

Mahon: Kenya Dispatch #18 10.29.07 - Finishing Strong

This weeks pictures are a compilation of ministry activities from this past week...

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The first: Ps 119:71 *"It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Thy statutes."*

Prayer Requests...

1. That we would finish strong here in Kenya

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 "Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified."

2. That God would give us times of refreshing in our prayers and time in the Word.

Laminations 3:22-23 "The LORD'S lovingkindness indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness."
(NAS)

3. That God would renew our physical strength during these final weeks.

Isaiah 40:30-31 "Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary."

Dear Prayer Warriors,

This we are approaching our return to Houston having promised our children we would be back in time for Thanksgiving. That just leaves a few more weeks here in Kenya. Our prayer request is that we would finish strong in the ministry. As hearts turn towards home this can be challenging but certainly not impossible. We request your prayers both to finish strong and to be able to adjust quickly as we will be home just two short months before leaving for Russia, Finland, Lithuania, Belarus and England - before returning again in the spring.

When we left Houston back in August...

- The Labor Day Picnic Sales were just beginning to appear in the Sunday papers;
- Football season had not started and all the talk was who would make the baseball playoffs;
- School had not started though Wal-Mart was beginning to stock Back To School Items;
- Our new grandbaby John Mahon was just days old
- The fall movies and fall TV lineup were just starting to be advertised;
- Temperatures were in the 90's and Houston was still very much in the grip of summer heat. When we left Eleanor had just about gotten her summer garden to the point where she really felt good about it.

When we return...

- The Christmas sales will just be starting to be advertised (Labor Day; Back To School; Halloween and Thanksgiving will have passed us by)
- Football season will be all but over with the talk being bowl games and playoffs
- School will be running it's course with final exams and Christmas break all the talk
- The fall movie lineup will be out on DVD. As for TV - we have not watched TV; seen a movie, driven a car, listened to a radio for three months
- We hear that temperatures back home are in the 70's now with chilly 50's at night. Eleanor's garden will not doubt be a thing of the past.
- We will need some rest as well. Stomach bugs seem to have gotten a little out of hand this trip as our supply of antibiotics was used up as well as those left behind by the team. One praise item though is that I have lost three notches in my belt and two pant sizes on this trip.

Not only this but there have been some major events in terms of our personal possessions and our extended family while we have been in Africa...

- The burglar alarm went off, we are happy to report that it worked as it should and whoever was jimmying the window fled. It did however provide anxious moments for our son Sam who received the call from the police on our behalf. We praise God though for a faithful son who takes such a personal interest in us while we are away.
- The downstairs AC unit died and we will have to decide on what to do about the repair costs given the upcoming Christmas holidays. Items for praise though is that we will return to unseasonably cool weather, and it is the upstairs unit, allowing the cold air to flow down to the first floor should the AC be needed. We praise God as well for our daughter Megan who has faithfully checked on the house in our absence and reported faithfully any difficulties, being willing to go out of her way to keep things in order till our return.
- Our car was totaled when one of our children was driving it as recommended by our mechanic. Our mechanic said it would not be good to leave it sitting for three and a half months. Our children faithfully took turns driving it. Though unfortunate we praise God for two things. First that no one was hurt and second that we have such loving children who are happy to look after our home and possessions when we are out of town
- Our dear daughter Lizzy ended up in the hospital with a still undiagnosed mystery but which did not respond to anti-biotics. She is back on her feet but never-the-less this provided mom and dad with a few anxious moments as El's bags were packed and ready to go should Lizzy have required surgery. (In the midst of this we again praise God for His restoring Lizzy to her health, for the mature and wise decisions her loving husband Joe provided during this time and for the outpouring of love and support from her brother and sisters who rallied to her side)
- Our dear grandbaby John Mahon, who was just wiggling in Grandma's arms when we left is now an active 4 month old baby. We praise God for our loving daughter-in-

law, Anne, who has faithfully sent Eleanor pictures and updates on the grandbaby she misses so badly

- In Arkansas another grandbaby was in need of hospital care and again grandma agonized at not being at Becca's side. We praise God though for a miraculous intervention by God in answer to prayer. We praise God as well for Becca and Aaron, such godly, wise and loving parents - our grandchildren are truly blessed.

Then there is the press of future ministry...

