

Mahon Home For The Summer – Obedience Does Not Mean You Are Not Going Overboard... #10 08.05.10

Message of the week: The Three Fold Cord of Missions

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In this dispatch...

- I. Packing Party Report**
- II. Obedience Does Not Mean You Are Not Going Overboard...**
- III. My Children's Footsteps...**
- IV. Prayer Requests: As you pray please allow the accompanying passage from the Word of God to guide your prayers**

John 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

A. Call upon the Lord to grant the faith and presence of mind to be found faithful to Him no matter the situation

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

B. Ask the Lord to grant both of us the courage to finish strong

John - Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

E1 - Proverbs 31:25 *Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future.*

C. Petition the Lord to grant us a fearless trust in the strength that He will provide to labor faithfully in the harvest fields of the world.

Isaiah 41:10-11 'Do not fear , for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored; Those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish.

D. Claim For the ministry of the Word that our ministry would not rest on man but on the Holy Spirit's empowerment of His 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.

E. Call upon the Holy Spirit to go before us preparing hearts to receive His holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word as it is clearly taught and preached.

John 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

(If a picture does not appear - first double click on the box, then if that does not work, right click on the box. Sometimes, when an email contains a number of pictures, your e-mail program will require you to manually open some of them.)

Dear Prayer Warriors,
Packing Party Report...



It all begins with the delivery of Bibles, Bible reference works and Bible study aids to our front door



By your faith and generosity, over a period of weeks boxes begin to pile up in our living room



Next I print our prayer reports. The paper folder requires me to kneel as I do this. I think God broke the folder to keep me on my knees during the process and to remind me that it is by your prayers this ministry goes forth in power. With the rhythm of the folder I call out "Thank You Jesus" for your prayers and support which make this ministry possible.



Now we are ready to begin. Then men sort and prepare the books by country



The ladies stuff, stamp and seal the prayer letters



Next each box labeled by country, packed and weighed



Lastly they are sealed up for the mission trip



The finished product!! Twelve boxes of Bibles, Bible study aids and Bible reference works for Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia (three boxes each)

Obedience Does Not Mean You Are Not Going Overboard...

Our pastor, Dave Schneider will begin his series from the book of Jonah during our absence. This has caused me to reflect on Jonah reluctant missionary. By God's providence I am in I & II Corinthians in my reading program. As I reflected on these two great missionaries two thoughts came to mind...

First: Obedience to the call of God does not mean you are not going overboard...

Jonah was unfaithful and disobedient in his calling and over the side he went
Jonah 1:15 So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.

Paul was faithful and obedient to his call and over the side he went

2 Corinthians 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

Both Jonah and Paul ended up in the drink - the difference is how they got there...

Second: Paul's application to this difficult truth - an appeal to his prayer warriors

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,

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.

As we prepare for this mission trip we are all too aware that our obedience does not mean that we will not end up in the drink. God may or may not desire, for His glory, to send us overboard. Our prayer is that when it happens we might be found faithful. Just this week we were once again made aware that our mission trips are serious business and that we need to enter into them with a sober and focused spiritual attitude. Below are two recent emails. One from our travel agent and one from our daughter Lizzy...

Travel Alert for U.S. Citizens Traveling in Kenya

To Our Valued Clients,

The U.S State Department has issued a travel alert for U.S. citizens traveling in Kenya.

The terrorist bombings in Uganda earlier this month and the upcoming, August 4, constitutional referendum in Kenya have generated threats against public areas in Kenya and may cause civil disturbances.

For the period July 28-August 11, 2010, the State Department cautions U.S. citizens to take extra security measures by avoiding public events and demonstrations. The State Department always recommends increased vigilance among large crowds and when visiting any areas frequented by the general public.

Also: From our dear, sweet, loving daughter Liz who has her Masters in Public Health and works as an epidemiologist...

Mom & Dad,

Not trying to unnerve you before your trip, but since Cameroon is listed as the first stop in the agenda, I wanted ya'll to be aware of the fact that the UN is reporting the biggest cholera outbreak in the northern portion of the country in at least 10 years:

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=90056>. Also, here's the CDC's (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) website on cholera:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/cholera/#vaccine>.

I know that you usually take medicines with you, but you might just want to touch base with your physician one more time before you head out. Basic prevention measures on the CDC's website can be taken to limit the possibility of exposure to the pathogen. (I know. . .one more thing on your to-do list, but humor your daughter, please.)

Love ya'll lots. Joe and I prayed for ya'll during our morning devotionals today!

Love,

Liz

My Children's Footsteps...

Proverbs 17:6 states, *Grandchildren are the crown of old men, And the glory of sons is their fathers.*

A crown for which I did not labor is the crown of my six grandchildren. When asked and I reveal with pride that I have six grandchildren I am always congratulated and praised though I did nothing to bring this about.

This verse also teaches that in return I owe something to my children. That my behavior in my later years would be that which brings them glory. As we enter South Africa and Zambia we will be following in our children's footsteps, not vice versa. Our son Sam precedes us as a missionary to South Africa and our daughter Lizzy precedes us as a missionary to Zambia. My earnest prayer and my spiritual preparation is driven by a desire that my life conforms with the injunction to grandfathers in Proverbs – that I would quit myself in such a way as to bring glory both to God and to my children who have served in these foreign fields before me.

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 this dispatch with a hymn from my prayer notebook that has been especially meaningful to me this past week. I found myself using it as a hymn of worship as I drove about Houston seeking to be about the Lord's business...

(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.