

Dispatch 14

10.14.06 East Africa Mission Dispatch #14 Eero Suomalainen of Helsinki, Finland - "Here am I Lord, send me..."

I. Eero Suomalainen of Helsinki, Finland joins us in Kenya.

II. Eero brings God's Word

III. Eero Teaches God's Word

IV. Eero supports the mission and vision of GCI

V. Opportunities through prayer, giving and going abroad...

VI. Prayer requests

A. Please claim, Matthew 9:37 & 38, asking God to raise up men who will pray, give and/or go with us into the harvest fields of the world. "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."

B. Claim I Thessalonians 3:1 - 2; for the empowering of the Word of God and the protection of we who deliver the Word of God.

"Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; and that we may be delivered from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith."

C. Finally, pray that men would have the valor of Isaiah, of Eero, that when God calls, that they in turn would answer. Please claim, Isaiah 6:8,

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

Dear Prayer Warriors,

I thought I would use this dispatch to reacquaint you with a friend a member of the board of directors of GCI. Eero Suomalainen, is from Finland, an executive with Nokia and serves as one of two international representatives of Grace Community Int.. In this capacity he attends board meetings as an international advisor, has hosted Family Discipleship Seminars in Helsinki and Espoo and has offered us refuge and refreshing when on travels throughout Russia and eastern Europe. Since the other international representative is Dr. Mukolwe he and Eero have had opportunity to get to know one another. Thus when we planned this mission venture Eero immediately climbed on board.

As a member of the board of directors of GCI, Eero shares our values and this is exhibited by the investment he made in this mission trip - bringing the Word of God, teaching the Word of God, supporting and promoting the ministry of GCI, particularly the Family Discipleship Seminar and Marriage Covenant Seminars. This is evident in the accompanying pictures...

Picture #1 - Brining the Word of God

Before departing for Kenya Eero began contacting friends and church members about helping him bring Bibles, Bible study aids and Bible reference books to the ministry here in Nairobi. Here he is presenting students at the New Staff Institute of the Navigators with volumes which he brought with him from Finland. (In the background you can see Dr. Mukolwe getting the next set ready. Notice the smile of joy on his face as the staff under his care are presented with this precious cargo.)

Picture #2 - Teaching the Word of God

Eero also came ready to go to work. Here he teaches the Word of God to young staff. Eero has already committed to coming back next year. This is a common experience. All of the men who joined me in Minsk have committed to returning and Rob Stephens, who also serves on the Board of GCI is actively planning for their second trip this coming April. Rob came on a team this year but next year he is taking his own team. Men who get a taste of the spiritual battle on the mission field almost always get hooked. This next year we will be brining more men to bring and then teach the Word of God in Africa. As for Eero, he is planning to bring his own team this next year. These are indeed exciting days to be involved in the harvest fields of the world.

Picture #3 - The fruit of his labors

This is what makes it all worthwhile - the glowing faces of young laborers, staff and pastors who have received the gift of the Word of God and then been taught the truths of God's Word. This, the fruit of ones labors is what brings men back, time after time, to labor in the harvest fields of the world. These doors will not remain open forever and the rewards of the harvest are reserved for those who go, pray and/or give to the work at hand. How can any stand idly by when these three great avenues of service are open to us and ours for the enlisting?

Supporting and promoting the ministry

Eero besides going, also gives and prays. He has sacrificially supported Dr. Mukolwe in his ministry here in Nairobi. The Euro like the Dollar is much stronger than the Kenya Shilling and a small gift goes a long way. What would be at best a nominal gift in America can literally move a ministers ability to touch the lives of others to a new level when given in Dollars or Euros. I praise God for this Finnish businessman who looks beyond his personal life and out into the harvest fields of the world. In Ill John 1:8 God the Holy Spirit teaches us, "Therefore we ought to support such men, that we may be fellow workers with the truth." Eero realizes this truth and even though he must return to Finland for his job he has confidence that because of his support of this ministry, that in God's eyes and value system, he remains here as a laborer, sharing in both in the sacrifices and the rewards. Not only this Eero is a faithful prayer

warrior. God the Holy Spirit further teaches us in II Corinthians 1:11, "you also joining in helping us through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through the prayers of many." Eero has also embraced this truth, that those who pray are actually joining the missionaries they pray for on the field, that these prayers are very real helps which impact their lives and bestow favor upon their ministries. Now that is exciting.

What about you..

So here you have it, a Finnish Christian businessman, unwilling to settle for the average Christian life, has taken up the challenge to minister in the harvest fields of Africa, by going, by giving and by praying. What about you? Eero will be the first to tell you that he is no hero. He will freely admit his fears of traveling to Africa, of speaking God's Word in front of others, of serving in a position of leadership in a Christian missionary society, but rather than be ruled by these fears, through Christ and His holy Word, he has conquered them. We will be returning to Africa next year, we will be bringing a team of men to deliver and then teach the great doctrines of grace, of God's holy Word. What about you, will you consider joining us. Yes, pray, that is joining us; Yes, give, that is joining us; Yes, consider coming, that is joining us - all are equally blessed and all are equally welcome and embraced.

What about you?

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1
Rev. John S. Mahon
Grace Community Int.
Nairobi, Kenya



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three