- I have been in constant email contact these last few weeks with Russia, Finland, Belarus, Lithuania and England finalizing our winter ministry schedule.
- After typing this email I will be sending our schedule to Denise Sharpe of MTS Travel in Colorado Springs and purchasing our tickets.
- One of the first items to be done upon our arrival will be to send Denise our passports and apply for the necessary entry Visas.

This would be enough to distract us, but that is a luxury we cannot afford...

- Every night this week but one Eleanor will be teaching a different ladies group
- This Wednesday Eleanor and I will be teaching an all day seminar for public school teachers on Biblical Principles of Education.
- This past Sunday I preached at Karen Community Baptist Church and every remaining Sunday I will be preaching at a different church
- This past Saturday I spoke at NPC Karen - giving the Family Discipleship Seminar with Dr. Mukolwe. Every weekend between now and departure we will be teaching a marriage or family conference
- In addition my men's Bible study and my staff training seminar for the Navigators continues in full swing
- Last but not least are the counseling and one on one training which we are privileged to provide for the staff, missionaries and pastors who appeal to us for help

In order to fulfill our responsibilities we rely upon you for prayer - as we look forward to the next few weeks of ministry; then as we look again forward to our return and the financial and family responsibilities that await; then as we look still further (but not so very far) forward for just eight short weeks after our return we depart for Russia - as we look forward, forward, forward - we look to you our prayer warriors to sustain us, strengthen us and smooth the way for us.

We now as always minister

By the grace of God

And

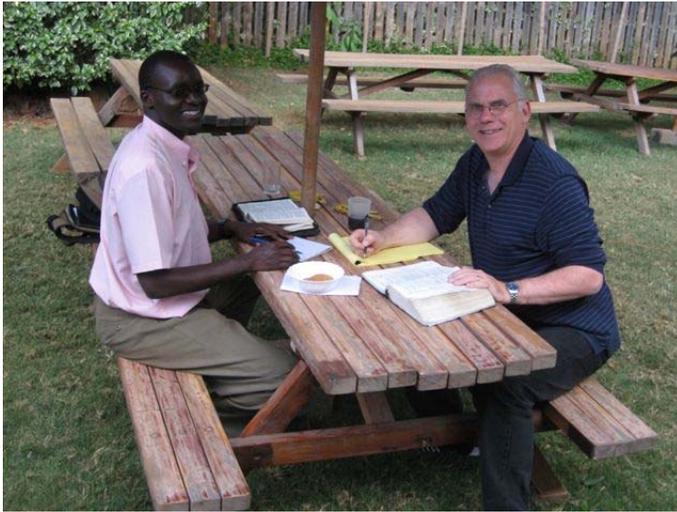
By the effectual and fervent prayers of you our prayer warriors.

By His mercy,

II Corinthians 4:1

John and Eleanor Mahon

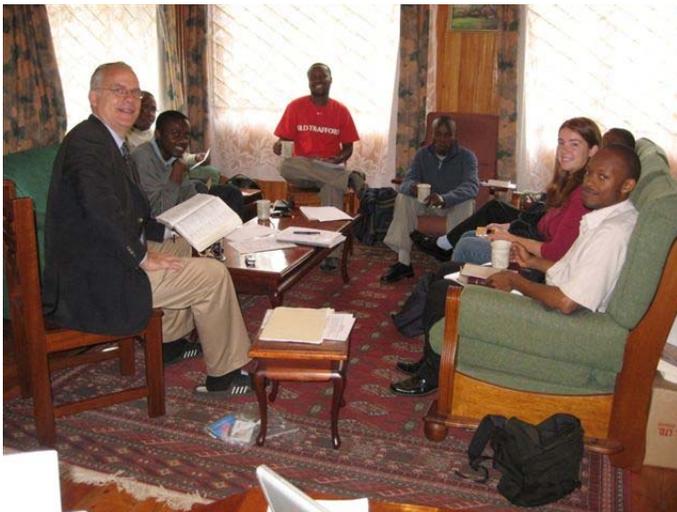
Nairobi, Kenya - Hands to the plow, never looking back, only forward, forward and still further forward...



One on One Ministry



NPC Woodyly Women's Session



Hosting Intern Trainees



Navigator Youth Ministry Conference



Karen Baptist Community Church



Karen Baptist Community Church