, "How shall I give thee up?"  
Lest the lifted thunder drop.

*Lo! I still walk on the ground:  
Lo! an Advocate is found:  
"Hasten not to cut Him down,  
Let this barren soul alone."*

There for me the Savior stands,  
Shows His wounds and spreads His hands.  
God is love! I know, I feel;  
Jesus weeps and loves me still.

*Pity from Thine eye let fall,  
By a look my soul recall;  
Now the stone to flesh convert,  
Cast a look, and break my heart.*

Now incline me to repent,  
Let me now my sins lament,  
Now my foul revolt deplore,  
Weep, believe, and sin no more

**Charles Wesley** *Born:* December 18, 1707, Epworth, Lincolnshire, England.; *Died:* March 29, 1788, London, England Charles Wesley wrote over 6,000 hymns. Like most hymnists, his works were frequently altered. In the preface to the 1779 *Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People called Methodists*, his brother [John](#) wrote: **I beg leave to mention a thought which has been long upon my mind, and which I should long ago have inserted in the public papers, had I not been unwilling to stir up a nest of hornets. Many gentlemen have done my brother and me (though without naming us) the honour to reprint many of our hymns. Now they are perfectly welcome to do so, provided they print them just as they are. But I desire they would not attempt to mend them, for they are really not able. None of them is able to mend either the sense or the verse. Therefore, I must beg of them these two favours: either to let them stand just as they are, to take things for better or worse, or to add the true reading in the margin, or at the bottom of the page, that we may no longer be accountable either for the nonsense or for the doggerel of other men.**