

Prayer Dispatch 02.04.14 / While We Are In America Preparing To Depart



Take a moment to visit our most recent ministry blog entitled "Could A Muslim or Mormon Worship With You This Sunday?" **To access our blog** follow the link and look at the task bar at the top and then choose "blog"... <http://www.sermonaudio.com/gci>.

In this Prayer Dispatch...

I. Ministering in the US

II. Preparing to

III. **Prayer Requests: As you minister with us throughout the world through your intercessions 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. **Call upon the Lord to empower to preaching and teaching of the holy, eternal, inerrant written Word of God.**

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 "Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith."

B. **Petition the Lord to go before us and open doors for the ministry in Zambia; South Africa; Cameroon; Nigeria; St. Petersburg, Russia and Tyumen, Russia.**

Colossians 4:3 "praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;"

C. **Ask the Lord to reign supreme in the hearts of government officials who will process our visas requests and customs officials as they allow Bibles and Bible reference works to enter their countries.**

Proverbs 21:1 "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes."

Proverbs 16:33mmThe lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

Ezra 6:22 And they observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had caused them to rejoice, and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them to encourage them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

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D. That God would bless the ministry materially, that we might in turn bless those to whom we minister.

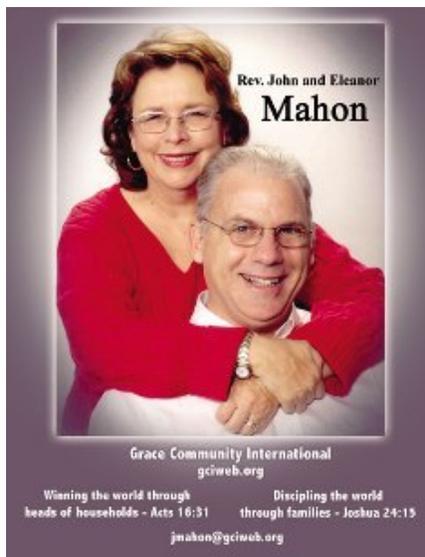
Philippians 4:19

19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.



Dear Prayer Warriors,

Ministering in the US –

Jesus set the standard when He taught His disciples in John 9:4 "*We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day ; night is coming when no one can work.*" We too work hard whether at home or on the field. Here are a few snapshots of our ministry while in the U.S. between mission trips.



Renewing Friendships – Here we are with Kay Casebolt at her birthday celebration. Kay is the widow of Charles Casebolt who ministered to us as students at the University of Texas back in the 70's.



Ministering in our home church. Our commitment to the local church is unequivocal. When in the US I will, as opportunity presents itself preach from the pulpit and teach in the adult class. I thank God for a pastor who supports our ministry both here and abroad. I have not patience for para-church ministers who are not active in their local church. A good question for any church mission board to ask a para-church minister who is seeking or receiving support, "What active position of leadership or service do you hold in your local congregation both in the U.S. and on the mission field?"



Building up the church – We are available while in the U.S. to serve and build up other congregations. Here I am speaking on The Daily Devotional Life and Prayer at Grace Bible Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas. I am pictured with Mike and Linda Shaub. From 1977 – 1980 we minister at TAMU and Grace Bible Church with the Shaubs. Life took us different directions but we always remained close. Now Dr. Shaub is a professor at TAMU and helps lead a home group at this same church. So here we are, some 30 + years later ministering together again in the same church.



Partnering with mission team members here and abroad – Rich and Kathy Smith have ministered with us in Kenya and Cameroon. They have hosted us numerous times to give the Family Discipleship Seminar in their church. It has been a privilege to return

once again to serve with Rich and Kathy in Oklahoma. (Rich and Kathy will once again be heading to Cameroon with us.)



Tuesday morning Bible study - We have a nice group meeting on Tuesday mornings. Everywhere I go I am told that businessmen and young professionals will not get up early in the morning to do Bible study, memorize Scripture and be held accountable for their lives. Yet everywhere I go I find that businessmen and young professionals are more than willing get up early in the morning to do Bible study, memorize Scripture and be held accountable for their lives.



International Bible studies via the internet - what a joy to meet with Elder Sasha, Pastor Ravil and Pastor Oleg in Bible study via the internet. We praise God for these devout Russian men and their heart for their churches.

Preparing to depart - In addition to our ministry in the US we are in a constant mode of preparation for the next series of mission trips. This fall and winter we will be ministering in Zambia, South Africa, Cameroon, Nigeria, St. Petersburg, Russia, Tyumen, Russia and if we can get the right visa combinations Kazakhstan. Please be in prayer for us as we minister here in Houston, in Texas, in the U.S. and throughout the world.

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 this 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/w/a/f/wafwhij.htm>

What a Friend we have in Jesus,

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

*Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised Thou wilt all our burdens bear
May we ever, Lord, be bringing all to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright unclouded there will be no need for prayer
Rapture, praise and endless worship will be our sweet portion there.*

Joseph Scriven (1819 – 1866) Joseph Scriven was born in 1819 of prosperous parents in [Banbridge, Ireland](#). He was a graduate of [Trinity College, Dublin](#). At the age of 25, he decided to leave his native country and migrate to Canada. His reasons for leaving his country seem to be two-fold: the religious influence of the Plymouth Brethren upon his life estranging him from his family. His fiancée accidentally drowned in 1845, the night before they were to be married.^[2] The grief-stricken young man moved to Canada. There he again fell in love, was due to be married and the young woman suddenly fell ill of [pneumonia](#) and died. He then devoted the rest of his life to helping others, primarily the aged and infirm members of his community.

In 1855, while staying with companion Mr. James Sackville, he received news from Ireland of his mother being terribly ill. He wrote a poem to comfort his mother called "Pray Without Ceasing". It was later set to music and renamed by [Charles Crozat Converse](#), becoming the hymn "[What a Friend We Have in Jesus](#)".^[1] Joseph did not have any intentions nor dream that his poem would be for publication in the newspaper and later becoming a favorite hymn among the millions of Christians around the world.^[3]