

Dispatch 17 Something for the Children

Mahon 10.25.06 East Africa Mission Dispatch #17

Dear Prayer Warriors,

As Halloween is fast upon us and the Thanksgiving and Christmas season is fast on our heels, my thoughts as always turn to home, children and grandchildren. Because of this and because so many of you have young children at home, I thought I would send out this email with your children in mind.

For the Children...

I. Lesson #1: God's Blessing and Going Without...

To discuss with the children before reading...

(As you read this email with your children you might ask them what life would be like without TV, Internet, Computers, Cell Phones, Cars and many of the things we take for granted here in the US but most children around the world grow up without.)

To be read to the children:

I was asked recently by a pastor of a church if it was true that in America many children had their own car to drive to school in. The reason he was asking was that during the share time he had presented a prayer request that God would provide him with a bicycle to make it easier for him to do his pastoral visits. Can you imagine not only not having a car, but your father not even having a bicycle? In fact the Bible says that only two of God's created things will last forever, that all the rest will be destroyed. Do you know what those two things are?

Read the following verse. What does God the Holy Spirit say will happen when Jesus returns?

II Pet 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up."

But will everything be burned up and destroyed? There are two things which will not be burned up. Do you know what they are? After you guess read the following two verses and see if you can discover this from the Word of God?

1 Pet 1:24-25 For, "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, But the word of the Lord abides forever." And this is the word which was preached to you.

Matt 25:46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

What is the first thing that will exist for eternity?

What is the second thing that will exist for eternity? Does the second surprise you? Many people think that when we witness we are offering people eternal life but this is not true. People will already live for eternity. God made all people so they will live for eternity. It is not "if" but "where". People will live for eternity in heaven or in hell.

Where will you live for eternity? The Bible tells us the key to living in heaven for eternity in John 5:24. Can you tell us what the steps are to living for eternity in heaven and not in hell?

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

On the mission field Mrs. Mahon and I learn to go without many things. Right now she is washing clothes in the sink by hand. We do not have a washing machine. She just looked up at me and said, "You know I miss, peaches? When I get home I am going to buy and eat a whole can of peaches!"

You never know what you will miss till you start going without. When we call our children we must go buy a special phone card and then ask someone if we can borrow a phone, we do not have a phone of our own. We do not have a TV or DVD player. We do not have a cell phone so if we get lost or injured we have to pray for God to send someone to help us. We do not have a car so if it is raining or the weather is bad we get very wet. We do not have air-conditioning, whatever the temperature is outside, that is the temperature inside. We have glass on the windows but it is not solid. It is any many, many slits so you can open them, but they never completely close. At night we can hear the Hyrax screaming, the night birds calling, an occasionally monkey fight, the wild dogs howling, sometimes even the drums of natives beating and the lions roaring!!

Things are very different when you are a missionary in Africa, but you know what, it makes us think about what is important. If God is going to destroy everything but the Word of God and the souls of men, then

those two things should be the most important to us shouldn't they?

What is important to you? When our children were young we realized that they were not reading as well as they should. We realized that they were spending more time in front of the TV than talking with each other. You know what we did? We sold our TV. Guess what happened. The whole family read more. Not just the Bible but other books as well. We also talked with each other more and prayed more. Do you think that was a good decision?

What things are distracting you from what is most important -The Word of God and the Souls of Men?

Sometimes the devil keeps us so busy with our toys that we do not have time to think about our own souls. Think about your soul. Do you know Jesus?

Do you know where you will spend eternity? If you do not know Jesus now is the time to pray and to ask Jesus into your life.

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II. Lesson #2: Creation and Dominion

(To discuss with the children before reading. Open the files with pictures

#1 - 4. Ask the children about touching wild animals. Would it be scary, could they eat us, why can we do this?)

Here in Africa we see many wild animals. I have seen Warthogs, Baboons, Camels and Monkeys. When I was going to teach at the Bible college I saw Zebras and Giraffes feeding out in the Acacia forests from the side of the road. I even saw an Oryx, which is very rare. When Mrs. Mahon takes her exercise walk she often sees monkeys stealing food from peoples gardens, she saw a mongoose, she saw the rock hyrax and a hedge hog. Overhead she saw an eagle, it made a very loud scream as it flew over. We see many, many interesting animals. But do you know what, man can tame these and many others. Why is this possible?

