

Mahon: Kenya Dispatch #18c 11.03.07 - Finishing Strong Part Three (Moral Excellence)

Pictures

1_ John preaches every Sunday: GCI's commitment to the ministry and up building of the local church is unequivocal and each Sunday will find us ministering in some capacity in a local church.

2_ El meets weekly with Pastor's Wives Bible Study: This has been a great joy for Eleanor and she has blessed these ladies both in their personal discipleship ministries but also in their ministries as helpmates to their husbands.

3_ John and El speak at Nairobi PTO - God often uses our educational background to open doors for the ministry. Here we teach at a school wide Parent Teacher Organizational meeting where we shared both practical and Biblical principles of teaching children. (Hindus, Muslims and secularists were in attendance and the Word of God was well received by all) If you would like us to share at your PTO or teachers workshop feel free to contact us at jmahon@gciweb.org

4_ El speaks to women at Marriage Covenant Seminar - God continues to broaden Eleanor's teaching ministry. If you would like her to speak to your ladies group or women's Bible study you may contact her at eleanormahon@yahoo.com

5_ John teaches on Marriage and Family every weekend - God has greatly expanded our ministry through the Marriage Covenant Seminar. If you would like to schedule a conference or seminar in your church may I suggest that you first visit our website at www.gciweb.org

Prayer Requests (As you lift these requests before the Lord please take time to pray over each passage as it pertains to our ministry)

1. Ask God to bless the final weeks of teaching 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."

2. Pray for the wives of pastors who attend El's study

2 Timothy 2:2 "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

3. Lift up the Navigator Intern Staff who have been attending my seminars.

James 1:22 "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."

4. Ask God to bless the Marriage Seminars and Family Discipleship Seminars

Joshua 24:15 "And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

5. Pray for the blessing of the preaching of God's Word during Sunday services

Isaiah 55:11 "So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

6. Pray for upcoming conferences, Bibles studies and Sunday services - that God's Word not man's who hold sway.

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."

Mark 4:14 "The sower sows the word."

7. Ask for grace that in every thing, by word, speech and action, our lives would bring glory to God. That we would finish strong, giving a good account of our calling in Christ, bringing glory to God and not causing shame to our calling nor our Savior.

Philippians 1:27 "Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you"

that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"

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Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Dear Prayers Warriors,

"I want you to be the one who tells me how to be born again." For a fisher of men it is the equivalent to having a trophy Marlin jump in your boat. It was preceded though by an unusual series of events and I could not help but investigating.

It was Wednesday night and Eleanor was teaching her Pastor's Wives Bible Study. This is a study attended exclusively by the wives of pastors of local churches. They in turn lead studies in their churches attended by the teachers of their ladies classes, who in turn lead their own studies. Some 300 women in Bible study are influenced through this class. Not wanting the office staff to have to hang around till 7:30 when the study finished I had opted to hang out myself at a nearby coffee shop which had internet access. While El led her study I would get some work done.

As it would happen I had a full day of lectures ahead of me. Thursday morning I lead a Men's Bible Study and then from 8:30 - 4:30 I have lectures for the Navigator Intern Staff. It requires quite a bit of preparation so I ordered a cup of coffee, a biscuit, popped open my lap top, opened my bible and started to work.

During the next hour just about every waiter and worker in this large coffee shop, came up, peered over my shoulder and asked the same questions, "Is the internet working?" I had no answer for them as I was not on the internet, I was doing Bible study. The steady stream though kept up. Then last of all Geoffrey came up, asked the same question, peered over my shoulder and then followed it with his request, which was really more of a statement.

It soon became apparent what was going on. It seems that ministers who want to look at questionable things on the internet do not risk this activity at church or at home but rather come to coffee shops, like this one, to indulge their wicked fleshly desires. Waiters and waitresses aware of this check out the sights to see which ministers degrade themselves in which manner.

The word was out that I was there doing Bible study not surfing the internet thus pretty much the entire workforce of this coffee shop had a look and it culminated with this young man deciding that he would ask me how to be born again.

It is often said that ministers live in a fish bowl and I think it goes beyond that. I think Christians, whether they recognize it or not live in a fish bowl. As a result it is always important for us to remember that people are watching. It should be enough to know that God is watching, that God the Holy Spirit is stuck here inside us and that we should make that residence as comfortable as humanly possible, but beyond this people are ever watchful of our behavior.

As you pray for us these last weeks we are in Kenya ask the Lord for special grace, that our behavior would be that which brings glory to God not shame to our calling. That Matthew 5:16 would be true not only in our intentional actions but in our lifestyle

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

By the grace of God and by your fervent and effectual prayers we will finish strong, giving a good account of our calling in Christ, bringing glory to God and not causing shame to our calling nor to our Savior.

By His mercy,
II Corinthians 4:1

John and Eleanor Mahon

Nairobi, Kenya - By God's grace we will finish strong under the watchful eyes of the world



Picture One



Picture Two



Picture Three



Picture Four



Picture Five