

**Message of the week: Sound Doctrine and Evangelism - Part 3**

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**In this dispatch...**

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- V. 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. Ask God to bless Eleanor as she teaches wives and mothers. Her instruction follows the Biblical model of Titus 2:4-5. This is the model Eleanor uses when ministering to women...

- *so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands,*
- *to love their children,*
- *to be sensible,*
- *pure,*
- *workers at home,*
- *kind,*
- *being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*

- B. Another oft neglected passage which Eleanor uses in Ephesians 5:22 - 24. Ask God to empower this passage as she teaches wives and mothers to conform their marriages to the holy, eternal, inerrant written Word of God.

- *Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*
- *For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.*
- *But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.*

**C. As always pray for the empowerment of the preaching and teaching of the holy, eternal, inerrant, written Word of God as we labor in the harvest fields of the world.**

*Jeremiah 1:12 Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it."*

*Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*

(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,

### **Abraham's wife**



Changing trains in Tokyo – one of the busiest train stations in the world

I have often reflected on the amount of good press Abraham gets for his availability to God (all justly deserved) but as is often the case his wife Sarah does not receive the same recognitions. I remember well a couple of statements that were common in my mother's day for a wife who was a capable partner for her husband. The more enduring "Behind every great man is an even greater woman" but in my mother's day more popular was in reference to the great Hollywood dance team of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Fred Astaire of course got all the good press. Near the end of her career a newspaper reporter asked her if it was intimidating dancing with what could be arguably considered the greatest "hooper" ever to grace the stage. Ginger Rogers replied without missing a beat, "I did everything Fred Astaire did, only backwards". That would pretty much sum it up for Sarah, Eleanor and every other faithful missionary wife throughout the ages.



Settled in and heading to the next ministry opportunity

Most wives and mothers (and grandmothers) at Eleanor's stage of life have settled into a comfortable and much earned routine of church ministry, social engagements, visiting grandchildren and enjoying the rewards of a lifetime given to the Lord, the church and family. Eleanor by contrast has spent the last three months traveling literally around the world. She has slept in airplanes, in trains, in hotels, in guestrooms, in rented accommodations, on couches and on the floor. She has crossed borders, been challenged by customs agents and police, chased down cabs, jumped on and off trains, been jostled in some of the busiest train, subway stations and airports in the world without a murmur of complaint - her only concern being of those to whom we have been called to minister in the next city, country or continent.

### **GCI Mobile Office**

When in the US as well as when on the road, El makes use of her gift of administration in keeping the GCI mobile office running. She has done this from little kitchen tables, fold out couches and on the floor. I remember asking our accountant about an IRS audit which was looming on the horizon. The accountant laughed and said, "They will take one look at Eleanor's book keeping, receipts and records and hand it all back. No one who keeps records like Eleanor has anything to hide." And that is exactly what happened.

### **One on one**



Pictured with Satoko Iimura, wife of my good friend “Joe” Iimura at a banquet they gave in our honor. Eleanor and Satoko spent many hours together visiting and sharing. Satoko is active in her Baptist church and plays the piano there. Over the years she and Eleanor have become great friends and sisters.

One of the most important ministries Eleanor has when we are on the mission field are the one on one times with missionary wives, pastor’s wives and the wives of national staff and lay ministers. It is such a blessing for these women to have someone “outside” the ministry loop on who they can unburden themselves. It is also a great blessing to have access to a career minister’s wife who is neither masculine, nor jaded concerning marriage and family, on who to rely for counsel. This can be reflected in the statement of one missionary to me by email before we departed three months ago, “My wife says to pass along to you, ‘Don’t even bother getting off the train if El is not with you’”. Not an uncommon sentiment I might add.



With Masako Kaneko, wife of Kenjie Kaneko. Masako shared with Eleanor on this trip that she had been a great influence on her in terms of seeking to be a godly wife and mother.



With the Van Zantes – missionaries in Japan. Eleanor and Margery spent many hours in fellowship together. I praise God for a wife who is a model to those wives who seek to be a biblical wife to a minister.

## Large Group and Small Group Bible Studies



Eleanor teaches the Bible to a group of Japanese women

Eleanor has always been an excellent Bible teacher. Eleanor's impact can be seen in the number of women who were in her Bible studies as single women but are now the wives of pastors and missionaries (not to mention elders, deacons and Sunday school teachers). Wherever we travel she finds herself in demand to teach studies for the wives of leaders in the church and the women who are themselves leaders in the church. In addition she is a much sought after conference speaker both in the US and abroad. It is always a surprise to others to discover that her refusal to not teach or speak in mixed groups of men and women is not because of an overpowering husband but rather a deep seated conviction that the Word of God is just that, the Word of God and when God the Holy Spirit says in *1 Timothy 2:12* ***"I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man"*** that He means exactly what He says. (If you would like Eleanor to speak at your next woman's bible study, seminar or conference you may contact her at [eleannormahon@yahoo.com](mailto:eleannormahon@yahoo.com)). As you pray for our ministry, please do not forget to pray for Eleanor – she is far from family, friends and church, doing everything I do "only backwards".



Eleanor has always embraced her role as wife, mother and home maker. She used her homemaking skills to teach an evangelistic cooking class (Enchiladas! Mmmmmmm!!)



Margery Van Zante has a weekly evangelistic cooking class for young Japanese wives. What a joy it was for Eleanor to teach at this class and then get to share her testimony. (An indication of how Japanese respond to TexMex – they made enough for us guys but the ladies at it all up. Boo Hoo on 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 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.")*

**I Surrender All**

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him, In His presence daily live.

*Refrain: I surrender all, I surrender all, All to Thee, my blessèd Savior, I surrender all.*

*All to Jesus I surrender, Humbly at His feet I bow,  
Worldly pleasures all forsaken; Take me Jesus, take me now.*

All to Jesus I surrender, Make me, Savoir, wholly Thine.  
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine.

*All to Jesus I surrender, Lord I give myself to Thee;  
Fill me with Thy love and power, let Thy blessing fall on me.*

**(Judson W. Van DeVenter, Born: December 5, 1855, near Dundee, Michigan; Died: July 17, 1939, Temple Terrace, Tampa, Florida. Van DeVenter attended Hillsdale College, then taught art in Sharon, Pennsylvania. After several years, though, he decided to switch to a career in evangelism, working with [Wilbur Chapman](#) and others in America and England. Toward the end of his life, he lived in St. Petersburg, Florida, then moved to Tampa, Florida, around 1923. He was professor of hymnology at the Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity Bible College) for four years. “The song was written while I was conducting a meeting at East Palestine, Ohio, in the home of George Sebring (founder of the Sebring Camp meeting Bible Conference in Sebring, Ohio, and later developer of the town of Sebring, Florida). For some time, I had struggled between developing my talents in the field of art and going into full-time evangelistic work. At last the pivotal hour of my life came, and I surrendered all. A new day was ushered into my life. I became an evangelist and discovered down deep in my soul a talent hitherto unknown to me. God had hidden a song in my heart, and touching a tender chord, He caused me to sing.”)**