People who do not know any better, who are blinded by satan think it is because of evolution. That over time animals evolved and people evolved together but we know that is not true. Satan has just made these people stupid so we should feel sorry for them.

What does the Bible say about people who will not acknowledge that God is the Creator of all things, that God's thoughts are more important than man's thoughts when it comes to creation?

Ps 92:5-6 "How great are Thy works, O LORD! Thy thoughts are very deep.

A senseless man has no knowledge; nor does a stupid man understand this:"

Lets look at some Bible verses. The first is in James. What does this Bible verse say about animals?

James 3:7 "For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed, and has been tamed by the human race."

Is this verse true? How many of these animals can you think of that have been tamed?

Beasts

Birds

Reptiles

Creatures of the sea

How is this possible? Why are these animals willing to be tamed? Lets look and see what the Bible has to say.

Genesis 1:28-31

And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Who made everything? Did it just happen?

To whom did God give entrust His creation?

Now do you understand why we can tame all these creatures?

But something bad happened.

Satan rebelled against God and sinned. Then he came to earth. Then Adam rebelled against God and sinned. When he rebelled all creation fell into sin as well. That is why many of the animals are bad. We can still tame them though, we are still in control.

Remember when we said that God was going to destroy the world in lesson one?

God made the world. If God can make the world, then He can destroy the world.

But God will make a new world. Read the passage about this new world...

Revelation 21:1-5

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

Only Christians will be in this new heaven and new earth. You will want to make sure that you are there with your mommy and daddy and all your friends.

How can you make sure you are there?

Remember we found out that everyone is going to live forever, some in heaven and some in hell, but everyone will live forever. It is important that we know where we are going to live. What does this verse tell us

John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

We can live forever in the new heaven and new earth if we ask Jesus into our lives.

The next time you go to a zoo, or see a circus or have one of your pets do a trick you can remember that this is because God loves you and gave these animals to you to bless you. You can look forward to being in a new heaven and new earth where once again all animals will behave. Now isn't that exciting!

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III. Lesson #3 Do not fear what they fear

(For this lesson you will need a pumpkin, some pumpkin carving tools and to print out the document on using the pumpkin to share the plan of salvation)

In lesson number one we learned that God created and everything and will destroy everything but the Word of God and the souls of men. That

because of this we should think through on what is important.

In lesson number two we learned that God created everything for us. That when Adam sinned God's creation rebelled as well by falling into sin. That God will create a new heaven and new earth for everyone who accepts Jesus as Savior and that we will all be together forever in this new heaven and new earth.

But do you know what? Satan wants to cheat us out of our joy. He wants to scare us. If we have Jesus in our hearts that is all he can do though, he can only scare us. Why can't satan do anything bad to us if we have Jesus in our hearts? What does the Bible say?

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."

If Jesus lives inside of us, not only can satan not hurt us, but he is afraid of us. How does God the Holy Spirit teach us this truth?

James 4:7 "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Yep, that is all satan can do, try to scare us. But if he says "boo" to us, then we can say "boo" right back.

God warns us about being afraid of things for no reason. Christians are supposed to be brave, not afraid. What does God the Holy Spirit teach us about being afraid of things that non-Christians are afraid of?

Isaiah 8:11-13 "For thus the LORD spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying, 'You are not to say, 'It is a conspiracy!' In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, and you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it. It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread.'"

Some people are afraid of the devil at Halloween. On the mission field people do not understand this. They are not afraid of the devil at Halloween because they do not even know what Halloween is. They are not afraid of the devil because they have Jesus in their hearts.

We had a party in our little cabin to tell the children about Jesus using the pumpkin as a picture of salvation. We called it the "Pumpkin Party".

Have your mommy or daddy show you picture number five. See the pumpkin? They did a good job didn't they!

Your mommy and daddy are now going to help you carve your pumpkin and tell you about Jesus. First though I want to tell you about the children. They loved their pumpkin and they loved the story about Jesus. Remember how I told you that some children do not have as nice things as you? Guess what the children did with their pumpkins when they took them home? First they told their mommy and daddy about Jesus. Guess what they did next? They ate their pumpkin. Yes in Africa to have a fresh pumpkin to eat is a great blessing! The children were very happy to hear about Jesus and the children were very happy to have fresh pumpkin that night for dinner!

Now it is time to hear about Jesus from the story of the pumpkin. It is fun to carve the pumpkin but you must listen very carefully as your mommy and daddy tells you about Jesus. Listen as they ask questions and wait for your turn. Do not fight or grab but wait. You are going to carve a pumpkin but you are also going to hear about Jesus, so it is important that you be very good.

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IV. Lesson #4 Every tribe

Ask your mommy or daddy to show you picture #6. Do you see the people in the picture? This is in a church in Kenya. I came to tell the people in Kenya about Jesus and about the Bible. Guess what, there were already people in Kenya who knew Jesus. Missionaries had already come here before me. They started coming a long time ago, before airplanes. Some died on the way because they could only come in wooden ships. Others died when they got here of diseases or attacks. One group came and only had enough food to get to Kenya by boat. When they tried to land the Africans shot arrows at them.

They could not land, they could not leave so they all starved to death or were shot with arrows. It was very hard and very dangerous but they kept on coming. They wanted to tell others about Jesus and the Bible.

Look at the picture closely. Are all the people in the picture Africans?

No, there are others. Can you guess where they are from?

The other people are from India and the Middle East. This African church started a mission church in an area of town where Hindus and Muslims live.

Right next door is a gigantic Hindu Temple. Also nearby is an Islamic Mosque. There are many pagans who worship at the temple and mosque so the Africans decided to start a mission right in the heat of this area.

I got to teach the Bible in this church about what God says about marriage, children and the family. Many Hindus and Muslims came to hear God's Word.

Remember how we talked about satan wanting to make us afraid? These Africans were not Afraid. Sure there are lots of Muslims and Hindus worshiping satan but the Christians have Jesus on their side so they are not afraid.

Satan does not want the Christians to do this. He knows that he has no power against them so he tried to stop them. One of the things they started was a radio station to broadcast the sermons to the Hindus and Muslims and a tape ministry to distribute them. Guess what the Muslims did. They came right in the church while the pastor was preaching on the radio and started to shoot. They shot several people and killed one man but God protected the pastor. When they realized they could not kill the pastor they set the church on fire but God caused people to see the smoke and they all came running and put out the fire.

Do you know why satan had his servants do this? Because Hindus and Muslims were being born again. Satan does not want people to go to heaven, he wants them to go to hell. But Jesus shed his blood not just for you but for everybody. What does God the Holy Spirit say about this?

Revelation 5:9 "And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.'"

I came to Africa to tell people about Jesus even though it is dangerous. I am not afraid because I have Jesus in my heart. The African's started a church right in the middle of the Hindu and Muslim section of town even though it was dangerous. They are not afraid because they have Jesus in their hearts.

Remember how we said that only the Word of God and the souls of men would live forever? Satan was trying to destroy the teaching of the Word of God but he could not do it. He was not powerful enough. He cannot even destroy the lives of Christians. When we die we go straight to heaven. Remember how we talked about the earth as being created by God. Satan tried to spoil this by getting Adam to rebel and bringing sin into the world. But God is going to make a new heaven and earth for all his children. Everybody who accepts Jesus will go to this new heaven and earth but not the devil. That is why he is so scared. Where will the devil go? Some people think hell is a place where satan lives and

tortures people. This is a lie of satan.

That is not what he is doing in hell. Read what God the Holy Spirit says what will happen to satan in hell.

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

That is why satan is so afraid. He knows he is going into the lake of fire to be tortured and we are going to heaven to be with God.

Are you afraid to tell people about Jesus? Who does God want you to tell about Jesus? Are you afraid? If I am not afraid to go to Africa and the Africans are not afraid to go into the Muslim and Hindu section of town, then how can you be afraid? If you have Jesus in your heart you will not be afraid.

An easy way to tell your friends about Jesus is to have them over to your house for a pumpkin party. You can all carve pumpkins and your mommy can tell them the story of Jesus. It does not have to be Halloween to have a pumpkin party. They do not even have Halloween in Africa and we had a pumpkin party. All you need to have a pumpkin party are some pumpkins and some Christians who are not afraid to tell people about Jesus!

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1

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PS Please don't forget to pray for Rev. and Mrs. Mahon in your Sunday School, AWANA's. Pioneers, children or youth service!!

See Pictures Below





